

Klamath Falls native James Nygren is making noise at Oregon State.

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Most students in and around the Basin will be starting summer vacation next week.

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Clouds and sun. 60/39 Page B10

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Daily briefing

LOCAL

Man found in lake likely drowned

A man found dead in Upper Klamath Lake late Sunday afternoon likely died from drowning...

OREGON

Universities talk tuition increases

PORTLAND — The seven public universities in Oregon have proposed tuition increases averaging 7.5 percent...

Weekender

Best bets for this weekend with Doug Higgs



Recent weather may not have felt very spring-like, but it's official when the Master Gardeners break out the plants.

The Klamath County Master Gardener Association will have its annual plant sale from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday at the Klamath County Fairgrounds.

Admission is free.

The sale is the major fundraiser for the Oregon State University extension program. Flower baskets, annuals, perennials and houseplants will be sold...

There also will be a raffle, a lunch and snack booth, and other vendors such as local nurseries and businesses.

See WEEKEND, page A9

OBITUARIES

Alice Mae Clark, 99 Page A6

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CONTACT INFO

General info...885-4410 Circulation...885-4420 Classified...885-4430 News desk...885-4419 Sports desk...885-4411



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25 years for murder

KONRAD CASEBEER MURDER TRIAL

By TY BEAVER H&N Staff Reporter

Sherri Alvarado acknowledged the family of Konrad Casebeer also will deal with loss now that Casebeer will be in prison for murdering her son, Antelmo "Temo" Herrera-Jimenez.

Unlike her son, she said, Casebeer is still alive for his family to visit.

"You have your son," Alvarado said in a statement before Casebeer was sentenced to 25 years in prison Thursday afternoon. "You can still call him. You can still hear him. You can still smell him."

Klamath County Circuit Court Judge Rodger Isaacson handed down the state-mandated minimum sentence, which Casebeer will serve concurrently with a five-year sentence on related convictions of unlawful use and possession of a weapon.

Defense's arguments

Defense attorney Shaun McCrea of Eugene argued for a lesser sentence because of Casebeer's age, his lack of prior criminal violence and other factors.

Isaacson dismissed those arguments, and said he was struck by one fact in the case: Casebeer held on to the shotgun shell from the shot that killed Herrera-Jimenez even though he disposed of the weapon.

"It seemed to be you were keeping it as some form of trophy," the judge said.



H&N photo by Andrew Mariman

Konrad Casebeer was sentenced to 25 years in prison Thursday for the murder of Antelmo "Temo" Herrera-Jimenez.

Herrera-Jimenez's three sisters and one of his brothers, along with Alvarado, made statements to the court before Casebeer's sentence was announced. They asked Casebeer why he killed their relative and whether he felt remorse.

One sister, Angie Jimenez, brought her two young children to stand before Casebeer.

"Look, you guys, this is the man who killed your uncle," she said, sobbing.

See MURDER, page A7

ABOUT THE CASE

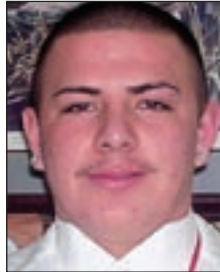
Antelmo "Temo" Herrera-Jimenez, 18, was found dead from a shotgun wound to his chest in a garden near Klamath Union High School in late August 2009.

Witnesses told authorities Konrad Casebeer, then 18, shot Herrera-Jimenez, and authorities said the incident

began as a prearranged fight. Casebeer and co-defendant Kyle Mahan were arrested on the grounds of the California state capitol in Sacramento in the days after the shooting, when a law enforcement officer smelled marijuana.

See CASE, page A7

THE VICTIM



Antelmo Herrera-Jimenez

CONVICTED



Konrad Casebeer

Crash victim moved to Bend

Four people remain hospitalized after Wednesday crashes

By JOEL ASCHBRENNER H&N Staff Reporter

Four people remain hospitalized after sustaining injuries in one of four traffic crashes that blocked Highway 97 north of Klamath Falls intermittently for more than five hours Wednesday afternoon.

Reba Phillips, 81, of Livermore, Calif., sustained head injuries in the collision and was transferred from Sky Lakes Medical Center to St. Charles Medical Center in Bend, where she is listed in serious condition, said Kayley Mendenhall, St. Charles communications coordinator.

Three people remain hospitalized in Klamath Falls. Margaret Hughes, 69, of Porterville, Calif., is listed in critical condition, and Marvin Hughes, 67, also of Porterville, and Barbara Emmett, 79, of San Jose, Calif., are listed in fair condition, said Sky Lakes spokesman Tom Hottman.

Series of crashes

Minutes before noon Wednesday, a pick-up truck and two passenger cars collided on Highway 97 near Hagelstein Park, injuring all six people involved. As traffic backed up behind the accident, a Klamath County Sheriff's deputy responding to the crash collided with another pick-up truck. Oregon State Police are still investigating that collision, said OSP Trooper William Ellena.

Later in the afternoon, about two miles south of the first crash, a semi-truck driver tried to turn around to avoid backed-up traffic, but jackknifed and became stuck. After that, two passenger vehicles collided near the intersection of Highway 97 and Algoma Road. At 3:45 p.m., a passenger car rear-ended a semi-truck stuck in the traffic, Ellena said.

Traffic was blocked almost continuously on the two-lane highway from noon until about 5:30 p.m. Wednesday.

See CRASHES, page A9

BREAK OUT THE BATS

Klamath Falls Gems baseball team opens inaugural season tonight

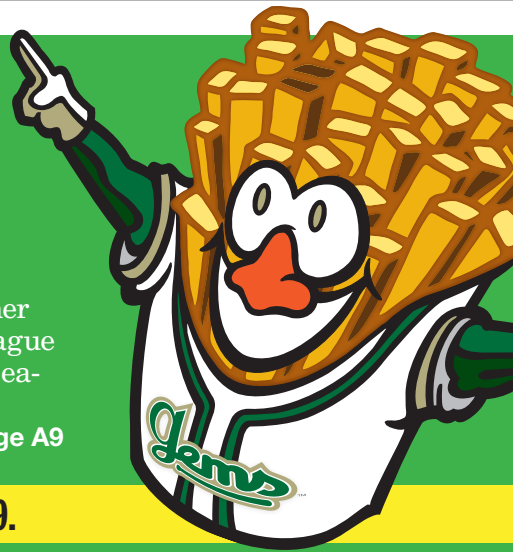
By STEVE MATTHIES H&N Sports Editor

Oregon Tech's Zach Earle has company.

Two more Klamath Falls Gems players have been visitors to Kiger Stadium before and now will call the venerable baseball

park home this summer as the West Coast League begins its inaugural season tonight.

See GEMS, page A9



For information on how to purchase tickets for tonight's game, see page A9.