

Gems rally to victory

9th-inning grand slam lifts Klamath Falls to 9-6 victory over the Corvallis Knights

>> See page B1

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FIRE UPDATE
Lightning strikes cause several major wildfires

SATURDAY
Aug. 2, 2014

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92/53
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Crop duster plane crashes, killing pilot

Cause of incident still under investigation

By **TRISTAN HIEGLER**
H&N Staff Reporter

TULELAKE — A crop duster pilot died Friday morning after his bi-plane crashed into a field near Tulelake.

The 58-year-old was spraying pesticide on a field at Hill Road and East West Road, approximately 5 miles west of the Northern California community.

According to a Siskiyou County Sheriff's Office press release, the pilot has been identified as William Whitlatch of Klamath Falls.

Reports are the plane was owned and operated by Macy's Flying Service, a long-time crop dusting business in the valley.

Witnesses and first responders from the Tulelake Volunteer Fire Department were able to retrieve Whitlatch's body. Wood said efforts to retrieve the plane were hampered when responders realized some pesticides might still be in the aircraft, creating a hazardous material situation.

Wood said the exact cause of death is still being determined.

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See **CRASH**, page A4



H&N photo by Tristan Hiegler

The 58-year-old pilot of this crop duster plane died after his craft clipped some power lines near Tulelake and crashed into a privately owned field. The cause of the crash is still under investigation.



H&N photos by Samantha Tipler

Klamath County Fairgrounds Manager Todd Hoggarth has been instituting little changes to spruce up the appearance of the grounds, such as trimming trees (above) and cleaning up flower beds (right). The Klamath County Fair will run August 14 through 17.

Face-lift for fairgrounds

Shaping up for the fair

By **SAMANTHA TIPLER**
H&N Staff Reporter

Klamath County Fairgrounds Manager Todd Hoggarth is working to improve the fairgrounds, one project at a time.

"It's a total face-lift," Hoggarth said. "We've probably gone through 30 gallons of paint. We've had the summer kids work two weeks earlier than we normally pull them in. Just trying to give everything a fresh look and new look. We've taken a lot of old bushes out and replaced them with flowers. Just appearance-wise, is what

we're really trying to focus on this year."

Every one of the flower pots have been painted. Flower beds have been added, landscaping neatly trimmed and weeded. Wagon wheels were added to the archway entrance.

"It's little things," he said.

Hoggarth took over first as interim fair manager in February when former manager Jerry Golden resigned. The fair board made Hoggarth's job permanent after an interview process with him and other candidates in May.

See **FAIR**, page A4

Sky Lakes prognosis:

Financially healthy, investing in equipment

8-percent margin bodes well for facility

By **NORA AVERY-PAGE**
H&N Staff Reporter

From a financial standpoint, Sky Lakes Medical Center is outpacing many other Oregon hospitals.

"We're actually doing very well," Sky Lakes CEO Paul Stewart told the Herald and News.

The 2014 Oregon Community Hospital Report, released last week by the Apprise Health Insights, a data subsidiary of the Oregon Association of Hospitals and Health Systems, places Sky Lakes operating margin at 8.18 percent in 2013.

That operating margin, or the balance between costs and revenue, is above both state and national averages for hospitals, Stewart said.

According to the report, the overall operating margin for Oregon's hospitals was 3.6 percent in 2013, the lowest the state's average operating margin has been since 2008.

See **SKY LAKES**, page A3

INSIDE: Oregon regulators release 2015 health insurance plan rates, see page B5.

DAILY BRIEFING

Butte Valley FFA urges community involvement

The FFA adviser at Butte Valley High School organized a free dinner at the Klamath Falls Gospel Mission Wednesday. He is looking for others to take up the same challenge to help offset costs for the mission. See page A2.

Fair's bong and edible contests celebrate pot

Marijuana joined roses and dahlias Friday in blue ribbon events at the nation's first county fair to allow pot competitions. The Denver County Fair includes a 21-and-over "Pot Pavilion." See page B6.

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