

IN BRIEF

State starts largest public works project in 40 years

KLAMATH FALLS — Several bridges along Highway 97 in Klamath County are going to be replaced or repaired this winter as part of the state's largest public works project since the construction of Interstate 5 in the 1960s.

The work will get the highway ready to take motorists seeking to avoid delays along Interstate 5. Work on the interstate bridges should start within in one year.

More than 350 cracked bridges will be repaired or replaced during the \$1.7 billion, decade-long project.

University brings in record total in research funding

Researchers at the University brought in a record \$90.2 million in contracts, grants and competitive funding in the 2003-04 school year, according to figures released Monday.

The total was up 16 percent over the previous year, and represented a 56-percent jump in just three years.

More than 85 percent of the research support came directly or indirectly from federal agencies,

according to a news release from the University. One-third of the grants came from the Education Department, 32 percent from Health and Human Services and 16 percent from the National Science Foundation.

Training grants and research fellowships for students and faculty made up \$5.6 million of the total, while awards from foundations totaled \$3.5 million.

Projects that received funding include \$601,547 from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation for Professor Judith Hibbard to test plans for more consumer-driven healthcare systems.

— The Associated Press

Riots: Mass party breakups might fuel mob mentality

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irrational, could lead to riots. Students also said simultaneously breaking up multiple parties could lead to mob mentality that produces violent situations, according to the study.

University senior Jessica Mauer, who was at a 2002 riot at East 14th Avenue and Ferry Street that led to 37 arrests, said police could have better-controlled the three-hour riot.

"The cops came and left to get their riot gear because it was so out of control," Mauer said. "They probably could have stopped it when it was small, but they were gone a good hour. People were calling each other on their phones, then someone decided to light a street sign on fire, and everyone went haywire."

The Eugene Police Department, along with the Oregon Liquor Control Commission, partnered with several University departments to gather research.

EPD Police Planner Linda Phelps said the department uses prevention strategies when time allows, such as checking in on West University neighborhood residents who register kegs and informing them about party-control options and consequences of disorderly conduct. However, the city's party patrol relies on a "special response fee ordinance," which forces residents cited for disorderly parties to repay the city for a second police response to an address within 90 days. Phelps said that may not be working.

"There are ways for people to get around the system," Phelps said. "If you call in to say your party is out of control, and you don't have to pay the special-response fee, then you don't have that higher level of accountability."

Blake Jones said recent riots have occurred for different reasons than those in the past.

"When I first got here 10 years ago, problematic parties could be traced to those with tons of fliers," Blake Jones said. "Now it's word of mouth and phones that cause students to swarm around each other."

In addition to problems with police response, alcohol plays a primary role in parties that escalate to violence, according to Blake Jones. Of more than 2,000 keg gallons registered during October 2003, nearly half were consumed in the West University neighborhood, according to OLCC data.

While police intervention is often necessary, officers should address situations that involve alcohol differently, University junior Jessica Eckenroad said.

"People get belligerent and stupid when they're drunk," Eckenroad said. "Police need to understand when people are drunk, they can't deal with them like they're sober. They should compromise more than demand, because people are more likely to resist demands when they're drunk."

With alcohol a primary factor in riots, Eyster said many of the survey results regarding substance use are positive. In comparison with the overall results from the 12 schools in the study, University students reported paying for keg cups less often, paying less for them and going to clubs and bars less frequently. While the study didn't generate a pattern for when parties turn into riots, Blake Jones said the data can help future efforts for prevention.

"Proactive prevention will make a positive difference to many students," she said. "It helps to educate about party-control options. So talk to your neighbors before you throw a party, talk to cops if you need help. Not all parties will be problematic."

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