

Protect thyself

► As crime increases, should you buy a gun for safety? It depends, experts say



H&N photos by Andrew Mariman

Lanny Fujishin aims uprange with an unloaded handgun at Bill Scholtes Klamath Sportsman's Park west of Keno Tuesday.

By TY BEAVER
H&N Staff Reporter

More than 2,200 new concealed handgun licenses were issued in Klamath County in 2009 and 2010, according to figures from the Klamath County Sheriff's Office.

That's a 33 percent jump from the two years prior.

An outbreak of burglaries and thefts in recent months may be fueling the increase, but authorities also attribute it to national politics and budget cuts in the justice system.

"We've talked so much about law enforcement being down that people are doing what they need to protect themselves in their homes," said Klamath County District Attorney Ed Caleb.

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Randy Eddins, an employee at Parker's Rod and Gun Rack, holds up a used Smith & Wesson .357 revolver for sale at the local business.

INSIDE:

■ Using your handgun to protect yourself or others: When you should and shouldn't fire, A6.

■ Who can, and can't, buy a gun, A6.

■ Should you buy a gun? Experts say it depends on how you answer this question: Could you shoot to kill a person? A6.

■ Tips and advice for picking out a handgun for self-defense, A6.

'It was the first handgun I've ever fired'

By SARA HOTTMAN
H&N Staff Reporter

The point was to see what it was like to fire a handgun, and further to imagine