

Bad-news backhand

Niren Lall of Portland came in 2nd place during the All-Comers Junior Tennis Championships in Eugene last weekend.

Photo by Scott Chadek

Additional firefighters hired for summertime

By Travis Bishop Emerald Contributo

In an effort to become better prepared for the fire season, the U.S. Forest Service hired an additional 400 firefighters for the Southern Oregon region.

Forest Dispatcher Jon Skeels said 120 of the firefighters are from the Eugene area. "The hiring really has nothing to do with the local area. It is based on the firefighting needs of the entire region," he said.

Whereas in years past the Forest Service has waited until the middle of the fire season to do additional hiring, they are trying to become more pro-active this year by hiring additional workers before they are needed, Skeels said.

The hiring process consisted mainly of a physical step test that simulates the rigors of uphill walking. Additionally, applicants had to complete the I-9 Pre-employment certification that declares them legally fit to work in the country, according to a Forest Service news release.

About to 300 people applied for the additional jobs in the Eugene area this year by taking the step test, compared with last year when roughly twice that many applied. About 180 people successfully completed the step test and were hired.

Applicants passed the step test at nearly twice the rate of last year's applicants. Skeels said. The group that applied this year is generally younger than in the past, which accounts for the difference, he said.

Although he didn't have an exact tally. Skeels said there were a large number of students from both Oregon State and the University of Oregon large group just out of high

The newly-hired firefighters will be split into two groups and sent to three days of training at the Naval Reserve in Central Point, Ore. The first group will start training on July 30 with the second group following on August 3.

While in training, the new firefighters will be students of the basic-32 hour Wildland Firefighter Course, Skeels said. In that program, the trainees will learn fire behavior, how to dig fire lines, in addition to life in the fire camp, he said.

During training sessions, crews will not be allowed outside of camp. Shelter, food and recreation will be provided, but the trainees will be expected to bring their own belongings such as boots, jacket, pants, shirt and money for their own personal use.

Upon completion of the training session, workers could end up virtually anywhere in the continental United States, Skeels said. "It's really hard to tell where they will end up. In years past, we've sent crews to Nevada, California, Washington, Oregon, Yellowstone and Montana," he said.

After they complete the training course, the newly-hired firefighters will be on-call until the time of an actual fire dispatch.

While training, the new employees will be paid \$6.88 an hour. After their training, their wages increase to \$7.98 an

Still reeling in paper work from a rash of lightning fires earlier this month. Skeels is looking forward to the end of the hiring process. "I'll just be glad when it's finished up," he

Resort area threatened by forest fires

SUNRIVER (AP) - A fire burning near the Sunriver resort area today caused some roads to be closed, but didn't immediately threaten any homes or other buildings.

Meanwhile, a small fire in logging slash outside Veneta was controlled and the state Department of Forestry mobilized in preparation for dry lightning strikes expected later in the day.

Fire crews working the night through scratched a line around the 350-acre area on the Deschutes National Forest where the Wake Butte fire was burning three to four miles southwest Sunriver, but it wasn't declared contained, said Forest Service spokeswoman Laurie Johnson.

Four air tankers and two helicopters joined in the fight with 300 people. Fire crews were working to establish a hose line around the fire to bolster the fire trail, Johnson said

"We're trying to have extensive use of water and fire retardant," she said.

The fire was burning through mixed conifer and ponderosa pine and wasn't an immediate threat to any buildings in the Sunriver resort area. she said.

A fire camp was being set up at the Fall River airstrip and Forest Service roads 40, 42 and 45 in the Sunriver area were blocked, Johnson said.

The Oregon Daily Emerald is published Tuesday and Thursday during the summer by the Oregon Daily Emerald Publishing Co., at the University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon, Daily publication begins with the fall.

The Emerald is operated independently of the University with offices on the third floor of the Erb Memorial Union and is a member of the Associated Press. The Emerald is private property. The unlawful removal or use of papers is pros-

Editor Alice Wheeler

Editorial Editor Robert Ward

News/Managing Editor Christopher Blair Graphics Editor Sean Poston Associate Editors

Entertainment: Brian Bloch Student Govt./Activities: Catherine Hawley Community: Pat Malach

Staff Photographer: Vince Ramirez

Advertising Sales: Kathy Smith

Production: Jim Finch, Elisa Lichtman, Martin Thiel, Ingrid White, Kelly Williams

General Staff
General Manager: Judy Riedi Assistant to the Publisher: Jean Ownbey
Advertising Director: Susan Theten Classified Sales: Peggy McGinn
Production Manager: Michele Ross Advertising Coordinator: Sandra Daller

Accounts Receivable, Circulation, Newsroom. Classified Advertising

THE FAR SIDE

By GARY LARSON



"Dave! Ain't that your horse that kid is messin' with?

