

Wait for organs puts patients' lives on hold

SPOKANE, Wash. (AP) — Edna Ferguson exercises twice a week, drives a car and mows her lawn while she waits for a heart and lung transplant.

The 53-year-old Spokane woman is hooked to portable oxygen 24 hours a day and carries a beeper waiting for a signal from Sacred Heart Medical Center.

"I want to find lungs and a heart for her so badly," said Janet Steele, director of the hos-

pital's organ recovery agency.

Ferguson is at the top of Sacred Heart's waiting list for heart and lung transplants. Typically, there are about a dozen below her.

Ferguson was one of 60 patients at the hospital Saturday for a meeting with representatives of the United Network of Organ Sharing, which keeps a national waiting list and database.

Around the country, 35,000

people are waiting for some type of organ. Of those, about 27,000 need kidneys, said Liz Pearce, manager of Sacred Heart's kidney transplant program.

Andy Racely, 38, of Spokane had a kidney transplant at the hospital in May. Sacred Heart usually has about 30 patients waiting for kidneys.

During his 10-month wait, Racely said, his life was on hold.

"I call it ... hibernation," he said. "You're awake, but you

don't feel like you're doing anything."

Racely's kidney failed because of diabetes. Now he needs a pancreas, which will send him to Seattle because Sacred Heart performs only kidney, heart and lung transplants.

Ferguson's need to be close to the hospital forced her to move from Colville to Spokane last year. In the last three years, both of her brothers have died, one in Mississippi and one in New Hampshire, but she couldn't

attend either funeral.

"You can never make plans," she said. "When you don't commit to anything, you're on standstill. You're on hold."

Pam Hester, who manages the heart and lung transplant program at Sacred Heart, said most patients have remarkable attitudes despite their unfortunate situations.

"These are survivors," Hester said. "These are people who want to live."

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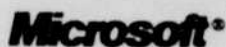
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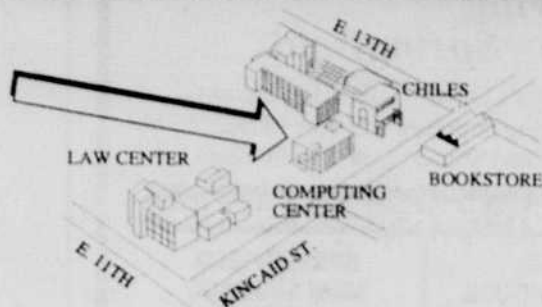


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More Power To You!

'McKenna' gives boost to Oregon's film industry

BEND (AP) — When the gaffers' trucks from the new ABC-TV series *McKenna* started pulling up on Misty Urbach's street, she went right down and asked for a part.

The homemaker and mother of three quickly landed herself a walk-on role as a waitress.

"Hopefully, I won't end up on the cutting room floor," she said after the scene was finished at the Pilot Butte Drive-In Restaurant.

Producer Peter Dunne wants folks who live in this high desert vacation wonderland to feel as if *McKenna* is their show, and giving locals a chance to see themselves on TV is one way to do it.

"The rose is very much on the bloom here and we work hard to keep it that way," Dunne said between takes.

Lured partly by a \$300,000 package of incentives put together by the Oregon Film and Video Office and local boosters, *McKenna* is one of two prime time television series shot in Oregon this year. The other, *Under Suspicion*, films in the Portland area.

McKenna, which airs at 9 p.m. PST on Thursdays, stars Chad Everett, best known for his role as Dr. Joe Gannon in the 1970s series *Medical Center*, as adventure outfitter Jack McKenna. McKenna Wilderness Outfitters, the family business, offers city slickers a chance to change their lives through the wonders of the great outdoors.

Eric Close plays his son, Brick McKenna, who comes home and helps with the family business after trying to make it in stock car racing. Torn apart by the death of Brick's older brother, father and son are trying to make their peace.

Shawn Huff plays the widow of the eldest McKenna son, Jennifer Love-Hewitt plays the rebellious younger sister, and Rick Peters portrays Brick's best friend. Jack Kehler plays a politically incorrect local whose idea of a great gift for his wife is a vacuum cleaner.

The series pilot was shot in New Zealand, but the 12 episodes under contract are filming around Bend, the center of Oregon's outdoor recreation boom.

Presented over a tapestry of fly-casting, whitewater rafting, rock climbing, and the spectacular beauty of the snowcapped Cascade Range, the series tries to create some of the same feelings as the 1993 movie, *A River Runs Through It*, which told the story of a Montana fly-casting family.

"I think that movie struck a chord with a lot of people across America who had no idea what

fly-casting was about," Dunne said. "And it did to us. What is that quiet inside of us that all of a sudden you begin to feel, that you don't feel every day? That's a character in our show."

To create that feeling, *McKenna* is shot largely on location — the Deschutes River, high lakes in the Cascade Range and the town of Bend.

The base of operations is the McKenna Ranch, a big log home on 18 acres which producers bought amid the hobby ranches outside Bend. With Hollywood magic, they aged the new structure and built a gurgling stream and pond.

Just as they hope the Nielson families across the country will be caught up in *McKenna*, the cast has been caught up in the high desert lifestyle.

Everett has rented a home on the Crooked River with a spectacular view of Smith Rock State Park, one of the premier rock climbing areas in the world, and the Three Sisters, a string of snow-covered peaks that dominate the skyline.

"When you're out working in it, you don't have to invent that wonderful environmental feel," Everett said, stretched out in an easy chair in the living room of the McKenna Ranch log house.

An accomplished horseman and hunter, Everett has been learning rock climbing and had a new fly rod made for his wife, so she can join him casting for trout in the evenings.

"The two hours I spend down there, it's cleansing," he said.

Close has learned to guide a paddle raft through whitewater and is building on his rock climbing skills at Smith Rock, where the show filmed its first Oregon episode.

"The climbing expert out there, he and I went out and put a new route up on Smith Rock," Close said. "We haven't put a name on it yet. We have one more bolt to put on it."

He rents a house on a ranch outside Bend and looks forward to spending the winter there, warmed by firewood he cuts.

He camped out while on location at Todd Lake. "We had a meteor shower that night. And that was incredible," Close said.

While most real-life outdoor outfitters concentrate on a single sport, such as hunting, fishing, or whitewater rafting, Jack McKenna offers his clients the whole gamut. Everett thinks the concept might catch on in real-life.

"Some guy has a two-week vacation and we can really put a smile on his face," Everett said. "It might be a case of life imitating art."