

New Orleans evacuee finds shelter in Takilma

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cerned about material losses, feeling happy that she was able to escape the fate that some evacuees underwent.

"I'm here for four weeks," she said, having arrived Sept. 8. "I can't get into my apartment until [early October], and I'm wondering what I'll find."

The software company for which she is office manager is on the second floor of a building that flooded and was damaged fairly extensively. The firm, which has clients nationwide, with approximately a third in New Orleans, utilizes "lots of IBM-type computers."

She continues to stay in touch with her boss, and her son, who also lives in New Orleans, to stay abreast of the situation. Plus, she's a member of the Society of Creative Anachronism, and in contact with its members in and around the area.

She left the city Monday, Aug. 29, when the hurricane arrived, and was able to get 50 miles west to her son, "a five-hour trip that took eight hours."

"There have been many close calls," related to weather, she noted, "but this was different, as there are no big cities near. Many were leaving the city, and it (evacuation) was better organized this time" so there were many vehicles out.

"The governor decided that Interstate 10 lanes would be used only for exiting east and west; not for coming in," said Pacheco. Residents also could use Hwy. 59 to reach Hattiesburg or Hwy. 55 to reach

Jackson.

Eventually the I-10 bridge was destroyed, blocking traffic from Mississippi.

The canal caved in on the New Orleans side, said Pacheco. "It got full and then collapsed," she said, noting that four levees were breached.

Sunday before the hurricane, a mandatory evacuation order was issued, but she was "among the die-hards, wanting to ride it out. That lasted until Sunday morning when the hurricane turned up from Florida. I changed my mind then."

Tuesday after the hurricane, she tried to return to New Orleans, and got within 50 miles. Her son's boss took in her and 10 family members. Gasoline was not available after Tuesday; there were no deliveries to Wal*Mart so food was scarce, but they were able to get items including air mattresses. There was no looting like downtown, she said.

An overnight stay became three days. She had to get an emergency shipment of medicine as she ran out and couldn't get to her place.

As a part-time tour guide on weekends, either walking or on buses to city and swamp sites, she has a good general knowledge of the city and its operations.

Lake Pontchartrain above the city is big, she said, with a 24-mile-long causeway, but only 10-11 feet deep on average. She said that the force 5 hurricane became force 4 over the lake, picked up water and dumped it.

"The Mississippi River had no part in the flood; it was a breach of the levy system," she said, "as the city is below sea level. The pump system failed because it was under water, and the levy system construction failed."

The levees, she said, were built after the 1965 Hurricane "Betsy" a force 3. "We all thought the big one would never come, and no money ever materialized to build a stronger system," said Pacheco.

On her first trip to Oregon because of the lockout, she arrived with two duffle bags. She was able to depart from Baton Rouge airport to Houston, to Portland to Eugene, where Jim and Teri picked her up. She plans to fly from Medford Oct. 6.

Pacheco said that there were many complaints because National Guardsmen didn't arrive to the stricken city until four days after the hurricane.

Additionally, she said, there appeared to be a massive lack of communication between responding agencies so that none knew what the other was doing. And in one case, she noted, a group from California arrived right after the hurricane ready to re-establish communications, but was turned away by FEMA.

Pacheco said that the biggest trauma is for those who had to stay in the city, some of whom were lost when a barge crashed through a levy. The resultant, rapid deluge made escape impossible, she said.

But "The city will be

rebuilt," she said, "regardless of doom-sayers. It will be different and better, likely a smaller city at first, but will grow rapidly with new infrastructure."

"The city is approximately 10-by-12 blocks originally built in 1718, and lost to fire in the 1790s, so some of the city is more than 200 years old, and a main tourist attraction."

"The French Quarter is OK," she noted, "because it's 26 feet above sea level. It was the driest place in the city, although there was some water in the streets."

"We'll probably have Mardi Gras because it is a symbol of our city."

The escapee said that prayers should be said for people who went to Texas. "They are the ones who have only the shirt on their backs, plus many were separated from their families," she said.

Pacheco said that poor Black people comprise nearly 70 percent of the New Orleans population. This means, she said, that claims of discrimination are untrue. "It's a problem of poverty, not discrimination," she said.

Pacheco is the only girl among six children, and has siblings, including another brother, Tim, in Brookings, so she's not concerned about finding more places to

'Rogue Spirit' show coming

"Spirit of the Rogue," a juried exhibit celebrating the Rogue River, will be shown Oct. 5-29 at the Rogue Community College Firehouse Gallery.

The display is held in conjunction with the third annual Art Along the Rogue Art and Music Festival.

Exhibiting artists are Jack Bingham, Sherrill Brumbach, Rose Casano, Marilyn Clouse, Vince Carl, Morgan Johnson, Tom Kirchen, Linda Killion Smith, and Joann Loudermilk.

A first Friday Art Night

reception is set for 6 to 9 p.m. Friday, Oct. 7.

A street-painting seminar is scheduled at 6 p.m. Oct. 7 at the Firehouse Gallery. The seminar is part of the Art Along the Rogue street painting even that will take place Oct. 8-9 in Downtown Grants Pass on H Street between Fifth and Sixth streets.

The Firehouse Gallery is in Historic City Hall, Fourth and H streets, Grants Pass. The gallery is open from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays; 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays.

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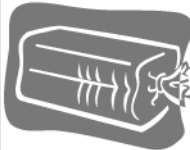
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I think a hero is an ordinary individual who finds strength to persevere and endure in spite of overwhelming obstacles.

- Christopher Reeve -

I.V. Firefighters to the Rescue

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| <p>Tuesday, Sept. 6
*1:08 p.m., medical assist (M.A.), all with American Medical Response (AMR), 26000 block Redwood Hwy.
*1:13 p.m., districtwide medical standby (DiMS), all for AMR.</p> <p>Wednesday, Sept. 7
*12:20 p.m., M.A., 100 block W. Palmer Street.
*12:23 p.m., DiMS.
*9:02 p.m., M.A., 600 block Waldo Road.
*9:35 p.m., DiMS.</p> <p>Thursday, Sept. 8
*4:17 p.m., M.A., 28000 block Redwood Hwy.
*9:23 p.m., M.A., 600 block Waldo Road.</p> <p>Friday, Sept. 9
*1:20 p.m., small vehicle fire, Cascade Drive.
*2:30 p.m., outdoor smoke investigation (small brush fire located), rear of Jubilee Park off Old Stage Road.</p> | <p>Saturday, Sept. 10
*4:15 p.m., M.A., 7000 block Holland Loop.
*4:18 p.m., DiMS.
*5:06 p.m., outdoor smoke investigation, 1000 block Lakeshore Drive.
*10:08 p.m., MVA, Redwood Hwy. milepost 18.</p> <p>Sunday, Sept. 11
*7:42 p.m., outdoor smoke investigation, 100 block Illinois River Road.</p> <p>Monday, Sept. 12
*10:23 a.m., DiMS.
*12:18 p.m., M.A., Wood Duck Lane.
*12:24 p.m., DiMS.</p> <p>Tuesday, Sept. 13
*6:57 p.m., M.A., 100 block N. Redwood Hwy.
*7 p.m., DiMS.</p> <p>Wednesday, Sept. 14
*2:29 a.m., M.A., 1000 block Rockydale Road.
*9:29 a.m., powerline problem, Hogue Drive/Warren Road.</p> | <p>*11:34 a.m., M.A., 5000 block Westside Road.
*6:30 p.m., M.A., 200 block Junction Avenue.</p> <p>Thursday, Sept. 15
*11:09 a.m., M.A., 100 block Old Stage Road.
*11:09 a.m., DiMS.
*3:52 p.m., M.A., 500 block Arrowhead Drive.</p> <p>Friday, Sept. 16
*3:52 p.m., M.A., 28000 block Redwood Hwy.
*7:37 p.m., M.A., 10000 block Takilma Road.</p> <p>Saturday, Sept. 17
*2:43 p.m., M.A. 400 block McMullen Creek Road.
*3:17 p.m., DiMS.
*7:57 p.m., M.A., 700 block Logan Cut Road.
*8:37 p.m., DiMS.</p> <p>Sunday, Sept. 18
*1:24 a.m., M.A., 800 block Caves Hwy.</p> <p>Monday, Sept. 19
*9 a.m., MVA, 13000 block Redwood Hwy.</p> |
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Are You Prepared?

Deer Creek Fire

Community Wildfire Meeting

Wednesday, September 28, 2005

5:30 pm Open House/6:30 pm Presentation
Illinois Valley Fire Station #2,
18455 Redwood Hwy., Selma

coffee, hot dogs, and snacks provided!

- ◆ **Hear** fire agencies share information about the Deer Creek Fire and answer questions from community members
- ◆ **Learn** about opportunities for fuels reduction and ongoing projects
- ◆ **Share** your ideas and concerns about wildfire in your community
- ◆ **Meet** and talk with members of the Illinois Valley Rural Fire Protection District, Oregon Department of Forestry, Josephine County and the Bureau of Land Management about fire plans and fuels reduction in the Illinois Valley and Josephine County

What: A community meeting to reflect on lessons learned from the Deer Creek Fire and identify opportunities to reduce future wildfire risk
When: Wednesday, September 28, 2005
Where: Illinois Valley Fire Station #2, 18455 Redwood Hwy. Selma, OR
Contact: Jerry Schaeffer, Illinois Valley Fire Department (541-592-2225) or Brian Ballou, Oregon Department of Forestry (541-664-3328)

For more information on local fire plans, visit <http://www.co.josephine.or.us> or <http://www.ivfire.com/fireplan.htm>

