

Cave Junction woman battles back from bad car wreck

By
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IVN Contributing Writer

Cave Junction resident Susan "Orah" Tipton is a strong woman with an awesome attitude, according to friends, family and medical professionals helping her recover from a near-fatal traffic wreck last year.

Suffering broken bones, organ damage, cuts and heavy bruises following the July 2, 2013 wreck, Tipton, who remains hospitalized, started a Facebook page titled "My Amazing Event" to keep supporters informed of her progress.

"I've been snatched back from death and then cradled by prayers," Tipton said.

Driving out of a blind curve on Takilma Road near the Holland Loop turn off, Tipton encountered a truck in her lane, coming at her fast. Just before impact, she said to herself, "Is this how it ends?"

Amazed she was still alive after the crash, Tipton, who had been wearing a seatbelt, soon realized her legs were wedged tight under the dash board — and the car was on fire.

IV Fire District personnel soon arrived and extinguished the fire just as the windshield started breaking up, bringing the flames closer to Tipton.

"I never felt anything so good as that cold water they sprayed," Tipton said.

Tipton's partner, Steve Mohr, was on the scene within fifteen minutes.

"I tried to comfort Orah, but there wasn't much I could do. It took two hours to get her out of the truck," Mohr said.

It was 100 degrees, but on the asphalt, temperatures were closer to 115 degrees, according to Fire Chief Dennis Hoke. Some of the rescuers were succumbing to heat exhaustion. Neighbors brought out water and ice to ease the situation.

During this ordeal, Tipton, 51, reports that "something came over me, I kept my cool. It felt like I was drifting between the two realms."

First the truck's roof was cut off. Then the door and part of the frame were removed, but Tipton remained trapped. The back seat was pulled out next, and finally, when the dash board was lifted away rescue personnel slid Tipton out.

Flown by helicopter to Rogue Valley Medical Center in Medford, Tipton was stabilized before another flight transported her to Sacred Heart Hospital, in Springfield, where specialists performed a 13-hour surgery. Tipton was then put into a drug-induced coma for two days and housed in an intensive care unit until July 10. She remains at Sacred Heart.

Tipton's injuries include a fractured skull, torn cervical ligament, punctured lung, chipped teeth, nine broken ribs, a broken hip and both her femurs (thigh bones) were shattered. Titanium rods and screws now hold her femurs and hip together and she may require more surgery down the road.

"I cannot bear weight on my legs until probably late August and will have to use wheelchair for about six months," Tipton said. "I'll have to learn how to walk again. I feel like I've been thrust back into infancy."

"I don't know

where my life will go from here, but I feel more empathy for those who've experienced severe trauma. Maybe I'll go into physical therapy or counseling, something to help others," Tipton said. "A lot of people go through trauma in their life, some more than others. Life is just a series of adaptations."

"Orah's amazing everyone up there," Mohr said. "She won't stand for being handicapped. She's a fighter."

Mohr added that as soon as Tipton meets certain medical standards, she'll be transferred to a rehabilitation facility.

"My Facebook page, in part, is to share the journey, the process of

getting past all this pain," Tipton said. "It's amazing that I'm still here and those people who are standing by me are helping me move forward. They say I am inspiring, but they're helping me! They're part of my team."

Tipton said she has a lot of love for. She had just found a daughter that she'd given up for adoption 32 years ago and discovered that she's a grandmother.

Tipton previously tended bar at Junction Inn and the Bigfoot Tavern, and is also a massage therapist and most recently, worked as a caregiver. Mohr said Tipton no longer has income and that the bills will be "astronomical." Complicating her current situation, Tipton's health insurance

situation is dubious, as she was between jobs — though only by a few days.

An account at First Community Credit Union in Cave Junction (the former SOFCU) in Orah Tipton's name will accept cash donations to help with food, gas money and bills.

The Cave Junction resident driving the truck that hit Tipton at 50 mph, Robert E. Collins, was treated and released from Three Rivers Community Hospital. Police determined the cause of the crash to be the result of Collins' being distracted by a dog in his truck. He was cited for careless driving.



(Photo by Dale Sandberg, IVFD Media Dept)

Illinois Valley Fire District volunteers and Chief Hoke work to extricate Tipton Tuesday, July 2.

Friends and family enjoy music and softball

By
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Thursday, July 18, proved to be fun and exciting evening for all ages at Jubilee Park. The park was full of spectators enjoying music at Concerts in the Park featuring the Jay Barley band and cheering on the softball players who were enjoying friendly games amongst each other. The Misfits vs. Rita's Rebels

started off the fun at 6 p.m. with Rita's Rebels taking the win 19 to 4. Rock-n-Soil vs. Good Earth Organics played at 7:30 p.m., with Good Earth Organics winning 12 to 3. Tree House vs. Balls Out finished up the exciting night, with Balls Out winning 8 to 1.

The entertainment continues next week at 6 p.m. Tuesday, July 23. Games will include Balls Out vs. Green Horns, followed by Tree House vs. Rock-n-Soil at 7:30 p.m., and Good Earth Organics vs. Misfits at 9 p.m.

On Thursday, July 25, the game schedules are: Green Horns vs. Rita's Rebels at 6 p.m., Rock-n-Soil vs. Balls Out playing at 7:30 p.m. and Tree House vs. Misfits ending the night at 9 p.m.

The community is encouraged to come out and cheer the teams on. If anyone is interested in playing, they are welcome to come to the park with mitt in hand and see if any team needs a pick-up player.

Kids enthusiastically learn about golf

By
Jenna Larkin
IVN Contributing Writer

Sunshine, the smell of freshly mowed grass and carts zooming around the fairways.

That was the scene Thursday, July 18 at the golf course. For the last four weeks the Jr. Golf program has been underway. The program runs for six weeks; four weeks of lessons every Thursday, a tournament the fifth week and a banquet the sixth week.

There are 32 kids enrolled this year, which is down from previous years. Ages range from five to fifteen years old with three groups: five to seven, eight to ten, and eleven to fifteen. The five to ten year olds practice from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., with the older kids following at 10:30 a.m. to noon.

The kids enthusiastically gathered around their instructors to listen to the day's lesson in anticipation of learning how to play golf. The groups were split in half, one group learning how to use a wood and iron on the range while the second half learned how to putt on the

putting green. Halfway through the lesson, the groups switched.

The cost this year for the program was \$2 per child, in part to a generous bequest from MaryEllen and Frank Ault in 2011. Frank was one of the founding members of the golf course.

The instructors this year are Steve Lyons, Wilber Morton, Nathan Peirce and George Morsier. Lyons and Morton have been enjoying teaching young children about the game of golf for years.

Barbara Lane, head of the program, said it is nice to see so many children returning from previous years.

"It's nice to see new faces to the program as well," Lane said. She hopes that the older group will continue to enjoy golf and play for the high-school team.

On July 25 at 9 a.m. the Jr. Golf tournament will take place involving all the young golfers that participated this year in the program. The awards banquet will be held on August 1 at noon. All golfers and their families are welcome to attend.

Cave Junction Lions Club
Blackberry Festival
Breakfast and Bingo
at the County Building
Saturday, August 4th

Breakfast
8 to 11am
Eggs, Sausage, Fruit,
Biscuits and Gravy,
Pancakes, Blackberry
Syrup, Juice, Coffee
\$6 per person

Blackberry Bingo
12:30 to 4pm
25¢ Cards
Half Payout

Bring your used (no longer needed) eye glasses and/or hearing aids for the Lions Sight and Hearing Program

<p style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">Arts Red Garter</p> <p style="font-weight: bold;">Where the Valley comes to play</p> <p style="color: red;">Karaoke - Dancing Live Music</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; color: blue;">Guppy</p> <p style="color: purple;">whimsical great night of fun</p> <p>Friday July 26 @ 5:30 p.m.</p> <p style="font-weight: bold;">Taylor's Country Store</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; color: green;">Wild River</p> <p style="font-size: small;">HANDCRAFTED FOOD & ALE</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; color: yellow;">Guppy</p> <p style="font-weight: bold;">Saturday July 27 6pm</p> <p>Every Wed Open Mic. Night From 6-8 p.m.</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold;">Chateau at the Oregon Caves</p> <p>Dave Angus Blues Piano July 26, 7 p.m.</p> <p>Ross Welcome Acoustic Guitar July 27, 7 p.m.</p> <p>Bob Clark Celtic Harp July 28, 4 p.m.</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; color: green;">Kate's Redwood Bar and Grill</p> <p style="color: red;">Tuesday to Sunday Noon to Close</p> <p style="font-weight: bold;">Happy Hour 3-5</p> <p>Stop in and see Kate and Mamie Today!</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; color: red;">Eat</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; text-align: center;">@</p> <p style="font-weight: bold;">Mc Grew's of Course</p>
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