

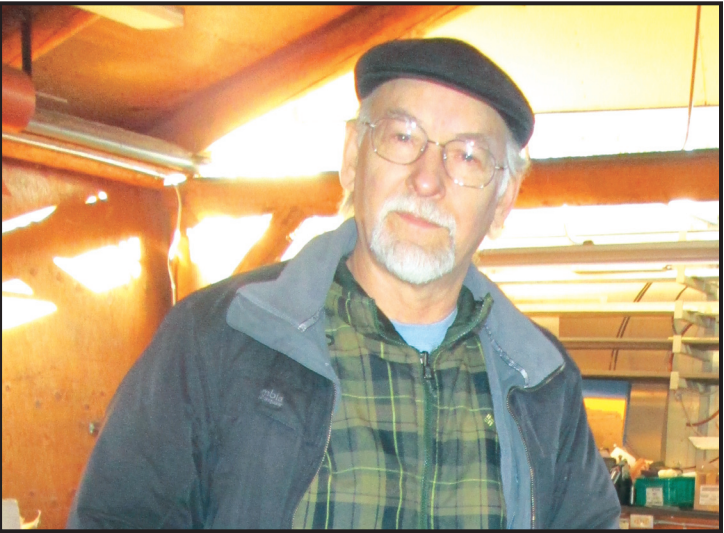
Smoke ... Continued from A-1

“The festival went as well could be expected,” said Dulcie Moore, Office Manager for the Illinois Valley Chamber of Commerce, which sponsors the popular event. “We were ousted from our campgrounds. Many people just went home. Everyone was understanding about the situation though.”

“The music was great and the people that stayed enjoyed it tremendously. Some of the bands, Eight Dollar Mountain and Siskiyou Summit, played on through the worst of the smoke,” Moore said. “People were grateful.”

Colin Clark, who owns the Lake Selmac Resort and rents boats to the public, says his numbers are down as well.

“The smoke is holding back business a lot,” Clark said.



Charley in his shop where he built his human powered car.

Hippy ... Continued from A-10

Jake feels quite content to be back home in Takilma, “I’ll be 64 this year, and now this has become my job. These are the years I can finally live the life that I thought I was going to live at the Farm all those years ago. It’s wonderful!” Jake and his new wife Carol are able to create beautiful gardens and help teach the younger generation, who’ve moved to the Farm, their knowledge and skills.

Delbert and Helen are quite happy living out their lives in the cradle of Takilma. They describe their greatest joys as the ones of being close to their large extended family. Their children still ap-

preciate having grown up so free and uninhibited in such a beautiful place. Delbert attributes his long marriage to Helen with, “We had six kids, we were too poor to live separately, and the kids made great marriage counselors.” Delbert, now a respected furniture artist, creates beautiful, sturdy furniture which graces businesses like Taylor’s Sausage in Cave Junction. He and Helen live at a slower pace today, but seem to always have a mellow, cheerful smile on their faces. They have really found true happiness in Takilma.

The love and devotion people feel for their homes and families in Takilma is

Fire ... Continued from A--1

When this paper went to press, the Labrador fire was contained on the south and west sides of the Illinois River and the fire’s northern flank was currently under control near Panther Bar, just south of the river.

The eastern flank of the fire has backed gently toward the small Oak Flat community, which remains on a Level 2 evacuation advisory. Hot Shot fire crews monitored this backing rate and hand-fired the line to maintain uniform progress. While a few spot fires jumped across the river, fire-fighters quickly doused those flames. The plan is to keep fire west of the river, though if unsuccessful, additional contingency lines designed to stop its progress are now in place.

“Our overall strategy is to stay ahead of the fire on all fronts,” said Incident Commander Brett Fillis.

A Level 1 advisory evacuation has been issued for the area between Kerby Flat and McCaleb Ranch and the Illinois River Road remains closed to the public to allow access for fire traffic.

On its southern flank, the fire has burned into rocky serpentine soils with mostly thin discontinuous vegetation and these low-level fuels are helping keep that edge in check.

The western flank has fire behaviorists paying close attention. The fire has crossed into the Kalmiopsis Wilderness and made its way to Nome Creek. Helicopter water drops helped keep the fire there, but inevitably, there’s not much, short of a deluge of rain, that will be able to halt the fire’s westerly progress.

Fortunately, there are no towns or residences in that direction, though many are concerned about the future integrity of the Kalmiopsis, already hit hard by the Biscuit Fire.

“The steep wilderness terrain is choked by a sea of snags, and in many locations, it’s too dangerous to mount ground ef-

orts,” said Fire Behavior Analyst Steve Ziel.

The Labrador is a complicated fire and there is no single strategy to fight it. Varied slope aspects receiving unequal solar heating can produce funnels and swirling eddies that help mix the air and create localized winds that can fan flames unpredictably, according to Ziel.

Twisting rivers and creeks further complicate the situation and pockets of super-dry heavy fuels set the stage for potentially rapid fire spread.

“The current fire environment is conducive to enhance and support large fire growth,” Ziel said. “Expect to see episodic, periodic, but persistent fire activity.”

The primary method of fire sustainment is expected to come from dead flaming logs – burned in the Biscuit Fire – that roll downhill and ignite new fast-moving upslope fires; and then, in a domino-like effect, fire will slowly back down the other side of that hill, where once again, newly fire-lit logs roll downhill and perpetuate the cycle.

On some days heavy smoke will continue to ground helicopters. And while weather inversions or smoke may squash fire down in lower elevations, flames will still flare up on the ridges and afternoon ridge-top winds will help move the fire along as well.

Efforts are being made to protect coho salmon critical habitat and chemical retardant is not utilized within 300 feet of creeks and rivers. Rare plant populations are identified and efforts are made to keep equipment and personnel out of these areas, and all vehicles are required to wash when they arrive and depart from the area to prevent the spread of noxious weeds.

Three remote weather stations have been installed around the fire to monitor changing weather and fuel conditions.



Delbert and Helen celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary.

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