

Helitack ...

Continued from A-1

Despite these requests, Graves noted that heavy rigs were, in fact driven on Smokejumper Way and over the costly commercial septic system and leach-field located between the split-rail fence and the runway in front of the Smokejumper Museum complex as late as the end of that week.

In follow-up conversations with on-scene managers, he was assured that these simple rules would be mentioned during each morning briefing, and that the tanker crews would be specifically informed.

A Temporary Air Traffic Control Tower is now in place at the airport and will operate 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily through the end of September. Two-way communication with the local controller during these 12 daylight hours is mandatory. The USFS firefighting helicopter base is expected to be operational through September and possibly well into October, depending on weather conditions.

“At this time there are no plans to curtail civil aviation activity at or near the IV Airport, and there are no temporary flight restrictions, but this could change,” Graves said.

Graves’ advice to pilots is to make sure they check Notices to Airmen (NOTAMs) and look to see if there are any nearby Temporary Flight Restrictions (TFRs) prior to flight in this area.

“As always, see and be seen – see and avoid firefighting helicopter traffic,” Graves added.

Vets ... Continued from A-1

“I had no orientation, no direction,” Lee said. “Then here comes De with nothing but a driving budget who fills these gaps and helped me make the transition from being a disabled veteran to functioning well. She never abandons us, she always give us a plan of action. And we’ve become good friends, we’re family now.”

Lee also believes the community support and Spellman’s “knowledge of the system and her ability to network between the different entities involved” are key reasons why the IV Eagles is so successful.

“It’s a crucial support system,” Lee said. “And the transportation means we’re all making it to our appointments. De and her drivers are great. No matter what’s going in their lives, they’re always cheerful and on time.”

Spellman explained that not everyone’s appointments go well, and when the vets come out to a driver who is willing to talk instead of listening to the radio, the comfort and trust builds.

“It can be a grey area,” Spellman said. “Some of these guys have been betrayed — so I don’t ask them to trust the system, I ask them to trust me.”

“Some of these guys won’t come out to go to their appointments, but De has a way of reaching them so they get the treatment they need and deserve,” Lee said.

Carmen Burgess is an Air Force veteran who believes that no veteran should ever go without support and services like this.

“De and this program helps the community in a number of significant ways,” Burgess said. “She reduces homelessness on the streets by persuading veterans to use their full benefits.”

“We help vets get their paperwork in order and sometimes part of that is to initially gain their trust,” said Spellman, who helps vets tap into the “HUD VASH” program that provides housing allowances.

“De is a veteran who serves the vets,” Burgess said. “And she never makes you feel like you’re a burden.”

Burgess participates in the woman’s sweat lodge, talking circle and drum lessons.

“This goes way beyond the convenience of the transportation,” Burgess said. “The help dealing with anxiety issues around my medical appointments and the companionship has been priceless in my life. I only hope I’ve helped my fellow veterans as much as they have helped me.”

The veterans Spellman serves want her to get more help so she can realize some “much deserved and needed relief” and so the program can reach out to more Valley veterans.

“She’s coordinates everything and does it all as a volunteer,” Lee said. “But she won’t back down because the need is so crucial and close to her heart.”

Jimmy Correa, a U.S. Marine Corp veteran, drives “Eagle One,” and Spellman drives the second van, dubbed “Eagle Two.”

“Jimmy’s great,” Spellman said. “The vets like him a lot and respond to him really well.”

One of Spellman’s longtime drivers, Sue Hatch, recently retired.

“Sue was an incredible advocate. She’s leaving some pretty big shoes to fill, but anyone with a willing heart can step up,” Spellman said. “They’ll meet some awesome people, hear amazing stories and find it rewarding.”

“If you would sit in conservation and say the USA doesn’t take care of its vets, then perhaps you should get involved,” Spellman said.

To become a volunteer driver, call 541-944-3741.

Happy ... Continued from A-1

Crews continue to mop up, patrol, and haul out excess equipment and supplies around the contained portion of the fire on the northwest side. On the northeast and south sides of the fire, crews continue to build new fireline and improve and hold existing fireline.

The Faulkstein Fire is 2,189 acres. Crews are working with resource advisors on all proposed line construction. Firefighters

scouted for anchor points and areas where they could fight the fire directly and safely. The goal is to keep the fire’s foot print as small as possible. The fire continues to creep toward Grider and Big Ridges. Firefighters continue structure preparation along Scott River Road and continue to construct contingency lines by the Lake Mountain lookout. This lookout is the oldest and only surviving rock tower with a

cab in California. Lake Mountain Lookout has been in continuous operation since 1912.

Air quality along the Klamath River drainage is affected by smoke from the Frying Pan and Faulkstein Fires. For more information about air quality in the area, please visit <http://californiasmokeinfo.blogspot.com>

A Clean Air Respite Center is available at the Karuk Tribe Senior Nutrition Center in

Happy Camp (64101 Second Avenue). The center is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily and will remain open longer if needed due to smoky conditions.

An Evacuation Advisory, issued August 13, 2014, continues for residents of Happy Camp along China Grade Road from Elk Creek Bridge to Frying Pan Creek. China Grade Road is open to residents only.



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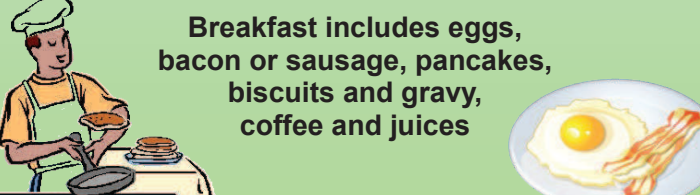
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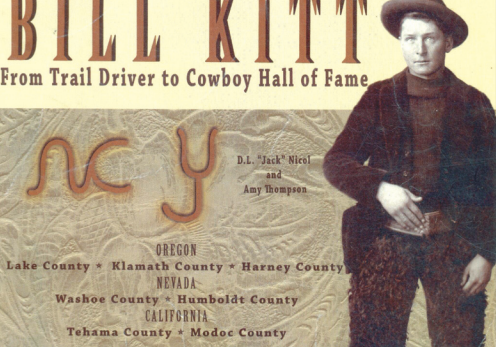
Labor Day Breakfast

August 30, 31 & September 1, 2014
7am to 11am
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- ☐ Check the system air filter regularly and change it when it looks dirty. A dirty filter makes the system work less efficiently and reduces air flow.
- ☐ Place electronics and lamps with conventional bulbs away from the thermostat. The heat they produce can cause the air conditioner to work harder than necessary.
- ☐ Have your cooling equipment serviced each year to keep it running efficiently.



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