

Equal under fire

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season and is a permanent employee of the U.S. Forest Service.

Like the other women, going out on initial attacks is Harvey's favorite part of the job, but when rappelling into a fire, the 125-pound and 5-foot, 5-inch firefighter has to carry a pack weighing between 85 and 100 pounds with all the gear and food she will need for a few days while on the scene.

Staying fit is a big part of the job and Mendo, 24, said she spends all winter staying in shape.

During the fire season, Hedman said the trucks carry free-weights and there's always push-ups and sit-ups to keep in shape, as well as not eating too much food.

"You've gotta watch it or you can pack on the pounds," Hedman said.

One of the hard things about the work during the fire season is being away from loved ones plus the fact that the job - with the dangers of fighting fires and rappelling out of helicopters - can make family members nervous.

Mendo said it's hard being away from her family and fiancé - all in California - but she said her family is supportive and the job is good experience, even if her mother doesn't know exactly what she is doing.

"She knows I'm in fire but she doesn't know exactly what," Mendo, whose helitack team also rappels, said with a grin.

Hedman said her summer job makes her mom nervous, but her dad thinks it's cool while Harvey has the opposite problem.

"My mom is really supportive and is probably the biggest fan of Smokey the Bear," Harvey said with a laugh. "My dad wants me to be a bank teller."

Like Mendo, while away from her home in Alpine, Harvey misses her dog Hector but has good neighbors who take care of her special pooch while she is away.

Being away from home, the hard physical labor and long hours may not be for everyone, but Harvey, who spends the winter months doing law enforcement work such as enforcing winter closures in the national forest on skis or snowmobiling, said the

training opportunities are terrific.

"The forest service offers up a lot of training," Harvey said.

Mendo always wanted to work for a fire department and then found out about the seasonal jobs with the forest service. She has spent three seasons with the forest service and two with the helitack crew.

She still plans to eventually work for a municipal fire department but said she is gaining some good experience with the seasonal job.

All three women said they love hiking and being outdoors. Harvey said she gets to meet a lot of people, plus she enjoys the camaraderie - or what she calls a built-in support system with her group.

The women all say the men on their respective teams are great and they enjoy working with them and that the feeling is mutual.

Leonard Dimaculangan, one of Mendo's team members, said having a woman on the crew kind of evens things up. He said Gabby pulls her own weight.

"Down in the south zone region, it's difficult to get on a fire crew. So the fact that she (Gabby) is here, means a lot already," Dimaculangan said.

Helitack manager Brad Koeckeritz, with Teton Helitack, said he has worked with Harvey for six years and said having women on the crew adds more diversity to the group.

"It builds a better crew when you have people from all walks of life," Koeckeritz said. "We don't view the women crew any different - they are kind of, sort of, one of the guys."

Matt Schutty has only worked with Hedman this year but said working with her is "a blast."

"Tiffany keeps us all in line," Schutty said. "Sometimes she treats us like third-graders, but sometimes we deserve it."

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Firewood cutting prohibited on Umatilla National Forest

Campfire, smoking and off-road travel restrictions also in effect

Firewood cutting on the Umatilla National Forest is now prohibited due to increased fire danger and the potential for large wildfires, announced Bill Aney, Forest Fire and Aviation Staff Officer.

"Calculations are made each day to predict the fire danger rating," said Aney. Daily temperatures, wind speeds, humidity, fuel moisture and short-term weather forecasts are used to formulate the fire danger rating. "The current fire danger rating is EXTREME, the highest rating in the four-step rating system," said Aney. "Firewood cutting will resume when conditions improve." Woodcutters can call the toll-free number at (877) 958-9663 for current restriction information.

In addition to firewood cutting restrictions, public-use restrictions on campfires, smoking and off-road travel are also in effect.

Current restrictions prohibit the building and tending of open campfires, including charcoal briquettes, cooking fires and warming fires until further notice, except in fire pits at designated recreation sites (recreation sites are listed below). Permissible sources of heat include pressurized gas stoves and space-heating devices for those rare cool nights.

Smoking is only allowed within enclosed vehicles, buildings, developed recreation sites or when stopped in an area cleared of all flammable material. Generator use is still permitted at this time though may be restricted as the potential for wildfires increase.

Travel restrictions prohibit all motorized vehicles from traveling off of developed Forest roads and trails, except for the purposes of going to or from campsites located within 300 feet of an open road. Vehicles must still abide by all laws and regulations pertaining to the area of travel.

All forest users should carry an axe, shovel and an 8-ounce or more

capacity fire extinguisher when visiting the Forest.

Several local land management agencies, including the Oregon Department of Forestry and the Washington Department of Natural Resources, have similar restrictions in effect. If unsure of which restrictions apply, please contact the land management agency or call the Umatilla National Forest Office at (541) 278-3722. Specific regulations are also available online at www.fs.fed.us/r6/uma.

Campers are cautioned to be extremely careful when using fires ONLY in the following designated recreation sites on the Umatilla National Forest:

North Fork John Day Ranger District: Bear Wallow Campground; Olive Lake Campground; North Fork John Day Campground; Frazier Campground; Lane Creek Campground; and Winom Creek Campground.

Walla Walla Ranger District: Jubilee Lake Campground; Woodland Campground; Target Meadows Campground; Mottet Campground; Woodward Campground; Umatilla Forks Campground; and Approved Campfire Pits in the Spout Springs and Tollgate Summer Homes Tract.

Heppner Ranger District: Bull Prairie Campground.

Pomeroy Ranger District: Boundary Campground; Panjab Campground; Tucannon Campground; Godman Campground; Big Springs Campground; Teal Campground; Misery Springs Campground; Wickiup Campground; Spruce Springs Campground; Alder Thicket Campground; Lady Bug Campground; Pataha Campground; Panjab Trailhead; Teepee Trailhead; Meadow Creek Trailhead; Clearwater Cabin Rentals; Godman Cabin Rental; Wenatchee Cabin Rental; and Approved Campfire Pits at Summer Homes.

lodge at Umatilla County Jail.

MCSO received a report from a caller in Lexington that wheat trucks were not topping at the stop sign at the corner of E and Arcade streets. The caller requested extra patrol.

MCSO received a report from a caller in Irrigon that she would like to get her things from a residence that she is on the lease. A person staying there will not let her have her things because she is holding them in lieu of

OHCS to hold public hearing

Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) will hold a public hearing on Monday, Aug. 7, 2006 at 10:30 a.m. for the review of the state plan for the 2007-2009 Community Services Block Grant Program for Oregon.

The purpose of this hearing is to obtain public comment on the proposed 2007-2009 Community Services Block Grant Program state plan for Oregon. The hearing will take place at Oregon Housing and Community Services, North Mall Office Building, Conference Room 321, 725 Summer Street NE, Salem, OR.

OHCS invites persons interested in commenting on the state plan are invited to attend the public hearing. If no one has shown to make public comments by 12 p.m. on Monday, July 31, 2006, the hearing will be closed. OHCS will accept written comments if postmarked by Friday, Aug. 11 2006. Visit the public notices page on the OHCS website at www.ohcs.oregon.gov/COM_PublicNotices.shtml

to view a copy of the proposed state plan. Beginning July 31, 2006, please send all correspondence and request for copies of the plan to OHCS at: Oregon Housing and Community Services, Attn: Janet Gilbertson, 725 Summer Street NE, Suite B, Salem, OR 97301. OHCS can also be reached at (503) 986-2067.

OHCS is the State's housing finance agency and community services programs administrator. The Department provides financial and program support to create and preserve opportunities for quality, affordable housing for Oregonians of lower and moderate income, and administers federal and state antipoverty, homeless, energy assistance and community services programs. The OHCS mission to "Reach out for opportunities to create partnerships that improve Oregonians' lives, and the quality of our communities." For more information, visit our web site at www.ohcs.oregon.gov.

Americans almost finished paying for Spanish-American War

H.R. 1898, which would repeal the 3 percent federal excise tax on telecommunications, a 108-year-old "temporary" tax enacted to fund the Spanish-American War, gained its 218th co-sponsor this week. A majority of the House is now cosponsoring the legislation.

While the Spanish-American War tax was originally billed as a luxury tax in 1898, when only the wealthiest Americans had telephones, the telephone has long been a necessary part of American life. The tax is also highly regressive, as it represents a greater share of the income of low-income and minority households. Consumers can find this tax listed on their phone bills as "Federal Excise Tax."

The Treasury Department recently ended the tax on long distance service, but according to the congressional Joint

Committee on Taxation, this still leaves approximately 80 percent of the tax in place.

"Americans should not have to look at their phone bill every month and see a charge for "Federal Excise Tax," the clever government description for the Spanish-American War tax," said Americans for Tax Reform president Grover Norquist. "Now a majority of the House would not only vote to repeal the tax, but have proactively signed on as cosponsors. This is a real benchmark in the battle to finally end this tax."

The Senate companion to H.R. 1898, S. 1321, sponsored by Sen. Rick Santorum (R-PA), has been reported favorably by the Finance Committee and awaits a full Senate vote. However, the Constitution requires that the House pass tax legislation before the Senate may act.

Further information can be found at www.atr.org.

rent. The caller was informed it was a civil matter.

MCSO cited John Cannon Wilbur, 70, for Violation of the Basic Rule, 75 mph in a 55 mph zone.

MCSO arrested Brent C. Paradiso, 34, on an Irrigon Justice Court warrant for Failure to Pay Fine/Driving while Suspended. He was lodged at Umatilla County Jail.

MCSO received a report from a caller in Boardman that the neighbor's dog had puppies, but the owner had left town and the caller was concerned that the owner had left them.

MCSO received a report from a caller in Heppner that his digital camera was stolen. A suspect had been calling him and saying that he would never get the camera back. A deputy returned the camera. It had not been stolen, as the subject had permission to use the camera for a wedding.

MCSO received a report from a caller in Irrigon requesting an ambulance. An eight-month-old child was not breathing. Upon deputy arrival, the baby was breathing with some blueness around the lips. It was determined that the baby was choking on a pepper.

Sheriff's Report

The Morrow County Sheriff's Office reports handling the following business:

July 25: MCSO received a report from Pendleton that Alex Lee Ahumada, 21, was arrested on an Irrigon Justice Court warrant for Failure to Pay Fine/Possession of a Controlled Substance Less Than One Ounce of Marijuana. He was already

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Hanna from Norway, 16 yrs. Likes skiing, swimming, dancing and art. Hanna hopes to join a drama club while in the USA.



Klaus from Germany, 17 yrs. Loves camping and playing soccer. Klaus' dream has been to spend a school year in the USA.

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