

SO MANY CONNECTIONS, SO LITTLE TIME.

AMERICAN LANDS AT IFR THIS FEBRUARY WITH DAILY NON-STOP TO PHOENIX AND QUICK CONNECTIONS TO MORE THAN 70 CITIES AROUND THE WORLD.

American Airlines



## Flight for 100 Fahrenheit

By BILL McMILLEN The Daily News

May 23, 2017

BULLHEAD CITY — Rich Lettman is such a proponent of the passenger service out of Laughlin/Bullhead International Airport that he is putting his money where his mouth is.

“I’ve already made four trips and I’ve already got my fifth booked,” Lettman said of the daily American Eagle/American Airlines service to and from Phoenix that began at the Bullhead City airport earlier this spring. “Air service here is superb. It’s so easy to fly from here.”

Lettman, owner of the Bullhead City COIT cleaning and restoration services franchise, said he wants others to discover the benefits of flying from Laughlin/Bullhead. Shari Rikmar of Bullhead City said she plans to find out soon. Rikmar won a \$200 travel voucher put up by Lettman and COIT as grand prize in a “first 100-degree day” contest. Rikmar correctly predicted — or, as she put it, “guessed” — that May 2 would be the first official 100-degree day of 2017 in the Tri-state.

“I’m surprised I won,” said Rikmar, who moved to Bullhead City in December. She said she didn’t consult the Farmers’ Almanac, weather history or a fortune teller to make her successful entry. “It just popped into my head,” she said.

Rikmar was one of three entries to predict May 2. She won the top prize in a drawing, Lettman said. The other entries earned a free residential carpet cleaning worth up to \$150.

Lettman said there were 344 entries, meaning that less than 1 percent had the correct date for the first 100-degree day. The measuring stick was the actual temperature registered at either of the area’s two National Weather Service stations, at Needles or Laughlin/Bullhead airports. According to NWS data, the first 100-degree measurement came at 4:56 p.m. on May 2 at the Needles airport. It reached 102 between 5 and 6 p.m.

“I would say 70 percent of the entries were in April,” Lettman said. “There really weren’t that many in May.” Rikmar said she will “probably fly back to California” to use her voucher. “I go back to California quite a bit,” the 74-year-old retiree said.

“Well, you have a lot of options,” Laughlin/Bullhead International Airport Director Jeremy Keating told Rikmar, reciting a list of destinations that included Los Angeles International, Orange County, Ontario, Long Beach and San Diego among the many connections available through Phoenix.

Regularly scheduled commercial service from Bullhead City to Phoenix was launched in mid-February by the Mohave County Airport Authority, which oversees the local airport, after securing a federal grant and local matching money to underwrite the service. So far, it has received lukewarm reception. Lettman is hoping that word of the convenience — and in some cases savings — heats up the business for American Eagle. “I don’t know why people wouldn’t want to give it a try,” he said. “You fly from home. You get back, and you’re home. You don’t have to drive two hours; you’re already here.”

Lettman also donated a \$200 travel voucher for the recent Colorado River Women’s Council Western Auction, hoping to encourage others to “Fly IFP.” IFP is the Federal Aviation Administration’s abbreviation for the Laughlin/Bullhead airport.

“It’s fantastic to have Rich and COIT as such a vocal advocate for the airport and the (passenger) service,” Keating said. “We need to get more people in the seats. We need to get the word out that we offer service to just about anywhere in the United States — anywhere American Airlines flies. Rich is helping us get that word out. “This is for the community. To have the community to buy in to such a program like this means a whole lot to the success of the program. That only helps.”