

## SHELTER: Fostering animals allows some to use facility

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Families are provided with a separate classroom in which they can all stay together and have a little privacy. There is currently a family of four utilizing that room – mom, dad, and two young boys. They had been living in the woods in their tent trailer until it just became too cold and snowy. Last Friday was an especially tough day for them when they discovered that the tent trailer had collapsed under the weight of the snow, so now they are left with no shelter at all other than that provided overnight at the church.

At midnight, a new team arrives to relieve the early shift volunteers, and they stay until 7 a.m. During the night they simply monitor the facility and the guests, and are available to assist the guests with any needs that may arise during the night. A majority of the late shifts have been filled by two men, Matt and James, from Shepherd's House in Bend, although volunteers are welcome to also sign up for the late shift.

Last Friday night, a Deschutes County sheriff's officer brought a man to the shelter after everyone was settled for the night. He had been walking in the dark and cold on icy Highway 20, with the intention of walking over Santiam Pass to Eugene where he hoped to catch a bus to take him back to Tennessee. The shelter hosts welcomed him, gave him a warm meal of lasagna left from dinner, and set him up with a place to lay his head for the night.

Breakfast foods, also provided by volunteers, are set out for guests, coffee is brewed, water is boiled, and the lights go on at 6 a.m. Guests put away their bedding, prepare for the day, have breakfast and make a lunch to take with them if they wish, help clean up the facility, and everyone, including volunteers, are out of the building by 7 a.m.

Due to the generosity of the community, the shelter has received a number of cash donations as well as a wonderful variety of food and clothing donations. There have been fresh doughnuts from Sisters Bakery, hot pizza from Martolli's, dinner from The Open Door, gift cards for the guests from McDonald's, Sisters Coffee, and Melvin's Fir Street Market.

Your Store dropped off some brand-new T-shirts. Individuals have brought in jackets, sweaters and boots and even a pair of snowshoes so one guest can walk in to check on his snow-buried motorhome. Donations of dental care and hygiene products have been greatly appreciated. A couple stopped by the other night with two one-gallon Ziplock bags full of homemade cookies plus another bag of warm jackets and some boots. Sisters Ace Hardware has donated supplies that the shelter guests need to make their camps

habitable. Bi-Mart has also donated a variety of supplies.

Foster families, who have agreed to care for guests' dogs, have eliminated a big hurdle for people who need to come to the shelter, but don't want to leave their dogs alone at their camps. Currently, three dogs are being cared for by two families. The owners are able to have doggie visitations with their pets.

Kiki Dolson of Furry Friends Foundation is providing coats and food for guests' dogs who are being fostered. Pam Klettke made beautiful fleece blankets for the foster pups.

The response of the community whenever a need is put out has been tremendous, and at times almost instantaneous. The many generous hearts that make Sisters the special little village that it is are making it possible to meet a critical winter need – warm and safe shelter on cold winter evenings for those among us who are in need.

For anyone interested in volunteering, and there are many ways to do that: go to the Sisters Cold Weather Shelter Facebook page and send an email by clicking on the blue button at the top of the page, or post your interest on the Facebook page. If you leave your contact information, someone will be in touch.

## Kidnapped woman may have been stabbed

Ontario police say a woman who died in a head-on crash shortly after her reported abduction may have also been stabbed.

Anita Harmon, 40, of Weiser, Idaho, died at the scene Monday after the Dodge pickup in which she was a passenger crossed a centerline on an Eastern Oregon highway and collided with an SUV, Oregon State Police said. The driver of the SUV, a 38-year-old man from Vale, Oregon, also died.

Police in Ontario were chasing the pickup after being alerted that a woman was being held against her will and had been stabbed. Ontario Police Chief Cal Kunz said it has yet to be determined if the woman died from stab wounds or the

crash impact.

The suspect driving the Dodge, Anthony Montwheeler of Nampa, Idaho, survived with serious injuries.

Harmon's car was found abandoned in the middle of a street in Weiser, 20 miles north of Ontario.

It was not immediately clear if Montwheeler and Harmon were separated or divorced.

The pair had co-owned a scrap-metal business based in Weiser. They were convicted of first-degree theft in 2012 after underpaying an elderly couple by more than \$10,000.

Montwheeler was sentenced to two years in prison and his wife 16 months. The two later successfully appealed the convictions and were dismissed last October.

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