

Hay bank helps wildfire evacuees

By Betty Osborne
Hood River Saddle Club

IT REALLY DOES TAKE A WHOLE village — and because kindness knows no boundaries, the devastating wildfires are proof of the Northwest's enduring spirit of generosity.

As evacuation levels from the Oregon wildfires began to rise in September, it was paramount that livestock and other animals also found safe haven. But many families were unable to evacuate them.

Enter Cowgirl 911 — a Facebook animal evacuation assistance group, which already existed in California and, with the advent of Oregon's wildfires, was created in just one day to save Oregon livestock. The group's Facebook page receives hundreds of posts each day from across the state from people either seeking or offering help for displaced animals.

As evacuated horses and other animals began heading for safety in the Columbia Gorge, the issue of having sufficient feed for them came to the forefront. Jana Hughes, owner of a Snowden, Wash., horse boarding facility, who had already taken in evacuated horses, posted the need for hay donations to many Facebook sites as well as Cowgirl 911. Within a few hours, Cowgirl 911 reached out with news of a donation of 8-10 tons of hay from Premier New World Gypsy Cobs — a family-owned business in Salem that raises Gypsy Cob horses.

"When I said we wouldn't be able to pick up the hay, their exact words were, 'We've got you covered!' After the stories I'd heard from my evacuees and others, I just cried," said Hughes. "I'd been talking with Kurt Osborne, and he offered to organize the hay delivery."

Hood River was chosen as the site for the hay bank, but where could it be stored in case of rain? Osborne (Wind Dance Stable) and photographer friend John Laptad brainstormed. Laptad suggested the fairgrounds, Osborne made the call and, with two thumbs up from Hood River



Bob Solomon, whose daughter's horses were housed at the fairgrounds, helps keep things moving through the hay bank. Contributed photo

County Fair Manager Clara Rice, the wheels were set in motion and plans quickly began to take shape.

Five folks stepped up and volunteered to bring the hay to Hood River. The Cowgirl 911 volunteer haulers were Zac and Amber Davis from Junction City, Grace Wagner from Eugene, Shianne Davis of Salem, and Michael Aguilera from Pleasant Hill.

"It was a beautiful sight," said Osborne, "to see these wonderful people pulling two enormous trailer loads of hay into the fairgrounds around 8:30 that night. They'd already put in a days' work — yet they didn't hesitate to respond to the call.

"We owe many people a huge round of thanks," said Osborne. "Fair board member Mark Mears was instrumental in arranging to store the hay in the livestock building, and David Stearns spared all of us many hours of backbreaking labor by using his tractor and grapple to unload the hay and place it inside. Our ground crew of Mark, Ron Harder, Phillip Stearns, Craig Ortega plus evacuee Bob Solomon, whose daughter's horses were housed at the fairgrounds, kept things moving, guiding David and moving bales as needed. Linda Harder brought cold drinks and snacks; John Laptad and Betty

Osborne photographed the event as it unfolded. I hope I haven't overlooked anyone as so many people deserve our thanks."

Many families and organizations throughout the Gorge offered shelter for horses, cows, goats — even chickens, as well as for their owners — among them Hood River fairgrounds, Hood River Saddle Club, Jackie Moe, Crystal Beam and Brigitte Phelps in Hood River; Hughes in Snowden and Jill Fargher and Alan Loftness in The Dalles. While this list may be incomplete, it demonstrates the generosity of good people reaching out in times of crisis to help others.

'Feed the Gorge' in October

Canned goods and other food donations are requested in the annual Feed the Gorge food drive, through Oct. 31 at locations in Hood River, Klickitat, Skamania and Wasco counties.

Drop-off locations open through Oct. 31 are: St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 1805 Minnesota; Safeway grocery and Fred Meyer grocery in The Dalles, and Windermere Real Estate locations:

Stevenson, 220 S.W. Second St.; Bingen, 106 W. Steuben Ave.; The Dalles, 122 E. Second St.; Hood River, 315 Oak St.; Cascade Locks, 651 WaNaPa Ave.

Washington Gorge action Programs and Columbia Gorge Food Bank (serving Wasco, Hood River and Sherman Counties) have partnered with Windermere on Feed the Gorge.

'Drive Away Hunger' with Oregon FFA

Oregon FFA and Les Schwab Tire Centers are hosting their annual Drive Away Hunger initiative during the month of October to help raise food and awareness for those affected by food insecurity.

Through Saturday, Oct. 31, food donations can be dropped at any Les Schwab Tire Center, Wilco or Grange Coop store.

To learn more, visit the Oregon FFA Facebook page and #DriveAwayHunger. To learn more about FFA visit www.oregonffa.com or www.ffa.org.

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Start Your Own Campaign

Can't vote? Start a "Don't Forget to Vote" Campaign! Here's how:

- Cut out the "Don't Forget to Vote" badge on this page and wear it proudly!
- On Election Day, ask every person you see who is over 18 if he or she has voted yet. Ask your teacher, your parents, the school secretary, and clerks at stores. Ask them all!

Who can vote?
In order to vote, you must qualify three ways:

- You must be at least 18 years old.
- You must be a citizen of the United States.
- You must be registered (signed up) to vote in the state where you live.

Standards Link: Social Science: Students understand the role of citizens including how to participate in civic life.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Red, White and Blue Words

With a friend, see how many words you can make with the letters that spell red, white and blue! Write each word in a star. Can you fill them all?

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

Kid Scoop Together

How to Be a Good Leader

Complete this activity at home this evening with a parent or another learning buddy.

- People elected to government offices must be good leaders. With a learning buddy, find 10 words in today's newspaper that describe a good leader.
- Write the 10 words here in alphabetical order:

Your reasons:

Campaign Trails

Decide whether each of these people can vote. Then follow each path in the maze to find out if you are right.

Standards Link: Social Science: Students understand the ways in which citizens participate in the American political system.

Clara Smith

- is a U.S. citizen
- is 79 years old
- retired 10 years ago
- has not registered to vote

Tom Jackson

- is an Air Force pilot based in Germany
- is 22 years old
- is a U.S. citizen
- has registered to vote

Paul Chernoff

- turns 18 on Nov. 1, 2020
- is a U.S. citizen
- does not have a job
- has registered to vote

Clara can't vote because she didn't register when she moved. Tom can vote even though he is in Germany. How? He can vote by mail!

Throw Your Hat into the Ring

Unscramble each election word on the hats. Then look for an article in the newspaper that uses one of these terms. Read the article and then use your own words to explain what you think the word means.

TECLEION

TOEV

TENOCIVNON

GAMNAPIC

FATPOLRM

LOPL

TARPY

LACTIPOOL

Standards Link: Spelling: Letter order, sequencing. Vocabulary development.

Extra! Extra! Election ABC's

Look through the newspaper for 10 words about the coming election. Cut them out and glue them onto a piece of paper in alphabetical order.

Bonus Challenge: Can you find an election word for each letter of the alphabet?

Standards Link: Spelling: Arrange words in alphabetical order.

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

Read Between the Lines

People often use both fact and opinion to persuade others about their way of thinking. Look at a letter to the editor. Underline the facts in red and the opinions in blue. Does the writer use more fact or opinion?

Standards Link: Research: Use the newspaper to locate information.

Write On!

What's your opinion?

Should kids be allowed to vote? Why or why not?
