#### **Continued from A1**

As a steady stream of people drove, walked or biked to the tent, volunteers leaped into action — handing out popsicles and packing bags of Pedialyte and sandwiches.

Many took extra supplies for their neighbors, who live deeper in the junipers, are disabled or don't have the ability to travel to the streetside misting station.

'While there's a lot coming, there's a lot more who aren't," worried Os-

#### Construction

It wasn't just those living outdoors who found it difficult to escape the heat. Those who jobs required them to work in it suffered as well.

David Henderson, a mason and founder of Redmond-based Masonry Resource, Inc., fought high temperatures as he worked a job in Prineville. "This is pretty exceptional for us,"

he said, catching his breath. To combat the heat, Henderson's crew has been starting their workday around 5:45 a.m. and finishing by about 2:30 each afternoon. They've been trying to stay hydrated -

5-gallon jug of Gatorade. Diana Klapproth, the owner of 3CS Concrete, said her crews are doing much of the same. Working with concrete is already a hot business - and the heat pounding down just added to the stress.

drinking more water and bringing a

In June, Oregon's Occupational Safety and Health Administration's new rules regarding working under high temperatures went into effect. Employers must now provide employees with access to water, shade, extra breaks and heat illness training.



Nick Rosenberger/Spokesman

Kathryn Osborne, a community volunteer and candidate for Redmond City Council, hands an otter pop to a houseless individual on 17th Street in Redmond on Thursday, July 28.

Henderson and his company watched for heat exhaustion and followed the new rules, but he said it can still be challenging. Crews rotated around the work site throughout the day to seek out shade. They brought out a tarp to create their own when necessary.

Henderson said it wasn't always like this. Temperatures too hot to work is new for him.

"I don't ever remember ... bringing Gatorade in a 5-gallon drum until last year," he said.

#### Life goes on

Yet, despite the heat, many workers and residents went about their daily

lives. More than 100 people attended the free Music on the Green concert at Sam Johnson Park on July 27.

It was around 103 degrees when Junkyard Joyride, the band of the week, came on stage. People clumped under the shade of trees, sprawled on the grass with drinks in hands as children ran past with water guns.

"I think Redmond people are pretty resilient," Klapproth said, who attended the event as a vendor.

#### Agriculture

Humans weren't the only ones affected by the heat either. With extreme heat comes the potential loss of crops and a more challenging environment for raising livestock, including for JoHanna Symons, owner of Symons Beef Company and co-founder of Perfect Balance USA, a nonprofit focused on agricultural education.

"It's pretty devastating," Symons said, "I feel so bad for all the animals out in this heat."

Symons said that cattle are able to adapt and survive the extreme heat, but her crew takes extra precautions by feeding cows early in the morning and late in the evening, evading the worst of the heat. This, she said, helps cows conserve energy for the worst part of the

But, with an ongoing drought and reduced water levels in local reservoirs and irrigation canals, it can be difficult to keep cows cool and hydrated in high temperatures, when the cattle consume about twice as much water as usual.

In fact, the cattle are drinking so much water right now that Symons said it has affected the water levels in their family house. On Thursday, not a drop of water escaped the kitchen faucet — which is connected to the same water line that fills up the cattle trough.

Securing enough water is the biggest problem for ranchers during the heatwave, said Billy Buchanan, owner of Keystone Natural Beef. The heat and drought forces ranchers to buy additional hay and feed for cattle rather than grow it themselves — chipping away at the already tight margins of ranchers.

It's basic science, Buchanan said. The higher the heat, the faster crops dry out.

Cows also lose their appetite in high heat, which lead to lower nutritional intake and conception rates, as well as increased cortisol levels that leads to greater stress for the cows.

'They're okay [with the heat] to a certain degree," Symons said. "But their consumption rate goes way, way down."

To remain profitable, Buchanan said that a cow has to produce a calf every year. If they can't do that, then it can be more economical simply to sell the cow that has become expensive to feed and water.

"Years like this can be pretty hard on your mental health," he said.

■ Reporter:

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## **Cooling**

#### **Continued from A1**

She has a system: she opens two doors to let the van cool out and closes them when it gets chilly.

Before Shepherd's House opened up, she soaked a hat and scarf in cold water and put them on her head. She filled up jugs to make sure she had plenty of water. If she had gas, she'd find a shady spot in a park since the juniper in the homeless camp where she normally stays doesn't provide a lot of shelter.

When the heat hit Central Oregon just a couple weeks prior, Neal landed in the emergency room with heat exhaustion. Shepherd's House prevented a repeat visit, even as temperatures surpassed 100 degrees for six consecutive days.

"Everybody's been really nice here," Neal said. "Definitely just a place to come in, cool off. And no drama."

Besides providing a reprieve from the sweltering heat, Shepherd's House served its visitors lunch and dinner every day it was open — as well as providing water, Gatorade and dog food, thanks to the donations from community members.

Jericho Road, a local nonprofit, stationed a shower truck in front of the cooling center on Monday and Thursday, providing those in the shelter with a place to wash off.

"It seems to renew them," said Mike Larson, who set up the truck. He said it's lovely to see people go into the shower and "come out with pink cheeks and a

fresh outlook on life."

Hoeksema plans to expand Shepherd's House into a full-time shelter, with renovations set to begin next month. In the meantime, however, he's partnering with local churches for a winter shelter and plans to reopen the temporary cooling center whenever temperatures hit 100 degrees for consecutive days. ■ Reporter: lbaudhuin@

redmondspokesman.com



Kim Neal stands outside of her van, parked in front of Shepherd's House. Nick Rosenberger/

## Queen

## **Continued from A1**

Sperber says it was a great place to grow up and fall learned to ride a pony before she could walk and has raised everything from poultry to show horses.

About the time she decided to become a rodeo queen, she made another choice on the ranch that she has stuck with. She decided that, for a career, she would become a surgeon.

"I just watched a lot of medical shows and found it interesting," she said. "I grew up on a farm, so blood doesn't bother me."

"She has always gone back and forth between a surgeon for people or a surgeon for animals," said her mom.

But that's all the waffling Sperber allows herself. This year she turned down 58 athletic scholarships in favor of accepting a full-ride to Texas A&M, where she plans to major in animal science and veterinary medicine and minor in agricultural business. She's leaving open the opportunity to later attend medical school and become a doctor, but for now the plan is to become a large animal surgeon and own a cattle ranch.

At Texas A&M, one of the nation's premiere ag schools, she plans to try out for the university's prestigious ranch horse and equestrian teams.

"That's the goal," she said. "I'll have to be at my best."

But before she rides off into the Texas sun, Sperber gets to enjoy her dream week in Deschutes County as its queen. She will present the colors

each day of the fair, hoisting the American flag while on horseback and leading the run-in at the rodeo. She will be on the grounds all day every day, signing autographs and making appearances.

She'll also be working. Jessica will show her 4-H animals this year, including her market steer, a shorthorn

named Scooby. Sperber said the money she makes from the auction will go to her living expenses as a freshman down in College Station,

Texas.

'That's the next dream down there," she said.

■ Reporter: ttrainor@

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