

AGAPE: About 98 percent of budget comes from donations

Upcoming events

- **Sept. 25** from 2-5 p.m. the Agape House will be hosting a 30th anniversary open house with tours, information and refreshments at its building on 500 Harper Road in Hermiston.
- **Oct. 8** from 8:30-11 a.m. is the Agape House's next parking lot sale of household goods.
- **Oct. 15** will be the Columbia River "Best Dam" Power Run across the top of McNary Dam to raise proceeds for Agape House and Martha's House. Pre-registration before 8 p.m. on Oct. 14 is \$25 and registration on race day is \$30. Check-in begins at 8 a.m. on Willamette Ave in McNary. The 10K starts at 9:30 a.m., the 5K at 9:45 a.m. and the Fun Walk at 10 a.m. Register online at columbiariverbestdampowerrun.itsyourrace.com/register.
- **Oct. 22** is the last A Very Poplar Run through the Boardman Tree Farm before the trees disappear. Register for the kids' run, 5K, 10K and 15K online at east.biz/averypoplar-run. The first event starts at 9:45 a.m. at 77200 Poleline Road in Boardman.
- **Oct. 29** from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Agape House there will be a winter apparel sharing day for people in need of coats and other winter weather items.
- **Nov. 12** is the Gobble Gobble Death and Trouble fundraiser, a murder mystery night over turkey dinner. Cost is \$25 and seating is limited. Call the Agape House at 541-567-8774.

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they brought with them. Danielle Martin-Kestler said this was only her third time to the Agape House in all the time she has lived in the area.

"We're just a little short on food this month," she said after a moment's hesitation.

She said the Agape House does a great service for all kinds of community members, from those who need the help on a regular basis to those who just had a really bad month financially.

"For people who are homeless, or just need some extra help feeding their kids, this is the place to go," she said.

At the reception desk, Munoz said the best part of her job was seeing the emotion on peoples' faces at the moment when they receive some much-needed help.

"When you see the people that need it, especially the kids, they're so happy to see the food," she said.

She said the regular clients begin to open up about their problems after a while, when they start to feel "like family."

The Agape House (officially Eastern Oregon Mission, Inc.) opened its doors in Hermiston on Aug. 5, 1986, when founder Kathleen Knudson used a small rented house to distribute food and clothing to the homeless and indigent. "Agape" is the Greek word for selfless love.

Later the quickly growing nonprofit purchased a building on South 11th Street, then moved to its current location on Harper Road in 2005. Its original function as a food and clothing bank has greatly expanded to provide classes, showers, household goods, firewood, gas money and transitional shelter for families at Martha's House.

Current director Dave Hughes took over operations in 2002.

He said in the years since, he has been extremely impressed with the help the organization has received.

About 98 percent of the nonprofit's budget comes from donations, and all of the vehicles used in its operations have been donated,



Agape House Executive Director Dave Hughes looks up from his computer work Tuesday morning to answer a question from a volunteer.

too. Hughes said people are constantly dropping off donations of clothing, furniture and other items. Meanwhile local farms, processing plants and grocery stores help stock the warehouse with food that is then distributed to community members in need.

"The list goes on," Hughes said. "Almost anyone involved in food in this community has been involved in some way."

He said businesses without food to donate are quick to donate in-kind services as well — the Agape House raised more than \$3,000 during this year's Pendleton Round-Up by charging for parking on a lot owned by Tom Denchel Ford Country.

Some people use the Agape House's services just once before getting back on their feet. Others are seniors on a fixed income who rely on the emergency food boxes to get through the end of every month.

"That's part of life," Hughes said.

In addition to the boxes that provide enough food for about four days, the Agape House also distributes food to children in the commu-

nity through the Backpack Program. Hughes said the program, which sends bags of food home with 100 to 150 students each weekend, started when a principal told him she had students who would wrap up their school lunch on Friday and take it home because they knew they wouldn't be fed at home during the weekend.

"It's sad to think that in this community that grows so much food, we have kids going hungry," Hughes said.

In 2012, Eastern Oregon Mission opened Martha's House, a "family transitional shelter" that provides a few months of housing to families with children that would otherwise find themselves homeless.

At Martha's House they learn skills like cooking and writing a cover letter, and are required to look for work and spend time volunteering if they don't have a job.

The shelter can house up to 10 families at a time. The original time limit for living at Martha's House was four months, but Hughes said that deadline has been extended for some families that are doing their part to get into



Volunteer Tyns Southwick, of Hermiston, separates cans and bottles into plastic bags Tuesday morning at Agape House.

Agape House expands bottle and can recycling program

With the opening of Hermiston's BottleDrop Redemption Center, Agape House now provides three ways people can donate recyclable cans and bottles to help fund its weekend elementary school food program.

• Drop cans and bottles directly at Agape House. For those with large numbers of cans/bottles or businesses that collect them, call Agape House for pick-up service. Proceeds from cans/bottles donated this way also will go to Agape House's automobile gas program and other small needs.

• For those who have a personal BottleDrop account, people can donate from their recycling account at www.bottledropcenters.com. Click on "Fundraising," enter "Agape House" and enter the amount to donate. Donors will receive a confirmation email, which is tax-deductible.

• Stop by Agape House and pick up a special Fundraiser Blue Bag, fill it up and then return it to the BottleDrop Redemption Center, 740 W. Hermiston Ave., Hermiston. It's open daily from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. The bags have an identification tag that earmarks proceeds to be donated to Agape House.

A nonprofit organization, Agape House serves those in need in western Umatilla County and Morrow County. It's located at 500 Harper Road, Hermiston. For more information or to donate to its programs, call 541-567-8774.

other housing but have been tripped up by a shortage of available rentals in Hermiston.

"If somebody has had some missteps in the past, it's hard," he said. "Housing is so tight in this community that the landlords are full all the time."

Maria Trevino, who volunteers her time filling food boxes for five hours each week, said the volunteers and employees enjoy spending time together and enjoy the feeling of serving others.

She said the nonprofit

could always use more volunteers like herself, and donations of good-quality food.

"I wish we had more eggs," she said. "You know, with eggs, you can do a lot of things."

The Agape House is open Tuesday through Thursday each week from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. On Sunday from 2-5 p.m. the public is invited to a 30th anniversary open house with tours and refreshments.

Contact Jade McDowell at jmcdowell@eastoregonian.com or 541-564-4536.

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AccuWeather.com Forecast

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly sunny and cool	Partly sunny and cool	Sunny	Mostly sunny and pleasant	Abundant sun and beautiful

PENDLETON TEMPERATURE FORECAST

66°	49°	62°	49°	67°	49°	70°	44°	75°	47°
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HERMISTON TEMPERATURE FORECAST

72°	49°	68°	50°	70°	49°	74°	44°	78°	44°
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ALMANAC

PENDLETON
through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE

HIGH	LOW
66°	46°
Yesterday	76°
Normals	76°
Records	92° (1917) 31° (1912)

PRECIPITATION
24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.00"
Month to date 0.49"
Normal month to date 0.32"
Year to date 7.88"
Last year to date 5.82"
Normal year to date 8.74"

HERMISTON
through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE

HIGH	LOW
71°	47°
Yesterday	77°
Normals	77°
Records	93° (1967) 30° (1983)

PRECIPITATION
24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.00"
Month to date 0.45"
Normal month to date 0.26"
Year to date 5.44"
Last year to date 3.48"
Normal year to date 6.41"

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today	6:41 a.m.
Sunset tonight	6:54 p.m.
Moonrise today	10:29 p.m.
Moonset today	12:29 p.m.

Last New First Full
Sep 23 Sep 30 Oct 8 Oct 15

REGIONAL FORECAST

Coastal Oregon: Times of sun and clouds today. Mainly clear tonight.

Eastern Washington: Sunshine and patchy clouds today.

Eastern and Central Oregon: Partial sunshine today; a shower in spots in the upper Treasure Valley in the afternoon.

Cascades: Clouds and sun today; a passing afternoon shower, but dry across the north.

Western Washington: Mostly sunny today; patchy morning fog across the south. Clear tonight.

Northern California: Low clouds followed by sunshine at the coast today; mostly sunny elsewhere.

REGIONAL CITIES

	Today			Thu.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Astoria	68	49	pc	64	53	pc
Baker City	65	40	pc	56	36	pc
Bend	60	40	pc	59	34	sh
Brookings	61	48	c	62	48	pc
Burns	68	38	pc	54	31	sh
Enterprise	62	43	pc	54	43	c
Eugene	71	47	pc	67	47	pc
Heppner	64	39	pc	61	42	s
Hermiston	72	49	pc	68	50	sh
John Day	67	43	pc	55	46	sh
Klamath Falls	63	35	pc	57	28	pc
La Grande	65	46	pc	56	44	pc
Meacham	62	43	pc	54	41	pc
Medford	70	46	pc	70	43	pc
Newport	60	48	pc	60	50	pc
North Bend	62	50	pc	64	49	pc
Ontario	76	51	pc	67	51	sh
Pasco	75	48	s	68	45	pc
Pendleton	66	49	pc	62	49	pc
Portland	73	49	pc	69	51	pc
Redmond	64	37	pc	63	32	pc
Salem	74	46	pc	68	49	pc
Spokane	66	48	s	62	46	pc
Ukiah	60	37	pc	53	38	pc
Vancouver	71	46	pc	68	49	pc
Walla Walla	67	50	pc	60	51	pc
Yakima	74	45	s	75	42	s

WORLD CITIES

	Today			Thu.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Beijing	76	57	pc	81	61	pc
Hong Kong	88	77	pc	88	80	pc
Jerusalem	87	69	s	81	63	pc
London	71	55	pc	70	49	pc
Mexico City	71	52	t	71	53	t
Moscow	52	43	c	48	43	r
Paris	70	51	pc	72	52	pc
Rome	74	59	t	76	59	s
Seoul	76	58	pc	78	58	c
Sydney	67	55	r	69	59	sh
Tokyo	74	68	c	74	70	r

WINDS

(in mph)	Today	Thursday
Boardman	N 4-8	WSW 4-8
Pendleton	NW 4-8	WSW 6-12

UV INDEX TODAY

0 2 4 4 2 0

8 a.m. 10 a.m. Noon 2 p.m. 4 p.m. 6 p.m.
0-2, Low 3-5, Moderate 6-7, High; 8-10, Very High; 11+, Extreme

The higher the AccuWeather.com UV Index™ number, the greater the need for eye and skin protection.

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NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY

Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day.

National Summary: Downpours will bring the risk of flash flooding to the Upper Midwest, Southwest and the Virginia coasts today. Rain, high country snow, gusty winds and much cooler air will spread over the interior West.

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)
High 103° in McAllen, Texas Low 27° in Angel Fire, N.M.

NATIONAL CITIES

	Today			Thur.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Albuquerque	85	63	c	86	61	t
Atlanta	89	71	s	85	69	s
Atlanta City	78	68	pc	79	66	pc
Baltimore	84	63	pc	84	62	s
Billings	61	50	sh	56	47	r
Birmingham	92	71	s	91	73	s
Boise	74	49	pc	63	47	sh
Boston	81	62	s	81	62	s
Charleston, SC	80	71	t	82	70	pc
Charleston, WV	88	61	s	88	61	s
Chicago	86	67	pc	86	66	pc
Cleveland	86	62	s	87	66	pc
Dallas	96	72	s	96	73	s
Denver	83	53	c	85	59	pc
Detroit	81	65	pc	84	66	pc
El Paso	93	70	pc	94	69	pc
Fairbanks	60	41	c	52	41	r
Fargo	71	53	c	68	53	c
Honolulu	86	72	s	87	76	s
Houston	95	72	s	91	75	s
Indianapolis	87	64	s	87	66	pc
Jacksonville	88	70	t	86	70	t
Kansas City	90	69	pc	87	67	pc
Las Vegas	85	69	pc	82	59	t
Little Rock	93	68	s	93	70	s
Los Angeles	84	66	pc	77	56	pc
Louisville	90	67	s	90	68	s
Memphis	92	70	s	94	71	s
Miami	91	77	t	90	77	t
Millwaukee	82	66	t	81	64	c
Minneapolis	72	62	r	70	59	r
Nashville	91	65	s	91	67	s
New Orleans	94	76	s	93	77	pc
New York City	84	65	s	84	65	s
Oklahoma City	92	67	s	92	67	s
Omaha	91	73	pc	85	70	pc
Philadelphia	85	64	pc	87	64	pc
Portland, ME	94	76	pc	92	69	s
Portland, OR	90	55	s	78	55	pc
Providence	83	59	s	84		