

Repair cafe event brings people together

Cove High School provides chance to get a wide variety of items repaired by community volunteers at no cost

By **DICK MASON**
EO Media Group

COVE — No tips were left on the tables of this dusty cafe Tuesday, still the service could not be beat.

A repair cafe debuted to rave reviews late Tuesday afternoon, by providing not sandwiches and coffee but heaping servings of repair assistance that had visitors percolating with excitement. The repair cafe was an event in Cove High School's wood and metal shop that provided an opportunity for people to get a wide variety of items repaired by community volunteers at no cost.

All people had to do was bring items in need of repair, and then confer with someone with the expertise needed to fix them. Items brought in included a water heater, horse blankets, a smartphone, a microwave oven, knives, shovels, clothes, a retractable leash and toys.

Ruthi Davenport of La Grande, who did sewing work at the repair cafe, said the event reminded her

of her family reunions at a farm in Missouri, where her relatives put their assortment of abilities to use by fixing items.

"We pitch in with the skills that we have," Davenport said.

The reunions, like repair cafes, bring people together. "They are about community," Davenport said.

An educator, Davenport took on tasks, including reattaching latches to horse blankets at the repair cafe. Davenport also gave people advice on sewing, a skill she said can serve you well throughout your life.

April Curtis, a retired Eastern Oregon University theater professor, also did sewing work at the repair cafe. Curtis said she sewed so many costumes during her career she grew tired of it and stopped doing it for several years, but now she is back at it.

Sandy Coulson of Cove said Curtis' skills were most welcome.

"It would be a tragedy if she (Curtis) stopped sewing," Coulson said.

Coulson brought in



Cove School District teacher Erich Dressen helps Angel Shields-Marrs with a project at Tuesday's repair cafe.

about three items for repair — a heater for farm animal water, a hatchet and a shovel. She said she was delighted with the help she received.

Heidi Van Schoonhoven of Cove also brought in a variety of items, including a microwave oven and a retractable leash. She also

brought in a smartphone she needed advice for operating.

"I'm getting great tech support. I'm very excited," Van Schoonhoven said.

Everyone working at the repair cafe also had advice so those they were helping can later do their own repair or upgrade work. They included Dave Felley, who

did knife and hatchet sharpening. Felley said anyone can learn to sharpen knives and hatchets, all it takes is practice.

"You just have to do it," Felley said. "You can't just read about it (and expect to be able to do it)."

Cove School District teachers Russel Olmsted

and Erich Dressen volunteered at the repair cafe. They teach shop classes. Olmsted said it was a delight to work with the people who came to the repair cafe.

"We had a fun group of characters show up," he said.

Donna Rainboth, an EOU education professor who helped organize the repair cafe, was struck with how generous many people were with their time.

"It is amazing, you just ask people and they step up and help," Rainboth said.

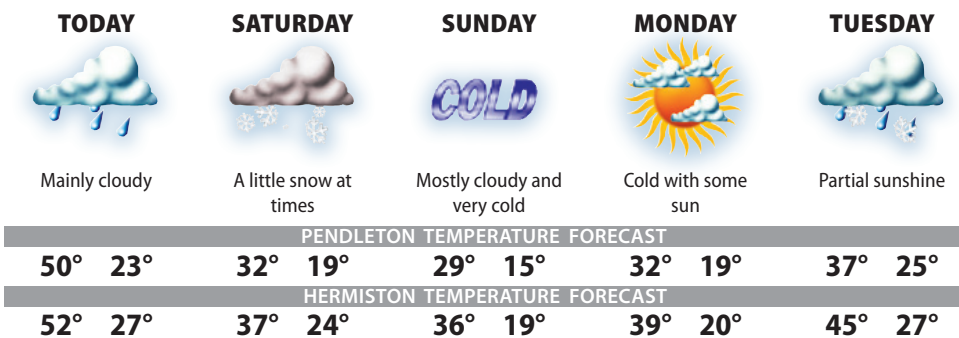
She said it was so successful that a second repair cafe may be conducted later in La Grande. Rainboth said one of the objectives of the event was to help people extend the life of items they own.

"We want to keep items out of landfills, to teach people to fix items so they do not throw them away," Rainboth said.

Van Schoonhoven echoed this sentiment, making reference to "planned obsolescence," a term referring to the production of consumer goods that are designed to rapidly become obsolete, necessitating that they be replaced.

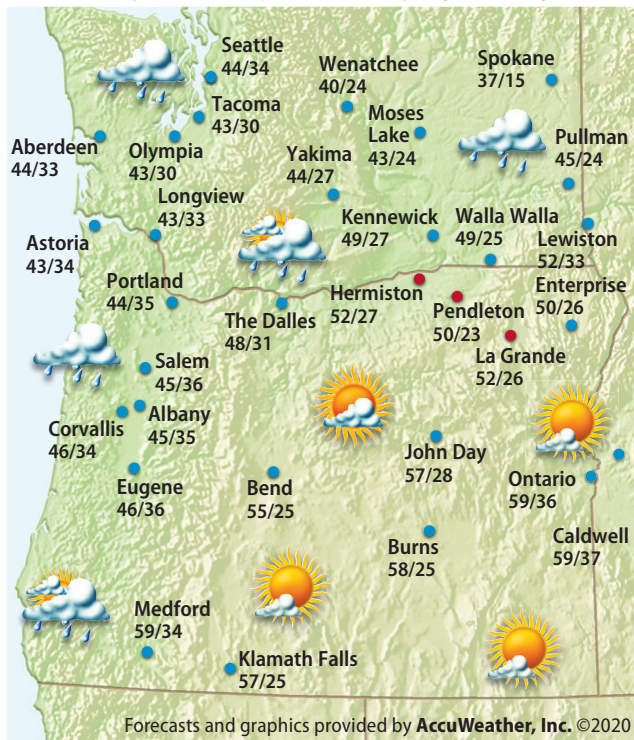
"We want to circumvent planned obsolescence," Van Schoonhoven said.

Forecast for Pendleton Area



OREGON FORECAST

Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

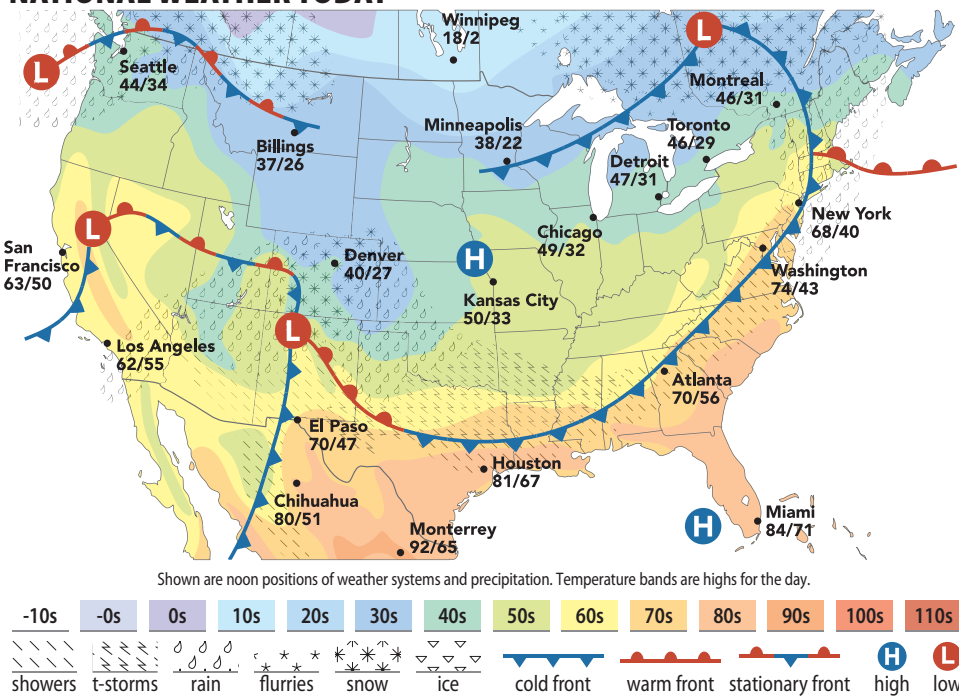


NATIONAL EXTREMES

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)

High 94° in Falfurrias, Texas Low -7° in Estcourt, Maine

NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY



Warm Springs will be the first census count in Oregon

EO Media Group

WARM SPRINGS — The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs will be the first community counted in Oregon for the 2020 census, the official count of every person in the United States conducted every decade.

The tribal community kicked off the census in Oregon on Thursday, the first day the census can be completed.

George Aguilar Sr., a Wasco elder and lifelong resident of Warm Springs, will be the first person to complete the census in the state. Aguilar, 90, is a Korean War veteran, who

has worked as a laborer, fisherman, logger, construction manager and author.

After Aguilar completes the census, a 2020 census kickoff event will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday in the Agency Longhouse at 1253 Kot-Num Road in Warm Springs. Attendees will be able to meet Aguilar, watch a Warm Springs early childhood education mini powwow and have a community meal while filling out the census.

Starting Thursday, everyone in Oregon will be asked to respond online, by phone or by mail to

the census.

The U.S. Census Bureau is working to ensure an accurate county of everybody in the nation. The bureau is trying to reach more tribal members after nearly 5% of Native Americans were never counted in the 2010 census.

Accurate census data affects how the federal government allocates more than \$675 billion every year for programs and services for tribal communities, such as Medicaid, social services, housing, public safety, veterans services, emergency preparedness, education and school lunches.

BRIEFLY

Police name three Bend officers involved in shooting

BEND — The Bend Police Department released Wednesday the names of three officers involved in a pursuit and attempted arrest Monday that led to the shooting and serious wounding of a Bend woman on U.S. Highway 20 east of the city.

Police said Monday that Danielle Bower, 29, was acting in an erratic manner and had blood on her when she encountered police near the St. Charles Bend emergency department, then drove recklessly away, prompting a pursuit on Highway 20.

They said her van left the highway near milepost 39 and came to a stop. The officers who tried to arrest Bower then fired their weapons.

The three police officers were identified as Sgt. Thomas Russell, Officer Tim Williams and Officer Victor Umnitz, KTVZ-TV reported. All are on leaving during an investigation.

Inslee orders all greater Seattle area schools to close

OLYMPIA, Wash. — As the death toll from the new coronavirus reached at least 31 in Washington state, Gov. Jay Inslee on Thursday ordered that all public and private K-12 schools in King, Pierce and Snohomish counties be closed for six weeks.

Inslee's directive affects about 600,000 students. The schools must close by March 17 and remain shuttered through April 24.

"We have reached a tipping point where the spread of this virus demands that we take action," Inslee said at a news conference. "We do not expect this to slow down and it will not slow down unless we take action. Closing schools will slow the transmission of this virus."

Several school districts already announced they will close due to the outbreak. Seattle Public Schools with 53,000 students, closed beginning Thursday.

— EO Media Group and Associated Press

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Production manager: Mike Jensen
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