

Bend nonprofit starts RV housing program for families

By **BRENNA VISSER**
The Bulletin

BEND — This winter, four families who otherwise would have likely spent the winter living in their cars or on the streets will now have a home.

These families will have a place to go thanks to a new alternative housing RV Program started by DAWNS House, a Bend nonprofit organization that offers transitional housing for women suffering from addiction.

The project, which launched Wednesday, Nov. 18, went from inspiration to reality in less than 60 days, said Dawn Holland, the executive director of DAWNS House. The program is the first of its kind in Bend, thanks to the city's COVID-19 emergency declaration, which allowed it to move forward.

"I feel like the universe kind of orchestrated this whole thing," Holland said.

The inspiration for the RV program began as far back as last summer, when Holland and her daughter traveled around in their own RV.

"I thought, 'Wow, someone could really use this as a home,'" Holland said.

But that idea turned into action after Holland attended a meeting about Bend's cold weather shelter and heard



Ryan Brennecke/Bend Bulletin

Alan Sawyers, who works with DAWNS House, measures where to park a RV while working on setting up the transitional housing site in Bend on Nov. 12, 2020.

about the number of families that have been displaced because of COVID-19-related hardship.

"The need is so immense," Holland said.

For years, the property next to DAWNS House off Dean Swift Road has sat vacant. So one day Holland asked the owner of the land, who also owned the land where DAWNS House sits, if she could rent the lot and put RVs on it for housing. The owner said yes.

Then she heard that there was funding available

through the coronavirus relief act, which is federal money that was diverted to local communities for COVID-19 relief, to pay for the project. She received \$48,000 from United Way, which helps the city distribute the funding, and was able to buy five used RVs: four for families and one for an on-site supervisor to manage the program.

In less than three weeks, Holland and her team turned an empty lot into a gravel lot with access to electricity for four new homes.

The housing is free to help

people save money and get back on their feet, but limited to three months, Holland said. Though families don't have to identify as addicts, because her other properties are drug- and alcohol-free, families who move into the RVs also must agree to be sober.

"It's a drop in the bucket. The need is so great," Holland said. "But for those four families, it will mean a lot."

Holland's passion to help people comes from the fact that she received help herself to get to where she is today.

"I'm a woman with addic-

tion and alcoholism, and I came from sober living," Holland said. "After dozens of detox days and treatment centers, it was the only thing that worked for me."

She struggled with addiction for years until someone told her to contact a Bend bed-and-breakfast that was transformed into a women's transitional home called Country in the City Women's Housing, according to past reporting in The Bulletin.

She eventually earned a degree from Central Oregon Community College in business and restaurant management. But when she heard the transitional home she lived in was closing, she decided to open DAWNS House in May 2015. To date, Holland said she has helped 600 women.

Before COVID-19, a project like this wouldn't have been possible in the city of Bend.

Holland is the first to formally apply for and take advantage of a provision in the city's emergency COVID-19 declaration that allows for temporary camping on private property, said Susanna Julber, a senior project and policy manager at the city.

"Traditionally, camping wouldn't be allowed on private property in the city," Julber said.

But as the number of displaced people grew because

of the pandemic and economic fallout that followed, more churches and other organizations became interested in wanting to let people live legally in their parking lots.

"These are not ideal situations for anybody ... but many people don't have options," Julber said.

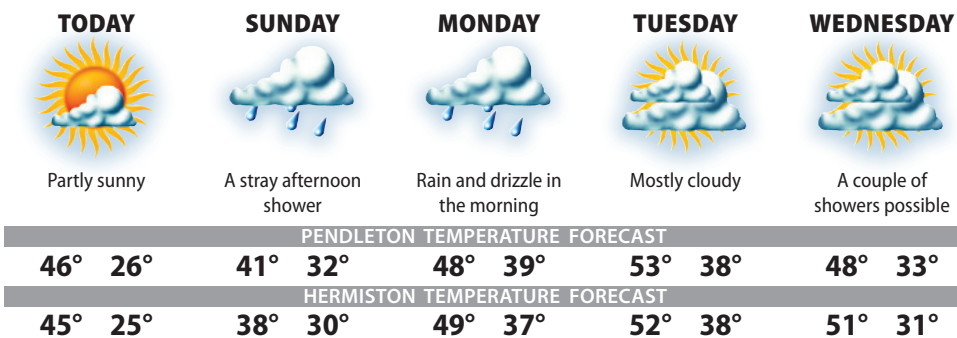
The emergency order will remain in place until the state moves into Phase 3 of reopening — essentially meaning, until there is a COVID-19 vaccine. Until then, the city will review applications to make sure organizations have sanitation and safety plans, but will not review temporary housing sites like Holland's for things like building code.

"We don't want this to be too onerous," Julber said.

Holland said she would like to continue this housing program long term, but whether she will be able to do that once the emergency order expires remains unclear. Julber said there are currently conversations happening at the city about allowing different kinds of housing options in the future, though nothing is set in stone.

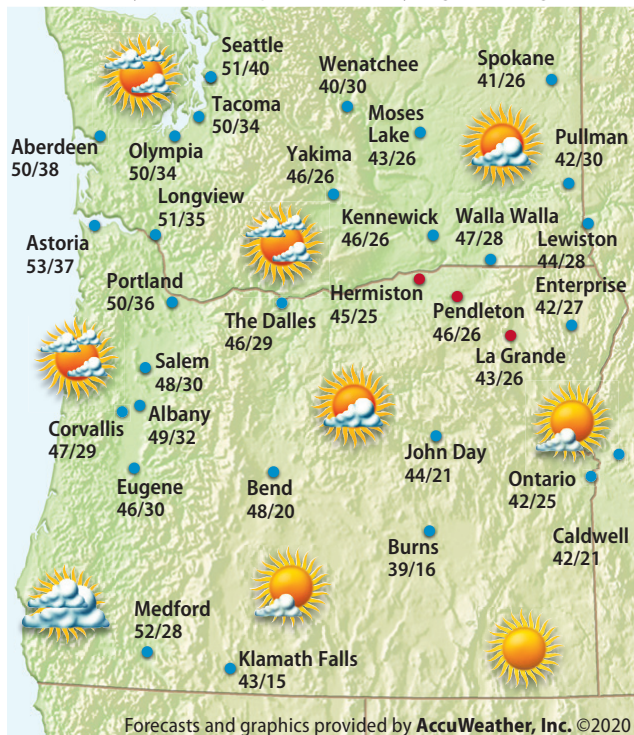
Holland said it feels good to be able to say "yes" for once when she gets emails from people she knows looking to house someone, but said the endeavor is also new and scary.

Forecast for Pendleton Area



OREGON FORECAST

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



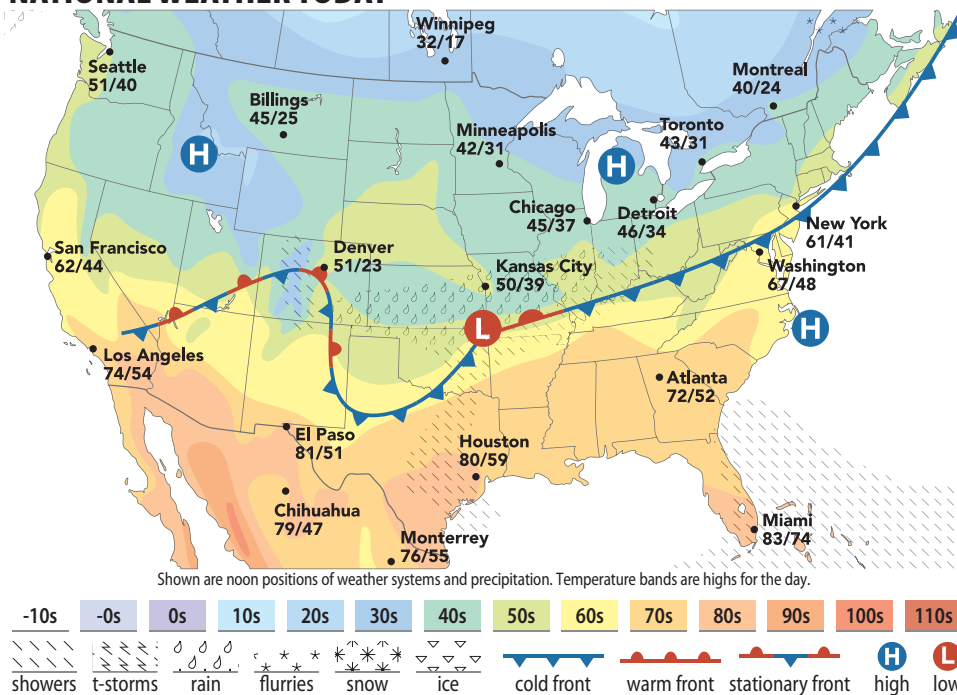
ALMANAC

PENDLETON through 3 p.m. yest.			
TEMP.	HIGH	LOW	
Yesterday	49°	30°	
Normals	47°	32°	
Records	69° (1958)	9° (1977)	
PRECIPITATION	24 hours ending 3 p.m.		
Month to date	0.00"		
Normal month to date	2.30"		
Year to date	0.92"		
Last year to date	12.06"		
Normal year to date	11.54"		
Year to date	10.95"		
HERMISTON through 3 p.m. yest.			
TEMP.	HIGH	LOW	
Yesterday	51°	29°	
Normals	48°	32°	
Records	65° (1962)	6° (1929)	
PRECIPITATION	24 hours ending 3 p.m.		
Month to date	0.00"		
Normal month to date	1.61"		
Year to date	0.76"		
Last year to date	3.90"		
Normal year to date	4.95"		
Year to date	8.07"		
WINDS (in mph)			
Today	NNE 3-6	Sun. SSW 3-6	
Boardman	NE 4-8	WSW 4-8	
SUN AND MOON			
Sunrise today	7:03 a.m.		
Sunset tonight	4:19 p.m.		
Moonrise today	1:06 p.m.		
Moonset today	11:02 p.m.		
First	Full	Last	New
Nov 21	Nov 30	Dec 7	Dec 14

NATIONAL EXTREMES

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)
High 90° in Tucson, Ariz. Low -7° in Daniel, Wyo.

NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY



Oregon voters sour on state of nation

Associated Press

SALEM — Voters in Oregon made their pick for president while holding negative views about the country's direction, according to an expansive Associated Press survey of the American electorate.

The race between President Donald Trump and Democratic rival Joe Biden has concluded as the nation remains in the throes of a global public health crisis and mired in the economic downturn it brought on.

AP VoteCast found that 34% of Oregon voters said the U.S. is on the right track and 65% of voters said it is headed in the wrong direction.

Here's a snapshot of who voted and what matters to them, based on preliminary results from AP VoteCast, a nationwide survey of about 133,000 voters and nonvoters — including 3,226 voters and 495 nonvoters in Oregon — conducted for The Associated Press by NORC at the University of Chicago.

Trump vs. Biden

In the race for president, Biden had an advantage over Trump among both voters under 45 and older voters.

Biden led among col-

lege-educated voters, while Trump and Biden were about tied among voters without a college degree.

Both voters in cities and suburban voters were more likely to prefer Biden over Trump, while voters in small towns and rural areas were more likely to back Trump.

Race for Senate

In the race for U.S. Senate, Jeff Merkley had an advantage over Jo Rae Perkins among both voters under 45 and older voters.

College-educated voters were more likely to support Merkley, while voters without a college degree were divided. Both voters in cities and suburban voters were more likely to favor Merkley over Perkins, while voters in small towns and rural areas were more likely to support Perkins.

Facing the pandemic

The coronavirus pandemic has spread through the U.S. for roughly eight months, killing more than 250,000 Americans. Overall, 18% of voters said the virus in the U.S. is completely or mostly under control, and 26% said it's somewhat under control. Fifty-five percent of voters think the coronavirus

is not at all under control in this country.

On the issues

The coronavirus pandemic was top of mind for many voters in Oregon.

Forty percent said it is the most important issue facing the country today. Voters also considered the economy a major issue, with 25% saying it ranked at the top.

Nine percent named climate change, 8% named health care and 6% named racism.

National economy

Voters were more negative than positive in their assessments of the nation's economy. Overall, 38% described economic conditions in the U.S. as excellent or good, and 62% called them not so good or poor.

Staying at home

Among registered voters who chose not to cast a ballot in Oregon, 26% said that was because they don't like politics generally, 20% said they don't like the candidates and 14% said their vote doesn't matter.

In Oregon, 75% of nonvoters were younger than 45 and 80% did not have a college degree.

IN BRIEF

Oxbow man seriously injured in crash

BAKER CITY — Oregon State Police officers are investigating a crash that left an Oxbow man seriously injured when he was ejected from his pickup truck as it rolled down a steep embankment near Oxbow on Nov. 12.

Damon Taylor Molina, 41, remained in serious condition at Saint Alphonsus Medical Center in Boise, Mark Snider, hospital spokesman, said Nov. 17.

OSP Sr. Trooper Nicholas Hagedorn stated in his media log report that Molina was traveling west on Highway 86 about 5 miles south of Oxbow when he drove his 2006 Chevrolet

pickup truck straight through a corner. Hagedorn said the vehicle crossed a wide gravel pullout, and then traveled down the steep earthen embankment.

Molina, who was not wearing a seat belt and was alone, was ejected from the vehicle as it rolled. The vehicle came to rest upside down about 50 feet from the embankment.

Molina was first taken by Halfway Rural Fire Department ambulance to a site where the Life Flight air ambulance could pick him up for transfer to the Boise hospital.

"Impairment is being investigated as a contributing factor in the crash," Hagedorn stated in his report.

— EO Media Group

CORRECTIONS: The *East Oregonian* works hard to be accurate and sincerely regrets any errors. If you notice a mistake in the paper, please call 541-966-0818.

EAST OREGONIAN

— Founded Oct. 16, 1875 —

211 S.E. Byers Ave., Pendleton 541-276-2211
333 E. Main St., Hermiston 541-567-6211
Office hours: Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Closed major holidays

EastOregonian.com

In the App Store:



East Oregonian (USPS 164-980) is published Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, by the EO Media Group, 211 S.E. Byers Ave., Pendleton, OR 97801. Periodicals postage paid at Pendleton, OR. Postmaster: send address changes to East Oregonian, 211 S.E. Byers Ave., Pendleton, OR 97801.

Copyright © 2020, EO Media Group

Circulation Dept.

For mail delivery, online access, vacation stops or delivery concerns call 800-781-3214

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

	Local home delivery	Savings (cover price)
EZPay	\$9.75/month	50 percent
52 weeks	\$135	42 percent
26 weeks	\$71	39 percent
13 weeks	\$37	36 percent

*EZ Pay = one-year rate with a monthly credit or debit card/check charge

Single copy price:

\$1.50 Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday

ADVERTISING

Regional Sales Director (Eastside) EO Media Group:

• Karrine Brogotti
541-963-3161 • kbrogotti@eomediagroup.com

Advertising Manager:

• Angela Treadwell
541-966-0827 • atreadwell@eastoregonian.com

Multimedia Consultants:

• Jeanne Jewett
541-564-4531 • jjewett@eastoregonian.com

• Audra Workman
541-564-4538 • aworkman@eastoregonian.com

Business Office

• Dayle Stinson
541-966-0824 • dstinson@eastoregonian.com

Classified & Legal Advertising

1-800-962-2819 or 541-278-2678
classifieds@eastoregonian.com or legals@eastoregonian.com

NEWS

- To submit news tips and press releases: call 541-966-0818 or email news@eastoregonian.com
- To submit community events, calendar items and Your EO News: email community@eastoregonian.com or call Renee Struthers at 541-966-0818.
- To submit engagements, weddings and anniversaries: email rstruthers@eastoregonian.com or visit eastoregonian.com/community/announcements
- To submit sports or outdoors information or tips: 541-966-0838 • sports@eastoregonian.com

COMMERCIAL PRINTING

Commercial Print Manager: Holly Rouska
541-617-7839 • hrouska@eomediagroup.com