

Warming Station needs volunteers to open

Opening could be delayed if helpers aren't found

By **JADE MCDOWELL**
NEWS EDITOR

Despite temperatures already dropping below freezing, the Hermiston Warming Station won't be opening any time soon if more volunteers don't sign up.

Teesie Hill, chairwoman of the nonprofit's board, said she needs about 200 volunteers before they can start taking guests in need of emergency shelter.

So far she has about 30 ready to go.

"Last year we trained 200 people. We had about 165 actually volunteer for a shift, 145 return for another, but only about 90

volunteers who volunteered consistently," she said.

The station has three volunteer trainings left: Thursday at 9 a.m., Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. and Thursday, Nov. 21 at 6 p.m.

All trainings are at the warming station, a house at 1075 South Highway 395 across from Tower Apartments. Interested volunteers don't need to sign up in advance.

Returning volunteers won't need to go through trainings or background checks again, Hill said — they just need to drop by and sign some updated paperwork to be approved for another year.

Volunteers can sign up online for whatever shifts or days they would like. Check-in shifts are from 7-9:30 p.m. Operations manager and kitchen manager shifts are from 7 p.m. to mid-

night. Overnight volunteers can work from midnight to 4 a.m., or manage the kitchen or check-outs from 4-6:30 a.m.

Volunteers working with guests must be over 18, but volunteers younger than 18 can come during the day to assist with tasks such as cleaning or sorting donations.

The Warming Station's season has been set to go from Nov. 25 through February, but Hill said they will start later than the 25th if they don't have more volunteers.

For people interested in donating items, she said their biggest need is cases of bottled water and packages of hot chocolate mix.

For more information, call 541-289-2150 or visit the Hermiston Warming Station Facebook page.



Staff photo by Jade McDowell

Hermiston Warming Station board vice chair Addie Zumwalt paints a sign at the shelter in preparation for opening during last year's season. This year could be delayed due to a lack of volunteers.

COLUMN

Hermiston School District leaders take community's investment seriously

It's a humbling experience to be entrusted with nearly \$90 million to build new schools for a generation of Hermiston students. The Hermiston School District is grateful to this community for supporting our mission of providing a premier education to every child.

But we know this is also more than just an opportunity to construct new buildings. This is our chance as a district to earn and build the trust of the community. We intend to follow through on the promises we made when putting the school bond before voters. Whether you voted in favor or against the bond, or even if you didn't vote at all, we want to show you in the coming years that we value your investment.

Our main goal now is to plan, develop, and complete these construction projects in a way that welcomes the public to join us as partners. Just as we asked for input from a facilities committee

to help create a list of priority projects, we're now looking for an oversight committee to help carry out the vision. Applications will be available on the school district website this week and 10-15 people will be selected by the Hermiston School Board.

Project management requests for proposal will also be posted on the district website this week, and we will use the website to deliver project timelines and updates as they become available. Once a project management team is selected and work begins, the oversight committee will meet monthly to review progress and expenditures. With the help of the elected school board and volunteer committee, we will account for every penny the district spends on these projects and report back to taxpayers.

But simply finishing on time and under budget isn't enough. We want to honor the commitment of voters and taxpayers in every

step of the process. You entrust the school district with the education of your children and the expenditure of your tax dollars. We will earn that trust with a straightforward accounting of our progress in both areas.

This is an exciting time for the Hermiston School District. We are eager to roll up our sleeves and get to work on projects that will make a tangible impact on our students as it gives them the room they need to learn. We are proud to be part of this community and are happy to answer questions you have as we move forward.

From the Hermiston School District, our teachers and administrators, and especially the thousands of students who will benefit from your support, thank you. It's this commitment from our community that makes Hermiston a great place to live, work and grow.

Tricia Mooney is the superintendent of the Hermiston School District.



Tricia Mooney



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Record cold October in Idaho; close in Washington, Oregon

By **DON JENKINS**
CAPITAL PRESS

Idaho shivered through its coldest October on record, while Washington weathered its second-coldest October and the coolest in more than a century, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Oregon was chilly, too. The month was the fourth-coldest October for the state, according to records that date back to 1895.

The extended region-wide cold snap defied the odds. NOAA's Climate Prediction Center forecast in September that the outlook favored a warmer than normal October.

Unusual atmospheric conditions caused frigid air to blow down from the Gulf of Alaska, Washington State Assistant Climatologist Karin Bumbaco said. Normally, warmer and wetter air from the south flows into the region, she said.

"It was really different than we would typically see this time of year," Bumbaco said.

The cold damaged some crops, and the northern winds "made farm work outdoors miserable," according to the USDA's late October crop report for Idaho.

The cold October followed a wet and cool September.

The combination was not good, said Snohomish County, Wash., organic farmer Tristan Kelsick.

"We didn't get the growth we normally

get in September," he said. "It set up an unsuccessful October."

Klickitat County, Wash., rancher Neil Kayser said the September rain was good for pastures.

"Then October came and froze everything back, and now we're short on pasture," he said.

Washington and Oregon's coasts were cooler than normal, and temperatures got even colder than usual inland.

Idaho's average temperature for the month was 36.7 degrees. That was 7.4 degrees below average. It broke the record of 37.5 degrees set in 1919.

Idaho's minimum average temperature of 24.7 degrees also set a record, breaking the old mark by 7.1 degrees.

In Washington, the average temperature of 43 degrees was the second-lowest on record. The average temperature was 4.2 degrees below normal and the coolest since 1905.

In Oregon, the average temperature was 43.2 degrees, the coolest since 1946 and 4.9 degrees below normal.

Northern California — on the coast and inland — was cooler than average, but average temperatures were not close to setting records. The north coast had its 34th coolest October, while the Sacramento drainage region had its 31st coolest.

The odds favor warmer than average temperatures in November, December and January throughout the West, according to NOAA's Climate Prediction Center.

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