



Eastern Oregon residents send aid to fire-stricken towns

By **ANNIE FOWLER**
FOR THE HERMISTON HERALD

David Dunn returned Sunday, Sept. 20, from his second trip to Clackamas County, where he dropped off much-needed supplies to help those affected by the fires that have devastated Western and Southern Oregon.

The Pendleton man, who spent part of his childhood in Molalla, also has a brother, Damion Dunn, who lives in Mulino. His sister-in-law, Casey Buckmaster, lost her home and belongings in the fire that destroyed a good part of Talent, a town of 6,500 people that is 7 miles south of Medford.

“My wife (Caryn) and I have a big heart for helping people,” Dunn said. “People were packed in the Clackamas County Fairgrounds. To see it in person was astonishing.”

Dunn, the executive director at Redemption Life Services, took bottled water, hygiene items, pet food, and supplies for livestock on his latest trip. The donations came from Eastern Oregon people wanting to help in any way they can. The Duns accepted donations at the Walmarts in Pendleton, Hermiston and College Place, Washington.

“People from Eastern Oregon differ from those on the west side, but when it comes to something like this, people want to know how they can help,” Dunn said. “It’s nice to come together.”

Dunn not only delivers supplies, but offers comfort to those who have lost



TOP: Bettina Senter, left, hands donations to Caryn Dunn during a donation drive for Clackamas County fire victims and firefighters at the Pendleton Walmart on Friday, Sept. 18, 2020. Dunn and several others gathered donations from Hermiston, Pendleton, and College Place, Wash., to take to fire victims in Clackamas County. ABOVE: David Dunn, center, makes calls to try and wrangle donations for fire victims in the parking lot of the Pendleton Walmart on Friday, Sept. 18, 2020. Dunn made stops in Hermiston, Pendleton and College Place, Wash., to help gather donations for fire victims and fire fighters in Clackamas County.

nearly everything they owned.

“It’s good to talk to the volunteers and displaced people and share the gospel with them,” Dunn said. “You don’t know me, but I love you and I’m here to help. You don’t know how far those words go to helping people in crisis.”

Dunn also praised Grant County

Sheriff Glenn Palmer, who helped organize a collection of items that were taken to Bend, and then to Southern Oregon and Clackamas County.

Dunn plans more trips to help those in need. If you would like to donate, he can be reached at 541-612-0506, or by email, redemptionlifeservices@gmail.com.

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David Dunn, Pendleton man volunteering to help those affected by fires that have devastated Western and Southern Oregon

com.

Items in greatest need are fuel gift cards, gift cards to major retailers for disaster victims, food for pets and livestock, water, toilet paper, horse bedding, Gatorade, masks, gloves and first aid kits. Donations are tax deductible.

Dunn’s family is but a small part of those reaching out to help fire victims.

American Legion Post 37 in Hermiston was collecting donated items at the VFW Hall at 45 W. Cherry Ave. including foods, produce, toiletries, bottled water, new bedding and new clothing to be delivered to the American Legion Post in Estacada.

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Stepping Stones looks outside Hermiston after city council vote

By **JADE MCDOWELL**
NEWS EDITOR

The Stepping Stones board says they are committed to looking for a new location for their proposed homeless shelter after the Hermiston City Council passed an ordinance on Sept. 14 that banned shelters within 1,000 feet of parks and schools.

Cathy Lloyd, president of the Stepping Stones board, said while the ordinance technically allows for temporary emergency shelters like the one proposed, regulations in the ordinance — particularly

the 1,000 foot rule and a requirement that the shelter must be co-located with an existing use on industrial property rather than having its own property — means the board will be looking outside city limits for space.

“We sat and looked at the city’s map last night and there’s not anything available,” she said. “It’s pretty disappointing.”

She said the next steps were to look for possible sites located in the county or a nearby city and look into zoning rules in those areas.

The Stepping Stones board has proposed a shelter modeled after

shelters in Walla Walla and elsewhere that use small Conestoga huts to shelter homeless individuals. The huts do not have running water, electricity or other amenities because they are not meant to be seen as a permanent housing option, but they do provide more privacy and storage than a warming station with cots lined up on a floor.

The board has stated that guests would only be allowed into the property at night after checking in with a volunteer, and paid security

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A fenced lot between the Agape House and the Theater Sports Park was the proposed site of the Stepping Stones project before the Hermiston City Council approved an ordinance that bans shelters within 1,000 feet of a park or school.

Staff photo by Jade McDowell, File

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