

Resources for kids with disabilities

Who doesn't love ice cream? And free ice cream is even better!

Everyone interested in learning about the opportunities available in the Sisters community for people with IDD (Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities) — individuals with IDD, their caregivers, family members, interested community members — is invited to attend a free Resource Round-up and Ice Cream Social at the Sisters-Camp Sherman Fire Hall on Saturday, September 28, from 4 to 6 p.m.

Representatives from organizations that provide a wide variety of supports for people with IDD — housing, education, health and mental-health professionals — will be available to explain their programs, and

help people in the community get connected to services they need.

This event is organized by S.O.U.L. Sisters Opportunities for Unified Living is a newly formed non-profit organization working for the inclusion of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities into the Sisters community.

"We'll have representatives from Deschutes County IDD Services, Central Oregon Disability Support

Network, High Desert ESD and many others," said Becky Lukens, event organizer and SOUL board president. "There are so many amazing organizations providing services in Central Oregon. We want to make sure everyone who needs help can get it. That's why we started SOUL. People from Sisters who have IDD shouldn't have to move to Bend or Redmond to get help — we want to make sure they can stay here, where they belong. We want them to have housing, jobs, a fulfilling life. That's our mission."

The Resource Roundup is sponsored by Sisters Athletic Club, who has partnered with the Sisters School District to employ many young people with IDD as they transition to adulthood.



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Senior Planner leaving City of Sisters

By Sue Stafford
Correspondent

After three years as the Senior Planner in the City's Community Development Department, BreAnne McConkie has tendered her resignation effective in early October.

"This was a hard decision," McConkie said, noting her mixed emotions. She is excited about a new position with the City of Bend doing what she enjoys the most — long-range planning. But it is also bittersweet because she will miss the people she works with at City Hall, as well as knowing so many Sisters residents on a first-name basis.

"I'm sad to leave because the City is now running so smoothly and the Council and Planning Commission are functioning well," she said.

McConkie, who previously worked in planning departments in Salt Lake City and Seattle before coming to Oregon, said 95 percent of her workload in Sisters has to

do with immediate and short-term planning because of a small staff and rapid growth in Sisters.

Her position in Bend will deal with bigger-picture, long-term visions like planning for Urban Growth Boundary expansions and plans for infill in the urban core. She explained that the Bend City Council sets the priorities for projects that she will work on for several years, determining

what it would take to make them happen.

McConkie, her husband, and infant son Archer live in Bend, so her commute to work will be much shorter, although she doesn't mind the drive to Sisters.

She will be joining two other former Sisters employees who work in the Bend Planning Department — Brian Rankin and Pauline Hardy.

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PHOTO BY ALEX JORDAN

Bend man wins veterans rifle raffle

A Bend man won a Marlin .30-30 lever-action rifle in an ongoing Sisters Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion raffle held at Ray's Food Place held over the past months. The drawing took place at RE/MAX on Monday, September 2, with Principle Broker Marina McCurdy selecting the ticket.

Brandon Bernard of Bend won the rifle.

VFW Post 8138 and AL Post 86 would like to extend their thanks to Ray's and all who supported their

fundraising efforts. The two groups are dedicated to helping veterans and their families in the Sisters area, along with community projects that support school scholarships, patriotic events like Memorial Day remembrances, and posting of flags throughout Sisters.

In addition, funds support activity at the national level giving VFW and AL a powerful voice in Congress to ensure continual support and visibility for all veterans that have served the U.S.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Marina McCurdy drew the winning ticket belonging to Brandon Bernard.

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