

PRC presents women with info, alternatives

Katie Wilson
The Clackamas Print

There are misconceptions [pro-lifers] care more about child than the woman," said Gadbaugh, CEO of the Pregnancy Resource Centers of the greater Portland area. "We are pro-woman and pro-life," he added. "Abortion is for women. There are many women who have been told [about abortion] and their experience is completely different."

There are hundreds of Pregnancy Resource Centers all across the country, and six of them in and around Portland. Since 1984, these centers have been helping thousands of women and teenagers with unwanted pregnancies.

The PRC provides pregnancy and peer counseling—all counselors are women. They offer pregnancy and fetal development information, information on abortion and the risks, procedures and alternatives. They provide maternity and baby clothes, toys and furniture, parenting classes, referrals for medical care, housing, legal aid, professional counseling, community services and adoption agencies, spiritual encouragement, post-abortion counseling, and an after-hours help line.

All of these services are free for women seeking help from the center. "Abortion is such an emotional issue," said Gadbaugh. "There have been over 40 million abortions since Roe v. Wade. Everybody knows some-

one who has experienced an abortion. Unfortunately, even in some churches, it's not talked about or when it is, it's only in political terms or with anger."

"Compassion" may be the word that best describes the PRC and its mission.

"Women come to us because they suspect or fear that they are pregnant," said Gadbaugh. "Lots of times they feel alone ... fearful and ashamed."

Generally, the woman is being pressured by her family or boyfriend to have an abortion.

"There's another side [to abortion] that they often don't hear," said Gadbaugh. "We might be the only voice that compassionately says, 'Have you considered this ... ?' It might be good to know there are other options."

The PRC receives no government funding and, according to Gadbaugh, is not political in its actions. It is a faith-based organization, serving as Christians, but offering their services to everyone. The women who come to the PRC aren't sat down and "preached" at.

"We'll share as much as [the woman] is open and willing to hear," said Gadbaugh. "We don't just back up the dump truck and pull the handle. If the woman is not interested ... we won't talk about it then, but we'll be there later if she becomes interested."

Since the PRC receives no money from the government, they have to work hard at fundraising. Many individuals and other organizations also donate money.

The PRC's upcoming fundraiser, Steps for Life, is a walkathon that will take place in the

Pioneer Courthouse Square on May 21. It is not a pro-life rally or a political protest, Gadbaugh says it is merely a fund raiser.

The PRC provides many opportunities for those desiring to help others in their community. There are numerous ways to volunteer at the centers, everything from being trained as a peer counselor to donating used or new baby clothes.

"I like [volunteering]," said Sarah Prentice, a volunteer peer counselor, "because it's one way that I can help girls who are going through a hard time. It presents a lot of good opportunities to witness and tell about Christ's love for them, which is the best gift you can give."

One woman, one child at a time, the PRC is trying to reduce the amount of abortions by maximizing the impact of the centers and providing care, counsel and love.

For more information, visit their website at www.portlandprc.org.

Illustration by Isaiah Creel Clackamas Print



Trip to Malheur offers science credit

Marlin Johnson
Nature Editor

Science lovers, those who missed the spring break Death Valley and anyone who just enjoys the outdoors are being offered another field trip opportunity through the science department.

It's kind of like a mini version of the Death Valley trip," said Biology Instructor Jennifer Bown.

The annual trip to Malheur Wildlife Refuge in Eastern Oregon will be from May 12-15, and has room for around 10 more people. The trip will be offered to students as a natural history course for one semester science credit.

Malheur is the largest inland

marsh in North America, making it the perfect place to catch a glimpse of the wildlife.

"It's just kind of integrating all the sciences together, and if you don't have a lot of science in your background, just kind of getting to see it and experience it," said Bown. "I think students really kind of dig experiencing it rather than reading it in the book."

Those on the trip will get to see many sides of Eastern Oregon, from wetlands to desert, by studying in the wildlife refuge, Steens Mountain and Alvord Desert.

"We're in a wildlife refuge and we're in migration times so there's lots of birds, and lots of other wildlife," said Bown. "You'll see things that you just can't see over here on the West side [of Oregon]."

Porcupines, all kinds of deer; the birds are really incredible. It's just a really unique place."

The trip is very well-rounded, as the course will offer some geology and even history, in addition to biology.

"There's some really neat lava tubes and craters," said Bown. "We'll talk about geology; we'll talk about the Native Americans and the cowboys. We'll hike them up the Blitzen River and they'll see some historical sites, some of the old farms of the late 1800s. They've got some really neat barns."

The refuge's field station includes dormitories where the students will stay, and the refuge will also be providing meals, which brings the cost of the course to \$125. All students will need to bring a sleeping bag.

To receive credit for the class, students will also be asked to keep a journal of their trip and turn in an essay at the end. Offered to anyone, and with no prerequisites, the trip will be a great experience for anyone who chooses to go.

"[Malheur is] a real kind of oasis in the high desert of Eastern Oregon, and I think that's just kind of unique. It's just kind of a little gem over there," said Bown, who also loves being able to "just get away in the middle of the term."

To sign up for the trip, you can contact Bown, ext. 2926, or Geology Instructor Sarah Hoover, ext. 2812.

It's just an incredible experience," said Bown. "Everybody's got to see this place. Just once. At least once."

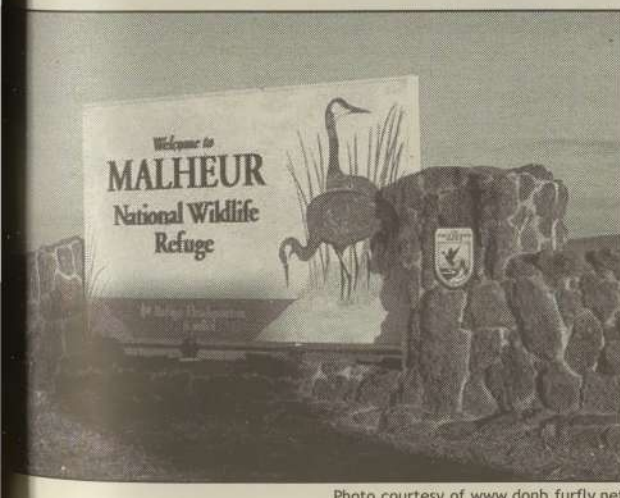


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Hablando nuestro idioma

A weekly Spanish-language column

'Cinco de Mayo' La Batalla de Puebla

Norma Martinez
The Clackamas Print

Empezando el mes y empezando las celebraciones en este mes lleno de festividad, con una fiesta nacional que se celebra a lo largo de la república mexicana, y parte de Norteamérica. Esta es la conmemoración de una batalla entre los Franceses y Mexicanos una batalla donde se peleaba el honor y las tierras.

En 1858, Benito Juárez fue elegido Presidente de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos para defender la Constitución establecida el 5 de febrero de 1857. Después de varias luchas internas, Juárez fue reelecto en 1861. Debido a la inestabilidad financiera, causada por la guerra mexicano-americana, el Congreso Mexicano acordó suspender los pagos de la deuda exterior durante dos años.

Los acreedores en Europa (Inglaterra, España y Francia) decidieron que la intervención sería la mejor manera de cobrarse la deuda. Francia tenía su propia agenda, la cual era desconocida por Inglaterra y España. Napoleón III, Emperador del Segundo Imperio Francés quería establecer una monarquía favorable para Francia, y asimismo, quería disolver el Gobierno Constitucional Mexicano. Sus planes consistían en extender esta monarquía hasta Centro y Sudamérica para proveer de materia prima y comercio a Europa y al mismo tiempo estar cerca de la República de los Estados Unidos la cual crecía en poder después de anexar California, Nuevo México y Arizona.

Los terratenientes, y conservadores de México temían perder su poderío y sus tierras al nuevo gobierno constitucional del Presidente Juárez. El 8 de diciembre de 1861, los poderes europeos desembarcaron en el Puerto de Veracruz y lo ocuparon, siendo España la primera en llegar. Para el 11 de abril de 1862 España e Inglaterra se enteraron de las intenciones de Francia y abandonaron su apoyo embarcándose hacia Europa.

Mientras tanto, en la ciudad de México, el Presidente Juárez tomaba medidas para contrarrestar la invasión: "El gobierno de la República... en vista de la declaración de los franceses, no puede ni debe

hacer otra cosa que rechazar la fuerza con la fuerza y defender a la nación de la agresión injusta con la que se la amenaza. ...Tengamos fe en la justicia de nuestra causa... haciendo triunfar no sólo a nuestra patria, sino a los principios de respeto y de inviolabilidad de la soberanía de las naciones". El Presidente Juárez declaró la ley marcial en todas las áreas ocupadas por los franceses en estado de sitio.

Cuando llegaron las tropas de refuerzo francesas, el ejército se componía de (7.000) siete mil soldados que salieron en la ruta de (225) doscientas veinticinco millas hacia la ciudad de México a principios de abril con la ilusión de que los mexicanos les darían la bienvenida. Esta ilusión fue nutrida por Juan N. Almonte, un reaccionario mexicano, y por el Conde Dubois de Saligny, el embajador francés. El Presidente Juárez le dio la orden al General Ignacio Zaragoza de detener el avance de las fuerzas armadas francesas en los fuertes de Loreto y Guadalupe cerca de la ciudad de Puebla. Zaragoza contaba con sólo (2.000) dos mil hombres.

El 5 de mayo de 1862, los cañones resonaron y los rifles dispararon y más de (1.000) mil soldados franceses cayeron muertos. Los mexicanos habían ganado la batalla, pero no la guerra. Sin embargo, esta fecha es la que simboliza el valor mexicano ante una armada tan formidable.

El 5 de mayo es una fiesta nacional mexicana. El campo de batalla es ahora un parque en Puebla con la estatua del General Zaragoza montado a caballo. Uno de los fuertes es ahora un museo de historia que describe a escala con soldados de juguete lo ocurrido durante la Batalla de Puebla. Pero es en los Estados Unidos de América donde se celebra de una forma más festiva con desfiles, música, bailes folclóricos y comida. Estas festividades son para recaudar fondos para obras benéficas y como demostración de la solidaridad que existe entre los mexicano-norteamericanos.

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