

Mothers:

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my baby will be 6 months soon, and we can start feeding her more purees and cereals, with the pediatricians approval. But I'm afraid for the mothers with babies on the way."

What parents can do

Dr. Rhonda Wyland of Pendleton Pediatric Specialists said she knows some of the hurdles parents of their patients have when it comes to finding formula.

"Many have had to drive to multiple stores and multiple towns to locate formula," she said. "Costs are also a factor. Some families have found some formula online as well. The recall of several types of infant formula has affected a large percentage of the formula supplies for our area, and this has been exacerbated by supply chain issues."

There are several things parents can do to help this, Wyland added. If infants are using a standard infant formula, most of them can be changed to a similar formula of a different brand, even a store brand, without too much difficulty. It may take a little extra time for them to get used to a new taste, but gradually introducing it may help.

Families can contact the Human Milk Banking Association of North America to obtain donor breast milk, Wyland stated. It is important to only use donor milk from an accredited milk bank.

Oregon Health & Science University also offered other guidance for parents struggling to find baby formula.

Parents can check corner stores or drugstores, which may have more in stock than grocery stores. Online shops might have formula supplies. Parents also can check social media groups dedicated to infant feeding and formula. Members may have ideas for where to find formula.

For infants with special nutritional needs or other difficulties, parents can reach out to their child's physician, who can provide extra resources and information.

What parents should not do

Her group encourages families not to stockpile large amounts of formula as this may worsen shortages, and parents should steer clear of some advice.



Kathy Aney/East Oregonian
Jessica Ann Rogers of Pendleton poses June 1, 2022, with her 4-month-old son Jason. She worries about running out of baby formula due to the ongoing shortage.

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM

Families using the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children, should note Oregon has waived limitations over what type of formula it will cover. This allows families to purchase any formula that's available, rather than being limited to a certain brand, size or form. Local food banks and WIC Program offices also may have formula available.

Source: Oregon Health & Science University

"Importantly, no one should be using homemade formulas such as the many recipes that can be found online," Wyland stressed. "These do not provide the nutrition needed for infants, and can be dangerous. We also don't recommend using other types of milk, such as cow's milk, goat's milk, almond milk or canned evaporated milk."

The doctor also advised against adding water to formula to make it last longer.

"This results in inadequate calories and electrolyte disorders, which can result in needing hospital admission care," she said.

There is some good news, she said, with efforts underway to get the factories running as quickly as safely possible, and the federal government is determining safe sources of formula from other countries and importing them.

No easy solutions

Erin Freels of Enterprise is the mother of a 10-month-old and said she cannot find Similac Advance or other

store brands she usually uses. She said she reached out to her physician about what to do because her son can technically start drinking cow milk by age 1.

"(The doctor) advised not to switch to milk yet, as formula has the needed calories for babies to grow," Freels said.

She explained she had to stop breastfeeding when her baby was 6 months old due to a medical condition. Freels' only options are the Enterprise Safeway or ordering online. The next closest store is in La Grande, a 90-minute drive one way, but the Walmart there was out, too.

Freels switched to Enfamil, a brand similar to Similac Advance, because her local Safeway had a few of them in, but that stock also ran out. She was down to just two, and luckily her son will be 1 on July 1, so they may be fine.

"But it's not OK for those mama's and babies that are younger," Freels added.

Jessica Ann Rogers of Pendleton said she was lucky enough to find at least one can of formula she could feed to her 4-month-old son.

"It was close," she said. "Walmart hasn't had any. Safeway had only one can."

Shandi Scheibner of Athena is the labor and delivery charge nurse at CHI St. Anthony Hospital, Pendleton. She said the hospital's supply also was low. The hospital encourages breast-feeding, but Scheibner recognized that isn't always possible.

"Mothers have to go back to work, or they might have a medical condition," she said. "We would like to set up a breast milk bank, but there are regulations, and it isn't feasible for a small hospital."

Her postpartum patients haven't been gravely affected, Scheibner reported, but they are stressed out about how they will feed their babies later.

Pendleton shows some Pride



Kathy Aney/East Oregonian
A Pride Parade participant displays signs Saturday, June 11, 2022, as she walks along Main Street, Pendleton. United Pendleton Pride organized the event.



Yasser Marte/East Oregonian
Karisma Woodward makes the crowd laugh Friday, June 10, 2022, during the Let 'Er Drag show at Electric Sundown, Pendleton.

Drag:

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"I'm from the backwoods of North Carolina," Granberry said. "Oh yeah, where real KKK members lived, that kind of back-

woods. But I got out of there."

Katana reflected on her upbringing, moving from one place to another with her mother, while she was in the fog of an abusive relationship. But as Katana glided onto the stage, her persona lit up with vibrant

colors. The audience screamed with joy.

"It's sort of like popping a balloon," Wabaunsee said of the exhilaration and liberation of bursting through the seams of their personal to their stage identity. "It's loud, crazy and a relief after."

Grants:

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Corbett said the PDC reached its then \$10 million limit and had to ask Banner Bank for additional credit to fund this nearly 40% grant. The city council welcomed the project.

"In a nutshell, the whole thing would not have happened without the PDC grant," recipient developer Sidney True of Clackamas said. "The grant gave us the confidence to close the deal to buy the property."

The new owner is staying at the former Marigold in downtown to supervise early stages of the renovation project.

True said he was initially leery of undertaking such a risk in an economic climate that has gotten even scarier since approval in May. Rampant inflation has increased his costs for materials and labor. The hospitality industry is especially vulnerable, with \$5 to \$6 gas, he noted.

"The previous owners had pieced the place together with duct tape and zip ties," True said. "It would have been an unequivocal no. The prospect of a grant was the primary reason we went ahead with the project."

The grant, he said, was "the sine qua non" — an essential component of the project.

Beyond the monetary support, True said, the city council and staff's belief in the project was important. True cited help he received from Denight and Steve Chrisman, Pendleton economic development director, as key to the



East Oregonian, File
A new roof is under construction Feb. 1, 2022, at the former Knights Inn in downtown Pendleton. Portland-based Cascadia Hospitality bought the motel late last year and is on the verge of opening it as the 40-room MotoLodge. The \$1.3 million renovation includes a \$500,000 grant from the Pendleton Development Commission.

success of his application.

"I want to put up a plaque thanking the city council and taxpayers," True concluded. "We could have gone anywhere nationally to invest capital and take an entrepreneurial risk. The PDC made it possible here. I love Pendleton."

'They don't just hand you a check'

Erin Bennett, co-owner of BackFire Station, 911 S.W. Court Ave., gave a similar assessment.

"We could not have done any part of our businesses without PDC grants," she said. "We could not even have opened in Pendleton. It's as simple as that."

The Pendleton City Council selected Hart and Bennett to buy the former headquarters of the city fire department and give it a new life as a multi-faceted business. Bennett said some residents still may not know how PDC grants work.

"They don't just hand you a check," she said. "You have to pay money out first. They

investigate to make sure you've spent what you claim and met all their stringent requirements. They go over expenses with a fine tooth comb before reimbursing recipients."

Bennett also pointed out the benefits to the city and its residents of PDC grants.

"The old fire station was city property, so it produced no tax receipts," she noted. "We pay taxes and employ people. The city will recoup its investment in a few years. Grants benefit the people who live here."

Bennett stressed awards have to be justified.

"The commission is extremely careful to ensure that applicants meet strict conditions," she concluded.

Some other urban renewal district businesses benefiting from PDC support include the Bowman, Brown and St. George Plaza buildings, Electric Sundown, MotoLodge and the Knights Inn at 310 S.E. Dorion Ave., which is on the verge of reopening after a \$1.3 million overhaul that included a \$500,000 PDC grant.

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For more information, call Carollyn Robinson, BSN, RN at 541.667.3540.

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