

Local & State

Rachel Center's baby bottle drive set

The Rachel Pregnancy Center's annual fundraiser, also known as its baby bottle drive, will begin on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 9.

The campaign will conclude on Father's Day, Sunday, June 20.

Last year, the fundraiser was shifted to a June start and a July finish because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The 2021 event returns to its original time frame this year, said Vera Grove, the nonprofit organization's director and only paid employee.

As the fundraiser gets underway, baskets of baby bottles, in which donations of cash and change can be collected, will be available at local churches. Donations also may be made at the Rachel Center office at 2192 Court Ave. during regular hours — Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The office is closed from noon to 1 p.m. for lunch.

Those who would prefer to write a check to the Center during the fundraiser can pick up an envelope instead of a baby bottle and mail the donation to Rachel Pregnancy Center, P.O. Box 1086, Baker City, OR 97814.

The Rachel Center hopes to collect most of the bottles (and other monetary donations) by Father's Day, but contributions are accepted at any time, Grove said.

The Rachel Pregnancy Center offers help to both men and women who are dealing with financial or emotional problems related to an unplanned pregnancy. The annual baby bottle drive is the Rachel Center's main fundraiser for the year. The organization does not receive government funding and relies solely on community support.

Among services provided at



Jayson Jacoby/Baker City Herald, File Photo

Patsy Hoelscher, left, a member of the board of directors for the Rachel Pregnancy Center in Baker City, looks over some of the baby and child clothing available at the nonprofit with Matt Reidy, center, and Hal Huntington, right in March 2020.

the Center are the voluntary Earn While You Learn classes, in which clients have the opportunity to participate in sessions ranging from prenatal to parenting instruction about infants, toddlers and older children, along with relationship classes, money management and more.

"Baby Bucks" earned through Earn While You Learn can be redeemed for baby furniture and items from the center's Baby Bucks store, including gift cards for gas, groceries and to obtain car seats from the Baker City Police Department.

Along with in-person classes at the Center, online classes have been added during the pandemic. The online sessions are available through livestreaming via the Zoom computer app or online by text message to cellphones and email, Grove said.

A post-abortion recovery Bible study class titled "Surrendering the Secret" also has been added to the curriculum

for clients seeking emotional and spiritual healing. A Rachel Center brochure lists these free, confidential services that it provides in the community:

Pregnancy help

- Pregnancy tests/verification
- Referral for free ultrasound
- Pregnancy options counseling
- Maternity clothes

Parenting Help

- Encouragement and counseling
 - Baby clothes up to size 3
 - Baby furniture and items
 - Diapers and formula
 - Referrals to other help
- Volunteer positions available at the Center include: office assistant, client advocate/peer counselor, clothing assistant, teacher, church liaison and fundraiser. In addition to financial gifts, the Rachel Center is always in need of baby clothes, especially size 18

months to 3T, and maternity clothes, Grove said. Diapers and wipes, formula and baby food, and baby furniture also are a need.

Grove shared this client comment from a young teen who took prenatal and infant care classes: "I love how nice, understanding people are. They always offer help or advice. There is no judgment and they all just want to help out. Being a first time mom is scary enough but this place helps with pretty much all the preparing and makes things less scary."

The Rachel Pregnancy Center is led by a board of directors, which includes Patricia Hoelscher, Cathy Blankinship, Jesse Whitford, Allyson Howarth and Grove.

More information is available by visiting the office or calling 541-523-5357 during business hours. Grove also may be reached by email at rpc.director1@gmail.com or visit the center's Facebook page.

Search planned for woman missing since early January

The (La Grande) Observer

MEACHAM — Umatilla County Search and Rescue and Oregon State Police are coordinating a multi-agency search Saturday, May 8, and Sunday, May 9, near Meacham for Deborah Hendrichs, the 56-year-old woman from Star, Idaho, who went missing in the area on Jan. 11.

The search will concentrate on areas on the eastbound side of Interstate 84 near milepost 238, where her abandoned vehicle was found after she was reported missing, according to a press release from the Umatilla County Sheriff's Office. Search areas include portions along I-84, Hancock Road, the railroad and bridge and area creeks, bodies of water and wooded land.

"This will be a robust search response with multiple agencies involved," the release stated. "Approximately 90 personnel have committed to assist in the search, including possibly 10 K-9 teams, four drones and about 35 ground searchers. The actual number will not be known until participants check in on (May 8)."

The sheriff's office also is asking the general public to remain out of the area unless they are residents and requesting that hunters with spring turkey or bear tags be aware there are searchers in the area and to choose an alternate hunt location during those days. And locals living in the area, especially near Meacham Lake, should be aware the search will use four drones.

"The drones will not be concentrating on occupied areas or invading privacy of homes," according to the press release. "They will be concentrating on areas away from occupied buildings and bodies of water. Searchers on the ground will also be staying away from occupied homes, however if a home appears to have been vacant throughout the winter or looks broken into, they will notify the land owner in an attempt to eliminate any possibility that she entered an unoccupied residence."

Personnel with the Oregon Department of Transportation and Union Pacific Railroad have provided a liaison to ensure safety of the search personnel because the area includes the interstate and railroad lines. ODOT also provided the location for an incident command post.

Union Pacific Railroad, Cunningham Sheep Company and Hancock Timber Resource Group have been contacted and are cooperating with searchers because these businesses own a large portion of the search area.

Sheriff's Lt. Sterrin Ward said the project includes the development of a website on this mission at sterrinward.wixsite.com/website. The website also is where the mission will provide updates.



Contributed Photos

Two photos of Deborah Hendrichs, an Idaho woman who went missing Jan. 11 near Meacham.

Bentz joins criticism of Idaho legislator's dam breach plan

By Nicholas K. Geranios
Associated Press

SPOKANE, Wash. — Some Republican members of Congress from the Northwest are accusing a GOP Idaho lawmaker of conducting secret negotiations with the Democratic governor of Oregon over a controversial proposal to breach four dams on the Snake River to save endangered salmon runs.

But Rep. Mike Simpson, R-Idaho, replied that he has for several years been telling "everyone who would listen" about his proposal for a comprehensive solution to save salmon.

"How is that secret?" Simpson asked this week. "My staff has had discussions with nearly every governor, member of Congress, and U.S. senator in the Columbia Basin on this proposal."

Simpson's plan to remove the Ice Harbor, Little Goose, Lower Granite, and Lower Monumental dams also includes a 35-year moratorium

on lawsuits, ending costly litigation over the dams' environmental impact. That provision prompted more than a dozen Northwest environmental groups to oppose the plan. Democratic lawmakers have also been lukewarm to the proposal.

On Wednesday, May 5, Reps. Dan Newhouse, R-Washington, Cathy McMorris Rodgers, R-Washington, and Cliff Bentz, R-Oregon, issued a strongly worded statement upon learning of a Freedom of Information Act release detailing coordination between the offices of Simpson and Oregon Gov. Kate Brown regarding the proposal to breach the four dams.

"For months, Rep. Simpson has been speaking with us about his sweeping dam-breaching proposal, touting transparency and an open

process while telling us it was simply a 'legislative concept for the Northwest delegation to consider,' the lawmakers, who oppose breaching the dams, said.

"What he didn't tell us was that he has been coordinating for months with Oregon Governor Kate Brown's staff behind the scenes to shepherd his proposal through Congress with little to no support from Pacific Northwest representatives — Republican or Democrat," the lawmakers said.

"It's clear this proposal is not just a starting point, but rather a radical and fully-baked plan he is actively seeking to put into law," they said.

The three Republicans also suggest Simpson's discussions with Brown could hurt an agreement signed last year by the governors of Washington, Idaho, Oregon and Montana to work together on solving an issue that has bedeviled the Northwest for decades.



Bentz

New At The Library

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See everything new this week to Baker County Library District at wowbrary.org,

FICTION

- "Hour of the Witch," Chris Bohjalian
- "Robert B. Parker's Payback," Mike Lupica
- "The Forest of Stolen Girls," June Hur
- "The Most Beautiful Girl in Cuba," Chanel Cleeton
- "The Prison Healer," Lynette Noni

NONFICTION

- "What Happened To You?," Bruce D. Perry, Oprah Winfrey
- "Cook This Book," Molly Baz
- "Mom Genes," Abigail Tucker
- "The Righteous Mind: Why Good People Are Divided By Politics and Religion," Jonathan Haidt
- "The Women of the Bible Speak," Shannon Bream

DVDS

- "All My Life" (drama)
- "Another Round" (comedy)
- "Shadow in the Cloud" (horror)
- "Soul" (family)
- "You Never Had It: An Evening with Bukowski" (documentary)



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