

Echo Toy Run kicks holiday spirit into gear



Staff photo by Tammy Malgesini

With a giant teddy bear under one arm, Richard Brittain of Umatilla grabs a bag with other toys during the 16th annual Echo Toy Run. About 125 bikers and numerous passenger vehicles participated in Saturday's ride to deliver toys to Good Shepherd Medical Center in Hermiston.



Staff photo by Tammy Malgesini

Kelly Sanders, center, vice president of human resources at Good Shepherd Medical Center, applauds the efforts of bikers from throughout the region who participated in Saturday's Echo Toy Run.



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A teddy bear prepares for a special delivery to Good Shepherd Medical Center during Saturday's 16th annual Echo Toy Run.

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Jon "Bear" Carr of Pendleton edges into line during Saturday's Echo Toy Run. After longtime organizer Al Sells died this summer, bikers from throughout the region braved rainy conditions to carry on the tradition the Stanfield man started 16 years ago. In addition to about 125 motorcycles, dozens of cars and trucks also delivered toys to Good Shepherd Medical Center in Hermiston.



Staff photo by Tammy Malgesini

Santa Claus, aka Phil Spencer, and his wife, Beth, both of Hermiston, prepare to lead the pack on their 2006 Honda VTX 1800 during Saturday's Echo Toy Run. In its 16th year, the event was held in memory of longtime organizer Al Sells, who died this past summer in a motorcycle crash. About 125 bikers, as well as dozens of cars and trucks, delivered toys to Good Shepherd Medical Center in Hermiston.

COLUMN

Ask a Lawyer: How do I collect back child support?

Editor's note: This is the first answer in our new "Ask a Lawyer" column series with Hermiston attorney Blaine Clooten of Clooten Law. To submit questions for future columns, email editor@hermistonherald.com.

Question: How do I go about collecting back child support when he lives in Canada and I can't afford a lawyer?

I really need a bit more information, like is there a current order, and if so, when it was put in place? But generally, you can go to the Division of Child Support's website (www.doj.state.or.us/child-support/apply-for-support/how-to-apply-for-child-support-services/) and file an application for child support if it is a new case.

DCS will have to serve him in Canada, which should be doable if they can find him or if he has an actual address. If there



Blaine Clooten

is already an order in place, then you can contact the local DCS office (Child Support Services, 216 SE Fourth St. in Pendleton, 541-278-6280) to get in contact with the case manager and to talk about enforcement.

Essentially, if he went off to hide in Canada and is working under the table, it is going to be very difficult to get the back child support. Also, the Circuit Court can only back date child support from the time of filing, so you are not going to get five years' worth of child support if you have not yet filed.

This is the general policy of the court. Finally, a moving party must keep in mind that if they seek child support, their party's paternity must be established if it has not already, which will give the other parent the right to move (ask) for parenting time, and even custody through circuit court. DCS cannot award custody

of the child to one or the other party.

The way that child support is enforced if the paying party refuses to pay is by garnishing wages and suspending a driver's license. If the other party is not working or doesn't drive, then it will be difficult. The other question is whether or not the other party is a citizen of Canada, which will raise jurisdictional questions regarding the enforcement. My guess is that it wouldn't be the first time the child support enforcement Deputy District Attorney has dealt with this question, and so starting with calling DCS would be the best course of action.

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