

NEWS BRIEFING

A LOOK AT THIS MORNING'S HEADLINES

Casino developers offer \$12,500 each to Creswell residents



CRESWELL (AP) — Residents of this Western Oregon town are mulling over an offer from developers to pay them \$12,500 each if they support a proposed American Indian casino.

The offer, which came in Tuesday's edition of *The Creswell Chronicle*, is a tempting one for many residents of the town of 2,610, about 12 miles south of Eugene.

Many people are single parents, unemployed and money is sorely needed, said Kari Bridges, a single mother of two and a waitress at TJ's Family Restaurant.

"I think it's great," said Bridges, who supports the developers. "I could use it. But that amount of money wouldn't make me change my mind if I was against it."

The ad contains an "opinion ballot" asking residents to check off whether they support or oppose a casino east of Interstate 5. It offers a direct payment of about \$10 million to residents.

The developers say they would pay every adult about \$2,500 annually over a five-year period, starting two years after the casino opens — but only if a majority of residents age 21 and older show support.

"If we don't have a majority, all bets are off," lead developer Wayne Johnson said.

Creswell Mayor Eddie McClusky, who opposes the casino, said he wasn't convinced the developers' offer was legitimate.

Discrimination probe of Hooters restaurants dropped by EEOC



TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — The government has quietly ended its four-year sexual discrimination probe of Hooters, coming to the same conclusion as its sometimes snickering critics: We have better things to do.

The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission had demanded a \$22 million fine from the 170-restaurant chain after looking into complaints by four Chicago men who said they were denied the chance to serve suds alongside buxom young waitresses.

The EEOC also wanted Hooters to hire male waiters, compensate any men it had turned down for jobs, and set up a scholarship fund to enhance employment opportunities for men.

Ridiculous, said Rep. Harris Fawell, R-Ill., who had questioned the investigation, given the agency's limited financial resources and heavy caseload.

Columnists had a field day as Hooters fought both the EEOC and a private lawsuit filed by the men, asserting a constitutional right to have only females squeeze into its skimpy orange shorts and tight white shirts.

The chain even put out a mocking ad campaign that featured a burly, mustachioed man — Vince Gigliotti, who manages a Hooters in Tampa — wearing a blonde wig, short shorts, stuffed shirt and bedroom eyes.

The caption: "Come on, Washington. Get a grip."

Cubans demonstrate against U.S. embargo in May Day parade



HAVANA (AP) — In a flamboyant celebration of communism designed to defy the United States, Fidel Castro presided over a May Day parade Wednesday with hundreds of thousands of marchers waving Cuban flags and carrying anti-American banners.

Cuba's first full-blown May Day celebration in three years also was meant to show renewed confidence and resources as the country recovers from a disastrous economic crisis caused by the collapse of its socialist allies in Europe.

Patriotic music blasted from loudspeakers across the Plaza of the Revolution as Castro stood on a marble platform and peered through binoculars at the river of marchers. Above him was a 450-foot tower honoring Cuba's independence hero Jose Marti.

For the past two years, only small neighborhood gatherings marked the traditional socialist and communist workers holiday, with officials saying there wasn't enough fuel or transportation for a big celebration.

Cuban officials billed this year's march as a rejection of the Helms-Burton Act that tightens the U.S. embargo of Cuba, and as a reaffirmation of Cuba's communist principles.

Pedro Ross, the head of the Cuban labor movement, opened the march with the traditional cry of "Socialism or death! Fatherland or death! We will be victorious!"

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