

Boosting Off-Season Tourism:

by Waves Forest

Since tourism is a major part of this valley’s economy, sometimes we wonder about ways to expand on that, and keep those tourists entertained all year long.

Now, some might not wish to prolong the tourist season into the winter months. They may feel that we could all use several months off after being showered with riches from the vast hordes of tourists passing through during the warm season.

Here we must respect tradition and simply ignore the dissenting opinions.

We should concede up front, we have no marketing or promotional background whatsoever. But that shouldn’t prevent us from coming up with ideas just as harebrained as those from any professional.

The first thing a marketing expert would say, probably, if we bothered to check with one, is that we’ll need a good motto. Cave Junction’s official motto, prepare to be surprised, is “Gateway To The Oregon Caves.” Well that’s great, when the Caves are open, but what about during the other six months of the year?

So we really ought to adopt a

second motto for the off-season. How about:

“Cave Junction: Gateway To Kerby,” or “It’s The Primates,” or “We Voted Down The Levy that Would Have Paid For A Motto,” or “Meth Users Stole Our Motto and Sold it to the Scrapyard.”

If you can think of something better, which shouldn’t be too difficult, it is your civic duty to present it to the Cave Junction City Council (motto: “We Aren’t Getting Paid For This, You Know”) at their next meeting. Get there early, because it’s always standing room only, what with all the concerned involved citizens with no TV or internet for entertainment.

The established procedure is to call out your suggestions from the back of the room during a totally unrelated discussion. They really like that, especially when you’ve had plenty of alcohol before the meeting, and you aren’t even a Cave Junction resident.

Wait, sorry, that’s the County Commissioner meetings. City Council meetings are models of decorum. Or is it decoherence. Whatever.

What the heck were we talking about? Tourism, right. The

Caves are our big claim to fame, but visitors often notice that we don’t appear to have any actual caves in Cave Junction. Our answer to that is, not yet, but we do have a lot of shovels. And several empty lots. Just pointing that out.

The Oregon Caves are always 44 degrees inside, which means it’s actually warmer in the caves than outside for most of the winter. So it seems like sort of a waste not to let people go in the caves when it’s colder outside.

Maybe someone with a snowplow would be willing to keep the road clear in exchange for a lifetime pass, and plenty of beer. The usual tour guides have mostly flown south for the winter, but some might like to keep going all year. For that matter, self-guided cave tours were good enough for our remote ancestors, right? Just have everyone sign waivers saying they won’t hold anyone responsible, especially whoever came up with this idea, if they get injured or lost or eaten by subterranean sasquatches.

We should also promote our other assets more. The Snow Park won’t be a major ski resort anytime

soon, so what else do we have? There are lots of very big cats, including a few dozen on display at their own special gated community. As for the others, remind visitors to travel in pairs and carry big sticks. Actually maybe it’s better PR to only mention the ones at the cat park.

Less dangerous, but just as fascinating, we have a community called Takilma where visitors can observe hippies roaming free in their natural habitat. Move quietly so as not to startle them. Self-guided tours are free, though visitors often spend a lot of money on food when they return to town.

Takilma’s businesses are spread out among the homes instead of clumped together. There’s minimal regulatory oversight, which everyone gets along just fine without. Hence the innovative architecture. The charms of Takilma really deserve their own article, or book, but here are just a few: The Community Building, where hundreds gather for musical events. Hope Mountain Radio, TakilmaFM.com, putting the “Arrr” back in radio. The Takilma Longhouse, to be dedicated by early summer. The Hippie Museum, a

triumph of miniaturization, Tree Houses and Unregistered UFOs.

The Smokejumper Base sounds like something in Takilma, but it’s not.

Appealing to quite another demographic, we have some world-class wineries, which are responsible for many of the return visitors. (They come for the Caves, stop at the wineries, eventually forget what they came here for, and have to come back another day to walk through the caves.)

Some of our region’s most appealing assets are a bit difficult to cash in on. For example, our citizens generate more irony per capita than nearly any other place in the US, but have thus far been unsuccessful at exporting commercial quantities to irony-deprived regions. Ironic, isn’t it?

Anyway these are only a few humble suggestions, though “humble” might not quite cover it, for increasing tourism in the greater Cave Junction area, also known as the Illinois Valley (motto: “What Marijuana? Those Fences Are For All The Nudists”).

Cougar safety:

By the Oregon Dept. of Fish & Wildlife.

If you live in cougar country:

- Learn your neighborhood. Be aware of any wildlife corridors or places where deer or elk concentrate.
 - Walk pets during the day and keep them on a leash.
 - Keep pets indoors at dawn and dusk. Shelter them for the night.
 - Feed pets indoors.
 - Don’t leave food and garbage outside.
 - Use animal-proof garbage cans if necessary.
 - Remove heavy brush from near the house and play areas.
 - Install motion-activated light outdoors along walkways and driveways.
 - Be more cautious at dawn and dusk when cougars are most active.
 - Do not feed any wildlife. By attracting other wildlife, you may attract a cougar.
 - Keep areas around bird feeders clean.
 - Deer-proof your garden and yard with nets, lights, fencing.
 - Fence and shelter livestock. Move them to sheds or barns at night.
- ## If You Recreate in Cougar Country:
- Be aware of your surroundings at all times.
 - Leave your dog at home or keep it on a leash. Pets running free may lead a cougar back to you.
 - Hike in groups. Make noise to alert wildlife of your presence.
 - Keep children close to you. Teach them about wildlife.
 - Keep campsites clean. Sleep 100 yards

from cooking areas.

- Store food in animal-proof containers.
 - Carry deterrent spray.
 - Be cautious at dusk and dawn.
 - Never feed any wildlife. Prey attracts predators.
 - Do not approach any wildlife; stay at least 100 yards away.
 - Steer clear of baby wildlife. Mother is likely nearby.
 - Be alert when sitting quietly or stopping to rest.
 - Be especially alert at dawn and dusk when cougars are most active.
 - Be aware that animal calls and animal kills can attract a cougar.
- ## If You Encounter a Cougar:
- Cougars often will retreat if given the opportunity. Leave the animal a way to escape.
 - Stay calm and stand your ground.
 - Maintain direct eye contact.
 - Pick up children, but do so without bending down or turning your back on the cougar.
 - Back away slowly.
 - Do not run. Running triggers a chase response in cougars, which could lead to an attack.
 - Raise your voice and speak firmly.
 - If the cougar seems aggressive, raise your arms to make yourself look larger and clap your hands.
 - If in the very unusual event that a cougar attacks you, fight back with rocks, sticks, tools or any items available.

Quake ... Continued from A-1

Another piece of the puzzle, according to John Roth, a geologist at the Oregon Caves National Monument, are sediment studies at Sanger and Bolan Lakes.

“These studies indicate that significant shaking from large offshore earthquakes can extend far inland, even as far east as Squaw Lake, at the foot of the Cascades,” Roth said. “Lake core samples suggest shaking at Sanger Lake that correspond to known dates of coastal shaking.”

Goldfinger also explained how he’s worked for ten years on marine subduction sediments, but that the discovery of the sediments in the inland lakes provided strong preliminary evidence.

“The way the sediment was swept into the lake is more consistent with shaking from earthquakes than from landslides caused by slopes destabilized by large fires, as was previously believed,” Goldfinger said. “Our goal now is to try to determine how much

shaking occurs inland and how far inland.”

Another contributing factor to more frequent large earthquakes in the south may be how the angle of the seafloor slab being subducted changes from north to south.

“The angle of the subducting plate seems steeper here and this may cause more stickiness or friction on the plates, resulting in more frequent but smaller quakes,” Roth said.

Goldfinger noted that a southern Cascadia zone quake may not be a 9.0, but could still be a “big one,” probably around an 8.0 to 8.2. He said it would not be a hard snap, but would produce several minutes of “long rolling” that creates ground waves.

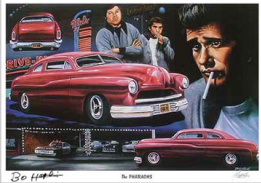
Goldfinger added that brick structures like those seen in a lot of schools and banks are most vulnerable to such an event. He added that wooden-framed buildings bolted to solid foundations will bend and thus better withstand this kind of earthquake.

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