

Local News

Artist channels Warm Springs culture

BY LEO BAUDHUIN
Redmond Spokesman

Speakthunder Berry strung the bottom of his drum together with a long strip of wet rawhide before wrapping the strings into the shape of a cross. After making sure the face of the drum was even and tight, Berry set the drum in a patch of sun to dry.

Besides the drums, Speakthunder's table at the Deschutes County Fair featured a variety of pieces that ranged from coastal Salish-style paintings to jewelry.

"When you look at the art, you'll see all of those familiar shapes you see on totem poles, longhouses and carvings in Seattle and that whole area," Berry said.

His "inter-tribal coastal art" combines his mother's Puyallup heritage with his Nakota Sioux side, along with influences from the Seven Drums Religion, which Berry began practicing growing up on the Warm Springs Reservation. He also works in his family's horseman lineage.

"I like to take the good out of each one and hold onto it," he said.

Speakthunder Art is "unapologetically for-profit," as Berry puts it, with the goal of promoting food sovereignty and self-sufficiency in both tribal and non-tribal communities.

Berry said he doesn't believe in depending on the government, since both sides of the American political spectrum have taken away tribal rights,



Speakthunder Berry paints an eagle on one of his handmade drums at his booth at the Deschutes County Fair.

Photo by Leo Baudhuin/Spokesman

implemented policies that harm the land and tried to destroy Native American reservations and the people who live on them.

"I think that all communities should come together out of division and create a community that is self-reliant, self-independent, everyone puts their differences aside to feed their children," he said, pointing toward the United States' polarized political climate. "Because that's

what it's all about. It's about our kids."

He wants to help people — Indigenous or otherwise — establish that sovereignty and community care for themselves, relying on things like farming, solar power and food preservation.

"The community as a whole, there's a lot of good people, a lot of good longhouse people with good hearts, good teachings," he said. "But a lot of people

have gone astray, fall into alcoholism, drugs and other things like that, addictions. We live in one of the poorest communities in the nation."

Many of the houses on the Warm Springs reservation don't have running water, Berry said, and some people's homes are so dilapidated that they set up tents inside them. The community faces high mortality and crime rates, he said.

"We are originally godly

people," he said. "People who believe in the Creator, equality, taking care of your neighbor."

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs largely practice the Seven Drums Religion, a monotheistic Christ-based faith that dates back to pre-colonial times. Berry is no exception, and he carries those teachings into his art.

There's no one right way to make a drum, he said. He learned his craft from watch-

ing his grandpa work, then updated it by putting his own beliefs into the craftsmanship.

"You always have to have good feelings in your heart," he said, tightening the back of a drum. "If you're angry, if you're sad, if you're crying, you do not touch this. You don't do artwork, you don't create anything with your hands, you don't even cook or serve water or anything until you feel better. Until your mind is clear."

Following a universal Indigenous practice, Berry gave away the first drum he made. He's still planning on offering his art to Native people for free as he expands, he said.

But he also wants his work to be financially viable. Berry has plans to expand through Central Oregon and beyond — hopefully with support from other businesses and the people around him.

"I'm learning how to find success through my culture, and I want to teach that and share that," Berry said. Those living on his reservation need money, he said.

"I want to teach people how to make \$1,000 a day," Berry said. "Because we literally do that. We're buying a house, have a huge truck, a really nice car. We're making a real living. And I think other people can too."

Berry's art is available for sale at speakthunderart.com.

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Gas prices keep some close to home

BY BILL BARTLETT

For The Redmond Spokesman

High gas prices are causing Redmond residents to rethink their summer travel plans, and some have canceled far flung adventures to stay closer to home.

Hal and Lindy Cunningham used to go to British Columbia each summer, an 11-hour drive covering the 461 miles to Nanaimo, a city on Vancouver Island where the temperature last week was 20 degrees cooler than Redmond. But high gas prices, and the rising prices of everything else, convinced them to vacation closer to home this year.

Instead, the Cunninghams are headed to the Wallows and Eagle Cap Wilderness in northeast Oregon — another cooler option, but one much closer to home.

"That's half the gas and half the time and every bit as beautiful as B.C.," Hal said.

"And we're keeping our money in Oregon which feels good," Lindy added.

The Cunninghams aren't the only ones changing travel plans. Bev and Walt Masters would head for Port Townsend and the Olympic Peninsula every August. It took more than six hours to drive the 346 miles to a spot where, last week, temperatures were topping out at a cool 75 degrees.

The Masters are instead on their way to the Oregon coast — more specifically, Florence.

"We did the math," said Bev.

"It's what we learned in school ... the shortest distance between two points is a straight line," said Walt. "It's 190 miles, all on (Highway) 126, no road changes and we're there in 3 and a half hours."

They are leaving after breakfast and expect to have lunch in Old Town Florence where one day last week the high was — wait for it — just 63 degrees. The gas savings is about \$45 each way, a \$90 benefit for the couple.

AIR TRAVEL

While the number of passengers flying from Roberts Field is steadily growing, June enplanements were 48,492, only a small gain over 2021 when COVID was still stalling



FILE- Drivers line up for gas at Fred Meyer in Bend on March 8.

travel that saw 42,933 passengers take off. RDM boarded 45,427 in June of 2019 before the pandemic so there is growth, albeit slow.

Across the U.S year air traffic in the first six months of 2022 was up 5.2% following pent up demand but is receding in the face of air fares that have increased by more than 37% and frequent delays and cancellations, some historic.

It's those flight interruption reports that are keeping Roger and Marti Baker close to home in Redmond. They're making day trips about once a month. Last week they went west over the Santiam Pass and did the waterfall loop following 126 out and 242 back taking in Cline, Sahalie, Koo-Sah and Proxy Falls along the way all in under eight hours.

Next week they're going to make a Fossil, John Day, Painted Hills loop up 97, across 218, down 207 and home on 26. That 253 mile outing will take 5.25 hours, some 8 hours with stops.

"We don't need to go the Grand Canyon or Glacier. We've got it all right here and with over \$6 gallon for

my diesel pick up, absolutely no way we're gonna leave our great state this summer," Roger insisted.

Indeed, it looks like more and more Redmonders are discovering or rediscovering what's in their back yards. This follows national trends. A study by George Mason University's Schar School of Policy and Government found that gas prices were a factor for 61% of respondents answering the question about what could impact their vacation plans. Hotel and lodging prices were mentioned by 52%, the same number who said flight prices were affecting their plans.

Early estimates are that attendance at the recently-completed Deschutes County Fair are up substantially probably setting another record.

Ward Paulson worked the ticket window Saturday. "It never let up all day," he said. "Every time I looked out the window there were dozens of people in line."

Redmonders Cory and Britany Reynolds hadn't been to the county fair for years.

"Usually at fair time we

were camping and fishing on the Umpqua, but the price of gas was just too much so we rounded up the kids and came to the fair," said Cory, who was pleased with the decision. "Saved a ton of money and had an incredible time."

NATIONWIDE CHANGE OF PLANS

A new survey suggests a new trend for 2022, indicating a rise in desire for closer-to-home adventures and staycations. The Vacationer surveyed more than 1,000 Americans adults about their thoughts on staycations and whether they'd consider taking one this year.

Of the respondents, over 67 percent of those surveyed said they already have or are planning a staycation.

A study by Bankrate found that 69 percent of American adults who say they will vacation this summer anticipate making changes to their plans because of inflation, with 25 percent traveling shorter distances and 23 percent planning less expensive activities. Among people planning to take time off, a staycation was the second most-popular option, behind heading to the beach.

A different report released in May by travel review website TripAdvisor found that 74 percent of American travelers were "extremely concerned" about inflation; 32 percent were planning to take shorter trips this summer and 31 percent were planning to travel close to home.

Luckily for Redmond residents, staying close to home can be rich in rewards.

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Redmond man charged with encouraging sex abuse of children

BY TIM TRAINOR

Redmond Spokesman

Police arrested a Redmond man August 9 and charged him with 16 counts of encouraging child sex abuse.

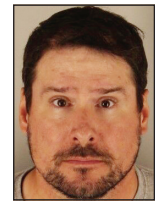
Brian Zollman, 47, was charged with six counts of encouraging child abuse in the first degree and ten more counts of the same crime in the second degree.

According to Redmond Police, officers spent four months investigating Zollman before executing a search warrant on his home Tuesday. According to a release,

the organization received help from The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force and the Central Oregon Digital Forensic Laboratory.

Police believe Zollman had access to children in both Redmond and Bend. If your child had contact with Zollman over the past year, or have information regarding the case, contact Redmond Police through its non-emergency number: 541-693-6911.

Zollman has been lodged at the Deschutes County Jail.



Zollman



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