



# Metro/Business

Remember April 17th is deadline for tax returns - 2 extra days from Uncle Sam

## Study indicates casinos draw tourist dollars

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tourist spending is growing faster in the eight counties with tribal casinos than the remaining 28 counties in Oregon, and the number of jobs is growing along with the gambling, according to a new study.

Tourist spending in counties with casinos grew at an 8.4 percent annual rate between 1993 when the first casino opened and 1998.

Elsewhere, spending grew 5 percent. Job growth appeared to mirror spending.

In the eight casino counties, employment grew at a 6.4 percent rate compared to 2.7 percent in the rest of the state between 1993 and 1998.

In addition, the study done for the Oregon Tourism Commission indicated that four of the state's eight casinos made the list of top 10 Oregon attractions in 1999.

Spirit Mountain Casino in Grand Ronde bumped longtime No. 1 attraction Multnomah Falls as the top Oregon destination last year with an estimated 3 million visitors.

The figures indicate that casinos are competing with other visitor centers the state has worked to develop as part of its effort to expand so-called "destination" tourism that encourage people to spend more time and money in Oregon.

"The casinos are just something else people can do on a rainy day," said Julie Curtis, assistant director for the Oregon Tourism Commission. "It's another thing to do. Not everyone wants to go backpacking."

In the past decade, various businesses and organizations have been aggressively building new attractions.

Between 1990 and 2000, Oregon gained seven new museums or interpretative centers, the Oregon Convention Center in Portland and the Oregon Coast Aquarium. The Oregon Garden, a 240-acre botanical garden located near Silverton, opened earlier this month, and is scheduled for its formal "grand" opening in 2001.

Destination travel has become increasingly important to the state's visitor industry. "We are in the early stages of becoming a more diverse and sophisticated tourism destination," Curtis said. "We don't just want 'windshield' tourism. We want to provide ways for visitors to spend more money and more days here."

But it has been the eight casinos that have been packing in visitors consistently. Areas without casinos have worried that tourists would abandon their towns for the gambling meccas.

"Everyone gets nervous when an

800-pound gorilla comes to town," said Steve Lamb, owner of Catch The Wind kite stores based in Lincoln City, now home to the Chinook Winds Casino.

But even though the casinos may have diverted some visitor traffic, they have helped increase overall spending and employment in the tourism industry.

In Oregon, the tourism industry grew at a 5.6 percent annual rate from 1993 to 1998 higher than the national average of about 4 percent.

Also, growth from the casinos is expected to slow as the gaming industry matures and its novelty wears off. Eventually, business leaders expect tourist dollars to be spread more evenly.

"With the casino, the pie grew in Lincoln City," said Guy Di Torrice, manager for the Oregon Coast Visitors Association and the Central Oregon Coast Association.

The tribes, meanwhile, are looking for new ways to attract visitors, said Bob Whelen, a senior economist with Portland-based consulting firm ECONorthwest.

"Many of these casinos are in remote areas," Whelen said. "They'll really have to make themselves destinations to attract the non-gambling travelers. The casino lure as a destination has pretty much been maxed out."

## Miller considered one of nation's top turnaround experts for troubled companies

ASSOCIATED PRESS

If you need a major corporation turned around or just some work on your model railroad, Steve Miller is the man to call.

Robert S. "Steve" Miller Jr. was the right-hand man to former Chrysler Chairman Lee Iacocca before he began his career advising and rescuing troubled companies.

The Wall Street Journal prominently mentioned him four times during the past month, including a Page One story pegged to trouble he ran into while trying to turn around Waste Management, the nation's largest trash hauler.

Miller graduated in 1959 from Beaverton High School, followed by Harvard Law School and Stanford Business School. His early ties to Oregon keep pulling him back, and he has a house in Sunriver where he also presides over the Coos and Deschutes Railroad.

It may be the smallest venture he has ever led — mostly because it is confined to his basement. Miller and his wife, Maggie, are laying 800 feet of nickel-silver track to build a \$100,000 miniature railroad. The tracks have 80,000 tiny steel spikes individually tacked to 20,000 two-inch pine ties that Miller carefully sands and stains to look authentic.

"He has a fascination with order and regularity," says his son, Robert S. "Robin" Miller III, a Bandon attorney. "He likes to take disorder and create a well-organized by-the-clock operation."

His reputation for restoring order has helped the elder Miller log 2,673,500 miles of travel since 1980, which he meticulously records on

his computer for date, type of plane, airline, destination and mileage.

He says he really wants to retire for good, but he's been wooed out of retirement five times.

He's served as president of Morrison Knudsen in Boise, twice as chief executive officer of Waste Management, in Chicago and Houston, and as president of Reliance Group Holdings in New York, all troubled companies, some on the brink of collapse.

"Steve is a one-person profession, a rent-a-CEO," says Gerald Greenwald, a longtime friend and associate who recruited Miller to Chrysler and, most recently, to Aetna, which is fighting takeover attempts while trying to reorganize.

Miller, 58, currently is an adviser to the president of troubled Aetna, the nation's largest medical insurer, based in Hartford, Conn.

He credits much of his success to his father, the late Robert S. "Bob" Miller, senior partner of the prominent Portland law firm of Miller Nash and legal counsel to Georgia-Pacific.

In 1942, at age 31, Miller's father became the youngest law school dean in the nation when he took over at Northwestern School of Law in Portland.

"Most of my life was trying to make my dad proud of me," Miller said. "That probably drives a lot of people. But it was very important to me to succeed in his eyes, and it was very important for me to succeed on my own."

When Miller was still in high school, his father took him to Washington, D.C., where, after meeting several senators and representatives, he told his son, "You can be president some day if you want to." Miller translated

that to mean, "If I wasn't president, I wouldn't succeed."

But he went against his father's wishes when he decided to enter the business world and leave Oregon, where his grandfather, D.H. Miller, made the family wealthy with the purchase of the Moore Mill in 1948.

The family owned four mills at one time, but now manages about 40,000 acres of timber, most of it near Bandon on the Oregon coast.

Miller has two brothers, David, now president of Moore Mill, and Randy, a Republican state senator from Lake Oswego, and a sister, Barbara Beale. The four make up the Moore Mill board of directors.

But Miller's first job was in Detroit in 1968 with Ford Motor Co., leaving him to climb the corporate ladder all by himself.

"Nobody in Detroit cared two figs whether I had a prominent father in Portland," Miller said. Nobody asked; nobody cared."

Miller now spends much of his time in New York nowadays, and at 6-foot-4, tends to stand out in the Manhattan crowd.

It's Miller's experience with bankers, dating back to his Chrysler days, that makes him especially valuable to companies.

"I know banks and how they behave in stressful situations," Miller said. "I talk their language."

But lately, he admits he's more interested in things like getting his model railroad into shape.

"There are times when I get busy and get frustrated, and ask why am I doing this," he said of his post-retirement career as a corporate turnaround artist. "I really want to retire."

## Two extra days, extended IRS hours

CONTRIBUTED STORY FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

This year, taxpayers have until midnight on Monday, April 17, to file their 1999 tax returns because the regular due date, April 15, falls on a Saturday.

And those who have put off filing until the final days will find that the IRS will be working some overtime to help them meet the deadline.

Taxpayers can visit IRS walk-in

offices to pick up forms and get answers to last minute questions. Those with completed returns can file them and make tax payments, and the IRS will date-stamp their forms and checks or money orders. The offices will also accept and date-stamp completed extension forms.

Oregon taxpayers can call the IRS at 1-800-829-1040 with their tax questions seven days a week, 24 hours a day. They also can get answers to questions and download forms by

visiting the IRS Web site, [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov).

Schedule of IRS Walk-In Offices in Portland  
1220 SW Third Avenue (Green/Wyatt Federal Building): Monday, Wednesday, Friday — 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Tuesday, Thursday — 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.  
Saturday — 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
Sunday, April 16 — 12:30 to 5:30 p.m.  
Monday, April 17 — 8 a.m. to midnight

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## Clinton touts importance of Census 2000

As he issues a proclamation to commemorate April 1, 2000 as "Census Day," President Clinton will call on all Americans to respond to the census. The U.S. Constitution requires the federal government to conduct a census every 10 years, and information from the census is vital to ensure fair representation in the Congress, to distribute billions in government funding, and to other important decisions. Because the 1990 census missed 8.4 million people — including many children, minorities, and low-income Americans — the Census Bureau is engaged in a massive mobilization effort to count all Americans.

Only about half of Americans have mailed in their census forms. Noting this, the President will urge all Americans to complete and mail in their forms or respond to the census online (as vice President Gore has done) by going to the Census web page, [www.2000.census.gov](http://www.2000.census.gov). He will also call on federal employees and his Cabinet to lead this effort by their own example.

Census Information Affects Vital Decisions About Our Everyday Lives.

Every question on the census form is approved by Congress and required by law. These questions help the government and communities determine where to build schools, child care facilities, head Start centers, homes, hospitals, senior centers, job training program, roads, and supermarkets. For instance, a question on the long form about commuting time will help transportation planners design new roads and mass transit systems. The President will release a report from his Council of Economic Advisers that demonstrates how businesses, community organizations and academics use census data to make research, planning, hiring and other critical decisions. A low response rate would provide inaccurate information for these important decisions that impact our everyday lives.

Reassuring Americans About The Confidentiality Of All Census

Information.

The President will reassure the public that all census information is absolutely confidential and, by law, cannot be shared with anyone outside the Census Bureau for any reason.

He will add that Census Bureau employees are subject to stiff penalties if they violate that trust. The President will also point out that completing the Census 2000 forms is not burdensome: the short form, which the vast majority of Americans receive, is the shortest it's been since 1820; the long form, which goes to only one in every six households, is the shortest in its history. Every question on both forms, the President will note, has been reviewed by Congress.

But more important, information from the long form is critical for important public policy decisions, from helping communities design mass transit systems to providing 911 emergency services. The information also helps the government calculate cost-of-living increases for Social Security.

## Senior Property Tax deferral deadline is April 17

CONTRIBUTED STORY FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The Oregon Department of Revenue reminds taxpayers that April 17 is the deadline for filing applications with county assessors for the senior property tax deferral program.

"The senior deferral program allows qualified senior citizens to defer payment of their property taxes on their home," explained Shirley Leiper, supervisor of the department's senior Deferral Unit. "The state pays the taxes to the county, maintains the account, and charges 6 percent simple

interest, which is also deferred."

Taxes and interest must be repaid when the taxpayer dies, sells the property changes ownership, or ceases to live permanently on the property. To qualify, senior citizens must be 62 years of age or older by April 15 of the year they apply, must live on the property, which is the taxpayer's principal residence, and must have a deed or recorded sales contract. The total household income must be less than \$24,500 for the year before applications. Once on the program, senior citizens need an adjusted gross income of \$29,000 or

less to continue to participate. Participants can come in and out of the program if their income goes up or down.

A surviving spouse may continue to defer future taxes if she/he is at least 59 1/2.

A new application is required for surviving spouses or in the case of remarriage. Senior citizen can get applications and information about the deferral program by contacting their local county assessor's office. For information, contact the IRS's Tax Help line at 503-378-4988 or toll free within Oregon at 1-800-356-4222.



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always have, and they always will." So what should matter, Satcher said, is how people intervene and respond

to mental illnesses, such as depression. "It needs to be identified and treated, and sometimes friends

and family are in the best position to do that."