

## POKER: Learned to play at age five from grandfather

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"There are 15 states where it's not legal," he said.

Finding poker games in those places took some ingenuity. Two — Hawaii and Utah — don't allow gambling in any form, while others allowed social gambling, but not in card rooms. Adams relied on his gregarious personality and some well-placed inquiries to find games.

Before his trip to Idaho, Adams, who is Jewish, emailed a Boise synagogue and made a carefully worded request. He would soon be visiting and wondered about the worship schedule and, by the way, did they know of a poker game he could join while in town? The rabbi emailed back, inviting Adams to poker at his house.

On Halloween night, Adams, the rabbi and eight men from the synagogue sat around a table betting nickels, dimes and quarters. They drank microbrews and

snacked on guacamole and tortilla chips. The rabbi got up whenever a trick-or-treater rang the doorbell.

Before going to Alabama, Adams learned of a clandestine game from an Alabamian he met at a tournament in another state. Alabama doesn't allow card rooms, so games happen secretly. Adams followed directions written on a slip of paper, driving his rental car through the inky darkness and looking for landmarks such as clumps of trees and forks in the dirt road. He started to get nervous.

"I was in the middle of the Alabama woods," he remembers thinking. "I started to hear the music from the movie 'Deliverance' in my head."

He finally arrived at a nondescript Quonset hut where a poker game soon commenced.

In Texas, he flew to Houston and drove six hours to a casino on the Kickapoo Indian Reservation.

"It was as far away from a major airport as you can be — the only legal poker room in Texas," Adams said.

In Alaska, he played at the country's northernmost card room in the Yukon.

His most memorable poker game came closer to home at Boston's Harvard Club, where they played Omaha poker in a "probability and statistical session." The pot grew and grew.

"We were all up to four figures," Adams recalled. "I was fortunate to win with four 10s over an aces full house."

Adams, who has a day job as a teachers' association union organizer, learned about poker at age five from his grandfather. He and his younger brother played five-card draw using buttons from his grandmother's sewing bag for chips. As he got older, he played for coins and then dollars, but stopped after college to concentrate on his career. He started playing again in his 30s.

Eventually, he wrote

about poker. His first effort was a pamphlet written for a synagogue fundraiser. "It was kind of a brain dump," he said. Eventually the tiny, barely edited publication evolved into a book and then another. He blogs about poker and hosts the "House of Cards" radio show. He plans to put his 50 states experience into a third book.

Adams knew he would eventually make it to the Wildhorse Casino, which has long been on his list.

"I'm friendly with a lot of professional card players who've played at the Poker Round-Up," Adams said. "They said you've got to make it to the Wildhorse."

Adams said he left a few dollars on the table in Pendleton.

"I contributed not an insignificant amount to the local economy," he quipped, "but it was well worth every penny."

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## Federal jury to settle bitter battle between sweeteners

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Big Sugar and Big Corn face off in court this week in a bitter, multibillion-dollar battle of sweeteners that boils down to a mix of science, semantics and marketing.

Jurors in the case between sugar processors and corn manufacturers will take up one of nutrition's most vexing debates and confront a choice common among some consumers: sugar or high fructose corn syrup?

The trial starting Tuesday in federal court grew out of efforts by the Corn Refiners Association to rebrand its high fructose corn syrup as "corn sugar" to reverse damaging publicity that associated it with diabetes and obesity.

Its ad campaign featured a TV commercial with a father walking with his daughter across a cornfield and saying that he's reassured by experts that high fructose corn syrup is the same as cane sugar.

"Your body can't tell the difference," he says. "Sugar is sugar."

That didn't go over well with the Western Sugar Cooperative and other sugar processors, who sued the corn refiners and Archer Daniels Midland Co. and Cargill Inc. for false advertising. They are seeking as much as \$2 billion.

Corn refiners and the two agribusiness giants countered, charging the sugar industry with making false and misleading statements that included a comment that high fructose corn syrup is as addictive as crack cocaine.

They are seeking \$530 million.

Corn refiners will present evidence that the sugar industry was behind the pounding that high fructose corn syrup took in public opinion as sugar tried to regain market share it lost when food producers switched to the cheaper corn product that came on the market in the 1970s.

The sugar producers will attempt to show that the corn refiners' own advertising agency was uncomfortable creating something it felt was misleading.

One key document on the sugar side will be from a 1997 Mexican court case in which corn refiners said their product was distinct from sugar.

Corn refiners say that was taken out of context, and they argue there's no difference in the way the body metabolizes the two substances.

The two products are nearly identical and are metabolized the same, said Roger A. Clemens, a University of Southern California research professor of pharmacology and pharmaceutical science who has studied sugars. Sugar is sucrose, which is half fructose, half glucose. High-fructose corn syrup is 55 percent fructose and 45 percent glucose.

Corn refiners ultimately lost their bid to change the name to "corn sugar" when the Food and Drug Administration ruled in 2012 that sugar was a solid, dried and crystallized food, not syrup.

## GRANT: Voters have rejected five school bonds since 2000

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Clark said the proposed Gib Olinger Elementary School would house 650 students, 90 more students than the district currently enrolls from kindergarten through third grade.

The new facility would spur the district to consolidate, leading to the demolition of Grove Elementary School in favor of a sports complex — new soccer, baseball and softball fields — and vacate Freewater Elementary School, the fate of which has yet to be determined.

The grant comes from the Oakland, Calif.-based Wayne and Gladys Valley Foundation, which focuses on "well-managed and cost efficient" projects primarily in California's East Bay, according to the foundation's website.

The foundation's connection to Milton-Freewater comes from one of its namesakes, who grew up in the town — Gladys Liebbrand Valley.

It's her name that adorns Milton-Freewater's public library, which the foundation helped fund with a \$1.25



A warning for asbestos is taped on the door of Freewater Elementary in Milton-Freewater in this May 2007 file photo. The Milton-Freewater School District has received a \$15 million grant to build a new school, contingent on raising at least \$12.5 million of its own.

million grant in 2001.

Foundation representatives were in Milton-Freewater to review the library when Tammy Valley, the daughter of Gladys and Wayne Valley, asked a former library official if there was anything else the foundation could involve itself with.

The idea of a new elementary school was proposed, and officials would spend the ensuing months forming a committee, fine tuning a

proposal and developing conceptual plans.

Clark was informed of the grant Oct. 29 and will now have to lead the effort to pass the school district's first bond in more than 30 years.

Milton-Freewater voters have rejected five bond ballot measures since 2000, the last one in 2006.

At a Sept. 22 public meeting about facility modernization prior to the grant announcement, school officials said the

district would need to assess \$1 per \$1,000 of assessed property value per year to raise \$12 million. That means the average Milton-Freewater homeowner would pay an extra \$110 on their property tax bills because of the bond.

In initial bond discussions before the announcement, Clark said some of the bond money would go toward modernizing Central High School and McLoughlin High School, which are both in need of new heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems among many other things.

Clark admitted Central and Mac-Hi are still in need of attention, but whether their needs are met through the proposed bond or different means are still up in the air.

If voters reject another bond measure, it could represent Milton-Freewater's last chance at Valley Foundation money. In addition to the one-year time limit, the foundation's board of directors previously voted to exhaust the foundation's assets by September 2018.

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## REHAB: Dump 75-90 loads of mulch per day

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local landowners. Gregory said they hope to treat between 1,000-1,500 acres with mulch before the snow falls too heavily.

In recent weeks, helicopters dumped anywhere from 75-90 loads of mulch per day, Gregory said. Each load contains about 2,500 pounds of mulch, and it usually takes about a dozen drops to cover one acre of land, he said.

"The hard part is figuring out at what height and what speed to get the best coverage," he said.

Local contractors were hired to grind up the mulch using wood and small-diameter trees logged directly from the forest, Gregory said. Mulching has been reserved for high-intensity burned areas, along ridgetops where the ground isn't flat, but isn't too steep, either.

Gregory said it has been impressive watching the pilots do their work. They typically fly about 350 feet over ground level at just more than 23 miles per hour.

In addition to mulching, forest workers also finished placing wooden structures known as log jams over portions of Canyon Creek, Vance Creek and Overholt Creek designed to catch burned-up debris that could wash down in a storm and cause flooding.

Other projects identified in the BAER include cutting down hazard trees and storm-proofing roads, Gregory said. He expects an AmeriCorps team will arrive next week to begin rehabbing more than six miles of trails in the Strawberry Mountain Wilderness — including the

popular Joaquin Miller Trail.

So far, the Forest Service has spent roughly a half-million dollars treating the fire area.

"We're working as hard as we can, as quickly as we can, to limit the damage of erosion and flooding before winter hits," Gregory said.

The BAER has been approved by the Forest Service's Northwest Region Office as well as in Washington, D.C., and has involved partnerships with local agencies and companies.

Eric Bush, John Day Airbase Manager and Malheur Unit Aviation Officer, said he is very pleased with the professionalism and safety of everyone working on the project.

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## ALLIANCE: Some local programs might even be unaware of each other

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share and teach each other how to do certain things."

She said the group is also making an effort to increase the number of Hispanic volunteers at community events and has been involved in several events already. On Oct. 24 the Columbia Latino Cultural Alliance set up a booth at Good Shepherd Medical Center's S.E.A. of Health event and handed out 200 dental hygiene kits.

Those types of outreach efforts, combined with the cultural events, are how the group plans to make connections with families in order to help connect them with resources in the community they weren't aware of or were too intimidated to access.

Mary Lou Gutierrez, another cultural alliance board member, said in her work as a parent education coordinator for Umatilla

Morrow County Head Start she has seen how often people are unaware of local programs that could help them. In some cases, she said, those programs might even be unaware of each other.

"There are a lot of agencies, a lot of nonprofits," she said. "I think one of our weaknesses is we don't all know what we all do."

She said the Columbia Latino Cultural Alliance wants to be a knowledgeable resource and help start conversations with people, especially parents of students, about help available in the community.

"When the needs surface we can say, 'Do you know that this agency does this, and that agency can help you with that?'" she said.

Information about upcoming activities will be posted on the Columbia Latino Cultural Alliance Facebook page or people can call 541-289-1504.

# SAVE THE DATE

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