

Community members spread message through song

By Leslie Mitts
Spilyay Tymoo

It has been 26 years since Easton and Tina Aguilar decided to change their own lives.

Now the two are attempting to share their beliefs with others in need through their church.

Their newest plan is to reach out with music.

Community members may have noticed Easton's voice ringing out in song recently during the lunch hour.

That's because Easton and Tina will be playing live music and singing worship songs during the noon hour.

Easton, an employee at Vehicle Pool, and Tina, who works with Victims of Crime Services, will be setting up their equipment in front of Jasmine Caldera's food cart, across from Warm Springs Market, five days a week.

Caldera is the couple's niece and agreed to let them set up in front of her stand.

As to why he decided to use music to reach others, Easton said, "God told me. He said you go down there, you set up equipment, and you sing."

The idea came to him during prayer, Easton added.

They are hoping to reach



Easton and Tina Aguilar (with nephew Caleb Caldera) plan to play music on weekdays during their lunch hour in front of Jasmine Caldera's food stand across from Warm Springs Market.

those in the community who are lost, the Aguilar's said, including those who might be homeless

and needing help.

After visiting with Easton's brother Ralph Aguilar, Tina

said, they thought that setting up in that area during the lunch hour might be a good way to

connect with people in the community who need help.

In addition to their lunch-time worship music, the pair has been conducting their own church at home for over a decade.

"We've been serving the Lord since 1982," Tina said, which is also the year that she and her husband became sober after battling addictions to drugs and alcohol.

That's why Easton and Tina, who have been married nearly 28 years, want to help others facing their own addictions.

"We were like that," Tina explained. "We know how blinding it can be."

After becoming sober they worked to help the Full Gospel Church as much as possible and also set up a revival tent at Elmer Quinn Park for two weeks, Tina said.

"We thought, well, we could do more for our people," Tina explained.

After that they began holding their own church services and reaching out to the community in any way possible.

Community members are welcome to attend church services at their home at 11 a.m. on Sundays, Tina said.

They plan to play music from noon to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Nez Perce honored for keeping language alive

LEWISTON, Idaho (AP)—

One day after working a night shift at Potlatch Corp., Horace P. Axtell was asleep at home when the doorbell rang and his spirituality came calling.

"Some elder ladies and a couple of men came to see me who wanted me to go and learn this way of life," says Axtell, 83, about traditional Nez Perce religion. "That was because of my ability to speak the language fluently. I did not agree right away."

Axtell's mother and grandmother were dedicated Christians and had raised him that way. It was a difficult decision, he says. Eventually he became a spiritual leader in the Seven Drum religion. This fall he'll go to Washington, D.C., to accept the National Heritage Award for preserving the folk arts, which comes with a \$20,000 prize.

"I'm really honored by this award I'm getting. To myself I assume all this is coming to me for being dedicated to my tribe. I guess I'd have to say that makes me a proud Nez Perce to represent my people like that."

Axtell was born Nov. 7, 1924, on a ranch outside of Ferdinand where he was raised by his mother and grandmother. As a child he thought Nez Perce was the only language. His grandmother, Jane Moody, could read the weather in the hoot of an owl. She never learned to speak, read or write English. While growing up he would translate for her and witness her signature, an X.

Axtell's father, also raised Christian, left when he was a baby.

"He had a hard struggle with life," Axtell says, because of alcohol and diabetes. In later years, relatives came and told him he should take his father in. Axtell went to Kamiah and got him and took care of him for 20 years. Like him, his father spoke Nez Perce.

"So we talked in this way and I found out a lot of things about my ancestors. My great-grandfather was a warrior in the Nez Perce War. He was a spiritually strong warrior. He didn't survive the war. He died at Bear Paw Battlefield, the last war. That helped me decide who I wanted to be, to follow his footsteps."

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New program offers prenatal care

Beginning in August the Warm Springs Health and Wellness Center will host the CenteringPregnancy program.

This program is a new way of delivering prenatal care, which was developed by Yale University.

There are no lectures but instead there is group discussion to learn together about pregnancy, childbirth and caring for your newborn child.

Participants can share information, as much or as little as they wish, and there is time set aside for a private exam and visit

with the doctor at each session.

The group will be led by Janet Bissell, Maternal Child Health Nurse and Dr. Rachel Locker.

The first prenatal exams will still be done in a private clinic visit with your doctor, but for the remainder of your care will be join with 8-12 women with similar due dates. The group will begin meeting on the third or fourth month of pregnancy, and they will meet monthly for 4 sessions, then every 2 weeks for 6 more sessions.

The group sessions will begin and end on time and some

of the benefits include:

No waiting for your appointments.

Long lasting friendships and support.

Studies show fewer premature births and better birth weights.

The first group will be for mothers due dates between January 15, 2009 and February 28, 2009. Class size is limited to 12 people. Please call 553-1196 Extension 4600 for more information or to register.

Hunters safety classes offered in August

Sign up now for the Natural Resources Department hunters safety course.

The registration fee is \$10 per student. The class will be August 5 through August 15.

The classes will be held at the

Natural Resources Department in the Cougar Den Conference Room.

To sign up, call 553-2001 or 553-2002. Students must be at least 12 years of age. The class is limited to 20 participants and

requires 20 hours of class time.

Students must attend all classes to successfully complete this course.

No rifle is needed to complete the course.

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