

## Out of Balance

By Duran Bobb

From Beebe, Arkansas to Brazil to New Zealand—groups of sometimes thousands of dead animals are being found.

Biologists say that such events are not uncommon. It has happened before, and will happen again.

Because of today's instant communication, people hear and see photos right away when a group of 40,000 crabs wash up on the coast of Kent, England. Word travels fast these days when 100 tons of sardines are found dead in Rio De Janeiro.

"It's just easier for people these days to connect the dots," biologists say.

There are two big dots that still need to be connected, though.

*Spilyay Speaks*

Researchers near Lake Huron, Michigan, are working on lab-refined pheromones that are capable of either attracting or repelling a "despised invader" in the Great Lakes.

The plan is to lure lamprey (or eels) into a single area where they can be captured or killed.

They hope to keep the lamprey from wiping out some of "the more popular fish."

In our own back yard, eels have stopped returning to Fifteen Mile Creek, within the Ceded Lands.

Matt Fox, a biologist for Warm Springs, said that last year, he saw no lamprey harvested from the area.

Back in 2000, a truck crashed, dumping 2,000 gallons of the toxic chemical Goal into the creek.

Today it is estimated that 5,500 (or essentially all) fish in Fifteen Mile Creek died.

Eleven years after the accident, tests reveal that the levels of the poison Oxyflourfen have actually risen back to the levels recorded in 2002.

They're blaming fireworks for dead birds in Beebe. Over-eating, they say, caused the birds to die in England.

Tribal elders teach us that there is a balance to all things. Humans are not the Balancer, but to be balanced along with nature.

If we dump 2,000 gallons of toxins into a creek, we knock things off of balance.

If we dump 185 million gallons of oil into the ocean, we'd better hang on.

### TOE NESS...

FOUND: Ugly little dirty dog, looks like a rat. Bathed it, fed it, clipped its hair so it could see. No collar. Better be a reward! YIKES!

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## Letters to the Editor

### Start Something Birthday wishes...

With a new year comes renewed hope for our future, as individuals, families, communities and as a nation. The timing could not be better for us to *Start Something* to make a difference.

In celebration of the Tenth Annual National Mentoring Month, you can start children on the path to success by supporting Big Brothers Big Sisters.

Making a difference in the life of a child is easier than you think. Simple acts of encouragement initiate paths of opportunity, allowing a child to construct a future of success. You have the capability to drive improvements in our community, new horizons for youth.

Long-standing independent studies widely quoted by mentoring advocates and programs find children enrolled in Big Brothers Big Sisters' long-term mentoring programs are more likely than their peers to earn higher grades and are less likely to skip classes and school days, factors linked to high school graduation.

Not surprisingly, the same studies find children in these long-term quality mentoring programs are also more likely than their peers to avoid violent and unhealthy behaviors and more likely to have positive relationships with their parents and others.

This month, we celebrate the Tenth anniversary of National Mentoring Month. As we mark these milestones, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Oregon this month is urging adults to *Start Something* to help kids succeed in and out of school. By going to [www.bbbsco.org](http://www.bbbsco.org) you can pledge to do what works for you—from donating to sharing stories about what quality mentoring achieves, to volunteering—to help children beat the odds.

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*Auntie, I'll always love you in life before and after life. From Besta Sr.*



*Happy (belated) birthday to our beautiful loving daughter Jaycee Ann Merrifield "Jam" (Dec. 28) - Love, Mom and Dad.*

**On January 7, Happy 1st birthday to our "Lindy-Buttons." Love you so much. From Momma and Daddy. Happy birthday Pretty girl -Lindy Walker. Love you, Fran-Riah.**

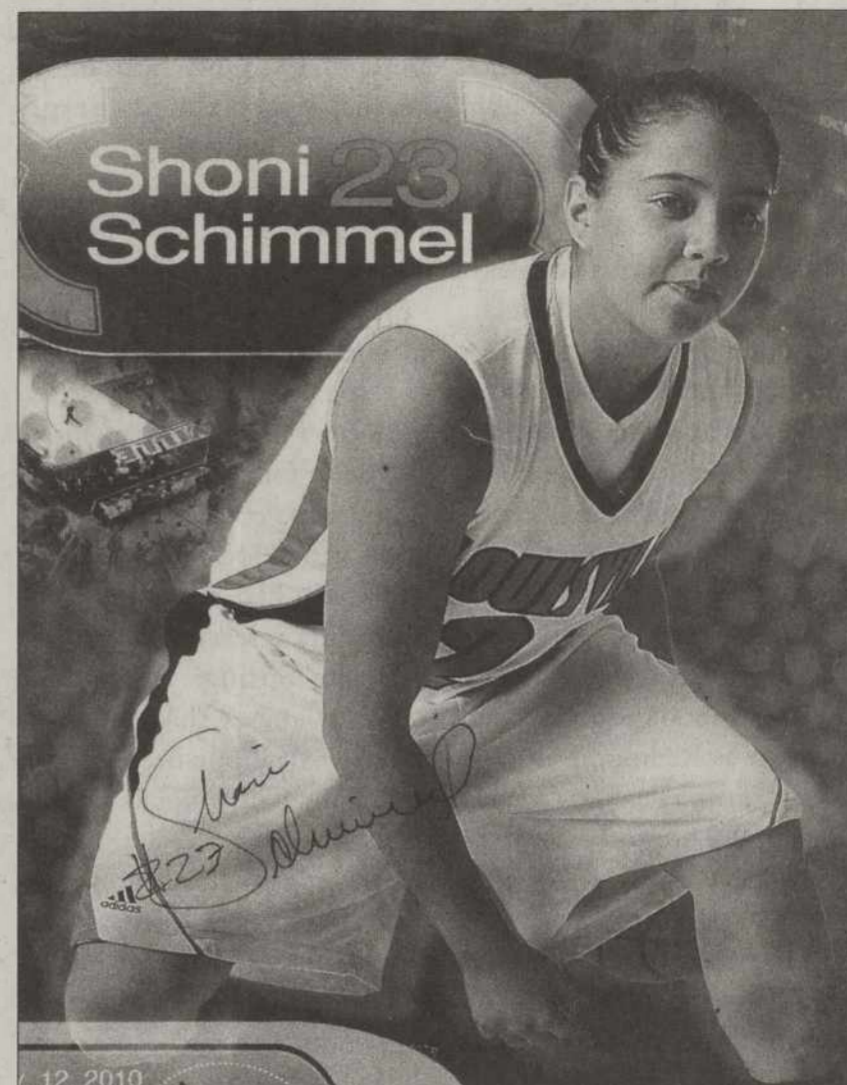
### Thank you for support

I would like to thank our Warm Springs Confederated Tribal peoples and all of you that supported Shoni through high school... by going to her games or an encouraging word, etc.

Especially Shoni's extended immediate family, our Smith family of Warm Springs.

Shoni is now playing college ball in Louisville, Kentucky.

Thank you, **Bobby Eagleheart.**



### Teleco Update

## Fort Mojave provides good example

By **Marcia Soliz**  
Human Resources  
Employment Services Manager

Laura Switzlerand I recently visited the Fort Mojave Indian Reservation in California.

Laura is the job placement specialist at the Workforce Education and Development Department.

The Fort Mojave Tribe operates the Fort Mojave Telecom Company. Jose Matanane, vice president and general manager of the Ft. Mojave Telecom Company, provided us with a tour.

He drove us through the reservation to show us various tribal developments—farms, an RV park, 18-hole golf course, new housing, tribal restaurants, Mojave Construction, Tribal Utilities, Fort Mojave Development Corp., and two of the telecommunications facilities.

We got to see the intricate wiring and the set-up for the phone and television services. It was interesting to see the "checker board" areas that Jose knew so well: Areas that were tribal vs. areas that were non-tribal.



*'I returned home with an increased sense of hope for our tribe.'*

Marcia Soliz

It was even more interesting to learn how the surrounding areas were part of the integral and unique partnerships with Fort Mojave.

I was very impressed with Jose's knowledge of all the details and each job, as he has the hands-on experience of each.

We were able to go to sites where Jose's work crews were

doing the actual work of laying line. The majority of workers at different job categories were Native American.

After the tour and meeting people, we went to the main office, where we met Reuben, another key team player.

The Fort Mojave telecommunications effort has involved extensive partnership development, and opened more doors for employment, increased economic development, and built motivation among the tribal people and the surrounding business community.

I was impressed with the efforts and progressive attitudes of the Native team. They showed what it is going to take for other tribes to be successful.

I view communication, coordination and accountability as key ingredients as we progress with this effort. Warm Springs can benefit from an effort such as Fort Mojave Telecommunications.

I returned home with an increased sense of hope for our tribe. I am thankful to Tribal Council for supporting a telecommunications enterprise.

### Recognized needs

Some of the needs I recognize as the Human Resources Employment Services manager include:

Helping to get the word out about the employment opportunities; and being a direct part of recruitment, as I know many of the tribal and other community members.

Bridge-building with prospective business partners; and continue working on the master tribal skills banks, as there is a lot of work to yet be done with it.

### Challenges

Some potential challenges: Educating and selling the community about the telecommunications effort;

Maintaining momentum; Obtaining the external business community support and involvement due to a historic past of separation;

Keeping the different roles and accountabilities clear to the people, such as what the role is of Human Resources Employment Services, and the role of WEDD, as well as Warm Springs Ventures, and the WSTC general manager.

### Indian Business Talk

## Want to start a new business—in a recession?

By **Bruce Engle**  
W.S. Credit Enterprise

Don't—unless you know that business inside-out and have been successful in business before!

That sounds harsh but it is well intended.

Start-ups are tricky at best. The current economy is gasping. It is no place for rookies. Even the pros are hunkering down and struggling.

Experienced lenders know that most start-ups fail in the first year. They also know that the percentage of failures will go up in a recession. Why go there?

If you are still determined to do a start-up, now is a great time for planning. I can help with that. We can discuss your ideas and identify the questions that need to be answered in your plan.

I will supply the format for your plan and we will probably do several periodic review sessions while you are writing it.

You will have to do the leg work and writing. That is because it needs to be your plan. You will need to know it inside-out.

If I write it, it's my plan and I should be the one to get the financing and go into the business. We don't do it that way. It's going to be your business. Besides, I'm too old and Credit Enterprise has a rule against it.

Do you really need a business plan?

Yes! Why? Without a good plan, you will be flying blindly. That's a sure and guaranteed way to crash and burn. In business, we call that bankruptcy. You don't want to go there. Lenders don't want to go there with you. Remember, you must have a

well thought-out business plan to get financing. That is an absolute requirement. Your plan will tell you and your lender where you are going, how you will get there, and what you will measure your performance against.

A good plan can lead you to success. It can be your guide, your roadmap, your compass, your GPS, and your lifeline. Don't leave home without it. Try to follow it.

Your plan will have answered lots of questions. Some are about:

• Where the buyers are for your product or service.

• What you will hope to sell that they will be able and willing to buy.

• What your experience is in business and as an employee?

• What aptitudes and skills you bring to the project.

You will probably need to make changes to your operation after you have been in business for awhile. That's okay. No plan is perfect. Survival sometimes requires changes. Then, you get to amend your plan for the changes.

Small-business people usually think their job is producing and/or selling. They also need to get good at planning. It becomes easier the more you do it.

I'll end this with a reminder from *Alice in Wonderland*. She asked the Cheshire Cat, "Would you tell me please sir, where I ought to go from here." He responded, "That depends a good deal on where you want to get to."

That, my friends, is what a business plan is all about—to avoid being lost in wanderland.

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