

Ka-Ching? Letters to the Editor

By Duran Bobb

There are more vehicles in the expanded parking lot at the Plaza than most tribal members have ever seen there before.

Tourists who pass through Warm Springs (on their way to anywhere else) now stop to get their kicks on Highway 26.

But has the opening of the new casino made it easier for small business owners to keep their doors open?

"I think without the casino, a lot of stores at the Plaza would have a hard time surviving," Kahseuss Jackson said.

He opened Blue Sky on April 14, selling specialty goods designed by Native Americans.

"We have popcorn from Red Lake Foods, jerky from the Umqua Tribe, Salsa from Taos, pancake mix from a Southwest tribe."

Jackson estimates that about two-thirds of his customers are tourists.

"Half of them are just driving through the reservation. The other half have come here specifically for the casino."

A few doors down, for now, the Teepee Deli is empty.

"I gave up the deli on March 31," Vesta Johnson said, citing circumstances that were beyond her control. "Also, people were excited about the new restaurant in the casino, so that was some competition."

Recently, Scott Moses, who owns Skyn Style, began the process of acquiring the deli space. His plans are to open an arcade room that would compliment the casino.

Up the road, Shanna Johnson said little has changed at the Shell station.

"When the casino was at Kah-Nee-Ta, we'd get people stopping to ask where it was," Shanna said. "Ten miles was too far for them. Today, everybody asks about the Cottonwood restaurant."

At the museum, it is quiet. "We're down from last year this time," Carol Leone said. "But we started to pick up at the end of April."

Shanna agreed. "We're still in winter, as far as business goes. Memorial Day is when it all starts and we'll see something happen."

Memorial Day this year is Monday, May 28.

Spilyay Speaks

From VOCS

On behalf of Victims of Crime, we would like to thank the following for donating to our Second Annual Hands Around the Courthouse, held on April 10 at Warm Springs Tribal Court.

Hands Around the Courthouse symbolizes awareness of sexual assault and child abuse prevention, victims and survivors.

Thank you to speaker Easton Aguilar and the Eagle Thunder Drum Group.

Thank you Tribal Court staff and Children's Protective Services staff who attended, and thank you to all the tribal community people who attended to support this.

A special thank-you to the people who made a donation and/or contributed for this event to happen:

Composite Products, DMJ Automotive, 3 Warriors Market, Papa Murphy's Pizza, Subway of Madras, Macy's Warm Springs Market, Kah-Nee-Ta Resort, Easton Aguilar, Eagle Thunder Drummers, Victims of Crime (VOC) Staff; Nancy Seyler, Dorothy Kalama, Gwen Leonard, Tina Aguilar, Janell Wallulatum, Charlene Smith, and volunteer Tanya Twee.

We appreciate all the effort put in to this event, donations and all the support.

The event was great! With your help it was outstanding! We appreciate all of your help and donations! We are looking forward to the Third Annual Hands around the Court House in April 2013.

Thank You!
Nancy Seyler, VOCS director.

Awareness

I've lived in Eugene for many years and I've been watching the news on tv. I like to stay aware of everything that is going on in our world now.

On the news recently they said Dick Clark has passed away. He passed on from a heart attack and stroke.

I thought Dick Clark was great at hosting American Bandstand, which used to be on Saturday mornings in the disco era. Dick Clark was in his 80s. It was his time to go, and he could be in music heaven now.

Transitions

I'm sure we all go through

and have many changes in our lives now.

There have been many transitions since the 1980s.

I do have a traumatic head injury from being in an alcohol-related automobile accident in Warm Springs with four other Warm Springs tribal members.

I've learned a lot about the head injury I have. I've been through a lot of transitions. I'm now trying to comprehend the parts of my brain I injured.

I've learned those of us who have traumatic head injuries and are disabled have to or should adapt to living life with our physical disabilities.

I'm grateful to be in the head-injured program in Eugene. I hear this program is the only one for head-injured individuals in the state of Oregon.

I'm now a bigger fan of the Oregon Ducks! It's all cool.

Evette Patt, 50 Kourt Dr. #3, Eugene OR 97404, ph. 541-461-3375.

Safer driving

Drinking while you drive is a danger not only to yourself but to those around you, including your passengers in the vehicle, other drivers and their passengers, and pedestrians, people on bicycles or motorcycles. This can result in serious injury or death.

Personal or public property can be damaged, upsetting to the people in the surrounding area, as it could involve financial loss.

Driving while you are under the influence of alcohol or drugs can and sometimes does have an outcome of harm and/or fatalities of people, causing great harm to individuals and families. This is the result of impaired people behind the wheel. The impaired person may believe he or she is in a right state of mind and might believe he or she is driving normal or better, which is not true.

It doesn't take much consumption to become a danger behind the wheel. All it could take is one or two, and it could lead to a very bad outcome not only to you but to those around you and their families.

Other consequences of drinking and driving: A person could be pulled over and arrested for DUII. This could

involve: sitting long or short jail time, paying fines, attending and keeping in touch with probation, having to have an Intoxilock device installed in your vehicle, having your license suspended and/or taken away, doing multiple classes such as diversion if possible, or even enrolling in a counseling or rehab center.

Truman Merrifield

Better life

Hi, Warm Springs, How are you? Me, I'm doing good, considering the given circumstances, in which my thoughts, attitudes and beliefs are what control my emotions, actions and behaviors. The concern I have for your is how long are you going to allow drug addiction and alcoholism to continue to destroy lives. Not including the long-term ripple effect of drugs and alcoholism becoming a generational problem.

Yes, I know life is not easy, but drug and alcohol addiction are not going to make it better. Take a look at the community, and now take a look at yourself. I don't want you to think that I'm attacking you as a person. I only want to help you understand that you are a valued member of our tribal society, and that drugs and alcohol are not our people's sacred medicine. When are we going to understand that drugs and alcohol are holding our people back from accomplishing our maximum potential?

In conclusion, the path through drug and alcohol addiction leads to a life of regret and self-destruction, while the path through education and learning leads a life of success and accomplishment. Which path are you going to walk? Learning is the easiest thing you can do and remember, failure is not an option—it's a choice! **Clifford Arthur**.

A look back

In the previous Spilyay were three historic photos from Faye Waheneka's collection. Dancers in the top photo (from left) are "Rossi" Roosevelt Suppah, Thomas David and Hartman Queahpama. The soldier with the machine gun is a young Sid Miller. By the car are Grant Waheneka (left) and Sam Scott. *More local history photos in the next paper!*

Enchilada fundraiser

The Hit Squad will have an enchilada feed fundraiser at the Community Center on Friday, May 4, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The group is raising money to travel to Phoenix, Ariz. in July. Donations are welcome.

Enchiladas are made from scratch, with authen-

tic chili gravy and cheese. Each plate comes with rice and beans and a drink for \$7 a plate.

Funds raised will be used for travel expenses for Triston Rodney and Jhaylen. The families would like to thank the community for their support in advance.

School bond

The Jefferson County Education Council has unanimously voted to render our support of the proposed 509-J school district bond proposal.

We believe that the passing of this bond would bring enormous benefits to our communities and the students of the 509-J school district, and we also believe that all of the bond's features are essential to enhancing our community's ability to grow and attract businesses to the area.

We are also encouraged by the willingness of the Warm Springs community to support their children.

The Jefferson County Education Council is a group of community members that functions as an advisory group to OSU Open Campus and Central Oregon Community College.

The council is made up of large and small business leaders, the Chamber of Commerce, Economic Development of Central Oregon, current and former educators from various levels, stakeholders from healthcare, leadership from COCC, OSU Open Campus and community members from both Warm Springs and Madras.

Each of our members has a stake in the continued exploration and improvement of local educational opportunities for the citizens of our county. We have been tremendously active in the community in an effort to improve access to education after high school, and we believe that the proposed school bond further enhances our ability to provide exceptional opportunities in our own backyard.

The Jefferson County Education Council members have been part of countless local improvements and see the

passing of the 509-J school bond as the next necessary step to improve the livability of our community.

We realize that many of the items listed in the bond proposal will need to be addressed, often for safety reasons, regardless of the outcome of the vote.

We also understand that if this bond does not pass, our class sizes in the 509-J district would be likely to grow due to staff cutbacks that may be necessary in order to make some of the buildings habitable, sports facilities safe, etc.

We also recognize, however, that this bond, which poses no tax increase to the taxpayers from one year to the next, will dramatically affect the livability of the community and attract more families to live in our school district boundaries, thus adding tax revenue and further advancing our ability to improve our schools and community.

In short, we appreciate the various ripple effects that passing this well-conceived bond will offer, and we look forward to the enhancements that it will provide and the lives it will improve.

Our council takes great pride in our communities, and we are looking forward to participating in our continued progress.

It is for these and many, many other reasons that we have chosen to unanimously support the 509-J school bond.

Most sincerely,
The Jefferson County Education Council.

The next deadline to submit items for publication in the Spilyay Tymoo is Friday, May 11. Thank you for writing!

Spilyay Tymoo
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Indian Business Talk

Rent-to-own? Don't go willingly into that dark night

By Bruce Engle
Loan officer
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Rent-to-own prices are often higher than what you can find by shopping at other stores. Their interest rates are usually higher. The quality of the merchandise is no better and sometimes worse.

Why do buyers go there? A need or want for the item right now is one answer. Another is poor credit. Combining them is a sure recipe for taking a financial hit.

Example (Note: I stole this from a book titled Guide to Surviving Debt.)

The example is a 19-inch color TV priced at \$300.

You will have paid \$832 for it if you agree to a payment schedule of \$16 per week for 52 weeks and you make all the payments on time and in full. On time and in full is important. There can be expensive consequences if you don't do that.

So, you will have paid \$532 in interest for the privilege, comfort, convenience, and satisfaction of quickly

getting the use of that \$300 TV that probably isn't worth \$150 once it's paid off.

What happens if you miss a payment? Repossession! You lose everything you paid on it.

Another problem might be that it was used merchandise when you first bought it. I understand that has happened.

Are there alternatives? Sure. Visiting friends might be an answer. If you choose the friend carefully, and visit often, they might even be willing to loan you one of theirs.

Saving \$16 monthly for 19 months would be another. Save \$32 monthly and you could buy it in ten months.

Remember, you could also get it quicker if you found it priced lower at another store.

How about buying a used TV? How about Goodwill? There are always options.

Looking for them isn't that difficult. The payoff is getting better value for the money you have.

That is a win for you. Rent-to-own is too much of a win for them.