

Voting is the chance to make your opinion heard

By Yvonne Iverson

On Tuesday, July 9, tribal members will be asked once again to vote on the motorsports referendum.

The original vote was 68 voters short of meeting the one-third minimum requirement.

Spilyay Speaks

A third-party voting service company administered the May election, and will do so again on July 9.

Multiple informational meetings about the motorsports project were held in Warm Springs, and one was scheduled in Portland to reach the almost 300 tribal member voters living in the Metro Area.

I have read the comments and heard people say that "not voting is a no vote," and if tribal members are not going to the polls that means they do not support whatever it is that is up for election, i.e. new school, adoptions, motorsports.

If this is true, and you do the math on the last election and assume that the 68 people who did not vote would have voted no, then the outcome would have been 531 no votes and 526 votes yes.

This would have put an end to the discussion and we could move on without spending any more money on another referendum.

People are concerned about how the tribe will come up with money for the motorsports project, but in the mean time we are spending thousands of dollars on another election, not to mention the cost of meetings, mailouts, staff time and travel.

"It is important to vote, so that our leaders are able to get a clear answer to the question," says Joelden Surface. "It costs money we don't have when we have to have another vote."

A lot of time and money is being spent trying to get direction and input from tribal members. "(Voting is) One of the only chances we get to state our opinion and stance on our future," says Jefferson Greene.

On July 9 you will have the opportunity to vote on the motorsports referendum. Leta Smith encourages others to "Just get out and vote, tribal people... Make a difference, your vote counts."

Letters to the editor

Referendum

I would encourage our membership to get out and vote in the motorsports referendum. This has become a hot political issue, and I do not appreciate the scare tactics used to derail a much-needed project.

This project will not impact any of our traditional responsibilities. We, as a people, have to look beyond negative notions and understand our tribe needs revenue. We have to look out for the financial welfare of future generation.

The concern, the only concern I got from our elders is that they do not want our leaders to abuse this project, meaning, don't use this project as another reason to travel or make your household income more favorable while the poor and unemployed hurt just to provide a meal for their families or gas for work. Remember leaders, many working tribal members are supporting more than one household.

Next, is our Cascade Locks project. Autwi Rudy Clements recruited me to be a tribal ambassador to this project. He told me that he was recruiting me for my voice and my honesty and he knew that I would always insure that the tribal membership was getting accurate information. Rudy always wanted me to remind the membership that it was the goal of the Gaming Board to insure the financial stability of our Tribe. This is why this project was so important. Rudy was so elated when this referendum passed with high voter turnout.

Today, this project is being abused. Being used for political bantering, or to get votes, and that really hurts my heart when people fail to pass on accurate information.

More recently, a Simnasho District Council member was sharing with district members that the Cascade Project was costing the Tribe \$20,000 per month to the tribal attorneys. That is a false statement. Why dishonor our Tribe by lying to our people?

This project has gotten through two significant hurdles. To toss it aside like trash is foolishness. Education is good for our young people, but utilizing education as clout to scare our people is disgraceful. The most important education

you need, is to be educated and have full knowledge of our Treaty, our Constitution and By-laws, and all the historical documents left by our elders to guide you new leaders.

Do not abuse the Tribes' assets. That was the message the people were sending out with this 2013 Tribal Council elections. We want to know if all of you are traveling? How many have collected that per diem? Conferences? Where is the travel reform the people were promised? The only Council members that should be traveling are our Chair, Vice-Chair, and our Chiefs.

Politics has no place in our Tribe. Period. Politics interferes with the wellness of our leadership and our people suffer for that. You got an axe to grind, you have no place at that Council table. Your global agenda should be to look out for all people of this tribe, not for your own benefit.

Atawishamash, Leona A. Ike

From Eugene

Look at all the resources.

I've lived in Eugene, Oregon with the traumatic brain-injury, I'm told I have for many, many years now. I've learned a lot about our brains.

The city of Eugene has many advantages for all folks

in the U.S.A. If you don't have a car, or you're physically disabled, the city of Eugene has a LTD bus you can use and take from places to places, run around this city. The LTD bus can also help and take you grocery shopping when needed. You should just have your own shopping cart.

This Eugene has many resources for everyone. I'm also a big fan of the Oregon Ducks now too! Eugene also has two colleges, the U of O and Lane Community College. There is a lot of resources in Eugene we can all take advantages of.

My uncle Olney Patt Jr. graduated from the University of Oregon many years ago. Eugene has many resources for us all!

Quack, Quack!

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

Thanks

Thanking all for the wonderful Birthday and Anniversary luncheon on Saturday, April 27 (birth was April 18). Thanks to my wife (Eliza) our children: Levi and Pearl for the roots and frybread, Rella and Bobbit for the place setting, Chet and Becky for salad and photos, Tiger and Tates for everything, Tony and Gloria and Leo and boys, Wanona, our cooks Jeanine and Tommy, Marella, Helena Jackson,

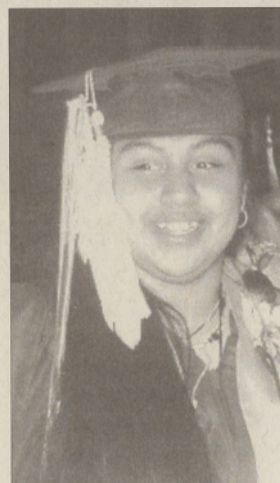
Charlotte for the salmon and dumplings, Clarence Vernon Sam, the Salmon Sisters Malessa and Harvey, Marina, Doris, Laritha for the food and the gifts. I will always remember that day.

Love all of you,
Harvey Jim

I too would like to thank all of the family that made our Eleventh Anniversary a great one. The traveling of my In-laws, the gifts, food and all.

Love you,
Eliza Brown-Jim

To graduate



Flandreau South Dakota 2013 - Marella Rose VanPelt.

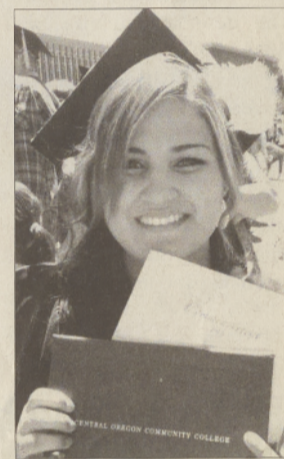
Congratulations, We're proud of you!

All our love: Lillie Patt VanPelt (mother), Harvey & Eliza Jim (grandparents), Tony & Gloria & Boys (brother), Eliza Madrano & Family, Leonard D. Bryant (brother), Levi & Pearl VanPelt & Family, Marella & Robert Sam & Family, Chet VanPelt Jr. & Family, Anthony & Tates VanPelt & Family, Wolfman (Vernon) Suppab & Family, Coby - Sister & Sister & Honey too.

Congratulations

Congratulations, Krysten! We are so proud of you for earning your Associates of Arts (Oregon Transfer) Degree from Central Oregon Community College. We've always been proud of your accomplishments and know we have many more proud moments to look forward to!

You did it! Love you!
Mom, Edward, Dylan & Hayden & Keira too!



Diabetics on Medicare face deadline, need information

By Terry Blankenship

(Note: Terry Blankenship is vice president of patient care at Diabetes Care Club, the nation's third-largest provider of diabetic testing supplies and one of only 18 companies authorized to serve Medicare patients. He invites people to email questions to: tblankenship@simplex-healthcare.com.

For further information on Diabetes Care Club, visit www.diabetescareclub.com. Or call 1-800-376-7521.)

If you have diabetes and are on Medicare, you have an important decision to make in just a couple of weeks.

You have probably heard that Medicare is changing the system through which you get your diabetes testing supplies. So unlike now, when you can order supplies from thousands of mail order companies, beginning July 1 you'll only be able to order from 18.

There is little question that this new system will be better in the long run: The government will save money and you will see your co-pay and deductible amounts decrease.

For example, patients testing one time a day, before July 1, have an average co-pay of approximately \$14.47 on their testing supplies.

After July 1, for the same order, the co-pay will decrease to approximately \$4.49. This is a savings to you of almost 70 percent.

The actual cost may be

even lower, or no cost at all, if you have secondary insurance.

Yet despite these significant benefits, in the short term this new system is causing confusion for patients who must change providers.

They don't know where to begin. And this makes them vulnerable to scammers who might see an opportunity to trick patients into giving personal information.

At Diabetes Care Club, we have heard these types of concerns from people who call searching for a new provider. They are rightly apprehensive about moving to another company and don't know exactly what questions to ask.

Patients wonder what matters most when choosing a provider. And, of course, the answer to that question depends on what the patient values most.

Still, after years in the diabetes care industry, I believe there are some key points that patients and their caregivers should consider before selecting a provider to trust with their healthcare needs.

How much experience does the provider have?

A provider should have a proven record of excellence in distributing diabetes supplies and responding to large numbers of customers. If you receive a call or email from a provider and are unsure of their legitimacy, it is

important to check your sources before providing any personal information.

Medicare will not call patients about this change so if you receive a call claiming to be from Medicare, it is a scam.

Is the provider big enough to handle more customers without disruption?

A provider should be able to explain in detail how it has prepared to take on thousands of new customers beginning on July 1.

Is diabetes the provider's main focus?

Ideally, a provider should make diabetes care its top priority rather than spreading its resources over a range of medical issues.

What ordering options does the provider offer?

A provider should allow patients to order testing supplies by phone, email, or online and offer convenient hours for customer support.

Does the provider accept "assignment?"

All mail-order providers must accept assignment, which means they cannot charge more than the prices set by Medicare. But retail outlets like pharmacies do not have to accept assignment and can charge more. It is important to ask to make sure you are not paying added costs.

What products does the provider stock?

A quality provider should offer a wide range of products so that patients can get a product that best meets their needs.

Does the provider handle all the paperwork?

A quality provider will handle any paperwork associated with Medicare, saving patients time and effort with these confusing forms.

Does the provider deliver on time and for free?

Patients should expect their provider to cover the costs of shipping and guarantee that testing supplies will arrive on time and in proper condition.

I also recommend that patients and their caregivers visit:

NationalDiabetesSupply-Finder.com

This is a website that helps people find the names of all 18 providers authorized by Medicare and link to their services. Additionally you can contact Medicare directly.

My hope is that by arming people with a few key questions and more information, we can help them make a seamless and stress free switch to a provider they trust.

In that way, they will be able to rest assured after July 1 that their supplies will be waiting for them in the mailbox, just as always.

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