Symbolic dirt turned at new branch site

By John Barrette
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Demand encouraged United Federal Credit Union to locate in Carson City. Mayor Robert Crowell said at a Monday ground breaking ceremony for a new branch.

Crowell added those with the credit union like Carson City as he was joined by Assemblyman P. K. O’Neill, the city’s four supervisors and credit union officials in digging up ceremonial spades of dirt. They did so against a backdrop of construction for the branch already under way at the northeast corner of East William and State streets.

Danny DeLaRosa, credit union vice president, joked all the work in the background had been done since 8 a.m. The mayor chuckled, but his own remarks remained serious regarding the credit union’s decision to locate here.

“They’re here because they had demand from a lot of their members,” said Crowell, adding his comment to DeLaRosa about credit union officials liking Nevada’s state capital community. He expressed pleasure at the economic development involved, adding: “This has been a vacant lot for probably as long as I can remember.”

The mayor said the private sector project was part of a Carson City resurgence, thanking DeLaRosa and credit union colleagues for deciding to open the branch. The credit union, chartered in 1949 and headquartered in Michigan, has branches in several states. Included is a trio in Reno, with another under construction at the Summit Mall there. The credit union has more than 110,000 members and is growing.

DeLaRosa thanked the mayor for the remarks, then presented a check to a local program helping families.

“I really appreciate the thanks,” he said, “but you can’t do it alone.” With that, he introduced to the crowd gathered for the event his credit union colleagues and a board member before making the check presentation. He gave $5,000 to representatives of Capital City Circles Initiative, which helps families lift themselves out of poverty or other circumstances of their members,” said Crowell, adding his comment to DeLaRosa about credit union officials liking Nevada’s state capital community. He expressed pleasure at the economic development involved, adding: “This has been a vacant lot for probably as long as I can remember.”

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Heller calls for repeal of Obamacare ‘Cadillac’ tax

By Geoff Dornan
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Sen. Dean Heller, R-Nv., says the “Cadillac Tax” contained in the Affordable Care Act is not only ugly and extremely unpopular but won’t generate anywhere near the money it’s supposed to. That tax hits so-called high employer benefit plans with a 40 percent tax on all premium and other costs over a certain threshold. Unless it’s repealed, he said he foresees public employees in Nevada losing health care, “and they’ll all get sent over to Obamacare.”

“A 40 percent excise tax is huge,” Heller said. “Seniors are going to get hit hard. Unions are going to get hit hard. Public employees are going to get hit hard.”

He said there isn’t a property on the Las Vegas Strip or business he knows of who supports the tax. That’s why Heller and Sen. Martin Heinrich, D-NM, are pushing a bill that would repeal the excise tax altogether.

The tax was inserted into the ACA to help pay its costs — theoretically generating more than $60 billion a year.

Heller said that isn’t true: “It will maybe deliver $20 billion if nobody revises their plan. Where will that other $60 billion come from?”

He added of course every “Cadillac” plan would revise its costs and benefits downward to avoid the tax.

“That’s how the business world works,” he said.

Heller said public plans would be in the same boat.

Among the programs trying to deal with the tax is the Nevada Public Employee Benefits Program. Executive Officer Damon Haycock says the excise tax would hit the Nevada plan for nearly $1 million the first year (2016). He said the damage would more than double every year after that until 2022 when the projected damage would be $816.2 million.

The ACA imposes the excise tax on every dollar a plan costs over the threshold of $850 a month for an individual — both employer and employee costs as well as such things as contributions to Health Savings Accounts. Haycock said while Nevada doesn’t hit that cost this year, it would by the time the tax takes effect in 2018.

“This is a law that’s years old and doesn’t go into effect until after Obama gets out of office,” Heller said. “How bad is this when the president’s all for it and calls it his signature law but it doesn’t go into effect until after he gets out of office?”

Peg’s Glorified Ham Eggs is opening Wed. in Carson City

Peg’s Glorified Ham Eggs will open for business Wednesday next to Bailey’s at 3607 S. Carson St. The breakfast and lunch hours restaurant, which will open daily from 6:30 a.m. until 2 p.m., will operate in the family tradition of outlets first begun in Oregon that has had Northern Nevada outlets the past 16 years. The owner of the new Peg’s is Fred Lee, Jr., whose parents Fred and JoAnna — known as the years as Pops and Peg — began their business in 1959. Peg’s currently has a half dozen locations operated by the Lee family children.

“We are very excited to be able to come closer to our customers in Carson City and all the neighboring communities,” the younger Lee said prior to opening his new restaurant.

Peg’s is a full-service, sit-down family restaurant. “As a family,” said the younger Lee, “we are very proud to have been serving the Northern Nevada area since 1959, and we want to thank everyone for their support over the years.”

The founders began their Oregon group of restaurants in Portland and after 35 years had 18 outlets. They retired over the years.

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The breakfast and lunch hours restaurant, which will open daily from 6:30 a.m. until 2 p.m., will operate in Carson City and all the neighboring communities,” the younger Lee said prior to opening his new restaurant.

“Do you really want one of these when you’re all for it and calls it his signature law but it doesn’t go into effect until after he gets out of office?”

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