

CTUIR: Harry James plans to buy a horse with the settlement dividend

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The dividend from the settlement will be in addition to the quarterly dividends, which average about \$2,000 per year, that tribal members receive from gaming revenue.

While the final amount is still being tabulated, some tribal members are already planning how they will spend the money.

Sitting in front of Mission Market Friday afternoon, Harry James said he plans to buy a horse and saddle with the settlement dividend.

James injured his knee in 1982 when a horse bucked him off its back, forcing him to use a walker to get around.

Although horse riding was the source of his ailment, James said he has been riding horses since he was a child and doesn't anticipate an accident happening again.

Walking to Mission Market with a young relative, Victoria Star said she wants to go shopping

and buy clothes and other personal items with her check.

"It's very exciting," she said.

Star said her parents are looking at larger investments, like things that could be bought for their home and maybe even a new car.

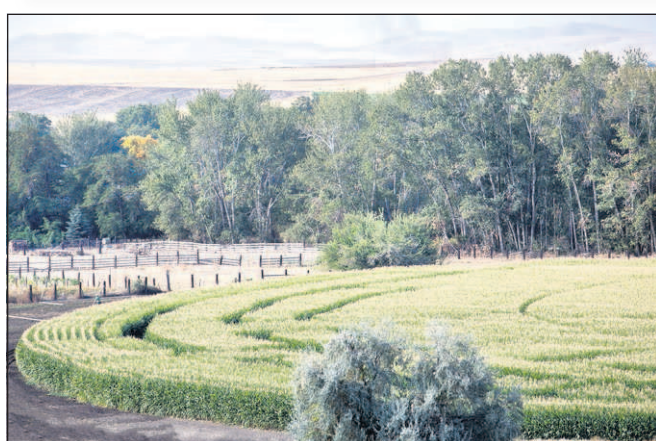
The impact won't be felt just on the reservation, but the many tribal members who live off the reservation.

Cece Hoffman talked over the phone from Seattle, where she's starting her freshman year at the University of Washington.

Hoffman said she shares the excitement with her fellow tribal members, but something as significant as an equine purchase probably isn't in her future.

"Honestly I'm going to save it for tuition or anything that comes for college," she said.

Contact Antonio Sierra at asierra@eastoregonian.com or 541-966-0836.



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

A elevated view of the Echo Crazy Corn Maze gives a glimpse of some of the almost two miles of pathways inside the eight-acre corn field. Work on the maze was scheduled to finish on Friday.

MAZE: Will have a corn kernael pit for kids to jump in

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other activities. People are encouraged to bring cash for purchases under \$10. Additional activities include a Crazy Train Ride for kids, corn cannons, a straw bale maze and a corn pit. A zip-line may be added if insurance coverage can be sorted out, Gina said, and fire pit rentals and space for private parties are also available.

Gina is excited about having an array of activities to draw people to the attraction. Setting up the corn pit, she said, includes putting hay or straw bales in a U-shape.

"We'll dump in a bunch of kernels of corn in there and kids can jump in there and have a good time," she said. "It's a different texture,

but it's kind of like jumping into the pits with balls."

Gina is energized by the sense of community as her family has worked on the maze and activities. A number of businesses have extended their hand in support.

She also is happy to teach people about the connection from farm to table through "agritainment."

"It's a fun way to get in the dirt and learn a little bit about agriculture," she said. "We're a working farm."

For more information, visit www.echocornmaze.com, www.facebook.com/echocrazycornmaze or call 509-528-5808.

Contact Community Editor Tammy Malgesini at tmalgesini@eastoregonian.com or 541-564-4539

Zika illnesses are mild at worst in U.S. teens, young children

NEW YORK (AP) — A first look at U.S. teens and young children who were infected with Zika suggests the virus typically causes at worst only a mild illness.

Zika infection during pregnancy can cause severe brain-related birth defects. But the report seems to confirm health officials' belief that infections after birth in children are similar to infections in adults—most people don't feel sick, and some develop only mild symptoms like fever, rash, joint pain and red eyes.

Some experts say there's not enough data to answer questions about the virus's potential impact on the developing brains of infants and small children, however.

The report, released Friday by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, is based on 158 infections from earlier this year in kids ages 1 month to 17 years.

All the children picked up the virus while traveling abroad, and

the bulk of them were older kids in their teens. Only 16 were age 4 or younger and only four were under a year old. Experts are worried about very young children because they can be more severely affected by infections in general, and because their brains are developing rapidly.

"I'm really concerned about birth through the first birthday," said Dr. Carrie Byington, a University of Utah researcher who focuses on infections in children.

None of the children studied died, and none developed a paralyzing condition seen in some infected adults called Guillain-Barre syndrome.

But Guillain-Barre is rare, seen only once in every several thousand Zika illnesses in adults. It may be that kids can still get it, but there weren't enough cases for it to surface, said Dr. Ganeshwaran Mochida, a pediatric neurologist at Boston Children's Hospital.

DISPATCH: Sheriff gets final say in what happens in dispatch center

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its name, was not part of the group's work.

Rowan said with the financial work done, he sees the group transitioning predominantly to police, fire and ambulance reps focused on improving how the dispatch center functions.

Some of that work, he said, has been happening on an agency-to-agency basis for a while now.

Pendleton Police Chief Stuart Roberts said the name of the group "is a little bit subjective" because the advising was strictly about how to pay for the service. Hashing out a payment formula that is equitable to all users is a boon, he said, but that is not what brought people to the table.

Roberts said the agencies that use the dispatch center wanted a voice in directing its operation.

"If I'm going to pay almost 400 grand a year," he said, "I ought to have a say."

Basing the payment on assessed value jacked up

Pendleton's dispatch contribution to \$378,196.66 this fiscal year, about \$93,000 more than the year before.

Roberts stressed his criticism was not about the dispatchers, who "work very hard and ... have a very difficult job to do." And he said he appreciated having input in the funding formula, which he advocated for. But he said there is a reluctance from the county to "drill down" and correct problems, such as the dispatch center's failure to notify police on Jan. 21 after a 9-1-1 caller reported possible gunshots near Pilot Rock Elementary School, a failure Rowan apologized for.

In an effort to communicate more formally, Roberts appointed Roger Youncs, a sergeant in the police department, to talk directly with dispatch heads when something comes up, such as when Pendleton officers confirmed with dispatch that a man had a warrant for his arrest only to take him to the county jail and find out it

was the wrong person.

"You can't afford for those kinds of things to occur," he said.

And this is a two-way street, Robert said. A dispatch supervisor can tell Youncs when a Pendleton officer was rude, for example. Then the appropriate heads for either agency can address and correct the problem.

"It's a good thing the county was receptive to allow that relationship to exist," he said.

Rowan said the county has that same relationship with a representative from fire and ambulances services, and it works better than a large group meeting once a month or less. Concerning issues pop up daily in dispatch, he said, and the calls are so varied that one policy can't cover everything.

"We want to make sure we can correct these adjustments more rapidly," he said. "That's why its important to have these discussions often."

The advisory committee, he said, would not focus on these smaller matters, but would discuss, for instance, if the dispatch needed to add more staff, a move that would affect cost.

Scott Stanton, chief of Umatilla County Fire District 1, said since the group turned the corner on figuring out funding, it should be looking at what he called "phase two" — improving the operations.

"I think that's going to be this winter's topic," he said, "what's the next phase and the performance aspect of it and where we're at."

Elfering said while giving advice is one thing, the committee would not function as a board of directors. The county's 9-1-1 and dispatch center operates under the umbrella of the sheriff's office, Elfering said, and the sheriff gets the final say in what happens in the dispatch center.

Contact Phil Wright at pwright@eastoregonian.com or 541-966-0833

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