

Wampanoags plan Taunton casino

TAUNTON, Mass. (AP) — The Mashpee Wampanoag tribe has entered into an option to buy land in Taunton on which it intends to build a resort casino, the tribal chairman and mayor said last week.

The announcement "is a tangible step toward our goal of economic self-sufficiency," Chairman Cedric Cromwell said on the tribal website.

Under the state's new gaming law, the tribe must get approval for a casino from voters in the southeastern Massachusetts city and also reach an agreement with state officials.

The Cape Cod-based tribe intends to build a destination casino, including hotels, restaurants, entertainment space and other amenities on one of several tracts of land the tribe is

looking at along Route 24, Cromwell said. The resort would cost at least \$500 million.

"This is the beginning of many conversations to bring a world-class, best-in-class destination resort casino to the city of Taunton," an excited Cromwell said at a City Hall news conference. "I can say I have goose bumps."

"This could potentially be a

shot in the arm our city needs to once again be the gem of southeastern Massachusetts," said Mayor Thomas Hoyer, who said a casino could provide thousands of jobs and create revenue streams that could be used to improve city schools and public safety. Previous tribal efforts to build a casino in Middleborough and Fall River have fallen through.

Elwhas won't release hatchery steelhead

TACOMA, Wash. (AP) — The Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe has agreed not to release any hatchery-raised steelhead into the Olympic Peninsula's Elwha River this year.

The tribe is facing a lawsuit brought by the Wild Fish Conservancy and other groups arguing that the non-native steelhead will hurt the recovery of protected native salmon once the river's two dams are removed.

The dam removal began late last year and is the largest dam removal project in

the country. Before the dams were built a century ago, the Elwha River had some of the most impressive salmon runs in the Northwest.

Under an agreement in U.S. District Court in Tacoma this week, the tribe said it won't release steelhead from its new Chambers Creek hatchery this year as the lawsuit proceeds.

An attorney for the Wild Fish Conservancy says that will give the sides more time to work out a settlement or for a judge to decide the merits of the case.

Natives strive for homemade businesses

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Nothing has been easy about Charlotte Almanza's work as the owner of Char's Café.

A few months ago a fire forced her Peever-based business out of its building. Fortunately she had insurance, and she's preparing to open in a new space.

But maintaining the business before the fire was a challenge as well. When Almanza wanted to make some improvements, she needed a loan—and her attempts with her local banker were not heartening.

"It wasn't much money I needed," said Almanza, who belongs to the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate tribe in northeastern South Dakota. "I was asking for \$5,000. When you don't have that support of people believing in you, it really discourages you."

But Almanza, who lives just outside the border of the reservation for the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate, found another source. She took out a loan from a Native community development financial institution (CDFI) called the Four Bands Community Fund, and her business was on track.

The South Dakota Indian

Business Alliance has recently produced an expansive report chronicling some problems—and solutions—encountered by Native American entrepreneurs on the reservations.

"We noticed the mainstream business development programs, especially the mainstream federal programs—we just kept seeing a trend that there was little or no activity on the nine reservations," said Tanya Fiddler, the SDIBA chair.

Fiddler is also the executive director of Four Bands Community Fund, a nonprofit founded especially to assist entrepreneurs of the Cheyenne River Indian Reservation.

The CDFI is one type of resource recommended by the SDIBA, which came together in 2007. CDFIs can provide much-needed financial training, and they can also issue loans and help Native American business owners—or would-be owners—establish credit. Fiddler said there are about six Native American CDFIs in the state.

One issue that looms especially large is establishing the credit to start a business in the first place. Fiddler said the opportunity to establish credit in extremely rural parts of the state

can be slim.

On the reservations, the task is even tougher since the banks often do not report to credit bureaus. The cost and the potential liability involved in reporting credit, Fiddler said, are factors that make reporting difficult for the banks.

The SDIBA's report notes other obstacles Native Americans can face when they try to obtain loans. One is the trust status of land on the reservations, which prevents it from being used as collateral when taking out loans. Because reservation land is held in trust status by the federal government, the land cannot be repossessed by banks offering loans. That means Native Americans living on reservations lack a source of collateral available to others who might be seeking loans to start new businesses.

Fiddler said members of the SDIBA noticed, in recent years, a dearth of Native-owned businesses on reservations. She said 1 percent of the businesses on the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation were owned by Native Americans in 2001. It's a reservation, she said, with a population that is 80 percent Native American.

Since that time, though, Fiddler said 100 Native-owned businesses have emerged. Fiddler noted training and technical assistance, access to capital and increased credit-worthiness as factors in helping the new businesses to develop.

The inability to establish credit, Fiddler said, can affect everyday purchases as well as business development.

"Indian people are poor for some really good reasons," she said. "Not having access to affordable products is one of them."

Scarcity of jobs is another. And for many Native Americans who live on or near reservations across the state, the best path to a good job is not the road to the nearest large retailer. It's creating a local business—or working for one that's recently surfaced.

"This is a path out of poverty," Fiddler said.

For Almanza, that path is strewn with home-cooked food. She's hoping to reopen Char's Café in April, and she's especially looking forward to rekindling the café's legendary "pie days."

"Everything is homemade," she said, "and that's what makes it good."

San Diego County tribe says sacred site bulldozed

FALLBROOK, Calif. (AP) — A San Diego County tribe claims developers bulldozed a sacred site during construction of a road. The Pauma Band of Luiseno Indians has occupied land in Fallbrook where Palomar College is building Horse Ranch Creek Road to serve its future campus and three future housing and commercial developments.

Tribal officials say that bulldozers cleared an area considered sacred before monitors required by state law arrived.

The tribe says it's guarding several uncleared sites where ancient human remains and artifacts were found.

A college statement says it will work with the Native American community as the road work continues.

3 accused of embezzling \$900,000 from Yuroks

EUREKA, Calif. (AP) — Two contract biologists and the former director of forestry for the Yurok tribe are accused of embezzling nearly \$900,000 in money intended for spotted owl research over the past three

years. Court documents indicate the men conspired to charge the tribe for phony spotted owl surveys on tribal forests, and the purchase of iPads, car repairs, gasoline, and cleaning supplies.

Totem pole to honor woodcarver

SEATTLE (AP) — A memorial totem pole in honor of John T. Williams was raised at Seattle Center as a symbol of justice and community.

A procession of hundreds of community members carried the totem pole from Pier 57 to the Seattle Center,

where it was gifted to the city of Seattle.

John Williams was shot by Seattle police Officer Ian Birk in 2010.

He had just crossed a street while holding a knife and a block of wood when Birk ordered him to drop the knife and then shot him to death.

The killing outraged many, who saw it as an unnecessary use of force. Birk later resigned.

Williams' brother, Rick Williams, and others carved the totem pole to honor the 50-year-old and Native American and First Nations tradition.

Calif. tribe faction takes over tribal office

COARSEGOLD, Calif. (AP) — The dispute between two factions of a Central California casino tribe has escalated.

The Fresno Bee reports that about 40 supporters of one group in the fight at the Pica-yune Rancheria of Chukchansi Indians broke into a tribal office and refused to leave.

The group claims it represents the tribe, and its members were denied their rightful place on the tribal council following an election in December.

Members of the tribal council currently in power dispute that.

The tribe owns the Chukchansi Gold Resort and Casino in the Sierra foothills near Yosemite National Park. It has expelled dozens of members since around November.

Madera County Sheriff's officials say they are treating the dispute as a family matter and have not made any arrests.

SKYN STYLE

(Located At Plaza next to Deli)

Open 7 Days a week!!!

10am-6pm M-F

10-4 Sat & Sunday

BLAZER TICKETS ARE BACK!!!!!!



Stop by & Enter your name for a pair of Blazer tickets today! (See store for more details)

- Native Jewelry
- Southwest Jewelry
- Name Brand Clothing
- Native T-shirts
- Cell Phones
- Name Brand Shoes



JULYAMSH POWWOW

PRESENTS

Painted Face American Indian ART SHOW & AUCTION

Thursday - Sunday, July 19th-22nd, 2012

Greyhound Park • Post Falls, Idaho

Largest American Indian Art Show in the Inland Northwest

Over \$6,000 in prize money!

All participants must be a member of a federally recognized tribe, submit tribal identification with application, be 18 years or older and have a booth space to participate in the competition. Submit \$150 deposit to reserve space. Will be reimbursed upon arrival. Deadline no later than Friday, April 13th, 2012.

FOR INFORMATION contact Shaina Nomee snomee@cdacasino.com or 800.523.2464 x7408 WWW.JULYAMSH.COM

