

Spending locally benefits many

By Yvonne Iverson

As many walked out of the Post Office delighted by the receipt of a Cobell Settlement envelope, my box remained empty.

So as an observer of the Christmas shopping frenzy, I was happy to see that some of the money was being spent in our local community and as Financial Literacy Trainer I was very excited to think about the benefits that keeping money local has.

I just want to share an example from the Building Native Communities Curriculum that I have changed to be more relevant to our community.

So if you have \$40 left over from your check and you spend \$30 for a gift made by a tribal member and the other \$10 at an off-reservation fast food chain.

The \$10 is gone, but the beadworker uses the \$30 you paid and takes her husband to Eagle Crossing for lunch and spends \$25. And then spends \$5 to rent a movie in town. Eagle Crossing then takes \$15 to buy more milk from Warm Springs Market.

Even though some money is lost with each change of hands to off-reservation businesses, your decision pay \$30 to a tribal member has the same impact as someone from Portland pulling off the highway and spending \$110 in our community.

As your \$30 was spent, it supported three businesses owned by community members. If that same \$30 had been spent at businesses not owned by community members, the community would have lost out.

It has been good to witness dollars circulating in our community: Meals at Eagle Crossing, gifts made locally, birthday parties at the arcade and community members in the winners pictures at the casino.

For the words

Thank you to Arlita Rhoan for helping us with the Ichishkeen translation!

Spilyay Tymoo

Spilyay Speaks

Letters to the editor

A thank you

We would like to thank the following individuals for their toy donations to the Early Childhood Education Santa visit: Gladys Grant, Lupe Samuels, Tonto and Gena Heath, and Anna Hurtado.

Wishing you all a Happy New Year!

Ralph Edwards and ECE.

From museum

We hosted the Native American Heritage Art Market here at the museum last month. It was a success!

We had many artists with tables filled with beautiful works of art. Thank you to the artists who came, and thank you to our visitors who came to see and support our local artisans.

A big thank you to our Education coordinator Rosalind Sampson for organizing this event.

We mailed out our letters for our Join the Journey end of year giving campaign. Please know, your donations do make a difference—We appreciate your friendship and continued support!

Happy New Year from our family to yours!

Debbie Stacona, the Museum at Warm Springs.

Money issue

I have been hearing a rumor that our Warm Springs Tribes is going broke, that there will no longer be per capita bonuses, loans and other tribal monies. I can't believe this because I know our Tribal Council travel to all the workshops to learn how to make money for our reservation.

I am grateful for the Cobell payments from the government most of our tribal members are receiving.

There are some tribes getting Salazar payments also from the government. I have heard the other tribes are holding meetings with their tribal members to decide how they will spend the millions of dollars that they are receiving. I have been waiting for an invitation from our councilmen on a date for our planning meeting.

I know Warm Springs received two payments. Phase one and phase two. Each payment was worth many millions of dollars. Most of our tribal members need this money for bills and the cost of liv-

ing. They cannot take leisure trips every week to stay in motels or eat out at restaurants.

So to all my family in Warm Springs, have a merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Pray that our money will be spent wisely. Sincerely, Sybil Queahpama Smartlowit.

Wishes...

Happy Anniversary to my Honey forever, Leon Curtis Chase. Love, your wife Little Flower Te amo para siempre mi amor!

Wishing Faye Waheneka a Happy New Year! From Dave.

Indian Business Talk

Thoughts on sovereignty for New Year

By Bruce Engle
Loan officer
W.S. Credit Enterprise

I hope you had a Merry Christmas, and wish you a very Happy New Year!

May you and yours enjoy the holidays while remembering with love those we have lost and anticipating the arrivals of those to come.

And, let's say a special prayer for the families of those who lost their loved ones in Newtown. We have lost the promise and the fu-

ture of those young children and their teachers.

Their families are hurting as are we all.

Now, to business talking and thinking for the New Year.

Your economic situation affects your sovereignty — your personal sovereignty that is.

What? Who has personal sovereignty?

We do! We all do!

We know of national sovereignty and tribal sovereignty. Our ability to pre-

serve, protect, defend, and to assert national and tribal sovereignty is only a dream without a strong economic support for those efforts.

I suggest the same applies to our personal sovereignty.

As we anticipate and plan our financial lives for next year, let's think about what the elements of personal sovereignty are and what we can do to increase our ability to be strong, healthy, and happy.

I hope you had a Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year.

Urging Congress to act on Farm Bill

Bill impacts Native communities

By the First Nations Development Institute

With the Farm Bill now expired, and a lack of U.S. Congressional action on a new bill, programs that serve Native American communities are in jeopardy.

Your push is needed to avoid a negative impact on those programs that currently serve Native American farmers and ranchers, and which impact local food systems.

Two specific programs within the Farm Bill include the Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Development Program (BFRDP) and the 2501 Programs, also known as Outreach and Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers (OASDFR).

Authorized in 2002, the BFRDP is directed to provide beginning farmers and ranchers, and their families, with the knowledge, skills and tools needed to make informed decisions about their operations, with the goal of enhancing success of beginning farmers and ranchers.

Under this program, a number of Native communities, farmers, ranchers, tribes and tribal colleges have been able to receive and pro-

vide assistance to strengthen food systems, advance agricultural initiatives, and generate economic opportunities in manner that is specific to the tribe and culture.

In 2010, the BFRDP allowed First Nations Development Institute to develop an innovative approach to agricultural business education at tribal colleges.

This is a process that will more effectively integrate entrepreneurship training to promote the development and sustainability of ag-related businesses on reservations through the development of adaptable curriculum that will be made available to other tribal colleges in the nation.

In 2012, New Mexico State University in collaboration with the Institute of American Indian Arts was awarded a three-year grant to provide 55 Native American agricultural producers, who have been farming or ranching for 10 years or less, with research-based and proven sustainable educational and technical assistance through culturally accepted methods. This was an effort to empower them with skills and knowledge necessary to compete and succeed in their agricultural business endeavors.

As directed under the farm bill, the overall goal of

the OASDFR Program is to assist socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers in a linguistically appropriate manner in owning and operating farms, ranches and non-industrial forest lands while increasing their participation in agricultural programs provided by USDA. Under this program, tribes, Native nonprofits and Native communities have been able to increase outreach and assistance to Native farmers and ranchers who would otherwise refrain from seeking assistance due to language barriers, issues surrounding trust lands and cultural relevance. It has given tribes and Native American farmers and ranchers the opportunity to develop strategies to advance farming and ranching in a linguistically appropriate manner and relevant to their cultural values and traditions.

Under the OASDFR program, First Nations Development Institute has been able to provide Native farmers and ranchers on the Navajo Nation with increased access to information, resources and assistance on USDA programs.

This was accomplished through regional convenings, technical assistance and outreach.

In 2012, First Nations has expanded efforts with finan-

cial and technical assistance to Native organizations that serve individual farmers and ranchers on the Navajo Nation and Hopi Reservation.

In addition, First Nations will work to increase the number technical service providers who are fluent in the language and armed with the knowledge to guide Native farmers and ranchers through USDA processes so that they can increase their participation in USDA programs.

Without these two programs and many others under the farm bill, farmers, ranchers and local food systems in American Indian communities are at risk.

It is important to ensure that Congress takes action to pass a farm bill, but also ensures that adequate funding is allocated for these programs that effectively advance farming and ranching in American Indian communities.

We need to make sure that lawmakers understand the consequence of inaction and the importance of these programs and the farm bill in American Indian communities.

Please make your voice heard by emailing your members of Congress to take action on the farm bill.

Gaming News

2 Calif. tribes sue to block casino proposal

MARYSVILLE, Calif. (AP) — Two California casino-owning tribes have filed lawsuits to block a third tribe from building a casino.

The two tribes say the Enterprise Rancheria of Maidu Indians' proposed gaming facility near the Northern California city of Marysville would hurt business at their casinos and set

a bad precedent since it is planned on land off the tribe's current reservation.

The the lawsuits by the Cachil Dehe Band of Wintun Indians and the United Auburn Indian Community were filed last week.

Cachil Dehe operates the Colusa Casino. United Auburn operates Thunder Valley Casino in Placer County.

The U.S. Department of Interior and Gov. Jerry Brown have approved the Enterprise Rancheria's proposal.

Charles Altekruise, a spokesman for the tribe, said the lawsuits were last-ditch efforts and had little chance of succeeding.

Miss. casino revenue decline softens in November

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — Mississippi casino revenue shrank again in November, but at a much slower pace than October's 8 percent decline.

Statewide casino revenue fell to \$164.4 million, according to Mississippi Department of Revenue figures.

The dip left the state's gambling halls running \$13 million ahead of 2011's pace through 11 months. In 2011, Mississippi River casinos closed for much of May because of flooding.

The 17 river casinos from Tunica to Natchez won \$83.9 million, down 1 percent from the \$84.7 million they won in November 2011. An 18th casino opened Tuesday in Natchez.

Mass. casino panel delays SE region vote

BOSTON (AP) — The panel overseeing the state's casino gambling law has delayed a vote to open the licensing process to bids from commercial developers in southeastern Massachusetts.

Commercial developers have previously been ex-

cluded under a provision that gave preference to a local Native American tribe.

Tuesday's planned vote had been described as an "imperfect" solution by Massachusetts Gaming Commission chair Stephen Crosby.

It would not guarantee

commercial developers will be able to compete for a casino license nor would it jettison a proposal by the Mashpee Wampanoag tribe to build a casino in Taunton.

The casino law had given first crack in the region to a federally-recognized tribe.

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