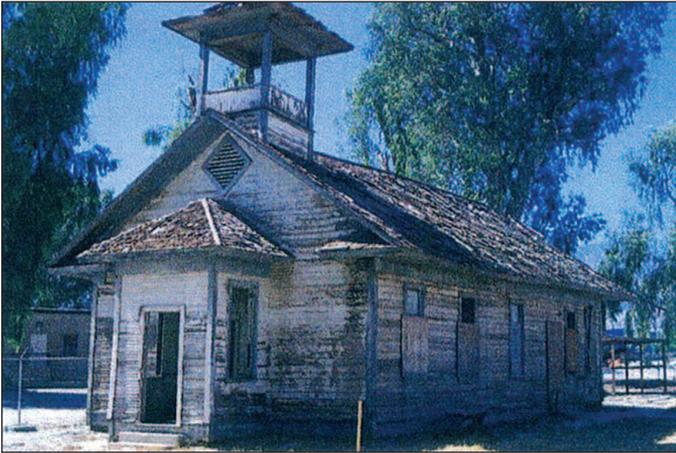


Four Winds Tribal Coalition Raising Money to Preserve History



The Four Winds Tribal Coalition is banding together to restore an irreplaceable piece of their history. The Coalition is working to save several buildings, thought to be the oldest known Indian Agency structures in California. They include a 1907 Indian school house, residence and agency office, on the Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indian Reservation.

The buildings are a huge part of the tribes' ancestral culture. Over the last century they have been the center of tribal activities. Now the tribe intends to create a living museum to display ancient artifacts, stories and photographs of the elders who have occupied the area for thousands of years.

This extensive restoration project is already underway on all three buildings and is estimated to cost more than \$475,000. The Four Winds Tribal Coalition, made up of the Cabazon Band of Mission Indians, the Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians and the Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians, is holding a golf tournament fundraiser, in hopes of making the restoration project a reality.

The inaugural tournament will be held September 15th at Eagle Falls Golf Course in Indio, CA.

First Nations Oweesta Corporation Receives \$250,000 Grant from KeyBank Foundation

First Nations Oweesta Corporation (Oweesta) recently announced it has received a four-year, \$250,000 grant from KeyBank Foundation to expand delivery of financial education to Native American communities across the United States.

According to Chrystel Cornelius, Oweesta's acting executive director, financial literacy programs in American Indian communities are crucial to improving and strengthening those economies and communities. "By teaching Native Americans how to better manage their assets, save toward financial goals, take advantage of resources, and avoid predatory lenders, our financial education programs contribute significantly to the development of sustainable Native economies and healthy communities," she said. "We thank and applaud the KeyBank

Foundation for its visionary support of our efforts to better the lives of Native Americans."

Mike Lettig, Director of Native American Financial Services for KeyBank, added, "Key's purpose is to help our clients and communities thrive. We know that financial success depends on good financial education, and we're deeply proud to support Oweesta's programs to help people of the First Nations thrive." He added, "Key's understanding of - and respect for - tribal laws, governmental infrastructure and Native cultures has been crucial to its success in conducting business within the Native American segment."

With the KeyBank grant, Oweesta, which is a wholly-held subsidiary of First Nations Development Institute, will initiate four geographic trainings for its direct clients - local Native Community Development Financial Institutions, or CDFIs - that will enhance their capabilities for CDFI certification or recertification which, in turn, allows them to expand their financial education and lending activities. The effort will be aimed at existing clients as well as potential new clients in the various areas.

Further, Oweesta will facilitate eight community-wide trainings in the geographic regions to assist with implementation of the tribal financial education programs. Upon completion of the project, Oweesta also will develop a formal evaluation and data-collection model for the local institutions to use in order to improve their grassroots financial literacy efforts.

Pala Donates Over \$8,000 in School Supplies to Operation Homefront



Pala Casino Spa & Resort's Getting Involved in Volunteer Events and Services (G.I.V.E.S) program recently donated \$8,227.50 in school supplies to the Operation Home Front Back to School Brigade, a program that supports the school age children of military personnel in Southern California. The donation includes pencils, pens, tablets, book covers, rulers, magic markers and back packs that the children will need when school starts in the fall.

Pala team members from each department in the casino challenged each other to donate money to purchase the supplies. The Operation Home Front Back to School Brigade supports over 2,800 children of military personnel in Southern California.

Shakopee Mdewakanton Help Met Council Create Jobs Through Transfer of SAC Units to City of Plymouth

To help foster economic growth in the Twin Cities, the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community has recently reached an agreement with several government entities that allows the transfer of some of its reserve wastewater treatment capacity to the City of Plymouth. The City will then use this capacity to facilitate the expansion of St. Jude Medical, Inc. in one campus in Plymouth which will consolidate operations and retain 800 jobs. The SMSC purchased these SAC units over the years but no longer has a need for them due to construction of its Water Reclamation Facility which opened in 2006. (A SAC is a one-time fee charged by the Metropolitan Council to entities when they connect to the regional sewer system.)

“As a government we’re out there helping the metropolitan economy improve by helping create and retain jobs not just here at the SMSC but out in other areas, this time in Plymouth,” said SMSC Chairman Stanley R. Crooks.

The transfer which was finalized in July 2012 was the result of the intergovernmental cooperation of the SMSC, the Metropolitan Council, the City of Plymouth, Minneapolis St. Paul Regional Economic Development Partnership (Greater MSP), and St. Jude Medical, Inc.

Agreements, like this, are infrequent. They can occur when a community with excess paid credits for SAC transfers those credits to another community to accommodate a business opportunity elsewhere that is creating jobs. The Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development must make a determination that there is a significant state-wide economic impact, and the Metropolitan Council agrees that the regional system has the needed capacity to serve the new site.

“The Metropolitan Council is pleased to advance economic development opportunities in the region. The transfer of SAC credits is an example where we’re able to facilitate economic activity, through partnerships and cooperation with governments like the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community and the City of Plymouth,” said Jason Willett, Met Council Finance Director.

“Greater MSP is happy to partner with local communities, governments, and businesses to spur economic growth in our region. St. Jude’s expansion in Plymouth will add hundreds of great jobs, which is beneficial for our entire region,” said Michael Langley, Chief Executive Officer of Greater MSP. The Minneapolis St. Paul Regional Economic Development Partnership (Greater MSP) is a private non-profit formed last year that coordinates economic development projects throughout the region.

“This is a way for different agencies to come together to promote business growth in Minnesota,” said Plymouth Mayor Kelli Slavik.

Shakopee Mdewakanton Award \$1 Million Grant to Upper Sioux Community

The Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community has awarded a \$1 million grant to the Upper Sioux Community to help with construction of a new wastewater treatment plant. The new facility will replace the current drainfield type system which is nearing the end of its life cycle. The facility provides services for about 50 homes and four tribal enterprises, including Prairie’s Edge Casino Resort.

“We are proposing to construct a membrane batch reactor wastewater treatment plant. Our current system is inadequate to sustain our community into the future. We will begin construction late this summer and expect the plant to go online early summer of 2013 with a projected cost of \$4.3 million. With the new system in place, we will be able to accommodate our current needs and projected growth for the foreseeable future,” said Upper Sioux Chairman Kevin Jensvold. “We are grateful for the assistance that the SMSC has provided to us, both financial and technical, for their help in enhancing our infrastructure needs,” he said.

“We are glad to be able to help out our relatives at Upper Sioux,” said SMSC Chairman Stanley R. Crooks. The Upper Sioux Community and the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community have had close social and cultural ties for generations as members of the Oceti Sakowin, the Seven Council Fires of the Great Sioux Nation.

United Auburn Indian Community Awards More than \$80,000 to Local Scholarship Recipients

The United Auburn Indian Community (UAIC) recently awarded \$82,500 in scholarships to 25 local college students at its 8th Annual UAIC Native American Scholarships Award Dinner.

“The United Auburn Indian Community is thrilled to invest in the dedicated students of our community,” said David Keyser, Chairman of UAIC. “All of the students selected for this year’s Native American Scholarships Awards are highly motivated and very deserving of the awards. The tribe hopes these contributions will assist students as they continue their educational careers.”

The scholarship recipients were comprised of 17 students from the area’s community colleges and seven Indian students enrolled in four year college programs. UAIC also awarded a scholarship to Vanessa Esquivido, a five year college student who is currently working on her Doctorate in Native American Studies at UC Davis.

Bob Cayton, UAIC’s Community Giving Committee Chair, served as emcee for the night and introduced the Executive Director of the American River College Foundation, the President of Sierra College and the Foundation Director of Sierra College during the event. Josef Fore and Doug Rey, Community Giving Committee members, also assisted with the distribution of the scholarship checks. ♣