

# Local News

## REMEMBER

Spring is here and it's time to set the clocks ahead to Daylight Savings Time.

Saturday night before you go to sleep remember to set your clocks one hour ahead!

### Convenience Store Group Urges Pataki To Pursue Taxes On Reservations

Albany -- Constance Barrella, President of the New York Association of Convenience Stores says that Pataki should be forcing the taxation issue on Indian reservations to get taxpayers an extra \$300 million.

New York State would reap an additional \$300 million yearly if the state would enforce regulations for collecting taxes non-Indians owe on fuel and cigarettes purchased on the reserves, said Barrella.

"Rather than raise taxes, or cut state programs to deal with budget problems, New York should aggressively go after reservation taxes, said Barrella.

The \$300 million the state could collect is estimated based on current excise taxes, extrapolated from a 1989 Department of Tax and Finance estimate that the state was losing \$118 million in taxes through the Indian reservations Miss Barrella said.

"We believe the state should take advantage of every possible legal revenue source to avoid raising taxes and cutting these important programs," she said.

"All New Yorkers benefit when the state implements this tax collection," said Miss Barrella.

This isn't just an issue for convenience store owners who claim lower reservation prices put them at an unfair disadvantage, she said. "We cannot turn our backs on this money."

### Tax Exempt Status Denied At Lasalle Wal-Mart

Lasalle, Quebec -- The Wal-Mart store in LaSalle is no longer honoring the Indian tax exempt status.

If Sam Walton were here today, would he approve?

The Eastern Door Newspaper reported that the Store Manager of the LaSalle Wal-Mart said he is suffering a loss because he cannot recoup his exemptions from the government at the end of the year. The Store Manager further stated that the LaSalle Wal-Mart was the last store in the Montreal area to still honor Indian tax exemption.

Paul Wilson, Wal-Mart spokesperson said, "Wal-Mart is following Quebec law, for buying off-reserve. Tax exemption is provided if band cards are shown and goods are delivered. Before cashiers didn't know the law, but now it is publicly posted." All Quebec Wal-Marts adhere to this tax rule.

A four inch sign is posted at each cash register reading, "Indian band cards will no longer

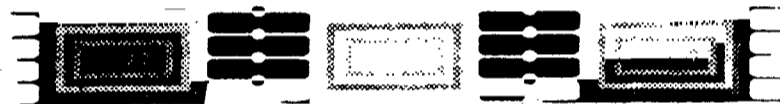
be used for tax exemption."

Several Kahnawake Wal-Mart shoppers have told the Eastern Door Newspaper they will no longer be shopping at Wal-Mart. One resident said she will travel to Cornwall to shop at the Wal-Mart located there which still honors the Indian tax exemption card.

Late last year several Akwesasne residents were refused their tax exempt status by some businesses in Cornwall.

Grand Chief Russell Roundpoint spoke specifically about the Cornwall Civic Complex which refused to honor the tax exempt status when a Lacrosse Banquet was scheduled to be held in the facility. The banquet was moved to new location which honored the tax exempt status.

Since that time, word has circulated throughout the Mohawk community about which stores honor the card and those that don't.



Bigtree can't from front pg. lems since he was born.

"Initially the doctors told us he had a heart murmur and they were concerned about his rapid heart-beat," said Tee Bigtree.

Billy spent some time in the hospital while the doctors tried to find the medicine that would work on slowing his heart rate down to normal. "The doctors weren't too concerned about the hole in Billy's heart," added his mother, "until they performed a catheterization and found the hole was larger than they originally thought."

It was during a hospital stay that Billy caught a virus and the heart surgery was postponed. Finally, last Monday, Billy was well enough to have the surgery. Dr. Alfieris performed the surgery to close the hole in Billy's heart. During the surgery Dr. Alfieris found the spot on the heart which was causing Billy's rapid heart rate. The heart was beating in an inaccurate location. The doctor sealed off the spot and now Billy's heart is beating normal.

Billy came home on Sunday, March 31st. "The doctor said he looked too healthy to remain in the hospital," said Tee Bigtree.

With the surgery behind him Billy's doctor gives him a good prognosis for his heart problems.

"The last step in Billy's health crisis is to see a lung specialist," said Billy's mom. There was a problem with the blood flow from the lungs and the heart. The problem may have been corrected with the heart surgery but the doctor wants to be sure.

The Bigtrees have two other children, Jacky, age eight and Gage, aged four. Neither Jacky nor Gage have suffered heart problems like Billy. "They are both healthy children," said Tee.

Tee's brother has a little girl that has suffered some heart problems and underwent heart surgery when she was 24 hours old. "My niece still requires further surgery before she will receive a clean bill of health," adds Tee.

The doctors have not mentioned whether or not Billy's heart problems are genetic.

Adam and Tee want to thank everyone for their support and prayers during Billy's health crisis.

Last week, a 50/50 CKON radio bingo was held for Little Billy and the proceeds were robbed from two CKON staff members while out on receipt pickup. Such a vile action for such a good cause.

Good luck to your future Billy you are a very special little boy.

### Attention Marines

You are invited to attend our meetings of the Akwesasne Detachment 566 Marine Corps League every fourth Saturday of the month at the American Legion in Hogansburg, New York at 10:30 a.m.

Come and join us you'll be glad you did. We are all Marine Green!

Samper M.  
Public Relations Officer  
Robert J. Grinstead

### Cook's Greenery

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