

Dead Indian Road fuels controversy

ASHLAND (AP) — Indians say it's time to change the name of Dead Indian Road, but some local residents oppose the idea, and county commissioners say someone else will have to pay to replace the signs.

Controversy over the name isn't new, but last week it resurfaced with the discovery that someone had chopped down two road signs carrying the name.

"The history is important, but the historical perspective is important too," said George Fence of the American Indian Cultural Center in Talent.

"Creation of that name in 1854 was synonymous with the time and Gen. Philip Sheridan's sentiment that the only good Indian is a dead Indian," Fence said.

The road linking Ashland with Highway 140 near Lake of the Woods was named for two dead Indians found by settlers.

"There's one variation that they died in a fight between the Takelmas and the Klamaths, and another has them dead of disease," said local historian Jeff LaLande. "It was just a matter-of-fact name."

"It is very stupid to change the name," said Madeline Taylor, who has lived on the road for 50 years. "Dead Indian. What's the big deal?"

"I start feeling ashamed whenever I hear that name," said Toni Escarcega as she sewed beads on leather at the American Indian Cultural Center.

Fence and other Indians would like the name changed to Indian Memorial Road. A community meeting is scheduled for March 6.

"Overwhelmingly we oppose that sign, and we want to know if that resonates within the larger community, and if it does can't we change this," Fence said.

The issue arose in 1983, when 260 signatures were collected in favor of changing the name. Residents of Dead Indian Road started their own petition to keep the name. The two sides agreed to raise money for a memorial, but it was never built.

County commissioners were asked in 1990 to build a historical marker, but said they couldn't afford it.

Recently, there have been letters to the editor written to local newspapers arguing the issue.

"Part of our white karma, I believe, is to understand and come to terms with our history that justified Indian slaughter and genocide," wrote Kevin Preister, director of Peace House. "Changing the name of Dead Indian Road has seemed one small way to take care of our historical business."

County Commissioner Ric Holt said a memorial plaque explaining the meaning of the name and the local history of Native Americans would be a better solution than changing the name.

County Commissioner Hank Henry said the county isn't about to foot the bill, at \$22 a sign plus installation.

Ski accident leaves boy in hospital

BEND (AP) — A 15-year-old Roseburg boy was listed in critical condition at a Bend hospital Monday after a skiing accident left him suffocating in the snow.

Lee Atherton was skiing at Mount Bachelor on a Boy Scout outing Saturday when he went off a groomed run and ended up face-first in the snow, according to his parents and his scoutmaster.

Dennis Atherton said his son suffered severe brain damage from lack of oxygen, and doctors at St. Charles Medical Center were watching his condition to decide whether to keep him on life support.

Atherton was the last in a group of four boys and got separated from the rest in heavy snow. When he didn't come down the mountain, they went back looking for him, said Scoutmaster Dick Bagley.

A passerby spotted a ski and a pole on the edge of the run, and Atherton was found 20 feet away wedged between two trees in deep snow. Atherton's heart had stopped, but he was revived by a doctor and paramedics, Bagley said.

Bagley said Atherton was a skilled skier and was on the verge of earning the rank of eagle scout.

School boards want sales tax revenue

SALEM (AP) — The Oregon School Boards Association served up a sales tax proposal to the Legislature on Monday, but it wasn't clear the dish would make it onto the lawmakers' menu.

"It's premature," said House Majority Leader Greg Walden, R-Hood River. "The people's message to us is to live within the money we have."

The association's message to legislators was that a 5 percent sales tax is needed to avert a worse state and school budget crisis.

"We will fall off the cliff" if nothing is done, David Geiger, association president and a member of the Beaverton School Board, said at a news conference.

Norma Paulus, state school superintendent, endorsed the measure but said it shouldn't be on the ballot before next year.

Scores of school board members fanned out in the Capitol to urge lawmakers to put the sales tax plan on the ballot.

The tax would apply only to goods, not services. The levy would raise an estimated \$1.2 billion to \$1.3 billion a year.

If the Legislature can't be persuaded to send the tax measure to the voters, Geiger said, the association will launch a drive to put the proposal on the ballot by initiative petition.

Oregonians have defeated sales tax measures eight times.

The tax revenue would be earmarked to replace money lost to local school districts under the Measure 5 property tax limit passed by voters in 1990.

The state now is required to replace that school money out of its general budget. That's costing the state about \$1.5 billion in the 1993-95 budget. The price is to swell to \$2.5 billion in the 1995-97 budget period.

In four years, the sales tax would go back on the ballot to determine if voters wanted to continue or repeal it.

There needs to be a state tax source dedicated to schools, Geiger said.

But Walden said Republicans who control the House see that step as some time away.

"If we can get the budget balanced and get things worked through, then we can have a debate about revenue," he said.

"Right now, I think clearly the strong message from taxpayers is to do a better job with the money you've got," Walden said. "We've got to figure out a better way of prioritizing what government does and then cutting back."

Paulus said the school boards' group had crafted a good measure but voters aren't ready for it yet.

Couple rescued after spending 31 hours in car

LAKEVIEW (AP) — A Lakeview couple was rescued Sunday night after being snowbound in their vehicle for 31 hours.

Lake County Search and Rescue found Greg and Nancy Hauffle unhurt on a county road nine miles off Highway 140 East.

They left Lakeview Saturday afternoon to visit friends and relatives 30 miles away in the little community of Plush, but didn't see signs saying the road had been closed by snowdrifts up to five feet high,

said Jim Olsen of Search and Rescue.

"If they had tried to walk out of there, they never would have made it," Olsen said.

The going was so tough snowmobiles bogged down, and rescuers finally got them out in a borrowed Sno-cat, he said.

Olsen said the Hauffles did just the right thing. They stayed with their vehicle and ran the engine ten minutes every hour to keep warm.

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