

Spilyay Tymoo

Coyote News



25°

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Bicycles built for puddles

Boys insisted on being boys when a two-foot deep puddle appeared in the parking lot at the Tribal administration building do to a clogged drain last week. Utilities tried to pump out the rain and melted snow but it finally drained itself - within moments after the kids went home to dry off.

Spilyay Tymoo Photo by CDS

Smith withdraws from running

After a February 1 meeting with Assistant Interior Secretary Forrest Gerard, the Tribes' general manager Ken Smith "reluctantly" had his name taken off the list of candidates for the post of Commissioner of Indian Affairs. In so doing, Smith closed the door he had left open since November, when Gerard first approached him with the job.

Smith offered several reasons for his decision to withdraw from the running. The new job would have meant "taking a whack in my personal finances," he noted. But more importantly, Smith questioned the effectiveness of a commissioner coming aboard halfway through an administration.

"If I ever took the job, I would want to be in from the beginning," he said. "Not that I disagree with what's being done — I have a high regard for Forrest. But they're halfway down the road. They've already drawn up their policy and direction."

Smith was also concerned that any accomplishments made in the remaining eighteen months of President Carter's term would be jeopardized by a changing administration.

The job might look more attractive to Smith some day. "Most Indian people would love to one day be head of the Bureau," he commented. The position of Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Indian Affairs, currently held by Gerard, would be more apt to turn Smith's head, he added.

Smith's name had been linked unofficially with that position when it was created in 1977, but Smith felt he wasn't ready at the time. "You have to be up to date

on national issues," he said, admitting that he had been putting all his energy into "running a good shop here."

Back in D.C., Gerard's office is faced with a long list of tribal recommendations for the commissioner's post. Gerard's special assistant Suzan Harjo could not estimate the number of names submitted by tribes nationwide but said there were "quite a lot."

Although reports indicated that Smith was one of three being seriously considered, Harjo said that the list had yet to be narrowed down. She did confirm, however, that Phoenix Area Director Sid Mills was on the list.

According to Harjo, Gerard's office is in the midst of determining the "interest and availability" of candidates through consultation with the individuals and the sponsoring tribes. Within the next week, the list should be narrowed down to three or four candidates, she said.

Deloria to Headline Minority Students Event

Sam Deloria of the American Indian Law Center in Albuquerque will be a featured speaker at a special conference on affirmative action, to be held at the University of Oregon Law School February 24.

Admission is free to the day-long seminar being billed as "A Minority Student's Guide to Infiltrating the Power Struct-

ure." Also tentatively scheduled to speak is Victor Goode of the National Conference of Black Lawyers.

The event, set to begin at 9:00 a.m., is being sponsored jointly by the U. of O. Council on Minority Education and the Law Students Civil Rights Research Council. For more information call (503) 686-3479.

One man for Simnasho Police Department gets its positions

by Cynthia Stowell

Four positions requested by the tribal police department in their 1979 budget were "released" February 5, after being held in abeyance by Tribal Council for four months.

The key that unlocked the positions was the formulation of a joint patrol plan by the police and the natural resources department. As a result, one patrolman has been assigned to cover the Simnasho, Schoolie, Sidwalter, McQuinn Strip area with the added responsibility of range and game protection.

A concern of the Tribal Council throughout the budget negotiations has been the interface of the police department with other programs, particularly social services and natural resources. Simnasho representatives have also been responding to appeals from that community for more protection.

The joint patrol plan is viewed by some as a compromise or trade-off, but Tribal Council chairman Gene Greene, who is also the director of natural resources, feels that such cooperation is long overdue and will result in a more visible and efficient patrol. His department has also rezoned its territory and realigned its staff to guarantee better coverage.

Police chief Jeff Sanders is skeptical about the special assignment of an officer because of the expense and the drain on his patrol force. The Simnasho patrolman, who must be supplied with a four-wheel drive vehicle, radio equipment and housing, will be on call for emergencies in the agency area but will restrict his regular patrol to the north end.

Sanders said that Tony Suppah has been selected for the job. Suppah was responsible for circulating a petition to Council last fall calling for increased protection of the north end.

The police chief is generally pleased about the release of the four positions, which include a dispatcher, two patrolmen and a Kah-Nee-Ta security guard. Sanders said he detected a "complete turnaround" on a couple of his requests. He praised the council for "kicking loose the abeyance items and stepping aside to let the chief do his job."

Municipal manager Rudy Clements, Sanders' supervisor said "The Tribal Council has taken a good look at what we want to do and has in good faith reviewed our proposal and given us support for our demonstrated needs."

"We'll be watched closely," he added. "But we don't intend to patronize Tribal Council — the quality of our program is our first priority."

Sanders sees another hurdle ahead — the education of the community about the role and function of the police department. A series of public forums starting next week should clear up some of the misunderstanding he feels exists. But Sanders is still seeking priorities from management.

Management, on the other hand, feels it has delegated a degree of authority to the chief that should result in improved administration and program planning.

"How we utilize the resources we've been given will determine the future of the police department, personnel and program-wise," said Clements.

96th Congress without Indian Subcommittee

An effort by the Republican members of the House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee to create a permanent Subcommittee on Indian Affairs was squashed January 30 by the full vote of the Committee, 18-17.

This move left Indian affairs without subcommittee standing for the first time in 150 years, according to tribal lobbyist Jay Edwards. The 94th Congress had a special subcommittee for Indian affairs, while in the 95th Congress Indian affairs shared subcommittee jurisdiction with public lands.

As a result of this recent action, bills relating to Indian affairs may go to the nearest related subcommittee. However, such subcommittees as Water

and Power resources, Public Lands, and Mines and Mining, are not disposed to the Indian point of view, indicated Edwards.

The possibility of creating an Indian affairs task force under the authority of the House Interior Committee is being considered, reported Edwards. This would provide a mechanism for facilitating hearings and accomplishing other groundwork legislative activities on Indian bills. But "troublesome delays" could result from the difficulty in getting full committee quorum for official business, Edwards warned.

A decision on The Committee's handling of Indian affairs is expected in the next couple of weeks.

Weather

	HIGH	LOW	P
February 2	17	-6	
3	38	18	
4	48	31	
5	54	31	
6	54	34	
7	50	36	.31 rain
8	43	34	
9	57	41	
10	52	34	.05 rain
11	52	32	.07 rain
12	54	36	.14 rain
13	55	38	
14	45	34	

The average high for the past two weeks this year was 48, last year in the same period it was 46. The average lows were 30 and 33.