

Warm Springs News

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Proposed BIA program changes, initiatives upset tribes

by Donna Behrend

The BIA program changes and initiatives proposed by Assistant Secretary of the Interior Ross Swimmer are "in direct conflict with treaty obligations and the current Presidential Indian policy as we understand them," says Mike Clements, Warm Springs Assistant Secretary/Treasurer. For these reasons, Indian tribes and organizations across the nation have called for Swimmer's resignation.

The conflict arises from Swimmer's controversial proposals dealing with Indian trust accounts, education and natural resources and the overall reduction in services. President Reagan's budget calls for a \$33.8 million decrease for the BIA in 1988.

Three areas of major concern include the contracting of education services, including boarding schools, investing Indian trust monies with a bank in Pittsburgh and a \$10.7 million reduction in the BIA forestry budget. All of these changes, says Clements, have been initiated without thorough consultation with tribes.

Although tribes feel that some of the initiatives and changes are needed, the pace at which Swimmer wants to move is too fast. According to Clements, Swimmer has taken the stand that if tribes are "not willing to take on the responsibility of the education programs," then he (Swimmer) must make that decision. "He has chosen a concept that

would contract education services with states," says Clements.

Individual and tribal trust monies are currently administered by the BIA in Albuquerque, New Mexico. It is being proposed by Swimmer that Indian trust fund services could be better handled by the private sector. It is proposed that this be done with a private bank, the Mellon Bank in Pittsburgh.

Warm Springs Tribal Council has sent letters of concern and requests to the BIA and their Congressional delegation asking that this proposal be stopped immediately. "We have asked for a response to a number of questions. If we don't get them answered and the BIA moves ahead with their proposals, a temporary restraining order may be filed," said Clements.

The forestry program reductions, Clements says, could be "very damaging to all forestry tribes." The \$10.7 million cut in the forestry budget represents a "33 percent reduction. As far as we can tell, that's the largest single reduction in the BIA budget."

Another damaging proposal by the BIA administration is their request to change language in the present statute that would allow the Bureau to collect an administrative fee to offset administrative costs. "Presently, we know this as the 10 percent money that stays on the reservation for reforestation programs. If successful in changing the statute language, this percent-

age could go as high as 30 percent which would all but kill reservation forestry programs," said Clements.

And finally, a forestry "privatization initiative" has also been proposed by Swimmer, says Clements, which would put the management of reservation forestry programs in the hands of the private sector, a step that Clements says would place the tribes in a serious conflict of interest with their forestry business competitors.

According to Clements, Swimmer and his deputy assistant for trusts Frank Ryan have both stated that the BIA trust responsibility is limited to protection, which includes fire and infestation prevention, and not forest management or development. "We believe this is in direct conflict with Congressional intent and the current administration's policy."

Clements cited that tribes feel Swimmer "comes across with arrogance" and that his style "of not meeting with the tribes personally" is of big concern. "His lack of sensitivity to the tribes' feeling has created problems." He added that Swimmer has little or no regard for the timing of the tribes, their readiness or desire to accept the proposed changes.

"The tribes don't trust nor do they have faith in his leadership," said Clements. "It is the tribes' feeling that Swimmer wants to dismantle the BIA as we know it and further, they believe, he is trying to terminate our trust relationship with the United States."



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New managers at Kah-Nee-Ta include (left to right) Gilbert (Gibby) Brunoe-front desk, Theresa Katchia-Village, Rosaline Moran-Lodge and Tina Aguilar-Personnel.

Jamboree planned for family fun

A special family day, the Kids Jamboree Day, is planned for the Warm Springs community and all other people interested in joining the activities, Saturday, March 7 at the Warm Springs Community Center. The event is scheduled from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The day and its activities, sponsored by the Community Center, is a way for the Center and its staff along with the community to say "We say no to drugs! We say yes to good living!" according to community center director Elton Greeley. Games and fun events will be held for everyone.

The scheduling for the day will start at 10 a.m. with the opening ceremony of the Lord's prayer in sign language, the flag raising and the Warm Springs Honor Song. Following the opening events for tots will begin at 10:30 a.m. as well as new games, archery, croquet, volleyball and horseshoes.

A special feature of the day will be the offer of hot air balloon rides. The balloon will be tethered to the ground. People interested in riding will be charged a fee of \$1 to help defray the cost of the balloon. The

rides will start at 12, noon and run through 2:30 p.m.

Other events planned for the day are kite contests—both commercial and homemade from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.; a marble tournament from 10:30 to 2 p.m.; BMX races from 2 to 3:30 p.m.; a bike rodeo with a bike safety course from 1 to 3 p.m.; remote car races from 3 to 4 p.m.; Jamboree fun day time to be announced; fun day games—egg toss, sack races and tug-a-wars from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.; earth ball games; toy glider races and paper airplanes contests; an obstacle course; a helium balloon lift-off with balloons being sold at the Center; a special event of ancient games and the quiet games such as checkers, chess and card games.

According to Greeley the police department will be in charge of the bikesafety course, providing a booth with information on alcohol and drug prevention. They will also be engraving bikes and other items for the public. The Warm Springs Fire and Safety department will hopefully be able to have the E.D.I.T.H. trailer and give demonstrations on escapes from burning buildings.

Concessions will be on the center grounds but people are invited to bring a picnic. "It is planned to give the people of Warm Springs and surrounding communities a very positive day of good fun," stated Greeley.

For more information call 553-1161, ext. 243.

WSFPI makes annual report

The Warm Springs Forest Products Industries (WSFPI) 1986 annual report was presented to tribal members at a general council meeting Monday, February 23. Approximately 60 people attended the meeting.

Total payroll for 1986 was reported at just over \$9 million with approximately \$4.1 being paid to tribal members and affiliates. Of the 333 employees working at the mill, 125 are tribal members, 33 are married into the Tribe, 15 are Indians not affiliated and 160 are non-Indian.

Eleven logging contractors were employed during 1986, with six being tribal members who delivered 83 percent of the total volume. Just over 50 percent of the timber harvested was ponderosa pine, 30.2 percent was Douglas fir and western larch and nearly 20 percent was white fir and other species.

Net sales for 1986 totaled \$34.4 million. On the average, prices were above last year's prices. Total chip sales were 3.3 percent below 1985 even though the total volume sold increased by 7.3 percent.

Stumpage paid to the Tribe total \$8,854,518 with an overall average price of \$113.56 per thousand board feet.

Announced in the report was the election of Ted Brunoe to the position of Chairman of the Board of directors. Brunoe replaces Paul Sanders who resigned last year.

Copies of the report are available at the WSPFI office. Either stop at the office for a copy or call 553-1131 and request that one be sent to you.

Local man sentenced

On February 9, 1987 James L. Wolfe, aka James Armstrong, was sentenced by Federal Court Judge Edward Leavy to the custody of the United States Attorney and to pay restitution to that office a \$50 assessment fee, according to the Federal Clerk's office in Portland.

Wolf entered a plea of guilty to one charge of carnal knowledge of a minor other than his wife at the time of his scheduled trial in September, 1986.

The clerk's office stated that Wolfe won't be eligible for parole until he has served one-third (40 months) of his sentence.

Art show features Native works

Nearly a decade in the making, Lost and Found Traditions: Native American Art 1965-1985 opened at the Portland Art Museum, January 28. Ralph (Ted) Coe spent almost ten years traveling the U.S. and Canada for the American Federation of Arts to assemble the show. It includes more than 350 works from 200 Native American artists, all of which were created

during the past 20 years. They reflect the living tradition and heritage of more than 100 tribes through modern adaptations of centuries-old motifs and techniques.

The exhibition is divided into nine sections relating to geographic and cultural groupings. Colorful textiles, dramatic carvings, intricate ribbon and bead work, jewelry, and clothing will be displayed with interpretive text panels describing the social, historical, religious, economic and technical significance of the works.

Since 1948, upon acquiring the renowned Rasmussen Collection of Northwest Native American Art, the Portland Art Museum has achieved national distinction for its excellence in recognizing and presenting outstanding Native American arts. The Art Institute's sponsorship of this show has already garnered increased national attention.

Ralph T. Coe, former director of the Nelson-Atkins Museum in Kansas City and author of Sacred Circles, a groundbreaking exhibition and book on the history of Native American Art, served as curator of Lost and Found Traditions. The exhibition was organized for the American Federation of Arts and made possible through

generous grants from the American Can Company Foundation, with additional support for the Sacred Circles Fund and the National Endowment for the Arts. The catalogue, a collector's item in itself, will be on sale in the Museum Shop.

Jan Vollum made it possible for the Oregon Arts Institute to bring this exhibition to Portland, with additional assistance from KOIN-TV, Channel 6; NERCO; and the Art Institute's Native American Art Council. Hank Gobin, archivist and historian for Affiliated Tribes of the Northwest, is coordinating the ancillary events for the Art Institute. Lost and Found

Traditions will run concurrently with the first exhibition of artwork by Northwest Native American artists, New Directions Northwest: Contemporary Native American Art, assembled by the Portland Art Museum staff and volunteer advisors (see related news release). There will be a \$1 surcharge on regular museum admission of \$2.50 until the closing date of March 15 to help defray expenses for the exhibitions and programs.

The Oregon Art Institute is the oldest and largest visual arts organization in the state and operates the Portland Art Museum, Pacific Northwest College of Art and the Northwest Film and Video Center.

509-J budget presented

The district budget committee received a budget request of \$9,423,799 for fiscal year 1987-88 on February 10 by school district 509-J superintendent Darrell Wright.

The budget resources total \$6,286,251. If the committee accepts the budget as is, the levy requirements would be \$3,691,233. The tax rate would be an estimated \$11.19 per thousand.

The levy requests total a 14.3 percent increase over last year's

total budget request and is 3.9 percent increase over 1986-87.

According to Wright the total of all revenue other than property taxes is estimated to be \$6,286,251, that's \$99,041 less than last year.

Wright explained that the state's Basic School Support will be down by \$45,656, county funds down an estimated \$48,801 and cash on hand approximately \$212,381. Requiring district patrons to make up the difference.



Promoted

Bernyce Courtney has been promoted to the position of manager at Warm Springs Apparel Industries factory. Bernyce has worked at the factory since its opening in October 1986 and previously managed the Kah-Nee-Ta Village craft shop.

WEATHER

FEB.	HI	LOW
11	55	35
12	47	29
13	54	37
14	51	30
15	52	38
16	48	29
17	52	32
18	47	30
19	53	28
20	54	35
21	49	35
22	47	30
23	40	32
24	42	31