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(Coyote News)



VOL. 19 NO. 11

P.O. BOX 870, WARM SPRINGS, OR 97761

MAY 27, 1994

ATNI members meet in Pendleton...

Tribes gather to discuss issues

The Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians held their Mid-Year conference in Pendleton, Oregon, in the Red Lion hotel, May 15-19, 1994, with continuing efforts from the Winter Conference which was held in Spokane in February, as well as topics from the meeting with Clinton at the White House and the Listening meeting at Albuquerque, NM.

Topping the agenda are health care, education, economic development as well as tribal gaming and the veterans affairs. There is always a need for Indian education and as tribal leaders the ATNI conference is where a lot of differences are brought out for discussion. The drop-out rate is tremendous among the Indian students across the country. At each conference ways are discussed to try to bring that rate down. It was said from studies that for each Indian student who graduates from high school two have dropped out and that needs improvement. An 80 percent dropout rate is way too much for any race. There are several reasons for the large drop-out rate. Lack of funds, housing, away from home for the first time, cultural diversity causes much problems.

The Health Committees National 638 conference report by Julia Davis. This concerned the meeting held in Albuquerque, N.M. May 2-5, 1994. The Nez Perce Tribe formed an ad-hoc committee and developed a position paper. Each region had their own meetings. The Aberdeen and Bemidji regions came out with a request of a 6 month extension for the comment deadline. The Northwest couldn't support the six month period. A time line showing the 6 month and 3 month, and the three month period was accepted by all leaders.

In the meeting with President Clinton there was much controversy over budget cuts especially in Indian country. Senator Inouye said, do not accept anything less than an Executive Order to recognize our Sovereignty, Treaties and executive

Order, as the health, safety, welfare, education, economic and employment opportunity, and the preservation of cultural and natural resources are the primary goals and objectives of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians.

The B.I.A. Re-Organization, coming closer to becoming final. The Government to Government relationship with all tribes and we should not refer to the tribes as Minorities especially with the Gov. to Gov. basis of all the tribes today.

In a meeting with key Tribal Leaders there was a draft drawn up that needs to be finalized, said Stan Speaks, of the Portland Area Office. There are a couple of meetings set up with all the Tribal Leaders with one meeting scheduled for Oklahoma in early July. The task force also said, "we are very comfortable on what we have worked on and we will be able to say to each Tribe, "This is your share of the Pot."

The Ecosystem management, we want tribes to look at their natural resources, Range, Agriculture etc. The delegation of authority is more toward the reservation level as the task force is near completion with the plan and about to present it to the people; what has occurred. In the up and coming budgets, we don't want to cut from the Tribes who

really need all they can get/.

As Ken Smith, CEO for the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, said, This is the Task Force 4th year and we have worked hard on giving information and also on getting important information. Working of the delegation of Authority where Reservation Superintendents can make direct decision and not have to send them the Area Director for approval.

On July 11, there will be a meeting between the Task Force and Tribal leaders to see the complete picture of what has been taking place and shaping up. The Superintendent and staff have available in the Area Office any assistance needed because there will always be an individual in the Area Office to help. The Bureau will change but the Tribes will never give up the Trust Responsibility from the U. S. Government, even when the Re-Organization with the Eco-System is implemented./

The A.T.N.I. Housing Committee report for 1994 at the mid year conference reported that for region 10 fiscal year 1994, we received approximately twenty-two million dollars (\$22,000,000) for housing construction which will provide for two hundred (200) new homes.

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Artists becoming empowered

"The opportunity to attend the ATNI, on behalf of the Small Business Administration is a special privilege since my tribe hosted this meeting," said Bobby Connor. "As the keynote speaker for the ATNI Artists Empowerment Conference, my primary message was that there is a natural and strong link between entrepreneurial spirit, artistic inspiration and our spirituality as Native people.

"As Indians and as artists, empowerment is evident when our creativity is at full tilt in all that we do. Our pre-contact lifestyle was an

exquisite one, rich in innovation, superior craftsmanship, ample raw materials, originally and aesthetic beauty. We can make our dreams of a good life reality by working together, breaking barriers, support one another - always mindful of our relationship to nature.

"What has happened here at Umatilla is extremely heartening, a quiet humble beginning of an Indian Art Renaissance. The Tilmulta Art Council is tribally sanctioned, a state and regionally recognized local arts

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About 200 seniors and youth warm up before taking off for their walk.

You're never too young or old too learn the benefits of a healthy lifestyle. Senior citizens and children from the Early Childhood Education center took a walk together for health May 25. Their brief stroll took them from the Senior Center to the Community Center with stops along the way to make sure everyone was all right and to have their blood pressure checked. To wrap up the day, the seniors had lunch at the new park.



Participants make their way down High Lookie path on Wednesday's stroll.

President "reaffirms" trust responsibility, sovereignty

Warm Springs Tribal Council Chairman Raymond Calica was among more than 300 elected tribal leaders from across the nation to meet with President Clinton April 29 for the first-ever "Nation to Nation" meet conference.

In his remarks to his peers, President Clinton said "there is a great yearning in this nation for people to be able to reestablish a sense of community, a sense of oneness, a sense of cooperation, of shared values and spirit. American are searching for the chance to come together in

friendship, instead of coming apart in anger and distrust. There is a yearning for us to be able to live together so that all of us can live up to our God-given potential and be respected for who and what we are.

"It is in that spirit and with great humility I say to the leaders of the first Americans, the American Indian and Alaska Natives, welcome to the White House. Welcome home...So much of who we are today comes from who you have been for a long time. Long before others came to these shores there were pow-

erful and sophisticated cultures and societies here--yours. Because of your ancestors, democracy existed here long before the Constitution was drafted and ratified....

"I believe in your rich heritage and in our common heritage. What you have done to retain your identity, your dignity and your faith in the face of often immeasurable obstacles is profoundly moving--an example of enduring strength of the human spirit. We desperately need this lesson now. We must keep faith with you and with that spirit and with the common heritage so many of us cherish. That is what you came to talk to me about, and what I would like to respond to today.

"...We must respect your right to remain who you are and to live the way you wish to live. And I believe the best way to do that is to acknowledge the unique government-to-government relationship we have enjoyed over time. Today I reaffirm our commitment to self-determination for tribal governments.

"I pledge to fulfill the trust obligations of the federal government. I vow to honor and respect tribal sovereignty based upon our unique historic relationship. And I pledge to continue my efforts to protect your right to fully exercise your faith as you wish."

Clinton spoke of the importance of religious freedom, saying that "No agenda for religious freedom will be complete until traditional Native American religious practices have received all the protections they deserve. Legislation is needed to protect Native American religious practices threatened by federal action. The Native American Free Exercise of Religion Act is long overdue. And I will continue to work closely with you and members of Congress to make sure the law is constitutional

and strong....And to make certain that you can obtain the ritual symbols of your religious faith, in a moment I will sign a directive to every executive department and agency of government, not just the Department of Interior, instructing them to cooperate with tribal governments to accommodate wherever possible the need for eagle feathers in the practice of Native American religions."

Respecting tribal values, religions, identity and sovereignty is "our first principle," said Clinton. The second principle to guide "our relationship....is to improve the federal government's relationships with the tribes and become full partners with the tribal nations.

"I don't want there to be any mistake about our commitment to a stronger partnership between our people. Therefore....I will also sign an historic government directive that requires every executive department and agency of government to take two simple steps: first, to remove all barriers that prevent them from working directly with tribal governments; and second, to make certain that if they take action affecting tribal trust resources, they consult with tribal governments prior to that decision. It is the entire government, not simply the Department of the Interior, that has a trust responsibility with tribal governments. And it is time the entire government recognized and honored that responsibility."

Becoming better partners also means becoming better listeners, said Clinton. Thus, the first-ever Listening Conference held in Albuquerque, New Mexico May 5 and 6 at which members of the departments of Interior and Justice were present to listen to tribal concerns. Clinton

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Range & Ag updating

The Range & Ag department is currently in the process of updating the Warm Springs Brand Book. The following information is needed from everyone that has a registered brand:

1. Is all the information in the old brand book the same (brand, brand location, earmarks, ear tag colors, etc...if you need to review the brand book there is one here in the office)?
2. Are you adding a new brand? If so we have registration papers for you to fill out.
3. Any changes from one district to another? If so, you need to speak to the ride boss of the grazing group you plan on changing to. There is a

procedure that needs to be followed for every grazing group when changing districts.

We would like to have the new brand book out possibly by July 1, 1994. The deadline date has been extended to May 31, 1994. So any new/updated information that you wish to have in the new brand book needs to be in the Range & Ag department by then. If not, the information that is in the current brand book will be re-entered into the new one. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to call us at 553-3362/3363.

Coyote News In Brief

304th Invades Reservation
Members of the 304th Rescue Squadron visited Warm Springs May 12 to demonstrate refueling techniques and explain their flying pattern over the reservation.

Page 2

Mitchell to visit Normandy, France
It was fifty years ago on June 6 that Art Mitchell was among thousands of soldiers to participate in the Normandy Invasion. Mitchell and some of his family members will return to Normandy to commemorate the event.

Page 3

Leaders gather to listen
Hundreds of Indian leaders and government officials gathered in Albuquerque to participate in the "Listening Conference" called by President Clinton.

Page 5

Annual rodeo draws big crowd
The 45th annual Tygh Valley All-Indian Rodeo was held May 21 and 22, drawing large crowds of spectators and participants alike.

Page 6

Volunteers receive training
A dozen Warm Springs Victims Assistance volunteers took part in training in Albuquerque May 11-13.

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Computers to enhance Indian language
Mary Ann Meanus is picking up computer skills to help enhance Indian language teaching.

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Voters say big "yes" to WSCP



645 voters cast ballots for referendum.

voided. Eighty-eight percent of the voters voted yes on the issue.

According to Vital Statistics, the election cost about \$2,200. Election board members Irene Towe and Deanna Thompson presented ballots to voters, while Fern Begay, Arlita Rhoan, Maxine Switzer and Beulah Calica counted the completed forms. Vital Statistics mailed 440 absentee ballots and 149 were completed and returned.

Tony Stacona, WSCP Manufacturing Superintendent, expressed relief that the referendum was over. "I'm relieved. There was an exhaustive effort put forth leading up to the referendum. We're ready to get the ball rolling; get some sales going and create some jobs." Stacona said some folks voluntarily went door-to-door to remind people to vote. Stacona put reminders in windshields and others even made phone calls to voters.

What's next? Once funding is received, the assembly system will be automated and new machinery will be ordered and installed. More importantly, new employees will be hired. "By the end of August or September, we should be in full production process," Stacona added.

Employees at Warm Springs Composite Products are breathing a bit easier these days since the referendum concerning formal establishment of the tribal enterprise was overwhelmingly passed May 17 by tribal voters.

At the date of the election, 1,776 tribal members were qualified to vote. The election required a turnout of at least one-third; 645 voters cast their ballots with 559 voting for and 80 voting against. Six ballots were