Being police officer in tiny Navajo town lonely, scary job-

Across the Wire-

Deer to head up gaming commission-

MILWAUKEE (AP)-A federal commission that regulates the 274 casinos and other gaming operations on the nation's Indian reservations will be headed by Wisconsin native Ada Deer.

Deer, the current assistant Interior secretary who heads the Bureau of Indian Affairs. has been named by President Clinton to also serve as the interim chairwoman of the National Indian Gaming Commission

Last month Deer announced her resignation as BIA chief but agreed to stay on the job until Clinton names her successor.

At the commission, Deer replaces Harold Monteau, 43, the first American Indian to head a U.S. regulatory commission. He resigned at the end of January after a federal lawmaker criticized him for acting more like a cheerleader than a regulator.

The commission, which has 36 staff members and an annual budget of \$2.5 million, is responsible for oversight of all Indian gambling operations. The operations are located on 182 Indian reservations in 28 states.

gaming generates \$4.4 billion each year. "It has provided a tremendous economic boost, reduced unemployment, reduced wel-

The commission estimates that Indian

fare and increased the incomes of employees." Deer said of Indian gaming

The commission was created by the 1988 federal law that permits tribes, with state approval, to conduct any form of gambling already allowed in the state in which they are

As the chairwoman of the commission. Deer will have the power to approve casino. contracts. Two other commissioners, appointed by the Interior secretary, serve as advisers to the chairman

Deer, 61, a Menominee Indian from Keshena, is the first woman to head the BIA. One serious problem the commission faced was a lack of money and staff to perform its responsibilities, she said.

Its primary job is to ensure that tribal gaming operations comply with the 1988 law. A recent report by the commission found violations of the law at 229 of the 274 Indian gaming establishments throughout the coun-

The problems included background checks on employees, whether state approval had been obtained for gambling activities, and whether appropriate fees had been paid to the

kick in members will move off reservations

to seek jobs in metro areas. State plans being

discussed would require people on welfare to

be working or looking for jobs within six

work than to move off the White Earth reser-

vation where she has lived most of her life.

where her family and other low-income tribal

members reside is surrounded by nothing but

miles of snow, rusted-out abandoned cars and

Shooting Star Casino _ where there are plenty

of jobs for members _ is another world away.

here 20 years and I can't get work," said the

single mother of five. If her benefits dry up.

she said, she likely will move to Minneapolis

of Economic Security, several reservations in

1996 had double-digit unemployment rates.

The state as a whole had just 3.9 percent

disparity: American Indian men earned an

average \$15,327 annual salary, while white

men earned \$26,317. And among the 50,000

American Indians in Minnesota, nearly a

quarter are on Aid to Families with Dependent

prospects. For some, casinos have brought

Chippewa said only 200 of the 2,900 members

living on the reservation are unemployed a

than other small Minnesota towns," Cook

said. Gambling revenue from its two casinos

Grand Casino Mille Lacs and Grand Casino

Hinckley _ has allowed the tribe to build new

resentment from state legislators considering

a welfare overhaul: "They're making money

hand over fist," said Sen. Dan Stevens, R-

Moka. "I think Congress' intent was for them

to national attention recently when "60

Minutes" commentator Andy Rooney said

during the show that tribes making money

from casinos aren't doing enough to combat

hundreds of millions of tax-free dollars help

their own people?" he said, referring to Indians

at the snowbound Standing Rock reservation

about \$3 billion annually in gambling revenue,

mostly concentrated among the biggest, urban

casinos: Mystic Lake, Prairie Island and Fond

Affairs Council, said gambling revenue is not

a panacea for welfare woes. Individual

American Indians, like whites, may fall into

poverty regardless of their government's

based on whether or not they have the income,"

Day said. "It makes no difference whether on

not there is money being generated by a tribal

were available. They argued that specific

numbers of coho weren't required under the

to be released below Bonneville Dam.

About 16 to 17 million hatchery coho are

Marsh noted that the Columbia River

management plan was 10 years in the making

and said that he does like anyone tinkering

fish programs in the lower Columbia that

siphoned off a share of the young coho at the

sought by the Yakama. Warm Springs,

Umatilla and Nez Perce tribes, all of whom

have treaty rights to Columbia River salmon

Rick Taylor, spokesman for the Columbia

Inter-Tribal Fish Commission: "The tribes

expense of the upriver releases.

implemented '

and floods

available for comment

He said the states had developed other

The temporary restraining order had been

"The case is really about equity," said

'Welfare is set up for people who qualify

Joe Day, executive director of the Indian

The 17 casinos in Minnesota generate

in North Dakota.

Stevens isn't alone. The issue was brought

Why don't the Indian casinos making

to take care of their poor people."

The gambling money has prompted some

roads and schools and attract businesses

number the tribe can take care of itself.

jobs and hopes for greater self-sufficiency.

Not all reservations have such bleak

Lee Cook of the Mille Lacs Band of

We have 10 times the job opportunities

Census figures from 1990 also show wide

According to the Minnesota Department

to clean houses as she has done before.

packs of dogs foraging for food.

LuAnne St. Clair sees no other way to get

The small cluster of subsidized homes

Without transportation, her tribe's

There ain't jobs around here. I've lived

How will welfare reform affect Indians?-

MAHNOMEN, Minn. (AP)-For nearly a year, Lorraine DeGroat and her nine children survived on the tips she made waitressing at the Shooting Star Casino.

They also had a subsidized home and food stamps, but it was the closest to independence she had been in most of her 34

Then her car broke down. The divorced mother had no way to get to the casino 21 miles across the White Earth Reservation and was back on \$1,000 a month in government assistance.

DeGroat says she desperately wants to get off welfare but is not sure how to do it. Her mother was on welfare, and now her 17year-old daughter is six months pregnant. Who ultimately changes the system—the state or her tribal government-makes no difference, she says.

The new federal welfare law that requires states to take over public assistance programs also allows tribal governments to take on welfare reform for themselves. But will they?

The challenge of overhauling welfare may be even more daunting on sprawling, isolated reservations with few jobs for poor tribal members with little education and no transportation or child care.

And there are risks. Tribes would be required to meet the same federal guidelines as the state or face financial sanctions.

"Given our rate of unemployment, it's going to be very, very difficult, if not impossible, to put people to work as they exhaust their benefits from the welfare program." said Bobby Whitefeather, chairman of the Red Lake Band of Chippewa.

So far, no tribal governments in Minnesota have decided whether to develop their own welfare plans. The state has to submit a plan by July 1; tribes can jump in at any time.

"For the life of me, I can't think of too many advantages (to tribes that administer welfare themselves)," said Sen. Don Samuelson, DFL-Brainerd, author of one of the welfare bills before the Legislature.

If they do, part of the federal grant that would have gone to the state would go directly to the reservations. State officials say they don't know yet how much that would be, how exactly it would be distributed or even how many American Indians are on public assistance now.

They also haven't decided if there would be money given to administer the grants. While the states have a welfare infrastructure in place _ offices, forms, clerks and other building blocks of bureaucracy _ tribal governments do not.

If unemployment is high enough, tribes might not have to cut people off welfare under the five-year lifetime limit in the federal law. Those with more than 1,000 members are exempt if more than half are out of

According to state figures, none of Minnesota's reservations qualify for the exemption, although some tribes dispute the numbers.

Of the 5,500 people living on the Red Lake reservation north of Bernidji, nearly 2,000 are unemployed, Whitefeather said. Many don't have cars to get to jobs. Even if they did, travel costs for the hour-plus commute to most jobs would take a bite out of a \$6-an-hour paycheck, he said.

He fears that once stricter requirements

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)-A federal

judge has given the U.S. government and the

states of Oregon and Washington 10 days to

come up with another I million hatchery-

raised baby coho to release this spring in the

a temporary restraining order February 20

telling government fishery agencies to report back to him with a plan or come up with an

acceptable reason for not increasing the

He scheduled a hearing for a preliminary

Marsh sided with four Columbia River

Indian tribes that accused the federal gov-

ernment and the two states of violating a

1988 agreement that was an outgrowth of the

landmark United States versus Oregon case

that established the Indians' right to a fair

more than twice as many coho below

Bonneville than above it violated the agree-

ment, known as the Columbia River Fish

Management Plan, by failing to support fish

runs in the upper portions of the river, where

the Indians have their traditional fishing

released above the dam. But representatives

of the state of Oregon said that, because of a

shortage in brood stock, only about 7.5 million

The Indians want nearly 9 million coho

The tribes had said the plans to release

upriver coho releases.

injunction for 8:30 a.m. March 4.

share of the river's salmon runs.

grounds.

U.S. District Judge Malcolm Marsh issued

Columbia River above Bonneville Dam.

Baby coho release subject of judge's order-

Kayenta don't like to admit it, but it ierrifies them to think of how Officer Hoskie Gene died-his crumpled, beaten body left in the dirt like trash alongside the remote highway in the silent desert night.

Gene was the only cop on duty when he headed off alone to a robbery call an hour away on the sprawling Navajo Indian reservation. He kissed his girlfriend, and promised they would be together at the end of his shift.

Soon after, he lost communication with the dispatcher. Hours later, he was found strangled amid broken beer bottles, his

weapon and vehicle stolen. He died as he worked: alone

Sometimes there might be one or two other (cops) our there," said Officer Martin Page, gesturing toward an endless horizon of red rock formations and valleys where radio talk crackles and dies. "That is, if they can hear you. When you're dealing with no backup, you're by yourself wherever you go. That's just the reality.

This is Kayenta, where five officers patrol 4,100 square miles of brutal poverty and uncompromising desert, where headquarters is a worn-out trailer and the nearest hospital is an hour and a quarter if you speed. They are responsible for 15,270 people.

In some ways, police in this dusty, one stop-sign town on the Arizona-Utah border aren't unlike those in other rural, poor districts around the nation, typicarly working alone and an hour or more from help should they For Navaj sofficers, however, the task is

compounded by the reservation's horrifying host of social ills: unemployment, alcoholism, suicide and murder rates multiple times the national average. This scenario has been more than chal-

lenging for police here _ it has been deadly. In the past nine years, three officers were murdered on the job, one committed suicide and another was jailed for killing his wife.

"They're just like walking on this emotional roller-coaster," said Capt. Thomas Yazzie, who oversees criminal investigations at Kayenta and Tuba City, another district about 75 miles west of here. "They get burned out. They are asked to do something that can't be done.'

No one disputes that lack of manpower is what killed Gene one cold night last January It is also blamed for the murders of Officers Andy Begay and Roy Lee Stanley in Decem-

To this day, officers fear driving alone down the dirt roads in Monument Valley. where Stanley was attacked after checking on a bonfire party. After his distress calls to the dispatcher disappeared in the red-rock mountains. Stanley was forced by his youthful assailants to radio Begay, who was nearby The two officers were then shot with their own weapons, shoved in the back of a police vehicle and set ablaze.

Kayenta is more risky than other districts." said Officer Calvin Lee Gishie, a stocky. 25-year-old who has come from another district to help out. "Like right now, we're the only ones out here.

Stopping to back up a state Department of Public Safety officer on the highway. Gishie notes the other cop's state-of-the-art computer and radar system. His car has an antiquated

Many of the vehicles police rely on to traverse the district's rocky, dirt roads have 150,000 miles on them, or more. Officer Jim Tsosi's has a cracked windshield. The lights top Gishie's spin but they don't light up. Because it takes so long for officers to

respond to calls, police say people often abandon the scene of fatal accidents and crimes. By the time an officer arrives at a domestic incident, the fighting may be long over and the victim no longer interested in pressing the case.

Most people live in remote spots without paved roads, running water or telephones. forcing them to find the rare neighbor with a cellular phone or actually drive to the police station if they need help. Often hours or days pass before police hear of a crime and are unable to gather evidence.

And even when police do arrest people, there's nowhere to put them.

The six jails around the 25,000-squaremile reservation can hold less than 60 sentenced inmates: tribal police make 27,000 arrests each year. In some cases, inmates live in cells meant only for temporary holding. In most cases, they are freed

Montana lawmakers rule against Indians-

HELENA (AP)-Bills allowing some school districts to give a hiring preference to Indians and requiring the state to erase the word "squaw" from names of public property were killed by lawmakers Friday.

House members turned back efforts to bring the bills, each tabled by committees, to the floor for debate by all representatives. Rep. Bill Whitehead, D-Wolf Point, said race played a role in the defeat of his hiring

"Race is an issue for some extremists in here," he said. "There's some people you're just never going to get to. Their constituents may be just like them and that's really scary." In the 46-48 vote to leave his bill in

committee, all the opponents were Republican. All 35 Democrats and 11 Republicans voted for the bill. Whitehead's bill would have applied only to those school districts at least partly within

Indian reservation boundaries. It permitted.

but did not require, an advantage be given to an enrolled member of a tribe or a descendent of an enrolled member The preference could be applied only when an Indian job applicant was equally

qualified with a non-Indian applicant. Whitehead said the bill could help the unemployment problem on reservations, where the jobless rate is sometimes 80 percent. Four schools in his district have 320 jobs and only 60 of them are held by Indians.

Having more Indians in teaching positions will show Indian children they can aspire to be more than manual laborers, he said. And, Whitehead added, "who better to teach Indian children?"

Rep. Beverly Barnhart, D-Bozeman, said the proposal will provide Indian students with more role models.

But Rep. Rick Jore, R-Ronan, objected to extending a hiring preference to Indians who are not members of a tribe. That would give an advantage to applicants with very little Indian blood, he said. A bill requiring the state to find new

names for geographic features and places with names that include "squaw" fared worse than Whitehead's measure. It was rejected by Rep. Diane Sands, D-Missoula, said her

bill would remove an insulting term attached to dozens of public sites around the state. Although most people may believe "squaw" refers an Indian woman, it also is slang for a Indian women's vagina, she said. Rep. Bob Ream, another Missoula Democrat, urged the bill be saved as a recog-

nition that the term is outdated and insulting to Indians. "Times have changed and we have to change with the times," he said. However, Rep. Shiell Anderson, R-Livingston, saw no need for the bill. Most people do not consider the word derogatory and the public would continue to use the old

familiar names even after they were changed, Rep. Alvin Ellis Jr., R-Red Lodge, said, This is nothing more or less than censor-

ship. We have many terms that are place names that may not be politically correct," but changing such traditional labels would sacrifice some history of the state, he said.

Sands replied. "This is not an issue of censorship, it's an issue of respect and honor of women and Native American people."

consideration for what they've done. There is just no room. The citizenry knows that the police are overwhelmed. The storeowner who reported the robbery the night of Gene's murder still

"While they're coming in one door, people

are being pushed out the other," said Police

Chief Leonard Butler. "There's really no

cries when asked about it: others have blamed him for the killing. Things being what they are, they say, you shouldn't summon the police unless it's a matter of life or death.

"We know how incredibly stretched they are, sometimes you have to wait hours," said Lori Hood, who runs Kayenta's public health clinic. "But even if they do come, nothing will happen. Folks in town don't have a whole lot of faith in the police department. No one's afraid of the police'

Navajo officers mirror their community. Alcohol and drug abuse, divorce, domestic violence or suicide seem to touch nearly every life, from the dispatcher to Chief Butler, who has battled alcoholism and has been divorced three times.

Shortly before he was murdered. Gene shared his home with Officer Martin Page: both men had been having marital problems. and Page said Gene told him that his estranged wife had run over his foot with her

"He said to me, 'Man, what's going on?" Page recalled.

Compared to the national average, unemployment is five times greater on the reservation, average income is three times lower, teen suicide is twice as high. Murder rates are as many as five times those of neighboring counties and several times the national aver-

More than 80 percent of all police calls involve alcohol. The drug is illegal on the reservation, leaving people who can't reach border stores to drink concoctions such as "ocean," a mixture of rubbing alcohol or hair spray mixed with water

All this ugliness takes place amid almost breathtaking beauty.

For decades, filmmakers, photographers and commercial producers have come to Monument Valley for its huge blue skies, mighty red-rock mountains and sunsets that

transform the desert into a serene orange

The isolation seems so lovely to me.' said Tony Hillerman, renowned author of 13 mystery novels about Navajo cops. "Officers have complaints where someone sets on fire a ceremonial thing or something to get back at someone else. It's not the kind of thing a Chicago cop would have to deal with.

But police say things have changed When I started in 1971, a lot of our time was taken up with livestock being shot or

windmill disputes," Butier said. "Now in one week I've got two fatal accidents, one suicide and five people killed. There are times when you don't want to go to work anymore.

When Gene died. Kayenta's officers cried out They felt isolated, they told Butler, forgotten and unprotected.

Since then, they have been promised a few more officers from the next graduating class. But no dramatic change is on the way

About 80 percent of the Navajo police department's money comes from the federal government, through the Bureau of Indian Affairs. In recent years, the tribe has asked for about \$30 million a year, but has received only about \$17 million.

On the one hand, BIA officials say, Congress has cut back on law enforcement funding everywhere; on the other, the tribe badly mismanages the money it gets. They note the tribe usually ends each year with about a million dollars in unspent funds.

The Navajo can "make the necessary changes themselves," said Wilson Barber, who administers BIA funds for the Navajo Nation. "I think the focus on the dollars is being used as a crutch as to why they can't manage."

Other BIA officials disagree. The tribe, they say, could use all it requests, and more Either way, life for Kayenta cops isn't likely to change soon.

There isn't a lot of prestige in being a police officer in a traditional society. So you do it because you love it." said Tsosi. And Gene did, said Yazzie.

"I went to his graduation and just congratulated him. He said it was what he always wanted, to be a police officer," he said. "Despite all the problems, it was all he ever wanted to be."

Oregon, Alaska and the American Indian

tribes divided into groups representing the

Canada's part. In the past, Canada has been

able to use Washington state and Oregon to

American group, there can be no agreement.

gotiations, because Alaska had little incentive

to deal: Many of the fish, including those

bound for Oregon and Washington state, are

That has led to concerns that negotiations

But one official close to the Canadian

may progress among southern fishery workers

It was something of a concession on

Without unanimous agreement of each

That has been the snag in previous ne-

southern and northern fisheries.

gang up on Alaska.

believed to pass by Alaska.

but stall in the north.

Canadian, US fishermen meet in Vancouver-

VICTORIA, British Columbia (AP)-Fishermen and processors from British Columbia and the United States will be getting together again Monday for talks aimed at ending the Pacific Salmon Treaty impasse.

After a getting-to-know-you session in Portland, Ore , earlier this month, participants agreed to meet at a Vancouver hotel and continue talking.

Those who work with the salmon have been asked to make progress where politicians have failed. They're trying to come up with a deal for dividing the salmon that migrate along the Pacific coast.

Little progress was reported at the Portland gathering, but participants left feeling "I have to assume things are progressing

positively because we're having another meeting ...," said Ian Todd, executive secretary to the Pacific Salmon Commission. Participants must report their progress by March 15 and decide whether this new,

informal process is worth continuing. It will be at least the fourth attempt to solve the dispute over allocation provisions

in the Pacific Salmon Treaty. In the latest round of negotiations, groups from British Columbia, Washington state,

side said there will be no agreement without the north. "Canada's position is we're looking for

the full-meal deal," said the official, who asked not to be named.

Under the treaty, fishermen in each country are supposed to catch only the salmon

that spawn in their rivers. Canada says U.S. fishermen catch some six million Canadian fish, costing the Canadian industry up to \$70 million. The United States denies the allegations, and blames poor

continue negotiating gaming future compacts

but would require ratification of the agree-

The measure (SB1177), sponsored by Sen.

Scott Bundgaard, would take effect on Jan. 1.

2003 _ the first year the original 10-year

gaming compacts would begin coming up for

Arizona originally began allowing casi-

nos on the reservations to give Indian econo-

mies a short-term boost and to help them

ments by the House and Senate.

conservation on Canada's part < Gaming compacts subject to legislative ratification

renewal.

PHOENIX (AP)-When Indian gaming compacts come up for renewal, they may be subject to legislative ratification under a law unanimously endorsed Friday by the Senate Finance Committee

The bill would allow the governor to

Books need to be returned

The Small Business Development Center has a concern to assist all community members with their library services, these books contain information for all individuals to utilize to their full potential. The Small Business Center would greatly appreciate the return of it's property/ books, so that other people/parties could have an equal chance at viewing Entrepreneur criteria from the Small Business Development Center library.

If there's books being used on a

daily basis by certain individuals, you are entitled to re-check/continue further use if preferable.

The growing number of Native American Entrepreneurs are counting on you. To reply on this subject/issue:

Warm Springs Small Business Development Center 2107 Wasco Street PO Box 945

Warm Springs, OR 97761

(541) 553-3592 553-3593 (fax)

attain self-sufficiency, the Glendale Republican said. He said future legislatures may want input on whether casinos will be allowed to continue operation.

People speaking on behalf of Indian com-

munities said the legislation undermined an

initiative passed by voters in November Proposition 201, which passed by a 64to-36 percent margin, requires the governor to issue a gaming compact within 30 days of a request by any tribe that doesn't have a compact.

The proposition was initiated by the Salt River Pima Indian Community after the governor refused to enter into a compact with the community that is adjacent to southeastern Phoenix suburbs.

"The Legislature is striking out large portions of the statute before the ink is dry on initiative." said tribal spokesman Kevin

Bundgaard disagreed

"I don't think this flies in the face of Proposition 201," he said. "People have the right to have a say in this through the Legislature. We're interjecting the Legislature into the compact process."

The Salt River tribe sued the governor Wednesday after he offered the group a gaming compact that contained limiting provisions not in other compacts. It included a requirement that any casino

location be acceptable to the state Gaming Department. The tribe wants the same compacts given to other Indian communities

The Arizona Supreme Court has agreed to hear arguments on the case next month. Moran said the tribes are concerned that this new legislative move could impact the

lawsuit down the line.

Bundgaard said that is why he included the delayed effective date, to make sure the Salt River community would not have the rules changed in midstream. Moran said there are no guarantees that the disagreement between the governor and the tribe will be resolved by then



Comp. Plan statement—Continued from page 8

Deschutes could be a backup water system. I think a lot of our range problems, we could do a lot better on our runoff....fill stock ponds. They would provide water protection, flood protection. A small culvert at CC since 1964. We have the same flood control system on the reservation. Our people in the community have not learned from '64. We're still with the same thing. We look it over, nothing's changed, nothing's been done. Even after the first flood on Tenino Creek, you think people would go down and clean out the culvert. But no, they waited until the water was running over the road and then they were putting their life at risk. Our open range policy, we have a problems out on the range. We have people building fences on Clackamas Meadows to put livestock in there. We're defeating our whole purpose on the reservation by going against our own teaching. We just

the needs. The one we have on the about stock control and protecting the river. And here, we're over here, building fences around the Meadows to put livestock where it's the headwaters of the Clackamas River. I think we should stay out of the timber and leave that up to the wildlife to take care of that. We can look back at different areas where wildlife are running. We have a lot of law enforcement on our wildlife. We need a better commitment from our people than what we do have today because we're going to end up with zero because the sportsman are not involved. The attitude has to change among our people first before there's going to be a change with anybody. It has to start with each other, one at a time. We're not going to have any wildlife pretty soon. Same with the river. We're losing. The whiteman is telling us what we should do. The whiteman is telling us how we should run our river. We own Sherar's Bridge and they're telling us what they want us to do down there. When we're the

owners, we should be telling the public this is the way it's going to be and this is how we're going to run it. I'm afraid that going into having a state park at Sherar's, they could put stipulations on that. Same thing with recovering Bear

Springs up there, we need to get that developed ourselves. Put it in the hands of the Tribes. Not let forestry tell us what we should do and we're not ready and all that. I think our people really have to work at what they have. Improve a lot more activities in our community. Attend more public meetings, district meetings. Our younger people under 35 have to start coming out. We can't depend on grandma and grandpa. Some of these families don't have that family leadership anymore. So they have to step out in action themselves to better the lifestyle in this community and make it a healthy environment for their own children. They can't expect the Tribe to do it for them. We have to do it."

Lyle Rhoan

were asking only that the terms of the Columbia River Fish Management Plan me The shortage of brood stock is blamed on a cold-water virus and last year's heavy rains Most of the coho would have to be trucked upriver from hatcheries to be released at various points above Bonneville, the farthest downriver dam on the Columbia. Representatives of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife weren't immediately went to battle on the John Day River