

## Remains found at nation's oldest city

ST. AUGUSTINE, Fla. (AP) — Human remains found beneath a downtown building site are likely those of American Indians and could be one of the most significant finds in the history of the nation's oldest city, according to the city archaeologist.

The bones were found when the city conducted a routine archaeological excavation at the location of an eight-unit site.

City Archaeologist Carl Halbirt said his team of volunteers identified four or five sets of remains. They probably belong to Yamassee Indians who were in St. Augustine in the 18th Century, he said.

"From a historic standpoint, this is one of the most significant finds we've ever made in St. Augustine," Halbirt said.

A mission called La Punta, with a church and scattered

farmsteads, stood at the site between 1720 and the late 1750s, Halbirt said. The mission was home to 40 to 60 people.

No one knows if the bodies were buried under the church or in an open graveyard because there isn't historical documentation, he said.

Halbirt said the University of Florida will verify if the remains are indeed American Indian.

Michael Johnigeon, owner of Empire Development Group LLC, the property owner, said the discovery won't set his project back. The find was only on one lot.

Johnigeon plans to install a plaque at the site telling its history. And he wants to see the remains get a proper burial.

Reburial details have not been worked out.

## Alcohol ban stays in place on Pine Ridge Reservation

MANDERSON, S.D. (AP) — The Oglala Sioux Tribal Council has defeated a proposed ordinance that would have let tribal members vote whether to make alcohol legal on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.

As tribal President John Steele read the results of the 10-2 vote, cheers erupted from 150 students and tribal members who had gathered to protest the ordinance and the referendum.

They came to the community center holding signs that read, "Remember Our Children," "Vote No to Beer," "Please Don't Bring Poison to Our People" and "Protect Our Treaties."

Wounded Knee District said alcohol wasn't the point because bootleggers already operate on reservations.

The tribe struggles financially, and with a \$13.6 million treatment center being built, it now must find funds to pay operating costs, he said.

"We don't have any revenue to put in place for it," Kelly said.

Eileen Janis of Pine Ridge asked the council to reconsider its vote.

Local youth groups as well as high school teams are invited to regional and out-of-state tournaments — tournaments that they'll never attend because of lack of money, said Janis.

Alcohol has been banned on the reservation for years.

But those voting for the ordinance said the people, not the council, should decide whether to make alcohol legal. They also argued that money raised through alcohol sales could help youth and other programs on the reservation.

Many more, however, spoke against the ordinance.

Alex White Plume of Manderson said alcohol is another strike against the Lakota. To grow up healthy, maintaining spiritual ties and traditional ways, the tribe needs to adhere to its alcohol-free status, he said.

Lyle Jack was one of two council members who voted for the ordinance. He represents the Pine Ridge District, which is close to Whiteclay, Neb., where and estimated 4 million cans of beer are sold each year, mostly to Indians from the Pine Ridge Reservation.

Phillip Good Crow of Porcupine said the council should consider what has alcohol has done to families on the reservation. "Our problems would only triple if we began selling liquor on the reservation," Good Crow said.

"We're not for alcohol, but we're tired of seeing people making millions off of our miseries," said Jack. "Realistically, there's not enough votes on the council to support the ordinance," he said. "The resolution was a way for letting the people decide. People asked, 'Let us decide for ourselves.'"

As the council gathered to make its decision, a rally to protest the ordinance was held at tribal offices in Pine Ridge, about 30 miles away.

Tribal officials said elders from as far away as Martin attended the rally along with members of Ikce Wicasa Ksapa Ta Oklakiciye, a newly founded men's organization formed to oppose alcohol sales on the reservation.

Emmett Kelly of the

## Tribes want help with Flathead Lake predator fish

MISSOULA (AP) — The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes will offer a bargain fishing license for their portion of Flathead Lake this year. It will cost \$10 and will be good for the entire year.

"We want anglers to help us suppress nonnative fisheries in Flathead Lake," said Tom McDonald, manager of the tribes' Division of Fish, Wildlife, Recreation and Conservation. Many tourists shy away from buying a rather pricey year-round tribal license just to fish the lake for a day or two during a summer visit,

McDonald said. Others are unaware that any tribal fishing license is needed to fish the Flathead Reservation portion of the lake, he said.

The southern half of the lake is controlled by the tribal government, while the state of Montana controls the waters to the north. State officials said the state will not offer a corresponding bargain for the state-controlled northern half of the lake at this time.

The new tribal license was not initiated to increase revenue — although that is a likely result, said McDonald.

## BIA staff has ties to conflicted tribe

PLYMOUTH, Calif. (AP) — A once-tiny, nearly destitute American Indian tribe is pushing hard to build a \$100 million casino — but it's not traditional tribal members gunning for riches.

Hundreds of people have been newly added to the Ione Band of Miwok Indians' membership rolls, which were opened up by regional Bureau of Indian Affairs officials. Among the new members are several BIA employees and dozens of their relatives.

about 40 miles east of Sacramento in the rolling hills of one of California's wine regions.

Now the band's official membership has swelled to 535. None of the new members is related to the original 70.

Amy Dutschke, a member of another American Indian group whose family has roots in the Ione area, was the BIA's acting regional director in June 2002 when she authorized the Ione Band's last leadership election, documents show.

repeated requests from The Associated Press over several weeks.

Dutschke's standing with the tribe dates to a June 1994 letter from a BIA colleague to her brother, asserting that "the history of your family and its association with the Ione Band appears to be quite substantial and would certainly justify your inclusion in the reorganization process."

Tribal rolls and opposition members say a second cousin of Dutschke, Harold Burris, was once allowed to live on the Ione Band's property near Ione because his sister was married to the tribe's chief, Villa's father, at the time.

In Washington, the Bureau of Indian Affairs relied on the tribal election committee's decision to refuse to investigate its own employees' involvement.

The Department of Interior's inspector general also declined to investigate, telling the complaining congressmen that it was an internal tribal matter.

A BIA spokeswoman in Washington, Nedra Darling, said she couldn't comment because the Sacramento regional office did not respond to her repeated inquiries over more than a month.

Four congressmen have called for an investigation, though federal officials have so far declined to intervene. Rep. Nick Rahall, ranking Democrat on the House Resources Committee, called the BIA's move an apparent "coup d'etat" that should make other tribes "tremble with fear."

The election was overseen by Indian Affairs employee Carol Rogers-Davis, whom the BIA named chair of the elections board. She now has three relatives on the tribal roll, records show.

The election produced five new tribal leaders, four of whom are related to Dutschke.

Regional officials, including Dutschke, similarly did not return repeated telephone mes-

Regional BIA officials opened the membership against the traditional leaders' wishes to include members from two other bands in the area. The federal officials then oversaw an Aug. 10, 2002, election that swapped the old leaders for a pro-casino group that includes some of the BIA employees themselves.

Before the Bureau of Indian Affairs became involved, the Ione Band had about 70 members living on land near Ione,

However, Franklin did not produce the documents after

ancestors.

It was only last November that the tribe had its first repatriation in Georgia, Bear said. That was at Fort Benning, a U.S. Army military base near Columbus.

The remains from 31 Indian burials exhumed by construction crews and archaeologists over seven decades were quietly reburied at an undisclosed location on the base.

## Experts differ on what to do with remains

ATHENS, Ga. (AP) — Experts still differ on what to do with the remains of American Indians collected by researchers despite a federal law designed to return the remains to their original resting places.

or time for the often-complex repatriation process.

Many tribes have only recently designated people to deal with the repatriation process. For some, it's become a monumental task.

Joyce Bear, cultural preservation officer for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation of Oklahoma, now has inventories from about 250 museums and universities that may have remains of Creek

Some archaeologists say the bones provide vital clues to the way ancient Indians lived and should be studied more. Others note that for some Indian tribes the bones represent the sacred remains of their ancestors and therefore they should be reburied as called for under federal law.

University of Georgia archaeologists are still waiting to find out what they must do with the earthly remains of about 800 people in a Museum of Natural History storage building.

The bones were recovered during archaeological digs of centuries-abandoned Georgia Indian settlements, then brought back to Athens for analysis, cataloging and storage.

UGA's collection includes remains of at least 248 people. Hundreds of others in climate-controlled storage on the UGA campus are officially in the custody of agencies such as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which contracted with UGA to store the bones and associated materials.

UGA archaeologist David Hally completed an inventory of UGA's burial remains and artifacts more than a decade ago, then sent out notices to 10 tribes that could potentially have claims. He's yet to get a response from any of them, he said.

Few tribes have much money

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