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11 police officers on leave

(AP) - Eleven police officers recently were placed on administrative leave from the Warm Springs Police Department, after allegedly threatening a walkout. The officers, including Police Chief Don Courtney, reportedly were protesting working conditions, low pay and outdated equipment.

Raymond Tsumpti, the head of the Confederated Tribes Public Safety Branch, said the officers were put on administrative leave earlier this month for "breach of public trust" after he perceived the possibility of a walkout.

In their absence, the nine officers left in the department have been working overtime to pick up the slack.

The temporary suspensions came about after officers submitted individual letters and at least one group memo to Police Chief Courtney, discussing a number of concerns such as low pay, old patrol cars and an unpleasant working environment.

Two lieutenants, five sergeants, the criminal investigations supervisor and the police chief are among the employees suspended with pay.

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Sohappy to sue boarding school, federal agencies

(AP) - The mother of Cindy Sohappy, who died in a boarding school administered by the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs, intends to sue the school and the federal agencies that oversee it.

Sohappy died of acute alcohol poisoning last December at age 16, after being placed in a detention cell by school administrators at the Chemawa Indian School.

After the girl's death, the U.S. Attorney General's office considered filing involuntary manslaughter charges against workers who had contact with Sohappy on the night she died.

But an investigation found that there was not enough evidence to charge the school's staff with the girl's death, assistant U.S. attorney Bill Williams said last month.

Her mother, Renee Sohappy of Madras, hired a Bend attorney to investigate filing the federal lawsuit.

Attorney Foster Glass said Cindy Sohappy's family believes the teenager's rights were violated.

They believe she was subject to wrongful imprisonment; and was given insufficient medical care while being detained.

"They put her in a place where she was no longer free to leave and no one took care of her," Glass said.

"They're getting off scot-free for my daughter's death," Renee Sohappy said last month, after learning that the government would not pursue criminal charges.

"It left a long scar on me and my kids. What is it going to take for them to realize what they did to my daughter was wrong?"

Cells no longer used

Results are still pending in another administrative investigation, by the U.S. Department of Interior inspector general's office.

The Department of Interior earlier this month ordered the BIA to halt the detention of juveniles in its jails.

Several of the cells were found to be "life threatening," the department reported.

The Chemawa cells have not been used since Sohappy's death, school officials say.

Agreement on dams holds promise for future

By Dave McMechan

Spilyay Tymoo

Warm Springs was the scene last week of a rare gathering.

At the gathering were individuals and organizations that often disagree, and at times strongly disagree over issues involving natural resources.

The gathering in Warm Springs was rare because all those present were in agreement on an important natural resource issue.

"We had these governments, private utilities, and fish and river people coming together to celebrate," said Jim Manion, general manager of Warm Springs Power Enterprises. "You don't see that very often."

The purpose of the meeting - held on the grounds of the Museum at Warm Springs - was to celebrate the signing of an agreement for the long-term management of the Pelton-Round Butte Hydroelectric project. The Confederated Tribes and Portland General Electric are co-owners of the dams, which are licensed for operation by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).

Over the past few years, the tribes and PGE have been working with government agencies and other interested parties toward a 50-year renewal of the FERC license. The gathering last week demonstrated that all the parties now agree on the important issues regarding future operation of the dams. The agreement is a final major step toward the granting of the new license.

Among those in attendance at the signing ceremony were representatives of the Confederated Tribes and PGE; federal agencies including the Forest Service, the BIA and BLM, the National Marine Fisheries and the Fish and Wildlife services.

State agencies and local governments - Madras, Redmond, Bend and Jefferson County - were also on hand; as were people from American Rivers, the Native Fish Society, Oregon Trout, Trout Unlimited and WaterWatch of Oregon.

Gale Norton, U.S. Secretary of the Interior, spoke on behalf of the federal government.

See **DAMS** on page 8

Historic day for the tribes



Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton discusses the Pelton-Round Butte project with Jim Manion, general manager of Warm Springs Power Enterprises.

Fish to spawn again above dams

The relicensing of the Pelton-Round Butte dams includes a plan to return salmon and steelhead runs to 226 miles of rivers and streams above the hydroelectric project.

The tribes and PGE hope to reintroduce the fish runs above the dams by 2007. This would be the first time since 1968 that salmon and steelhead migrated past the dams.

The plan calls for construction of a large tower in the reservoir behind the dams to pump enough water to guide young salmon to an intake tunnel. There, workers would collect the fish and put them in tank trucks to haul them to a release point below the dams.

The Pelton-Round Butte project was completed by PGE in 1964. Although it was constructed with fish passage facilities, the downstream system failed.

The fish passage problem was created in large part by the downstream currents in a reservoir taking a wrong turn. Young salmon and steelhead following the currents rarely found their way to the ocean.

The solution will be a 270-foot high underwater tower arising from the bottom of the lake behind Round Butte Dam. A 130-foot wide disc at the top of the tower will draw in most of the surface water, turning the currents and fish back downstream toward the dam.

Fish will be screened at the intake and trucked downstream of the dams for release on their journey to the Pacific. The tower will also blend waters from various depths to improve the conditions, including water temperatures, for downstream fish.

Species to be reintroduced above the dams include summer steelhead, which is a federally listed threatened species; and spring chinook salmon. Resident kokanee should naturally convert to sockeye salmon as they head downstream.

The project also is expected to help restore bull trout in the Deschutes by letting them mingle again with stock in the higher, colder Metolius.

The tribes and PGE are prepared to spend more than \$135 million on

the hydro project during the 50-year term of the new license. The vast majority of the money will go to fish-related measures. More than \$21 million is planned for fish habitat improvement on Deschutes River tributaries, including water rights acquisition.

The project's reservoirs and their shores are popular recreation sites, including camping, fishing, boating and water skiing. The plans do not restrict recreational fishing for salmon and steelhead over the long run through increased populations and better habitat.

Ron Suppah, Tribal Council chairman, said the agreement helps strike a balance between modern needs for power generation and the ancient tribal cultures that grew up around salmon and the scarce water of the high desert of central Oregon.

"As we walk into the future and try to better the world, I hope we can put aside our differences and reach out to each other," Suppah said.

(The AP helped with this story.)

'Life threatening' conditions at tribal jails

(AP) - The federal Bureau of Indian Affairs has ordered the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs and the Yakama Nation to stop housing juveniles in detention facilities.

The order followed the U.S. Interior Department's investigation of 74 jails and detention facilities overseen by the BIA.

Investigators found "life threatening" conditions at some of the jails, and Inspector General Earl E. Devany urged the BIA to make immediate reforms, according to an interim report presented to the Senate in June.

"BIA's detention program is riddled with problems and, in our opinion, is a national disgrace with many facilities having conditions comparable to those found in Third-World countries,"

Warm Springs' juvenile offenders now are sent to the Northern Oregon Regional Corrections Facility in The Dalles.

Devany told the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs on June 23.

The report cites 10 deaths, including the alcohol poisoning of Cindy Gilbert Sohappy, 16, of Warm Springs, who died Dec. 6 at Chemawa Indian School in Salem.

The agency operates or funds 74 jails on tribal or federally owned lands across the country. They included Chemawa's four holding cells, which are no longer in use.

When the preliminary report was printed in April, Devany's investigators had visited 14 jails, mostly in the Southwest. They have not been to the Warm Springs Jail, the only tribal facility in Oregon, nor to Yakama's lockup, one of six run by Washington tribes.

Previous inspections by the Portland regional BIA staff had turned up problems at both of those jails, including inadequate separation of juveniles and adults, tribal officials said.

Ray Tsumpti, Warm Springs public safety general manager, said BIA officers from Portland told him last month to stop housing juveniles at the jail, which has 48 beds for adults and 12 for youth offenders.

Tsumpti attributed the problem to a lack of jail staffing.

Warm Springs' juvenile offenders now are sent to the Northern Oregon Regional Corrections Facility in The Dalles. Yakama's go to a public juvenile detention facility near the reservation.

During the Senate hearing, Devany described the jails as "suicide prone buildings" and cited the Yakama Nation's windowless cellblock.

Last month a man hanged himself there, Officer Lincoln Kahclamat, a spokesman for the Yakama department, said Thursday.

Kahclamat said windows in the 27-year-old jail had been boarded up by earlier orders of BIA inspectors, who feared inmates could break the glass and use it as weapons.