

## Tribes meet on common issues, problems

PORTLAND (AP) - Representatives of Northwest Indian tribes from seven states were in Portland last week to seek common ground on issues affecting them. Possible infringement on tribal sovereignty by the Bureau of Indian Affairs was near the top of the list.

The Office of Special Trusts, formed five years to improve accountability in the BIA, was drawing much of the acrimony. "The Special Trusts office is taking over the responsibility of the Bureau of Indian Affairs. It's slowing down our business," said Mel Tonasket of the Colville Confederation of eastern Washington. "We are here to try to stop it, or to slow it down. They are expanding control over Indian trust land in our view."

He said there is concern that the office may move against tribal range management or timber next.

"We don't know where it will end," he said. "We don't want to revert to the Indian agent days of the past, when they controlled what we could and could not do with our property."

Danny Jordan, commerce director for the the Hoopa Valley Tribal Council of California, said tribes are being threatened with a loss of money if they don't turn over records of tribal businesses.

"Those funds are needed to build technical support," Jordan said. "That's the way we see it in Indian country."

Ernie Stensgar, president of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, said the formation

of the office was announced at a meeting of tribal leaders five years ago by Interior Secretary Gale Norton with no tribal input. That left a bad taste in the mouths of many Indian leaders, and it still lingers.

"They're taking money from the BIA to create a new office with people who aren't trained in Indian country," said Stensgar, who also is chairman of the Coeur d'Alene Tribe in Idaho. He said the tribes understood that they would be consulted about reorganization in the BIA.

"It took us all by surprise. We were flabbergasted, it was out of the blue," he said.

Stensgar and Dorian Sanchez, of the Nisqually Tribe in western Washington, said at first glance President Bush's

budget proposal, which cuts many domestic programs, also looks grim for the tribes.

"It's going to hurt, from all the information we've heard so far," said Sanchez. "It's going to affect all tribes. It involves health, housing, natural resources, telecommunications, water quality."

Tonasket said his Colville Confederation has developed some of its own medical programs because the Indian Health Service doesn't have money to keep up with growing demand.

But he said programs rely heavily on third-party billings, such as to Medicare and Medicaid, and that those programs also are threatened with cuts.



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Next deadline to submit items for publication in the Spilyay is Friday, Feb. 25. Thank you.

## Letters of apology

To the Warm Springs community, I am apologizing for my reckless driving and not stopping for an officer on Jan. 6. Also, thanks to the officer for giving me a DUII, knowing after seeing me with bought beer earlier that day, wise move, easy target I made myself gullible for trouble driving after drinking. To the community, sorry for my actions, but look over your shoulder, don't drive after drinking, police aren't playing. Caleb Jim.

I would first like this chance to apologize to the community of Warm Springs for my inappropriate behavior in the early morning of Dec. 4, 2004. I was arrested, and incarcerated on charges I regret to have committed and am paying the consequences. Thank you. Sincerely, LaVita Berry.

To the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, family and friends, officers and public relations and my family, I apologize for appearing to be driving under the influence and appearing to be driving reckless and endangering my Native people through my bad performance of driving a low class vehicle. I apologize from the deepest part of my Native heart. I will not let this happen again. Flint Scott.

To the people of Warm Springs, I am apologizing for the irresponsible reckless driving on 1-22-05 in West Hills about 3 or 4 p.m. I am really sorry and it will not happen again. Sincerely, Kenneth Danzuka.

I would like to apologize to the police department for my actions in November of 2004. I would also like to apologize to the courts and to the community of Warm Springs. The action I did was wrong, to scratch up the pick-up of the tribal police. I am now sitting 70 days for this action to think about my wrong and also a hefty fine. Thank you for your time and again, I send my apology. I will do better in the future. Antonio Becerra.

To whom it may concern: I would like to apologize to the people of the Warm Springs Reservation for my actions that were taken on Jan. 15, 2005 at

the Warm Springs Correctional Facility. I am sorry for what I have done. Evaristo Antunez.

To the people and community of Warm Springs, I am writing this apology letter in regards to the DUII I got for blowing a .09 plus my vehicle was parked at the time of the incident. So I'm sorry for my action. I really can't say it won't happen again because no one knows. And again I am very sorry for my actions and poor judgment. Thank you. Respectfully, Lawrence Shike.

To the community and people of Warm Springs, in particular to Robert and Maria Macy, and the employees of the Warm Springs Market. I would like to take this time to apologize for my actions after the most recent break in at Warm Springs Market. While I did not personally take part in the burglary, I did receive and hide stolen property for those that did break in. For this I am truly sorry. Respectfully, Logan Hammond.

To people of Warm Springs I am sorry for drinking and driving, endangering other lives of people driving. With this said I will probably never drink until age, and never drink and drive. I also want to apologize to whoever is disappointed at me for doing this, because this isn't really expected of me. Sincerely, Paul A. Scott.

To the Tribal Court and the Confederated Tribes I apologize for my actions and reactions to the people it may concern while I was under the influence. I realize you're here for our people's protection and well-being. I will try to make a difference in me and the people around me. Samual Scott.

Dear Officer Matt Sherwood, I am Kenneth R. Danzuka, a tribal member of the Confederated Tribes. I am writing this letter to you to ask for your forgiveness. So you can call it an apology letter. I am very sorry for the irrational behavior on the night of 11-19-04 on Quail Trail and Tenino Road. I know my reaction to the Warm Springs Police Department was unnecessary. I am very sorry for resisting arrest. I had no inten-

tion for anyone to get hurt. I hope you can accept my sincere apology. I hope we can work on my problem. I know people like me can make your job harder to do. I am very sorry. Kenneth R. Danzuka.

To the people of Warm Springs, for the night of Feb. 2, 2005, I apologize for the trouble I caused the families that count on me to show up and pick up their children for school. I did not mean to leave you folks hanging as well as my co-workers and family. I am really sorry. I will not let it happen again. Ryan Florendo.

To the community of Warm Springs and Tribal Court, I am writing this apology for having in my possession drug paraphernalia, in particular a marijuana pipe that I forgot I had in my jacket pocket. I was also forced to write this before being released from jail, since I would not write it back in December of 2004. I just want to put this behind me and not be hassled. Respectfully, Tom LeClaire.

I apologize for having drug paraphernalia on the Warm Springs Reservation on Feb. 5. I'm sorry. It won't happen again. I know that it is wrongful. I shall be doing an assessment and evaluation to help correct my behavior. The paraphernalia was located in my purse. I plead guilty. And shall do my sentencing as served. Tonia Hall.

(In the last edition of the paper an apology was accidentally printed as having been written by Loreen Dennis, while the correct name is Loren Dennis.)

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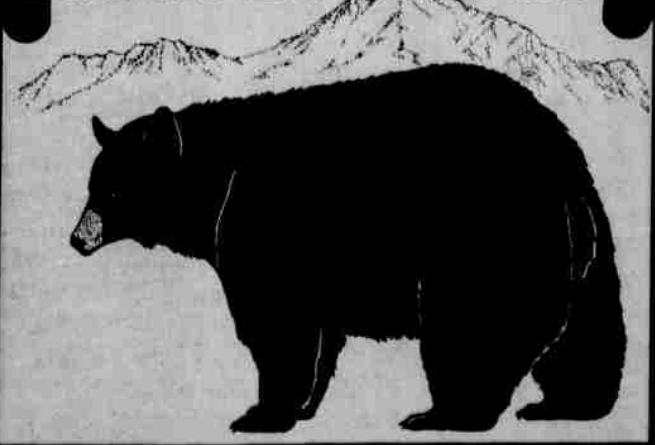
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