

## Montana's governor inducted into Crow tribe

CROW AGENCY, Mont. (AP) — Montana's governor became a member of the Crow Indian Tribe Thursday.

Gov. Brian Schweitzer, who has publicly pursued a friendship with Montana's American Indian tribes, was adopted into the Crow nation in front of hundreds of people who gave him a standing ovation.

"It's a great day in Crow country," said tribal chairman Carl Venne.

Venne said Schweitzer is making good on campaign promises to welcome tribal members into his Helena office.

"No more will you have to

walk through the back door," Venne said he was told at the Capitol. "Come through the front door."

The Democratic governor vowed to work closely with the tribe, especially in the development of wind, coal and gas energy resources on the southeastern Montana reservation.

"We are embarking on a new time for the Crow people," said Schweitzer, who traded his boots for moccasins and other gifts and then danced and played with a drum group.

"Thank you for inviting me into your family," he said.

Schweitzer arrived at the

tribe's headquarters town with other state and federal officials who gave more than \$13 million to the Crow tribe.

The payments include \$9 million as part of a settlement over water rights and coal taxes reached in 1999. Schweitzer also signed a bill for a tobacco tax on the reservation that will provide an estimated \$986,000 for Little Big Horn College next year.

He said he stands by his promises to work with tribes "government to government" and that the front door to the Capitol is "welcome to the first Montanans."

Last Thursday's event included a parade, songs, colorful dancing and a ceremony in which Schweitzer was adopted into the family of Joe and Rena Pickett, whose late son Emerson was a friend of Schweitzer. During the ceremony, Schweitzer was given the Crow name "My Friend."

"When you come to Crow, any home is yours," said Robert "Corky" Old Horn, announcer at the event. "That is Crow custom."

Earlier in the week, the Crow tribe signed a lease agreement with a company to look for oil and gas on the reservation.

## Museum construction set

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Construction of a \$135 million American Indian Cultural Center in Oklahoma City is scheduled to begin Nov. 1.

"We're going to break ground on this cultural center. We've set a date," Chickasaw Nation Gov. Bill Anoatubby, chairman of the Native American Cultural and Educational Authority, announced Wednesday evening.

## Volesky wants to lead BIA

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A Huron County Commission member is asking President Bush to appoint him as director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Ron Volesky, a lawyer and former state lawmaker, wrote a letter to the White House Friday saying he's proud of his heritage as a member of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and would be honored to serve in the position. Volesky said in the letter that he is a realist and understands he's a Democrat asking a Republican president for a political appointment.

## Sitting Bull's gravesite to be cleaned up

MOBRIDGE, S.D. (AP) — High on a bluff across the Missouri River from this South Dakota town sits a bust of Sitting Bull, marking the famous American Indian leader's burial site.

The memorial is in sorry shape — the nose is chipped, perhaps from potshots or souvenir seekers, as is the inscription that reads, "Tatanka Iyotake, Sitting Bull, 1831-1890." Broken beer bottles are strewn about the monument's concrete base.

But that's about to change, according to two South Dakota men who recently purchased the site and plan to clean it up and provide 24-hour security by summer.

"This is a site that deserves national and international attention. It is being used as a dumping grounds," said Rhett Albers, who bought the 40-acre property in April with Bryan Defender. "We've al-

ways thought that something needed to be done."

Sitting Bull rose to prominence as a leader of Indian resistance against the U.S. Army in the 1870s, which culminated in the 1876 Battle of Little Bighorn. He and some of his Sioux followers fled to Canada after the battle, but he returned after five years and surrendered. He was killed in 1890 on the Standing Rock Indian Reservation while being arrested by Indian police.

Albers and Defender bought the site from James Heupel, who said his father traveled to Fort Yates, N.D., in 1953 and helped retrieve Sitting Bull's remains for reburial on land he owned on the Standing Rock reservation.

For decades, a dispute has raged in the Dakotas over those remains. South Dakotans insist he was exhumed and reburied by Heupel's group at the request of Sitting Bull's descendants. North Dakotans maintain that

the expedition missed some or all of Sitting Bull's bones and that his remains still lie in Fort Yates. "The standard North Dakota tourism position is that indeed there was an attempt to steal Sitting Bull's bones and take them to South Dakota, but they missed. They got the wrong bones," said Tracy Potter of the Fort Abraham Lincoln Foundation in North Dakota.

However, according to the definitive source on the reburial, Robb DeWall's book "The Saga of Sitting Bull's Bones," the Heupel group was meticulous in sifting the soil from the grave site for the bones. And a subsequent attempt to find bones the expedition might have missed turned up nothing.

Albers said he believes Sitting Bull's remains are underneath the monument. But either way, he said, "Sitting Bull deserves to be honored."

## Oklahoma tribe now says professor's membership based on genealogy

BOULDER, Colo. (AP) — The Oklahoma Indian tribe that said an embattled University of Colorado professor could not prove any Cherokee ancestry now says his associated membership was based partly on genealogical information provided by him.

Ward Churchill, a tenured professor of ethnic studies who could lose his job over allegations that he lied about his ancestry and plagiarized others' work, said Thursday that the tribe's statement should put the issue to rest.

In a statement on its Web site, the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians said Churchill had genealogical information regarding his "alleged ancestry."

In addition, based on "his willingness to assist the UKB in promoting the tribe and its causes, he was awarded an 'As-

sociate Membership' as an honor," according to the statement.

"However, Mr. Churchill may possess eligibility status for Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, since he claims 1/16 Cherokee."

However, the tribe said it had no legal record of Churchill being a federally recognized American Indian. The tribe said associate memberships, which afford no voting rights or benefits, were issued from 1991 to 1994 during former Chief John Ross' tenure.

"Receiving an Associate Membership is akin to receiving an honorary doctorate, and then claiming to have received eight years worth of university education," the statement said.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Churchill said the tribe has never alleged fraud or that his membership was rescinded. He said the tribe's state-

ment clearly confirms that genealogy was used.

"Just leave us alone," Churchill said, adding that the confusion has arisen from repeated inquiries that has overwhelmed the tribe's small staff.

Churchill said he planned to file a grievance against the university for questioning his ancestry.

Churchill touched off a firestorm when he wrote an essay comparing some World Trade Center victims to Adolf Eichmann, one of the Nazis who orchestrated the Holocaust. CU leaders said he couldn't be fired over the statements because of First Amendment protections, but they ordered a faculty panel to review the allegations of plagiarism and that he falsely claimed to be an Indian to give his research more credibility.

## Indians protest against being dropped from rolls

TEMECULA, Calif. (AP) — More than 100 American Indians ousted from their casino-owning tribes joined hands last Saturday to protest what they called money grabs by tribal leaders through disenrollment.

It was the first such large-scale organized gathering for people who contend they have been excised from tribal rolls by leaders seeking a larger share of gambling profits.

As tribal gambling grows into a \$17 billion industry, disputes over disenrollment have flared nationwide. More than 1,000 people are fighting their ouster in California alone.

"There needs to be a healing in Indian country and we're going to start it," said John Gomez Jr., who was removed from the Pechanga Band of Luiseno Indians, which has a casino near this city about 85 miles southeast of Los Angeles.

Gomez was joined at a public park by former members of 16 tribes from California, Arizona, Nevada, New Mexico, Oklahoma and New York. They planned another meeting in Nevada and said they are asking Congress to hold hearings on the disenrollments. Many noted the growing political power and formidable finances of the tribes that ousted them.

Bob Foreman, 68, was ousted from the Redding Rancheria tribe in Northern California in January 2004, along with 65 members of his family. He said tribal leaders refused to reinstate him even

after he exhumed the bodies of his grandmother and mother to collect DNA evidence.

"I don't think I could forgive or forget," said Foreman, who had served several terms as tribal chairman and had received about \$2,500 a month in casino revenues before he was ousted. "Sovereignty — it's given tribes the power to do anything they want. It's greed."

Vicky Schenandoah, 43, a former member of the Oneida Nation of New York, led a prayer in which the crowd held hands in a circle, representing the continuity of life. "We could have peace. We will all be happy in our minds," she said in the Oneida language.

It has been 10 years since she was denied tribal status after protesting what she called the tribe's secret deal to build a casino. Following the protest, she said she was labeled a terrorist and arsonist.

"This is not about money for me. It's about integrity," Schenandoah said. She filed a federal lawsuit against the Oneida Nation in 1996, but judges have thrown it out, ruling they lacked jurisdiction.

Former members of the Pechanga Band have had more success in state court in California. A Superior Court judge last year ruled that their lawsuit can proceed and that courts have authority over legal matters that arise from tribal disputes. The case is currently before an appellate court.

## Civic Plaza ironworkers follow proud tradition

PHOENIX (AP) — Jerome Sangster introduced his office with a wave of his hand.

"That's my desk over there," he said, pointing to the steel skeleton rising at the Phoenix Civic Plaza construction site.

Sangster, an ironworker, is as comfortable chatting while standing on the solid concrete floor as he is walking across a narrow steel beam 150 feet above the ground. At 5 feet 10 and 165 pounds, the 24-year-old Navajo looks as sturdy as the steel girders he has helped raise across the horizon.

The path that brought him to this proud workplace declaration is one that took root more than a century ago. Ironwork has been a calling to young Native Americans like Sangster, and his younger brother Edmund, for generations.

The brothers were drawn in by their ironworking uncles, who introduced them to members at the union hall in Albuquerque.

"They'd come back from work, they'd say 'I built this building,'" Jerome said.

Native Americans account for a third of the 66 ironworkers building Phoenix's new downtown convention center. Most of them are Navajo, but others represent the Mohawk, Sioux and Apache tribes.

There is a saying, "the Iroquois built the East Coast, the Navajo built the West Coast," said Jaynie Parrish, an American Indian Affairs liaison at Arizona State University.

The Mohawks of Canada and New York are legendary for walking steel and erecting such monuments as the Empire State and Chrysler buildings and Rockefeller Center.

Mohawks helped build the World Trade Center's twin towers, and in the fall of 2001, a

younger generation of Mohawks returned to help clear the twisted metal from the site.

Their history with ironwork dates back to the 1880s when Iroquois men were hired to build a railroad bridge in exchange for permission to include a piece of that bridge on their reservation. From that point on, generations of Mohawk ironworkers followed one another to the urban areas to earn a good wage at a trade that held a sense of pride.

"We were so good at climbing around," said Richard Glazer-Danay, a retired Mohawk ironworker. "From

there on, we did ironwork.

"You grow up with it, it's good pay, you go to the union hall with your dad. It's a family tradition, a tribal tradition.

"Everybody does it."

As a young ironworker, Glazer-Danay, now 63, helped raise the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge that connects Brooklyn and Staten Island in New York City.

Two of his uncles were among the ironworkers photographed in the early 1930s lunching atop a beam, with the city far below, during construction of Rockefeller Center. That famous photograph re-

mains an iconic image for ironworkers across the country.

"I heard all those stories that we're not afraid of heights," Glazer-Danay said, who is now American Indian studies chair at California State University at Long Beach. "I was more afraid of my uncles than I was of heights. They said I was going to work — I went to work."

What started with Glazer-Danay's tribe in Canada and New York spread among American Indians from Boston to Philadelphia to Chicago and then to the West as a way to earn a good wage and as a source of pride.

## Ralph's TV & Furniture

# May Mattress Sale

**10% off**



**the whole month of May**

---

**We now have Speed Queen washers & dryers**



**Open regular hours during remodeling**  
**9-6 Mon-Fri**  
**9-3 Sat.**



## Ralph's TV & Furniture

# 475-2578

525 S.E. 5th St.  
Mdras OR 97741