

Man banished from Turtle Mountain reservation

BELCOURT, N.D. (AP) – The Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa has removed a non-Indian man from the reservation under a new banishment code aimed at cracking down on drug abuse and other problems.

Calvin John Andrist, 39, was removed from the home he shared with a woman about three miles east of Belcourt, tribal officials said. The woman, whose name was not released, is an enrolled member of the tribe.

A telephone listing for Andrist could not immediately be found.

Tribal officials said Andrist was banished for drug-related activity going back to last summer.

It was the first use of the banishment code since it was adopted unanimously in late March by the Tribal Council.

"We did sign an exclusion order on an individual who was endangering the health and safety of our tribal members," tribal Chairman Ken Davis said.

"We had sufficient evidence, dealing with drugs and threats to people's lives, to believe this man a danger," Davis said.

The "emergency" order required no hearing, he said. Such orders can be used when dealing with people on the reserva-

tion who are not members of the tribe.

Andrist may to petition for a board to reconsider the order and present evidence in his defense. He must hire his own lawyer.

Orders involving tribal members and people who do not pose an immediate threat involve a longer court process and a warning for a first-time offense.

"This is our first one," tribal officer Kelly Brunelle said of the banishment. "This is not going to be our last."

Brunelle said officers submitted a report to the tribal chairman to remove Andrist, who is from Deering.

"We submitted an affidavit to the chairman relating to possible drug trafficking and child protection issues," Brunelle said.

Davis said other reservations have similar banishment codes, and many more are considering them.

"As more and more of us start using our sovereign powers to protect our people, you will see more and more tribes looking at this," he said. "It's moving around Indian country."

The movement comes amid growing worry about illicit drugs on reservations and the lack of jurisdiction tribes have over

nonmembers who deal with drugs.

"Anybody who wants to come in and enjoy our territory must comply with our laws," Davis said. "If they don't comply, this is the only authority we have."

"We have to take extreme measures to be able to deal with drugs, the meth problem infesting our communities _ not only Indian communities, but non-Indian communities as well."

Andrist has moved to Dunseith, about 20 miles away and outside the reservation, Rolette County officials said. If he returns to the reservation, he could be charged with trespassing.

"He's not going to go far," said Rolette County Sheriff Tony Sims.

Sims said he does not expect an onslaught of people kicked off the reservation to flood into Rolette County.

"Some of them will be people we might have to deal with eventually. But we can take them right through our court system," he said. "The tribe can't. I don't blame them for wanting to exclude people."

"I wish we had the same ability to exclude," Sims said. "I would need a whole fleet of Greyhound buses to get them all out of here."

Tribe considering banishment penalty for drug crimes

NEW TOWN, N.D. (AP) – The Three Affiliated Tribes is taking steps to crack down on illegal drugs, including removing drug makers and sellers from the Fort Berthold Reservation.

"We're proposing a new drug code, and that includes banishment," Tribal Chairman Tex Hall said.

The Three Affiliated Tribes would not be the first in North Dakota to impose such a penalty. The Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa in March approved a banishment code, and has put it to use. Tribal officials said that a man was recently removed from the home he shared with a woman east of Belcourt be-

cause of drug-related activity. At Fort Berthold, the tribe's legal office and a local drug-prevention group are working on the new code.

"I look for the Tribal Council to review and pass it," Hall said.

Banishment would occur on a third drug-related offense.

"They would have some chances, but there would be some stiff penalties and fines, and community service and treatment," the chairman said. "But on the third offense, it's strike three and you're out."

Hall said the use of methamphetamine is reaching epidemic proportions on the reservation.

Pipe bomb detonated near Comanche tribal complex

LAWTON, Okla. (AP) – A tribal official said that law officers detonated a pipe bomb near the Comanche Nation's tribal complex, but the bomb's origin wasn't clear. Clyde Narcomey, of the American Indian tribe's business committee, said he was told of the detonation by an officer from the BIA. A bureau spokesman could not be reached for comment. The discovery of the bomb came after a disputed tribal primary election.

Report says tribes should not be further compensated

WASHINGTON (AP) – A Government Accountability Office report issued this week argued against two pieces of legislation that would increase payments to the Crow Creek and Lower Brule Sioux tribes for land lost to the creation of Missouri River dams.

Legislation introduced by U.S. Rep. Stephanie Herseth, D-S.D., in the House and U.S. Sen.

John Thune, R-S.D., in the Senate would increase payments to the two American Indian trust funds by a combined \$226 million.

The bills would add money to the funds established a decade ago _ \$39 million for Lower Brule and \$28 million for Crow Creek. Interest earned by the funds is paid to the tribes as compensation for land lost to

reservoirs created by the Missouri River dams.

Herseth, Thune and Democratic Sen. Tim Johnson say the way the government has calculated the damages is unfair. They argue that the formula is based on the final asking price of the land, which was devalued by the dam construction.

The GAO disagreed, saying the compensation established in

the 1990s is consistent with compensation for other tribes on the Missouri River.

"GAO's analysis does not support the additional compensation amounts," the report read.

The report was prepared for Senate Indian Affairs Committee Chairman John McCain, R-Ariz. Thune's bill passed out of McCain's committee last year. The House has not moved

Herseth's legislation.

All three members of the South Dakota delegation responded to a draft version of the report earlier this month.

"Our goal, as the authors of this legislation, is to rationalize the various tribal trust funds and to seek parity, or fairness, for the tribes," they wrote in a joint letter.

Fewer than half of students at Idaho reservation school graduate

PLUMMER, Idaho (AP) – Fewer than half of students at Lakeside High School on the Coeur d'Alene Indian Reservation over the past decade have graduated, a product of alcoholism, little parental involvement and chronic absenteeism.

Tribal leaders fear the ongoing problems could rob this northern Idaho American Indian group of its future leaders.

This year, 12 students at the 130-student school have dropped out and 17 are ex-

pected to graduate in June, the Spokesman-Review newspaper reported. Some years, dropouts exceed the number of graduates. Just 39 percent of Lakeside students graduated on schedule in 2004, the last year for which statistics are available.

The statewide average of students earning a diploma within four years was 84 percent. Nationwide, the graduation rate was about 57 percent among students enrolled in schools run by the federal Bureau of Indian

Affairs in 2005.

Across Idaho, American Indian students on reservations including those near Pocatello and Lapwai where unemployment hovers at nearly 40 percent or more, often trail white peers throughout their educational careers. In many cases, just a fraction read at grade level, and schools such as Lakeside are ex-

periencing the result of what happens when students fall further and further behind.

"All these years they get passed on, passed on," said Alex Campbell, a freshman, adding when teachers call on students to read aloud, some simply can't. "If you're going to be holding kids back, it should be at the younger levels," when

they're learning the fundamentals, he said.

At the heart of the problem are deep-seated cultural barriers that tribal members say are difficult to surmount. Older American Indians, products of the boarding-school era, experienced discrimination that's now coloring how the latest generation views education, some say.

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