

Archaeological dig required at site of new Lisbon veterans home

LISBON, N.D. (AP) – The administrator of the North Dakota Veterans Home says an archaeological dig will be required before construction on a new veterans home can start.

Administrator Mark Johnson said the dig will start this spring, as part of the environmental assessment process.

“We were notified of the possibility that there may be an

Indian burial ground on our site,” Johnson said.

“We have learned that the dig might take anywhere from 30 days to 90 days.”

The construction site is next to the existing Lisbon veterans home, is near the Sheyenne River.

“It used to be kind of the old river bottom and the river’s changed its way. They’re think-

ing that maybe there might be something along that area,” Johnson said.

“Nothing’s ever been found or unearthed. It’s just been something that has been put on a map, and so we’re just going to have to deal with that,” he said.

The new veterans home is to be a 150-bed facility costing an estimated \$24 million.

Ponca Tribe meets with members to consider Carter Lake casino

NORFOLK, Neb. (AP) – The leader of an American Indian tribe considering building a casino near the Nebraska-Iowa border says he looks forward to meeting with Iowa government officials to come up with a plan for the casino that will benefit the tribe and the state.

Larry Wright Jr., tribal chairman for the Ponca Tribe, says it’s hard to elaborate in such an early stage of planning.

Tribe members met Saturday in Norfolk to discuss plans for building the casino. A decision by the National Indian Gaming Commission in December gives the tribe permission to run a

casino on five acres of land at Carter Lake, Iowa.

Wright says the meeting was private and covered more than just the casino issue. He says the tribe considered other ventures on the land but none would have been as profitable.

Lawyers spar over tribal police brutality lawsuit

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) – A judge has been asked to dismiss a police brutality lawsuit filed by a 70-year-old American Indian man on grounds it belongs in tribal, not federal, court.

Frank Sioux Bob of Pine Ridge said in the civil complaint that on July 21, 2005, he was at home with his grandchildren when officers entered the house and indicated they were responding to a call about a gun.

There was no weapon in the house, no one in the place had

made such a report and the officers entered without a warrant or consent and roughed him up, the lawsuit states.

The officers were employed by the Oglala Sioux Tribe’s Public Safety Commission but the defendant in the case is the United States government.

In March 2006, Sioux Bob filed a claim for a \$350,000 settlement with the Bureau of Indian Affairs but no action has been taken, so he took the case to court to seek damages.

U.S. Attorney Marty Jackley argued in court documents that the case should be dismissed because tribal officers are not authorized to enforce federal law so the case is in the wrong jurisdiction.

Sioux Bob’s lawyer, Terry Pechota, countered that the lawsuit does belong in federal court and a decision should not be made until a hearing is held and the defense receives more evidence.

Bill targets alcohol near sacred mountain

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) – The South Dakota Legislature will decide if it should be illegal to sell alcohol in the shadow of Bear Butte, a mountain that is sacred to American Indians.

A bill that has been introduced in the state House would

prohibit the issuance of liquor and beer licenses within 1 mile of Bear Butte State Park.

HB1309 would make an exception, however, for any business within Sturgis city limits at the time the measure would become law.

Indians have long complained about biker bars and rowdy campgrounds that are increasingly encroaching upon Bear Butte to serve the hundreds of thousands who come each year for the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally.

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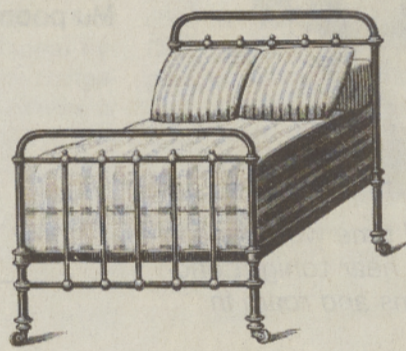
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