

IHS prepares for growth in Indian population

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) - A reorganization of the senior staff is among the changes since Charlene Red Thunder took over as area director of the Aberdeen Area Indian Health Service.

Red Thunder has created a senior staff she believes will let the Aberdeen Area IHS move forward in a four-state coverage area where more than 118,000 Indians who are eligible for services. By 2015, IHS officials expect the Indian population to increase to 145,628.

The Aberdeen Area IHS is responsible for seven hospitals and 10 health centers in South Dakota, North Dakota, Iowa

and Nebraska. Red Thunder said she and her staff have spent a lot of time meeting with the area's 17 Indian tribes.

"We wanted to listen to their concerns," said Red Thunder, an enrolled member of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe. "We wanted to give them a chance to advocate for their constituents."

The Aberdeen area office employs more than 1,900 workers and has an annual operating budget of more than \$302 million.

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and Nebraska. Red Thunder said she and her staff have spent a lot of time meeting with the area's 17 Indian tribes. "We wanted to listen to their concerns," said Red Thunder, an enrolled member of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe. "We wanted to give them a chance to advocate for their constituents."

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health care providers is hard in more rural places and the money isn't usually as good as it is in the private sector.

Still, Red Thunder said, the Aberdeen Area IHS is trying to bridge some of those gaps, starting with the financial issues.

Red Thunder said she hopes to partner with other groups, such as Veterans Health Administration, to see what kind of services can be combined or even shared.

"We need to partner with as many entities as possible to stretch the dollars," she said. "We don't want to be duplicating services."

Fitness Challenge winners announced

The Community Center staff would like to thank all 23 teams that entered into this year's November Fitness Challenge.

The Community Center this week announced the winner of

the Fitness Challenge. The Natural Resources team won first place by accumulating the most overall minutes. The GeoVisions team is the team average winner.

Powwow seeks court candidates

The Lincoln's Birthday Powwow Committee is seeking girls from age 7 to 15 years old to run for the powwow

court. If you are interested, please contact Jodi at 553-9230 or Anna at 553-1245.

Montana elects Native American as schools superintendent

HELENA, Mont. (AP) - Montana's first American Indian state schools superintendent, Denise Juneau, says she's an American Indian first but didn't want to be seen as a single-issue candidate.

Juneau will be sworn in this week. She is an enrolled member of the Blackfoot Tribe and a member of the Mandan-Hidatsa tribes of North Dakota.

Juneau says it's important to

be true to who you are and where you came from, but it's also important to understand other perspectives.

Juneau went to Montana State and then to Harvard, where she earned a master's

degree in education.

She taught on the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation in North Dakota and later received a law degree from the University of Montana.

Bare Foot Sage Salon & Spa



Heather Hodges has joined the staff at Purple Sage Spa & Salon. Heather graduated Phagens beauty college and can do hair and nails. She specializes in color, haircuts and acrylic nails, and more. Her hours are Monday-Friday 10 am-5pm, Saturday 10am-4pm. Call 475-5721 for appointment.

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