



Greg Leo photo for the Spilyay.

The Museum at Warm Springs in April hosted its annual Honor Dinner. During the event, the museum honored former U.S. Senator Gordon Smith (second from left) with Twanat Award, presented annually to an individual for outstanding service to Native Americans. Also on hand for the dinner were former governor Vic Atiyeh (left), Congressman Greg Walden (second from right), and Tribal Council Chairman Ron Suppah.

Tribes tell their stories in new exhibit

LITTLE ROCK, Arkansas (AP) – The names mark rivers, valleys, schools and communities across the state, recalling the people who were settled in Arkansas when Europeans first arrived in the 1500s.

But while the names may be familiar to many, the history of the Quapaw, Osage and Caddo American Indian tribes might not.

To help change that, the Historic Arkansas Museum has opened a permanent exhibit called "We Walk in Two Worlds" to pass along the history and culture of the three Native American nations that were once settled in Arkansas.

To mark the event, Gov. Mike Beebe sent each tribal council the state's first formal invitation to come back to Arkansas since the tribes were forced from the land in the early 1800s, said Swanee Bennett, the museum's chief curator and deputy director.

Representatives from each of the three nations attended the opening, along with a drum circle, singing dancing and other demonstrations by tribal members.

The exhibit, which was three years in the making, is divided into six chapters that form a cycle, each one flowing into the next until the circle is completed. By the end, a display shows visitors where the tribes started and where they find themselves now.

The exhibit was set up to describe the history of the tribes through Native American voices, beginning just before European contact, moving through their forced relocations to Oklahoma around 1830 and into the cultural revival that has defined recent decades. It includes more than 160 artifacts from the tribes.

"We try to make sure that the words you read are from Native Americans," Bennett said. "We wanted to have a Native American interpretation."

To do that, the museum sought tribal advisers from each nation who helped mold the exhibit into a reflection of their historical and contemporary experiences, as passed down in the tribes.

Ardayna Moore is a Quapaw tribal historian and a teacher of the Quapaw language, but is also

part Osage. She said the name Arkansas comes from early French explorers who were told by an Illinois tribe that the people who inhabited what is now the state were the "Akansa," which means "People of the South Wind."

The museum also was able to display items from the Smithsonian Institution, ranging from buffalo hides to traditional weapons, that are on loan from the National Museum of the American Indian. Those artifacts supplement items from the Arkansas museum's own growing collection and some provided by the tribes. Moore even donated the cradle board made for her by her grandfather, the last hereditary chief of the Quapaw nation, Victor Griffin.

The space was blessed before the opening with a cedar wood smoke ceremony, a traditional Native American ceremony for new beginnings.

"What pleases us the most is the idea that people are going to recognize our heritage and our culture, which to this point has been kind of ignored," Moore said. "It helps to be appreciated."

Echohawk tabbed for BIA post

FARMINGTON, N.M. (AP) – President Barack Obama has nominated Larry Echohawk to lead the Bureau of Indian Affairs, pending confirmation by the U.S. Senate.

Echohawk, a Brigham Young University law professor and Pawnee Nation (Okla.) member, served as Idaho's Democratic attorney general from 1990-94.

He grew up across the street from Farmington High School, in New Mexico, where he graduated in 1966.

Echohawk was the first American Indian elected to a statewide constitutional office in Idaho. He and his wife, Terry, have six children.

Rep. Tom Taylor, R-Farmington, graduated from high school with Echohawk.

Taylor said Echohawk's experience as attorney general and work with American Indians in Idaho qualifies him for the position.

Echohawk declined comment, citing a request by the Obama administration not to conduct news media interviews while confirmation is pending.

Indian town erased by colonists honored

MIDLOTHIAN, Va. (AP) – Virginia will add a new historical marker near Richmond to commemorate a Monacan Indian town that was destroyed by colonists.

Sunday's ceremony will pay homage to Mowhemcho (mow-HEM-cho), which was de-

stroyed in the late 17th century and most of its people killed. French Huguenots later settled there and renamed the Powhatan County town Manakin.

Karenne Wood is a member of the Monacan Tribe and director of the Virginia Indian

Heritage Program. She said the historical marker "completes a historic circle" encompassing the importance of the Monacan town and Virginia history.

Representatives of the Monacan Indian Nation plan to attend Sunday's ceremony.

Rosebud tribal court worker must repay \$4,000

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) – A Mission woman working as a Rosebud Sioux Tribe court staffer must repay \$4,000 she stole from the tribe.

Forty-three-year-old Patricia Rose Thin Elk was a tribal court

clerk and bondsman when she stole the money between 2006 and 2008.

She pleaded guilty in federal court in Pierre to embezzlement and theft from an Indian tribal organization.

Besides the restitution, Thin Elk will be on probation for two years and must undergo alcohol treatment.

Prosecutors say she also goes by the name Patricia Rose Jones.

Man plans guilty plea in artifacts theft case

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) – Court documents say 78-year-old John M. Sheild, a retired pastor from Wisconsin, plans to plead guilty to trafficking in archaeological resources taken from South Dakota public lands or American Indian lands.

The top penalty is a year in prison and a \$100,000 fine. Federal prosecutors said they would recommend a sentence of probation.

Sheild is expected to

change his plea this week during a hearing in U.S. District Court in Pierre.

He is one of at least five men being prosecuted in South Dakota federal courts for archaeological resources crimes. Federal prosecutors indicted them, saying they looted or traded ancient archaeological items, such as military items, gun flints, lead balls and bullets and brass copper pieces.

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