



Drummers at the 2010 Miss Warm Springs Pageant.

Dave McMechan/Spilyay

Colo. lawmaker backs off tuition plan

DENVER (AP) — A Colorado lawmaker who suggested changing a waiver for American Indian students at Fort Lewis College said she will kill the bill, but she insisted her measure would not have hurt Native American students.

Democratic Rep. Karen Middleton of Aurora sponsored a bill to have cut \$1.8 million from the college's budget, based on reducing reimbursement for out-of-state tuition for Native American students.

Under her bill, students would still have been able to attend free, but college officials argued they would have to cut staff and courses, providing less of an education.

Middleton said all colleges and universities are being affected by budget cuts as the state tries to cope with a projected \$1 billion shortfall next year, but she said the cuts to Fort Lewis College were unique and required a policy change.

"This was never about Native American students," she said.

The state tuition waiver began in 1911 as a condition for accepting thousands of acres of land in Hesperus in southwest Colorado. In exchange for the land, the federal government and state lawmakers agreed to provide a free education for all Native American students.

This year, 608 out-of-state

American Indian students and 130 in-state American Indian students accepted the offer.

Rico Munn, director of the Colorado Department of Higher Education, rejected suggestions that the bill would violate the agreement.

"It never had anything to do with Native American students," Munn said.

Ernest House Jr., a member of the Colorado Commission on Indian Affairs, said he also believes the cuts would not have hurt Native American students. He also said it would not violate the agreement between Native Americans and the state government.

Remains reported found at Oxford site

OXFORD, Ala. (AP) — The remains of an American Indian reportedly have been found and reburied at an Oxford construction site where a professor recently discovered that an ancient Indian mound has been destroyed.

State archaeologist Stacey Hathorn said that University of Alabama archaeologists contacted her around Jan. 8 with word that the remains were found at a site where Oxford is

building a sports complex.

"UA called, said they found a body, said it was Native American, said it was reburied and the site is being avoided," Hathorn said.

University archaeologists have been monitoring the site, where construction began last year. Hathorn, who works for the Alabama Historical Commission, said the call was the only one she has received from the monitors.

Jacksonville State University professor of archaeology and anthropology Harry Holstein said the land in the vicinity of the sports complex construction contains remnants of an American Indian village and a temple mound that once was 30 feet tall. The 3-foot base of the mound was intact when he visited the site last summer, but had been flattened when he returned this week.

Alaska village up first in U.S. census

NOORVIK, Alaska (AP) — The U.S. Census Bureau is launching its 2010 count of the nation's residents in a remote Alaska village.

Census Bureau Director Robert Groves is flying to Noorvik in northwest Alaska on Monday to count the first household in the Inupiat Es-

kimo community of 650. Villagers have prepared a day of festivities to welcome Groves and other visiting federal, state and tribal officials.

Census workers and trained locals are expected to take a week to interview the rest of Noorvik's residents, using the same 10-question forms to be

mailed to most Americans on March 15. Census workers also will visit 217 other rural Alaska communities in the coming weeks.

Alaskans in rural communities not linked by roads have been the first Americans counted since the 1990 census.

Klamaths OK basin restoration agreement

GRANTS PASS (AP) — The Klamath Tribes are the first to approve a \$1 billion agreement for restoring Klamath River salmon and bringing peace to long-standing water battles in the basin.

The tribes announced Tuesday that their members voted to

approve the Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement, which is part of a broader settlement designed to remove aging hydroelectric dams that block salmon.

The overall settlement is expected to be signed by the dozens of parties next month.

Tribal chairman Joe Kirk says

the agreement is good for the tribes. It helps them regain ownership of a 90,000-acre tree farm that was once part of their reservation.

He adds that it is good for the basin, settling decades of battles over scarce water and helping restore fish and wildlife.

Haiti

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Additionally, "they'll need people with different skills at different times."

Rescue efforts are winding down and the long clean up and recovery is just beginning. Volunteers wanting to help the Haitians come back from this disaster are numerous across the United States and Indian Country. Finding people with the right skills at the right time — and places for them to stay — isn't easy right now, however.

Trackers, paramedics and other emergency professionals from the region are among those planning to travel there soon as aid efforts take shape.

Martinez also plans to arrange for a mental health professional to join the regional team.

"This is for the victims and the people volunteering," Martinez said.

Only after recovery efforts are completed can the rebuild-

ing begin. Martinez won't be involved with coordinating any subsequent demolition and construction efforts.

Martinez also warned people to choose carefully when giving donations to Haitian relief. He took a call last week from someone saying they were collecting money for the effort. The person probably only wanted to make money for himself, however. The caller couldn't provide proper details so Martinez figured he had been contacted by a scammer, he said.

"They wouldn't stop. They wouldn't get off the phone. I finally told this person, 'You called a fire and safety office,'" he said. "Then they must have gotten the message. They hung-up."

Only donate to people and groups you know and can truly trust, Martinez emphasized. Among well-known organizations involved in Haiti relief: the

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