

LongestWalk 3 to pass through W.S. on way to D.C.

By Terri Harber
Spilyay Tymoo

The LongestWalk 3 begins Feb. 14. Participants will travel to Washington D.C. in an effort to spread awareness about diabetes and its impact on Native Americans.

They want to talk about ways to alleviate its effects on those already afflicted and to stop it from spreading through indigenous populations across the United States. Healthy changes in diet and lifestyle will make a difference, they say.

The group traveling the northern route from Portland to Washington D.C. will stop in Warm Springs. They will stay on the reservation for at least one evening and plan to attend the Heart Smart Dinner on Feb 16,

said local organizer Manny Jim-Calapoo.

He also will participate in the walk. The group still needs volunteers, donations and welcomes participants. People who want to join in for a portion of the trip or go all of the way to Washington, D.C. are welcome.

"We need gas money. And we'll need help with food, water, etc. We're relying on donations to make it. We all know someone who has diabetes," Jim-Calapoo said.

Chris Francisco, a Navajo from Shiprock, N.M., living in Portland, is organizing the northern walk. He is a longtime diabetic who didn't take the ailment seriously for a long time. Now he does—so much so that he wants to convince other Native

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Chris Francisco

Americans to pay attention to the facts.

One fact: That they are at least twice as likely as whites to be diagnosed with diabetes.

He also wants people to think about whether they are able to make the trip because it's not going to be easy—especially during the winter through Idaho, Montana and Nebraska. During the last cross-country walk

someone had a heart attack, Francisco said.

They'll still need drivers to accompany the walkers. They'll need places to stay along the long route. There are plenty of ways to help spread the message, he emphasized.

Another group of participants will begin walking Feb. 14 from San Diego, Calif., toward Washington D.C. Both groups expect to reach the U.S. capital in July. They'll hold community talks about reversing diabetes along the way.

The original LongestWalk in 1978 was to bring attention to Native American sovereignty and stop anti-Native American legislation being crafted by Congress. The proposals could have threatened tribal lands and water, limited fishing and hunting

rights, restricted tribal governments, and closed down their schools and hospitals.

Focus of the LongestWalk 2 was to bring attention to scared sites and to cleanup the earth. It was held in 2008 and also served as a 30th anniversary commemoration of the first walk.

"We're still fighting for our survival," Francisco said. "And it seems there's always something new we have to fight for."

The issues targeted during each of the walks have been different each time. More than how Native Americans are affected connects the themes, however, Francisco said.

People live in ways healthful to themselves or to the land. They've moved far away from their roots—literally and figura-

tively. Pollution continues across the globe. There is little respect for the earth and what it does for all of its inhabitants—people, animals and plants.

Natives aren't eating the healthy foods of their ancestors. And they (like most other groups) aren't getting enough physical movement because of modern, Western conveniences. Not very many people even grow food anymore, he said.

For details about the LongestWalk, visit:

earthbornproductions.com
For information about the local stop and how you to help the walking group be comfortable during their area pass through, email Jim-Calapoo at cowbhoys12@yahoo.com.

News from Indian Country

Spill threatens bayou Indians' way of life

MONTEGUT, La. (AP) — Even before oil began spewing into the Gulf of Mexico last spring, Louisiana's American-Indian fishing villages were on the brink of collapse because of social change and the dramatic loss of coastal wetlands.

Now, Indians who've known nothing but fishing all their lives find their futures tied to the man handing out checks for damages, paid from a multibillion-dollar fund started after the April 20 Gulf spill.

Kenneth Feinberg, the fast-talking East Coast lawyer in charge of BP PLC's \$20 billion compensation fund, met with them for the first time Friday night on the back bayous of south Louisiana at a gymnasium in Montegut, about an hour and a half from New Orleans. Dozens of fishermen showed up in shrimp boots and work clothes, speaking a mixture of French and English.

They want Feinberg to compensate them not just for lost wages, but a way of life that relied on the bounty of the marshes and now is in jeopardy.

"The people have been independent for so long, a lot of them will go trawling, they'll bring an ice chest (of seafood) to maman, grandpa, auntie, the uncles and all that," said Thomas Dardar, the principal chief of the United Houma Nation, the largest Indian tribe with about 17,000 members.

"With the oil, how long will it last? Oil isn't like a hurricane," he said. "You can't just pick up after it's over. The Indians in Alaska after Exxon-Valdez tell us they've been dealing with the oil for 20 years."

Many tribes moved into the swamps to escape enslavement or forced banishment after Congress passed the 1830 Indian Removal Act.

Until the 1950s, most Indians lived in isolation, rarely interacting with whites. Old-timers

recall barefoot children scampering into the woods to hide when the first cars rattled into their villages in the 1950s. Indian children were barred from schools until the 1960s and were called "sabines," a derogatory term.

There are about 20,000 American Indians in coastal Louisiana who trace their roots to Houma, Chitimacha, Choctaw and Biloxi tribes.

Tribal leaders say they're worried many members won't be compensated fairly, so they've brought on a New York City law firm to help the tribes navigate the difficult claims process.

All the paperwork and documentation isn't easy in these marshes, a place where some people can't read or write, where lawyers and taxes often are blurry concepts.

Take Price Billiot, 63, who runs a seafood dock in Pointe-Aux-Chenes, a dilapidated and water-bound town that stretches along a bayou in the tall marshes near Montegut.

He quit fourth grade to start working on a boat with his father, cleaning oysters. His wife has to help him with all the BP claims paperwork, he said — he can spell and read a bit, but not enough to handle it on his own.

"The white people didn't want me to go to school," he said. "We couldn't go to the school, we couldn't go to the bar up the bayou."

With hurricane damage still to fix and business slow from the spill, he was gloomy about the future.

"Every year it gets worse. You can't make a living," he said as a rooster and peacock crowded in the grasses across the road. A fishing boat abandoned long ago sat rotting into the mud across the bayou. "When I was young you could make a good living."

For now, he's surviving, in part thanks to \$65,000 in emer-

gency payments BP gave him in June for his business losses. But Billiot said his company was worth \$1 million a year and that he needed much more from BP to keep it going. Feinberg is now calculating long-term damage claims like one Billiot might file for potential future losses.

Feinberg told those at his first meeting with Indian tribes Friday that he wanted to pay them claims for the value seafood and hunting plays in their everyday lives — so-called "subsistence claims."

"It's a claim that my lifestyle has been adversely impacted by my inability to any longer live off the resources that I hunt or catch," he said. "... What I could go hunt or fish I now have to go buy."

"Those claims should be paid."

Even if they're paid the spill has created even more uncertainty for people on the bayous, where life is a struggle. Families have been driven inland from their ancestral villages, battered by hurricanes and low seafood prices. And their coastal land is disappearing: About 2,300 square miles of marsh have converted to open water since the 1930s largely because of the Army Corps of Engineers' construction of levees in the Mississippi River delta and thousands of miles of canals dug by oil companies.

Now it's nearly impossible to turn a profit for any seafood caught by people like Anthony Dardar, a 28-year-old fisherman in Pointe-Aux-Chenes who's trying to get back to fishing. He'd just brought in a few sacks of oysters.

"We can't hardly move the oysters, we could hardly move the shrimp, it's hard to move the crabs," he said. "Now, they're finding all kind of freakin' dispersant in the water. Who knows about the future."

theft and forgery charges.

Long was arrested in Hanover and Miller in North Dakota. Telephone listings for the two could not immediately be found. It was not immediately clear if either had obtained an attorney.

Spino sentenced to 35 years

Jerome Phillip Spino, 32, was sentenced to 35 years in prison this week after pleading guilty on in November to two counts of murder in the second degree and arson.

The federal case began on May 28, 2008 when fire fighters responded to a residential fire on Shepard Lane in Warm Springs.

After the fire was extinguished, the bodies of two adults were discovered. A 43 year old male had died of asphyxiation caused by the inhalation of smoke carbon monoxide, and a 49 year old female had died from asphyxiation as well as severe thermal injuries covering her entire body.

Witnesses observed Spino

entering the residence with a gas can and later saw him running from the scene.

He was arrested shortly after the fire. At the time he had a .34 percent blood alcohol level, according to authorities.

Spino initially denied any involvement in the arson. Later, he gave varying statements, but admitted spreading gasoline about the residence and setting the fire with his lighter, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office.

According to Spino, he intended to kill himself, but lost his nerve and escaped through a window just before the fire blazed out of control.

Spino was not injured or burned in any way.

Laboratory analysis of the floor of the residence was posi-

tive for gasoline used as an accelerant to spread the fire.

A search and analysis of Spino's person, after the fire, produced a butane lighter and gasoline residue on his sweatshirt and pants.

This case was investigated by the FBI and the Warm Springs Police Department.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant U. S. Attorney Kemp L. Strickland, and heard before U.S. District Judge Garr M. King.

In addition to the 35-year prison sentence, Spino was ordered to pay restitution to the victims' estate, and will have to serve five years of supervised release following his prison term.

W.S. teleco: helps economic development

(Continued from page 1)

Broadband has been called the critical infrastructure of the future. Why is it critical? Not only will this allow everyone to have faster personal email, or fast downloads for watching movies or playing games, but having broadband on the Reservation will benefit the Tribes for economic development, educational opportunities and even new health care services.

How does a broadband network enable such important things?

As we build out the new network, using fiber optic cable as a major portion of the network, the fiber allows information to flow through the network with greater speed and capacity. New fiber optics enables more "bandwidth" than the copper cables that Qwest currently uses. Instead of sending electronic signals down copper wire, the critical parts of the network will be sending pulses of light down fiber optic cable.

What do we mean by "bandwidth?"

Think of a big pipe. Copper wire is a narrow pipe that allows only a small amount of data or communications to slowly flow through that narrow pipe. In this modern "information age" we are now using our telephone networks to transmit huge amounts of information, much more than the basic telephone call that was the basis of telecommunications when the copper network was built.

With copper, it is a very slow process to pass the modern types of information that are now being sent over our telephone networks, such as data

Without the capabilities that this new company will provide, new businesses will not be possible. This includes both tribal enterprises and other companies

this new company will provide, new businesses will not be possible. This includes both tribal enterprises and other companies potentially interested in locating on the reservation.

In addition, we will provide the kind of services that individual tribal members could use to start new home-based businesses. Whether you are an artist that wants the ability to sell your beautiful beadwork to the world, or offer accounting services on-line, you need broadband to make these businesses happen. This is the goal of our new company.

In future articles, I will discuss some of the issues and possibilities for using telecommunications for improving healthcare and your children's education.

and video. Fiber, on the other hand, is a great big pipe, that will allow lots of information to flow through at a much faster speed.

I started out saying that this new company will enable economic development. In this modern age, new businesses will only be possible with advanced telecommunications.

Without the capabilities that

2 face charges in alleged fraud scheme

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A Maryland man and a Nevada woman are accused of an investment fraud scheme involving an American Indian tribe in South Dakota.

Attorney General Marty Jackley says 59-year-old Greg Long of Hanover, Md., and 54-

year-old Alcinda Miller of Las Vegas allegedly misled investors about the legitimacy of a tribal charter to operate a credit union on the Yankton Sioux Reservation.

He says the two collected \$370,000 from several investors. Long and Miller each face grand

Legal Aid Services of Oregon provides free assistance to low-income Oregonians in many civil cases. Speak with an attorney during drop-in hours 1 to 4 p.m. on the first

Monday of the month at the Family Resources Center in Warm Springs. Or call 385-6944 Monday through Thursday between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. (at lunch from noon-1 p.m.)

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