

Recond salmon run at Kenai River

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) — An astonishing number of red salmon were counted in the Kenai River to the delight of dipnetters who were hauling them in two and three at a time.

On one Sunday, 230,600 salmon—nearly all of them reds—passed the sonar counter 19 miles upstream from the

mouth of the river.

Those are the fish that got past the commercial nets, the dipnetters and the rod-and-reel fishermen in the lower river.

"It was unbelievable. I've heard stories but I never expected anything like this," Chuck Pratt, 46, who works as a fish biologist at the Fort Richardson hatchery, said.

"People were getting doubles and triples," Pratt said. "I had a triple, three doubles and a single" in a short time span.

Another large batch of salmon was counted midday the following day, with about 73,000 salmon reaching the counter, compared with 79,000 by that time the previous Sunday.

Fishery managers estimated

that less than a third of the number of salmon expected to make it into the river had come through by late that day.

"There are going to be plenty more good days of dipnetting to come," Pat Shields, acting area management biologist for Upper Cook Inlet commercial fisheries, said.

Navajo casinos exempt from reservation tobacco ban

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. (AP) — Navajo Nation lawmakers have voted to prohibit smoking in public places on the vast reservation with an exemption for tribal casinos.

But Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly has said the measure doesn't go far enough to protect the health of tribal members.

The Tribal Council voted 14-5 in favor of the measure last week during its summer session in Window Rock.

Under the bill, tribal lawmakers can reconsider the casino exemption once gaming officials pay off their financing debts.

The bill now heads to Shelly for his consideration.

Crittenden tops Soap in Cherokee race

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — While a new election has been ordered in the close and hard-fought race for principal chief of Oklahoma's largest American Indian tribe, one thing is certain: If incumbent Cherokee Nation Chief Chad Smith wins another term, he won't serve with his running mate.

Tribal councilman S. Joe Crittenden defeated Smith's running mate, Chris Soap, in a runoff for the deputy chief's post, according to vote totals the tribal election commission certified Sunday. Crittenden received 6,478 votes, or 53.2 percent, while Soap, received 5,706 votes.

Crittenden likely will serve for a time as interim principal chief because the tribal Supreme Court has ordered a new election between Smith and longtime tribal councilman Bill John Baker and it's unlikely to be held before Smith's term ends Aug. 14. The court ordered the new election after four vote counts in the principal chief's election each

yielded different results.

Soap, the stepson of the late, legendary Cherokee Chief Wilma Mankiller, led a four-candidate field during the original June 25 election for deputy chief with about 47 percent of the vote. Crittenden received only about 36 percent, but the other two candidates in the race, Callie Hathcoat and Raymond Vann, endorsed him in the runoff, as did Baker, who campaigned without a running mate during the general election.

Baker celebrated Crittenden's victory in the runoff and used it to take another swipe at Smith as the two look ahead to the principal chief's election.

"I think Joe's win... further proves that Cherokees are ready to take our nation from good to great," Baker said in a statement. "As Soap ran hand-in-hand with Chad Smith I think this is yet another blow to Smith's attempt to hang onto power for a fourth term."

Soap acknowledged "the voters have chosen a different direction for the Cherokee Nation" and said he respected that decision.

"The future of our people is far more important than any one election," Soap said in a statement. "There is no doubt that we are facing a difficult time in the history of our nation. But we have endured difficult times before, and we have prevailed."

The most recent recount in the tribe's election for principal chief put Smith ahead by four votes. But the tribal Supreme Court threw out that election's results Thursday, saying it was impossible to determine with a mathematical certainty which candidate won. Smith is responsible for setting the date of the new election, but hasn't yet done so.

Tribal Attorney General Diane Hammons said in an opinion dated Friday with a new election unlikely to be held before Smith's third term ends, the office will become empty and the deputy chief will serve as principal chief until a new one is installed.

Tulalips unhappy with Microsoft project name

TULALIP, Wash. (AP) — Washington's Tulalip Tribes are unhappy that Microsoft has decided to use their name as the internal label for a new social media project.

Tribal officials are discussing the issue with company officials, and Microsoft Corp. said the name was never intended to leak outside the Redmond software company.

"Tulalip is an internal project code name for the online site Socl.com, which is an internal design project from one of Microsoft's research teams that was mistakenly published to the Web," a Microsoft spokesman said in an email to The Daily Herald. "We have no more information at this time."

Democratic state Rep. John

McCoy, a Tulalip tribal member, heard that some Microsoft employees involved in the project live on or near the Tulalip reservation.

"By all accounts, it's an internal project at Microsoft and not a public thing. But in reality they should not have named it Tulalip," McCoy said. "I have no idea what our tribal officials plan to do, but technically these Microsoft employees infringed on the Tulalip name."

John Echohawk, the executive director of the Native American Rights Fund, agrees. The Colorado-based nonprofit law firm he oversees is dedicated to defending the rights of American Indian tribes and individuals.

"It's really a matter of com-

mon courtesy, not to say anything of the legalities," Echohawk said. "It's the tribes' name and nobody should run off and use the name without permission."

McCoy laughed when a reporter floated the idea of a new casino game called "Microsoft."

"Well, they take plenty of people to court over intellectual property rights," McCoy said.

Last week, bloggers from around the world speculated that perhaps Microsoft launched "Tulalip" as a social networking service to compete with Facebook and Google+.

The introductory page at Socl.com said, "With Tulalip, you can Find what you want and Share what you know easier than ever."

Spring Chinook quota nearly met on Imnaha River

(AP) — The state of Oregon last week ordered an emergency closure of fishing of spring Chinook on the Imnaha River.

The Oregon Department of

Fish and Wildlife ordered the closure to go into effect at sundown last Saturday.

The Chinook quota was nearly met the previous week-

end, as a four-fish bag limit was put in place to make up for poor fishing conditions earlier in the season.

Claims Filing Assistance

in the \$760 million Keepseagle Indian Farmer/Rancher Settlement

DATE: August 2-3, 2011

TIME: Between 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

**LOCATION: Klamath Tribes
501 Chiloquin Blvd.
Chiloquin, OR**

DATE: August 5-6, 2011

TIME: Between 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

**LOCATION: Confederated Tribes
of Warm Springs
1233 Veterans Street
Warm Springs, OR**

What is this About?

The class action settles claims that the USDA discriminated against Native American farmers and ranchers seeking farm loans or loan servicing.

Who is Included?

The Settlement includes:

- Native American farmers who:
 - Farmed or ranched (or attempted to) any time from 1981 to late 1999.
 - Tried to get a farm loan or loan servicing from the USDA.
 - Complained about discrimination to the USDA either directly or through a representative.
- Heirs of the above.

How Much Money Can I Get?

You may be eligible for a payment of up to \$50,000 or more and full or partial loan forgiveness.

To receive a payment, you must file a claim by December 27, 2011

To get help in filing a claim, attend a meeting or call: 1-888-233-5506

or visit: www.IndianFarmClass.com