

## Gasification plant: lease being negotiated; Council in support

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Manion made a presentation of the project to Tribal Council last week.

Councilman Raymond Tsumpti suggested that other tribal trust land, such as at the Gorge, might also be suitable for a gasification plant.

Councilman Scott Moses asked if the plant would be available for municipal waste from the reservation. Manion said that it would be.

Council indicated its support, and asked Manion to come back with the terms of the lease. Council approved a loan of \$100,000 from the tribes' Business Investment Revolving Fund (BIRF). The money will be repaid with interest. The BIRF board recommended approval of the project.



The development site is the tribal trust property at the Madras industrial park.

## 2012 Tribal Budget Summary

(See next page for details)

2012 Revenue Estimates	2011 Approved	2012 Proposed
Timber Revenue	\$1,500,000	\$1,147,150
Interest/Investment Revenue	3,200,000	865,306
Enterprise Dividends	4,165,000	5,250,000
Other Revenue (Fees, Permits, Sales, etc.)	1,000,000	1,124,900
Federal Contract		
Support - Indirect	2,700,000	3,000,000
Working Capital as a Source Savings from	3,247,295	-
Operations	1,000,000	-
General Fund Operation Transfers		1,082,587
Trust Fund Phase II Settlement	16,200,000	9,100,000
Revenue Reserve (Rainy Day Fund)	3,000,000	4,000,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$36,012,295</b>	<b>\$25,569,943</b>
<b>Proposed 2012 Expenditures</b>	<b>2011 Approved</b>	<b>2012 Proposed</b>
Operations	\$18,985,009	\$17,892,397
Community Assistance	238,453	237,703
Debt Service	232,712	232,712
Enterprises (Quasi)	627,711	677,492
Capital Projects	640,810	671,544
Transfer to Business Investment Revolving Fund	8,000,000	-
Transfer to Senior Citizen Pension Fund	1,200,000	1,200,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$29,924,695</b>	<b>\$20,911,848</b>
Estimated Per Capita	6,087,600	6,300,000
Special Per Capita		
<b>Total Uses &amp; Appropriations</b>	<b>\$36,012,295</b>	<b>\$27,211,848</b>
Total Surplus (Deficit) Budget	\$ -	\$(1,641,905)

## More News from Indian Country

### Report: Mental health care gaps in Indian Country

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) — A new U.S. government report highlights serious gaps in mental health care for many American Indians and Alaska Natives, groups that suffer from problems including a teenage suicide rate more than twice the national average.

One in five hospitals and clinics in Indian Country provide no mental health services, according to the Inspector General's Office of the Department of Health and Human Services.

Only half provide drug therapy treatments, and at dozens of facilities some drug treatments are handled by non-licensed social workers, counselors and nurses.

The inspector general's report covers a government health system that serves almost 2 million people, belonging to more than

500 tribes across 35 states. It was released last Friday by Montana U.S. Sen. Max Baucus.

The Democrat in 2008 had requested an investigation into problems with mental health care on reservations, which often are set in remote areas with struggling economies and where health care services of any sort are often in short supply.

"The demand for mental health services outstrips capacity at some IHS (Indian Health Service) and tribal facilities," the report's authors wrote, adding that American Indians and Native Alaskans "rank first among ethnic groups as likely to suffer mental health disorders such as anxiety and depression."

The consequences of those problems came into dramatic focus over the last two years on Montana's Fort Peck reserva-

tion. Five suicides and 20 attempts in one year at the rural reservation's Poplar Middle School prompted tribal leaders last year to declare a crisis and the government to dispatch an emergency team from the U.S. Public Health Service.

At least two more teenagers have killed themselves since and dozens of other children across the reservation have tried.

The inspector general's report says drug and alcohol abuse, depression, and unemployment also drive the need for better access to mental health services.

Some changes have been made since Baucus first called for the investigation, including new programs promoting the use of telemedicine, in which doctors can speak with patients remotely.

"In Montana, we've seen all

too well the tragedies that result when folks don't get the mental health care they need," Baucus said in a statement. "It's clear from this study that more needs to be done, and my staff and I will continue working with Indian Health Service and folks on the ground in Montana."

The inspector general's office called for the Indian Health Service to further expand the use of telemedicine and also link up with non-native mental health care providers.

An Indian Health Services spokeswoman said no one from the agency was available yet to comment on the report. But in an August letter to the Inspector General Daniel Levinson, IHS director Yvette Roubideaux said she agreed with the recommendations and would work to put them into practice.

### Judge tosses 1 of 2 suits over Cherokee freedmen

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — A federal judge last week dismissed one of two lawsuits over whether black slaves once owned by members of the Cherokee Nation have the right to tribal citizenship.

U.S. District Judge Henry Kennedy in Washington ruled that a lawsuit brought by the slaves' descendants alleging that about 2,800 freedmen were disenfranchised in violation of the 13th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution and the Treaty of 1866 could not proceed because the tribe was not a defendant in the case and couldn't be compelled to abide by the court's ruling.

The dismissed suit also claimed the Treaty of 1866 gave the freedmen and their descendants "all the rights of native Cherokees."

The tribe at one time was a defendant in the 2003 lawsuit

but it was dismissed. The tribe's chief and officials at the U.S. Department of the Interior, which includes the Bureau of Indian Affairs, also were named as defendants.

Last Friday's ruling doesn't affect a court order issued earlier that allows the freedmen to vote in the special election for principal chief. A tribal supreme court order reinstated a tribal constitutional amendment that effectively kicked the freedmen out of the tribe and wouldn't allow them to participate in balloting.

Kennedy also transferred a second lawsuit by the Cherokee Nation against another group of freedmen back to federal court in Tulsa, where it was initially filed. In that lawsuit, the tribe argued that federal statutes modified the 1866 treaty in a way that no longer provided the Freedmen rights to citizenship.

Kennedy wrote that the lawsuit, Cherokee Nation v. Nash, offers the freedmen an alternative forum for the legal issues underlying the case to be addressed.

"Unlike a potential judgment in this case, which would not bind the Cherokee Nation, the Cherokee Nation is the plaintiff in Nash and would be bound by any judgment rendered in that suit," he wrote.

Attorney Jon Velie, who represents the descendants, said he was disappointed with the ruling but added the fight isn't over.

"It's a technical ruling. It didn't determine whether the treaty was valid or whether the freedmen were or were not citizens," Velie told The Associated Press.

Tribal attorney general Diane Hammons said Kennedy's ruling upheld arguments the tribe made more than two years ago.

"The order from Judge Kennedy was exactly what the Cherokee Nation had asked for: a full dismissal of the Vann case and a transfer of the Nash case, brought by the Cherokee Nation, back to Oklahoma where it was filed and where it should be heard."

Chief Chad Smith, who was principal chief when the litigation was initially filed, praised the ruling.

"Today's ruling proves that when the Cherokee Nation stands up and fights for its rights, it can win," he said in a statement.

Marilyn Vann, the lead plaintiff in the dismissed lawsuit, said she isn't sure if an appeal of the ruling will be sought.

"All we ever wanted is our rights, the rights our ancestors were promised and we're trying to defend."

### Tribal chairman Bailey plans run for Congress

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. (AP) — Derek Bailey, chairman of the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, said last week he will seek the Democratic nomination to challenge freshman U.S. Rep. Dan Benishek in northern Michigan's 1st Congressional District.

Bailey joins former state legislator Gary McDowell in the race to unseat Benishek, a tea party-backed Republican from Crystal Falls elected last year. Benishek replaced Bart Stupak, a Democrat who decided against seeking re-election after serving 18 years in the House.

Democrats consider the seat among their best prospects for reversing the GOP's takeover of the House in 2008, even though the district may be somewhat more GOP-friendly since its lines were redrawn following the 2010 census. It still takes in all the Upper Peninsula and a large section of the northern Lower Peninsula. Bailey, 38, described him-

self as a bridge builder who would cooperate with members of both parties at a time of fierce partisanship to reduce the federal debt and strengthen the economy.

"Working together respectfully... is the basic expectation for our representatives," he said. "I pledge, and stand by my past work efforts, that I will bring this perspective to Congress and simply get work done."

Bailey was elected in 2008 as chairman of the Grand Traverse band after serving four years on the tribal council. The 4,100-citizen tribe operates two casinos and the Grand Traverse Resort and Spa, and provides government services in six counties: Antrim, Benzie, Charlevoix, Grand Traverse, Leelanau and Manistee.

A Traverse City native who grew up there and in neighboring Leelanau County, Bailey was appointed by President Barack Obama to the National Advisory Council on Indian Education.

### Mummified hand from museum to go to Utah tribes

IDAHO FALLS, Idaho (AP) — The Idaho Falls Police Department has closed its investigation into a mummified hand found in a museum storeroom and officials said the remains will likely be turned over to Native American tribes in Utah.

Officials with the Museum of Idaho said an unidentified man

apparently dropped off the hand at the museum a few years ago.

He had reportedly found it while cleaning out a deceased relative's belongings and said something about it having come from Utah. But the box containing the hand was left on a storeroom shelf and forgotten until

the room was cleaned earlier this year.

The Idaho Falls Police Department sent the hand to the Utah Division of State History Antiquities, where forensic anthropologist Derinna Kopp determined it is between 700 and 1,000 years old.

Kopp declined comment "out

of respect for and at the wishes of Native American tribes."

Museum of Idaho director David Pennock said the hand was never part of the museum's collection, but he was glad to finally learn the approximate age and to find that it is being dealt with appropriately.