



Artists depict Wounded Knee massacre, occupation

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) – Jerry Fogg was just a teenager when he was handed a gun and told to help guard the South Dakota town of Wounded Knee during one of the most public displays of protest by the American Indian Movement nearly four decades ago.

For three days, Fogg joined about 200 Oglala Sioux members and their followers as they occupied and seized the town for 71 days.

“It felt like you were guarding a president,” the Yankton Sioux tribal member who now resides in Sioux Falls recalled. “I was told if I was to fire, I was to fire over everyone’s head.”

Fogg is one of nearly 25 artists – both Native and non-Native – from around the country displaying their artwork at Augustana College’s Center for Western Studies in Sioux Falls as part of a first-of-its-kind art exhibit and show.

“Interpretations of Wounded Knee 1973 and 1890” is meant

to help foster understanding and build stronger relationships between Natives and non-Natives as the 40th anniversary of the Wounded Knee takeover approaches, said Timothy Hoheisel, director of Outreach and Promotion at The Center for Western Studies.

In 1890, the U.S. Army killed Miniconjou Lakota chief Spotted Elk, also known as Big Foot, and 300 of his followers, including women and children, on the banks of the Wounded Knee Creek.

“I didn’t do anything to Jerry Fogg. My ancestors basically killed his ancestors,” said Hoheisel, referring to the 1890 massacre. “By us coming together with this exhibit, there’s a chance for reconciliation.”

The exhibit is a prelude to the annual Dakota Conference, which brings together professional and amateur historians and researchers to present papers on a particular topic relevant to Northern Plains history. The theme for this year’s con-

A map of Wounded Knee Creek drawn by a soldier moments before the killings acts as the bottom layer of the work.

ference is “Wounded Knee 1973: Forty Years Later.” The event, scheduled for April 27-28, is bringing together all sides from the occupation – former American Indian Movement members, federal agents and prosecutors, and journalists and bystanders who witnessed the uprising.

“This one has a bit of an edge to it, as we anticipated it would,” said Harry Thompson, executive director for The Center for Western Studies.

This is the first time in the conference’s 44-year history that there has been an art show to

go along with the conference. Hoheisel said it fit well with this year’s theme.

The exhibit, which runs through May 26, includes two-dimensional and three-dimensional pieces in various art forms.

In one oil-on-canvas painting – titled “Still Hanging on the Res” by artist Bruce Preheim of Vermillion, S.D. – Christ, a feather atop his head, is shown crucified.

“We crucify Christ every day by not dealing with Native American disparity and rights,” Preheim wrote in his artist description of the piece.

Red paint covers half the canvas in “Last Stand II (Massacre at Wounded Knee)” by Sioux Falls artist Kevin Bierbaum, who is not Native American. Hoheisel said the red paint depicts the blood from the massacre.

In “Archive,” one of Fogg’s pieces about the 1890 killings, the history lies in the details.

A map of Wounded Knee

Creek drawn by a soldier moments before the killings acts as the bottom layer of the work. On top of that, there’s another sheet with the names of those who died or were wounded. An actual broken hoop is placed in the center, representing the end of the Native’s freedom to choose. Inside the hoop Fogg shows Chief Spotted Elk frozen in the winter cold.

Metal pins represent the 7th Cavalry, while a small pair of moccasins with a hair plume is in honor of the children killed. Thirty-eight 1890 Indian head pennies line the bottom of the piece, with an 1890 silver dollar in the middle that is meant to “give attention to a dreadful time that should never be forgotten or repeated,” Fogg wrote in his artist note.

Fogg spent three months working on the piece and hopes it will help remind today’s young people to remember and honor the past. “You should remember. There’s a story behind every work,” he said.

Winnings jump for LA. casinos

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP) – February winnings for Louisiana’s state-licensed casinos jumped 8.7 percent from a year ago.

State police say the twelve riverboat casinos, Harrah’s New Orleans land casino and the three casinos at race tracks won \$217.2 million, compared with \$199.5 million for February 2011. Last month included an extra day because of the leap year.

The riverboats won \$151 million, the New Orleans casino took in \$28.9 million and the track casinos won \$37.2 million. In January 2012, the casinos won \$185.6 million.

Okla. casino review delayed

BROKEN ARROW, Okla. (AP) – A review of engineering plans for a controversial casino in Broken Arrow will be delayed, partly because questions remain about whether a tribe can legally establish the facility at the proposed location, city officials said.

Contractor FoxCor Inc. has submitted an application for a plan examination and building permit to officials, but action won’t be taken because of “several outstanding factors,” Broken Arrow City Manager David Wooden said in a news release. Factors include easement issues, as well as questions regarding Kialegee Tribal Town’s lease and legal ability to conduct gaming there, he said.

Kialegee Tribal Town broke ground on the proposed Red Clay Casino in December on land allotted to the Muscogee Creek Nation. The Kialegees are a part of the Creek Nation, but are based in Wetumka, miles

from Broken Arrow.

A number of residents have opposed the casino, saying it would be located too close to schools and a day care. Because the property is a Native American allotment, Wooden wrote, approval from the Bureau of Indian Affairs for the proposed easement might be required.

City Director of Communications Stephanie Higgins said that the city is waiting to see the resolution of a federal lawsuit filed by Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt.

Pruitt has accused the Kialegees of bypassing a requirement to get federal approval and is seeking a preliminary injunction to have the construction stopped. The tribe has maintained that the bureau’s approval isn’t necessary and wants the complaint dismissed.

U.S. District Judge Gregory Frizzell declined Pruitt’s request to begin a hearing on the prelimi-

nary injunction on April 11, finding it “untenable and unrealistic.” He set the date for May 2.

Among other things, the judge said the required amount of time hasn’t lapsed for the defendants to file their answers or anticipated motions to dismiss them from the case.

Attorney Joseph Farris, who is representing the tribe in the lawsuit, said he and another attorney have conflicts with the May date and will seek to get the hearing date pushed back.

Pruitt’s spokeswoman, Diane Clay, said, “we would’ve liked an earlier date, but we can’t control the court’s docket.”

The Next deadline to submit items for publication in the Spilyay Tymoo is Friday, April 13. Thank you!

Alaska leaders tackle fetal alcohol issue

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) – Morgan Fawcett calls himself an alcoholic who is about to celebrate two decades of sobriety—on his 20th birthday.

Even though he is a non-drinker, the Anchorage-born Tlingit blames alcohol for a host of ailments, including constant headaches, learning disabilities and constricted muscles.

He was born with fetal alcohol syndrome after his mother drank as much as 100 days during her pregnancy, he told Alaska Natives, American Indians and others who gathered Thursday in Anchorage for a two-day conference on fetal alcohol spectrum disorders.

“Everybody is affected by alcohol,” Fawcett said. “Nobody is immune. And we all have to deal with the effects every day.”

State officials say Alaska Natives have greatly brought

down the prevalence of the most severe form of FASD among Native newborns—fetal alcohol syndrome. The rate of fetal alcohol syndrome, however, remains significantly higher among Alaska Natives than non-Native newborns in the state.

Nationally, the incidence of FASD is more than two times greater among indigenous newborns than in non-Native births, according to information available for a problem that is underreported in Native and non-Native populations alike, said Candace Shelton, a senior Native American specialist with the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. SAMHSA is the sponsor of the conference.

Fawcett, a Native flutist and advocate for public awareness of FASD, was among people directly affected by fetal alcohol syndrome who spoke at the conference. He said his goal in life is to share his story, not be-

cause it’s unique but because it’s common and he has the gift of public speaking.

“I can come from a place that offers you the truth as I know it,” he said.

Another speaker was Mary Andrews of Bethel, who said she struggles with the anguish of being a mother to a 14-year-old boy with FASD. “It was very hard to talk about at first,” Andrews said, fighting back tears. “I was guilty for what I did to my boy.”

Andrews said a stepson who had FASD died a few years ago, at age 20. He helped her see how little she knew about what the condition feels like, she said.

He helped her deal with the challenges of her younger son being different from his other siblings, who lose patience with him, calling him stupid. “It hits me hard when I hear him labeled like that,” she said.

SD Indian population younger than other groups

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) – South Dakota’s American Indian population is younger than the state’s overall population, a trend that has implications for the provision of education and other services.

U.S. Census data released last week shows that nearly 44 percent of South Dakota’s Native American population is 19 or younger. But only about 25 percent of the state’s white population is 19 or younger.

Michael McCurry, an exten-

sion specialist at South Dakota State University who specializes in demography, says the large youth population among American Indians has tremendous implications for education and other services in the future. He says it’s part of a trend of an increasing American Indian population in the state.


The Census Bureau reported earlier that American Indians accounted for 8.8 percent of South Dakota’s population of 814,180 in 2010.

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