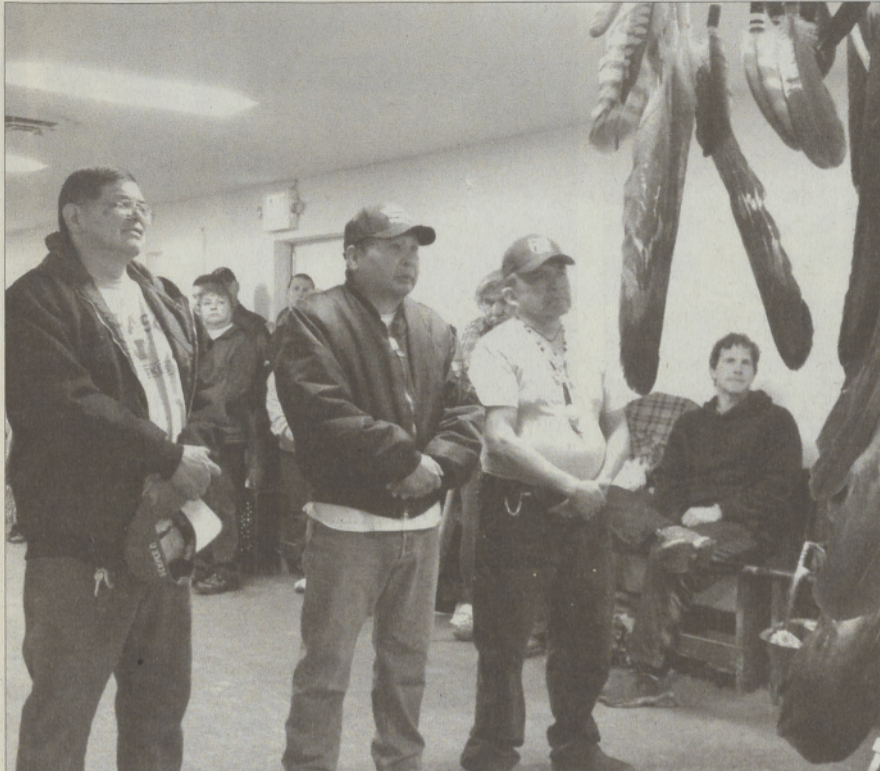




## Unique veterans ceremony



Randy Smith, Ross Kalama and Andy James at the Twenty-Fifth Annual Veterans Healing Circle at HeHe.

Veterans and their families gathered April 25-27 at HeHe for the Twenty-Fifth Annual Veterans Healing Circle.

This year's gathering included a unique ceremony.

Several years ago, veteran Ross Kalama put his war medals and ribbons in the casket when mother passed

away.

His older brother Larson Kalama Sr., who is director of the Healing Circle, and veterans advocate Sheila Danzuka arranged to have the medals and ribbons replaced.

"He was very surprised, pleased and honored to re-

ceive them," said Tina Aguilar, relative who attended the ceremony.

"I was very touched to be able to share in this event along with everyone else who came to the gathering," she said.

Close to 100 people attended this year's gathering.

## Official touts ND youth program

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) – The No. 2 official in federal law enforcement said last week his department is keeping an eye on a pilot program in the Dakotas that is designed to keep American Indian youth from making bad choices, and may incorporate it elsewhere.

James Cole, deputy attorney general for the U.S. Department of Justice, said his visit to the Standing Rock Indian Reservation a day earlier piqued his interest in a youth outreach series led by Gary Delorme, an assistant U.S. attorney in North Dakota.

The program features speakers who talk about Internet and texting safety, bullying, drug and alcohol abuse, and gangs.

"Gary is bringing in people who really know how to relate to the kids," Cole said. "These are the kind of open and candid exchanges that will help kids think about their consequences."

Cole said the program is unique and he expects his department to analyze the

North Dakota results.

"A lot of what we try to do is science based," Cole said. "It's not just, boy, this sounds like a good idea, let's do it. We have ideas that we start as pilots. We may not have data, but we try to look at whether there has been some success or tangible effects."

"When we do see that, then we're going to import these into other places," he said.

Standing Rock straddles the border of North and South Dakota. Timothy Purdon, the U.S. attorney in North Dakota, said a similar program is planned by Assistant U.S. Attorney Janice Morley on the Spirit Lake reservation in northeast North Dakota.

"It's an experimental program, but boy, we like what we see here," Purdon said.

North Dakota contains all or part of four Indian reservations: Fort Berthold, Spirit Lake, Turtle Mountain and Standing Rock. A small amount of tribal trust land belonging to the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate Tribe also

exists in southeastern North Dakota, although the vast majority of the reservation is located in South Dakota.

Cole acknowledged that while he received a welcome response from students Wednesday during an appearance at Standing Rock High School, in Fort Yates, the loudest ovation was saved for Delorme. Delorme promoted his final event of the school year, and promised to be back in the fall.

"I'm trying to get you guys to see what implications your decisions today have on your future," said Delorme, an enrolled member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa. "My primary message to you is, I don't want to see you in court."

Cole told tribal and law enforcement leaders in his keynote address Thursday that the North Dakota youth outreach plan is an example of a 2010 Justice Department directive to have U.S. attorneys engage directly with Native American governments.

## Obama names Gillette to top Native American advisory post

(AP) – President Barack Obama has named a member of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe to serve as his senior policy adviser for Native American affairs.

Obama last week announced the appointment of Jodi Gillette to advise him on Native American

issues on the White House Domestic Policy Council. Gillette previously worked on Indian issues at the Interior Department.

Obama says Gillette has been a key member of his administration's efforts in Indian Country.

He says she'll continue to ensure that Native American

issues will have a seat at the table.

Gillette is an enrolled member of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, in North Dakota and South Dakota. She holds degrees from Dartmouth College and the University of Minnesota.

## Maryhill opens new wing

GOLDENDALE, Wash. (AP) – The Maryhill Museum of Art celebrates the opening of a new wing next month, after more than a year of construction.

The new wing is the first expansion in the history of the museum, located south of Goldendale overlooking the Columbia River. Museum

visitors will be treated to free admission to celebrate the weekend of May 12.

Events will include behind-the-scenes tours of the new wing and collections storage areas, family art activities, an antique car show and more.

The \$10 million expansion added more than 25,000 square feet for an education

suite, collections storage, a new cafe and an outdoor plaza.

The museum first opened to the public in 1940. Today, its collections include more than 80 works by Auguste Rodin, European and American paintings and Native American art.

## Mass. tribe unveils casino plan

BOSTON (AP) – The Mashpee Wampanoag tribe has unveiled details of a proposed \$500 million resort casino in Taunton.

The tribe announced last week it hopes to build the resort over a five-year period on 146 acres of land at the junction of Routes 24 and

140.

The plan calls for a 150,000 square foot casino, three hotels, retail stores and a family-oriented water park. The tribe estimates the complex would create more than 2,500 permanent jobs.

The state's new casino law gives exclusive rights to a fed-

erally-recognized Indian tribe to develop a casino in southeastern Massachusetts if it can negotiate a compact with the state by July 31.

The Aquinnah Wampanoag tribe is also seeking a casino but state officials have told the tribe it waived its right to gaming in the 1980s.

## Okla. Native caucus supports center

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) – The 18 member House Native American Caucus has announced support of a planned American Indian Cultural Center along the banks of the Oklahoma River near downtown Oklahoma City.

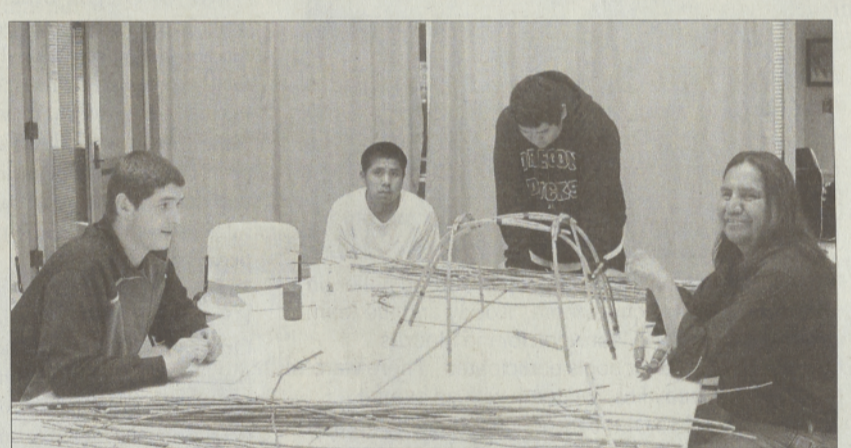
Rep. Seneca Scott of Tulsa and a member of the caucus

said Thursday it's the first time in recent years that the caucus, which includes Republicans and Democrats, has unanimously agreed to endorse a project.

The state agency overseeing the center says it has secured \$40 million in private funds to complete the project and is looking for an addi-

tional \$40 million from the state.

However, some legislators have been critical of the museum's estimated \$171 million costs and House Speaker Kris Steele says there is little support for a state bond issue to help fund completion of the center.



Madras High School students Delbert Goudy, Nathan Stwyer and Jariah Thompson, and teacher Foster Kalama spent the afternoon at the Museum at Warm Springs learning about the Sweat Lodge.

## Miss Teen Navajo wows crowd by speaking Navajo

GALLUP, N.M. (AP) – Window Rock High School sophomore Gypsy Shannon Pete was left speechless when she heard her name being announced as the new Miss Teen Navajo last weekend at the Navajo Nation Museum. "I'm speechless," Pete said. "I feel accomplished and very proud of myself. This pageant is about helping the youth and that's what I want to contribute to."

Pete wowed the crowd with her fluent Navajo speaking, which is seen as a great talent. Young Navajo speakers are a rarity. Trying to re-

vitalize the Navajo language is one of the reasons why Miss Teen Navajo coordinator Mel Hoskie started the pageant three years ago.

"Anywhere you go – movies, restaurants – you never hear teenagers speaking together in conversation Navajo," Hoskie said. "We need to have our language spoken."

Hoskie said in order to make his vision of the Miss Teen Navajo a reality it took him two years of research and preparation. Participating as a judge in the Miss Eastern Navajo, Miss Navajo Na-

*"My heart pounds every time I hear you (contestants) speak Navajo,"*

tion, Miss Northern Navajo and Miss Central Navajo pageants gave Hoskie the knowledge of traditional pageants. But it was the assistance of his friends, Hoskie said, that gave him the extra help needed to start his own pageant.

"I hope it grows," Hoskie

said. "Last year we had three contestants; this year we have six. It's growing."

Each contestant had to compete in both traditional and contemporary events. As the day of competition moved on it was time for the 2011-2012 Miss Teen Navajo Jerac Curtis to give her final farewell speech. Curtis explained in her speech how hard it was at times when people criticized the fact that she wasn't a fluent speaker or other small discrepancies that they saw with her, but she never let those bad times ruin her overall reign that she en-

joyed.

"At times I did discourage because people would say, 'You're not speaking enough Navajo,'" Curtis said. "They didn't understand that I was still learning."

During the pageant Curtis got up on stage and attempted to speak in Navajo without reading from a sheet of paper and she vowed to the crowd that she will one day be able to hold a conversation in Navajo.

"My heart pounds every time I hear you (contestants) speak Navajo," Curtis said. "I promise you next time you

see me I will be able to have a conversation with you in Navajo."

After gaining the crown as the new Miss Teen Navajo, Pete already set as her future goal to earn the title of Miss Navajo Nation, for which contestants are expected to speak and understand fluent Navajo.

"I plan to run for Miss Navajo," Pete said. "And to all the young women I want to say be proud of who you are. Beauty is not in makeup or anything like that. It's natural beauty. Be proud to be a Diné woman."