



Cherokee sign amended gambling pact

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) – The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians and Gov. Beverly Perdue signed an updated edition to its new agreement to allow live-dealer poker and other table games at the tribe's casino, a move designed to ease concerns of more state lawmakers.

Perdue and Eastern Band Principal Chief Michell Hicks signed the amended compact in Perdue's office, nearly six months after they signed one to let the tribe offer games beyond the electronic and video games now available at its western North Carolina casino.

The agreement will create 400 new jobs, Perdue said. The state also will get a cut of the proceeds from the new games, which could reach as high as \$90 million through the life of the 30-year compact.

The General Assembly will have to alter state gambling laws before the compact can be carried out.

Legislative leaders and attorneys had raised questions about the November compact because it directed how the state's share of revenues would go to school districts for classroom instruction. They said the state constitu-

tion give the Legislature the power to decide over the compact's life how the money is spent, not any compact.

A bill to help implement the law and approved by the Senate last week still earmarks the money for school district expenditures. The updated edition to the compact expresses "the hope of both the governor and the Cherokee that the fund will continue to be used for education in the future," Perdue's office said in a news release.

This change and others were the result of negotiations with legislators, Perdue spokesman Mark Johnson

said. The House still must agree to the bill.

"I look forward to working with the General Assembly to make sure this agreement is finalized," Perdue said in a prepared statement.

Perdue's office said the updated signed compact makes clear the kind of live games that could be now be offered by the Harrah's Cherokee Casino and Hotel, such as poker, roulette, craps and blackjack. The compact also limits the Eastern Band from one day offering two additional casinos on tribal lands beyond the current Harrah's casino.

17 indicted for drug offenses on Pine Ridge

PINE RIDGE, S.D. (AP) – A federal grand jury has indicted 17 people for distributing drugs in and around the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.

The individuals range in age from 23 to 60. All of the individuals reside in South

Dakota or Nebraska. The charges include conspiracy to distribute marijuana, cocaine and methamphetamine.

The investigation was conducted by the Oglala Sioux tribe's Department of Public Safety and several federal and state agencies.

Comanche tribe makes Depp honorary member

ALBUQUERQUE, New Mexico (AP) – Johnny Depp has been made an honorary member of the Comanche tribe.

Depp is in New Mexico, shooting the film adaptation of "The Lone Ranger." He plays "Ranger" sidekick Tonto in the film.

Comanche Nation tribal member LaDonna Harris said that the tribal chairman presented Depp with a proclamation at her Albuquerque home.

She says the Comanche adoption tradition means she now considers Depp her son. Harris says Depp seemed

humbled.

His spokeswoman, Jayne Ngo, confirmed the actor participated in a ceremony but declined to provide details.

Harris says she had read interviews with Depp that said the actor identified himself as being part Native American, so she thought it would be fun to adopt him. She ran the idea by her adult children, and they agreed.

Harris says she reached out to the "Dark Shadows" star through a friend who is working as a cultural adviser on the "Lone Ranger" set.

Ancient burial mounds looted, driven over

ST. LOUIS (AP) – Ancient American Indian burial mounds in southern Illinois have been damaged and possibly looted, prompting the state's historical agency to call for the public's help in identifying the culprits.

Last month, someone dug holes in a portion of Kincaid Mounds State Historic Site, a town and religious center of the Mississippian culture of 1,000 years ago in what is now rural Massac and Pope counties, the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency said.

The culprits were probably searching for "grave goods" that Native Americans buried with their dead, although it's unclear if any artifacts or human remains were taken, the agency said. More damage was done to the site recently when an all-terrain vehicle or truck was driven on one of the mounds, where "No Trespassing" signs are posted and ATVs are prohibited, the agency said.

"The criminal disturbance of these human burials in Kincaid Mounds is unconscionable," said Amy Martin, the agency's director. "We hope to apprehend those who are responsible, which will serve as a deterrent to others who may be considering the desecration of our state's heritage."

The site, about 170 miles southeast of St. Louis, has been targeted before. In 2008, three holes several feet wide and deep appeared in the side of one of the nine mounds, with two of the holes in spots looters had struck the previous year.

The disturbance of archaeological sites or skeletal remains on state-owned property can be a misdemeanor punishable by up to a year in jail, a \$10,000 fine, reparations and forfeiture of any vehicles or equipment used in the misdeed. Unsettling of burial sites on public land also may be a felony carrying a three-year prison term and \$25,000 fine. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, Kincaid Mounds is significant as one of two major political centers of the Mississippian period in the lower Ohio River Valley and was one of the first areas in southern Illinois where intensive, large-scale agriculture was developed.

Northwest Cycle hosted the Native Thunder Show and Shine Poker Run earlier this month. Proceeds from the event, held at Indian Head Casino, help the Warm Springs Boys and Girls Club.



Sue Matters photos for Spilyay.

Who's an American Indian? Case stirs query

What, exactly, makes someone American Indian? Even Indians themselves don't agree as they debate the case of Senate candidate Elizabeth Warren, whose disputed claim of Native American identity is shining a rare spotlight on the malleable nature of Indian heritage and the long history of murky claims to such ancestry.

Warren, a Harvard Law School professor and Democrat who is running in Massachusetts against Republican incumbent Sen. Scott Brown, was listed as Native American in several law school directories. Warren has said that her "family lore" described Indian ancestors, and the New England Genealogy Association said it found indications—but not proof—that Warren had a Cherokee great-great-great grandmother, which would make her 1/32 Indian.

"I'm proud of my heritage," Warren said. Asked how she knew it included Native Americans, she replied, "Because my mother told me so."

Her opponents question whether Warren chose this heritage to gain advantages available to Indians and other underrepresented groups in academia.

"Warren has zero evi-

dence that she is at all Native American," said Brown's campaign manager, Jim Barnett. The genealogy association acknowledges that it found only secondary references to Cherokee family members, not primary sources such as marriage, birth or census records.

Among Native Americans, the varying opinions demonstrate that Indian identity is subjective even among Indians themselves.

When David Eugene Wilkins first saw Warren interviewed during her nomination to a federal post, he was smitten by her intelligence and politics. But when he heard about her claims of Indian ancestry, "I shook my head and said, 'Oh no.'"

"For us it was always about allegiance rather than biology or ancestry," said Wilkins, an enrolled member of the Lumbee tribe and professor of American Indian studies at the University of Minnesota.

"It's where you place your political, cultural, emotional allegiance. She lived her entire life and never had any association whatsoever with any community. So something doesn't wash for me," Wilkins said.

But David Treuer, an award-winning writer and

Ojibwe Indian from Leech Lake Reservation in Minnesota, said there is a difference between Indian identity and ancestry—you can have one without the other.

"An Indian identity is something someone claims for oneself; it is a matter of choice," Treuer wrote in a Washington Post essay titled, "Elizabeth Warren says she's Native American. So she is."

There are 566 federally recognized Native American tribes, each with its own rules for membership, according to the federal Bureau of Indian Affairs, or BIA.

Some tribes require a "blood quantum" measurement of as much as one-half or one-quarter Indian ancestry; others require a certain place of birth or residence.

Feds reject tribe's plan for casino near Richmond

RICHMOND, Calif. (AP) – Federal officials have rejected a Native American tribe's plans to build a casino near the San Francisco Bay area city of Richmond.

The U.S. Department of Interior said that the Scotts Valley Band of Pomo Indians had not demonstrated a significant historical connection to the proposed casino site.

The tribe had its federal recognition restored in 1991.

Although it is currently headquartered about 80 miles away in Lake County, the site near Richmond would have been its first reservation.

Tribal officials had argued that their ancestral lands included the Richmond site. But federal officials say they failed to demonstrate that.

The Department of Interior on Friday did approve the application of the Ione Band of Miwok Indians for a casino in Amador County.

Attempt to block tribal hotel fails

DULUTH, Minn. (AP) – A district court judge has rejected an attempt by the city of Duluth to block the Fond du Lac Band from using a downtown hotel for its casino operations.

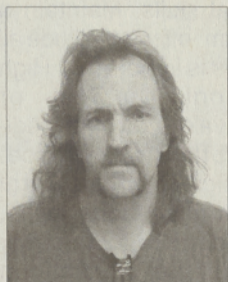
The Lake Superior Chippewa band has asked the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs to place the Carter Hotel property in tribal trust. Sixth District Court Judge Mark Munger re-

jected a temporary injunction sought by the city. Munger told the city it was premature in seeking an injunction.

The Fond du Lac Band and the city have been at odds since 2009 when the band stopped sending a portion of its Fond-du-Luth Casino profits to the city. A federal court has upheld the band's position. The city has appealed the case.

Failure to register as a sex offender

Christopher Allen Gemmell, 46, primary address unknown, has failed to register as a convicted sex offender with the Warm Springs Sex Offender Registration office. Physical description: 5'11" 160 pounds, blond hair blue eyes. Contact the sex offender registry office with information, 541-553-2214.



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