

Cherokee offer bounty for coyotes

CHEROKEE, N.C. (AP) — The Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians in western North Carolina is offering bounty payments of \$25 for each coyote carcass that is turned into the tribe.

The Tribal Council is offering the money to try to protect white-tailed deer on the reservation. Money will only be paid for coyotes that have been shot, not trapped.

Tribal fisheries and wildlife manager Robert

Blankenship says coyotes are the main predator for deer fawn and other wildlife in the area.

"We realize you'll never get rid of them completely, but our goal is to thin them out and hopefully increase the fawn survival rate," Blankenship said.

The tribe began a white-tailed deer reintroduction program two years ago, he said. Land was planted with winter peas, clover, turnips and

other plants where the animals could forage.

The deer population in the area had been declining previously, Blankenship said.

"Historically, white-tailed deer are very significant to the Cherokee people," Blankenship said. "That dates back over 10,000 years. Every archaeological dig that's been completed, they find deer bones in those digs. We want to make sure they are there for future generations," he

said.

Bounties have not been particularly effective in dealing with coyote populations, said Mike Carraway, a biologist with the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission.

"A bounty can help to reduce the coyote population in specific areas," he said. "Overall, it is not going to have any significant effect on the population as a whole."

Pyramid Lake tribal chief honored posthumously

CARSON CITY, Nev. (AP) — Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribal Chairman Wayne Burke has been honored posthumously as American Indian Community Leader of the Year.

Burke, whose Oct. 28 death at the age of 38 was ruled a suicide, was recognized by the Nevada Indian Commission during its annual Ameri-

can Indian Achievement Awards Banquet on Saturday night at the governor's mansion in Carson City.

Burke was instrumental in the development of the Reno-area tribe's economic development and tourism programs, and was the first Native American to serve on the Nevada Commission on Tourism.

First National Bison Day celebrated in Jackson

JACKSON, Wyo. (AP) — Giant, shaggy and dangerous, bison are the bad boys of the grasslands.

Bulls can weigh up to 2,000 pounds. They injure more visitors to Yellowstone National Park than any other animal.

These hulking creatures represent a time, hundreds of years ago, when American Indians hunted bison for food across the Great Plains. Their hides offered warmth, clothing and shelter, and their bones became tools.

Thanks to the Wildlife Conservation Society, a day for the bison has been set aside.

And if the folks at the conservation society have their way, the mighty bison will soon sit alongside the bald eagle—our national em-

blem—as the United States' national mammal.

A celebration for the inaugural National Bison Day, Nov. 1, was held earlier this month at the National Museum of Wildlife Art at Jackson. Attendance was low, but it was the first crack at the event, celebrated in South Dakota, New Mexico, West Virginia and Washington, D.C. A celebration was also scheduled in New York City but was called off because of Hurricane Sandy.

National Bison Day is in line with the National Bison Legacy Act, a bill sponsored by Wyoming Sen. Mike Enzi, said Keith Aune, the Wildlife Conservation Society's senior conservation scientist.

"That designation doesn't come with any authorities, it doesn't cost any money, it

doesn't invoke any jurisdictional battles over management of the species," Aune said.

"It's really about a symbolic designation and then providing a special day each year for us to celebrate the species and why it's important to America."

Scott Smith, the group's communications manager, introduced Aune, who he described as "the bison guy" to a crowd of about 25.

Aune makes a compelling argument for the bison having some sort of special symbolic status.

The American bison once roamed across the boreal forest of Canada and Alaska.

At peak numbers, estimated at 30 to 60 million, they were found in close to every corner of the Lower

48, Aune said.

Driven by government policy, demand for hides and mass slaughters, the "force of nature" was rapidly removed from the land, eventually winnowing the population to about 1,200 animals, Aune said.

By 1905, a group of ranchers, conservationists and sportsmen formed the American Bison Society to breathe some life into small herds that remained scattered in pockets around the country.

The species, now numbering 500,000, has been effectively saved and is no longer threatened by extinction. But today roughly 95 percent of all bison are raised commercially, primarily for their meat, Aune said.

Growth of wild herds on

public lands petered out in the 1930s, he said.

That's led to the "second recovery of the bison," what Aune described as an effort to increase the population

from a conservation standpoint. That means increasing genetic diversity and bridging gaps in bison-habitable range, he said.

Bronc rider dies in Finals rodeo accident

LAS VEGAS (AP) — A 25-year-old Missouri man has died after being injured during the Indian National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas.

Rodeo officials say J.D. Jones of Goodman, Mo., died at a hospital after being critically injured during the saddle bronc riding competition Saturday night.

Officials say it was Jones' first time compet-

ing in the national finals.

The 37th annual event was held from Nov. 6 through 10 at the South Point resort. Organizers issued a statement saying Jones was a favorite of the rodeo because of his passion and respect for the sport. They thanked the Indian Nation for rallying behind the cowboy's family financially and personally.

Alaska Native fishermen seek consolidated trial

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) — Alaska Native fishermen charged with illegal fishing during a poor salmon run are seeking to consolidate their trials. Attorney James J. Davis Jr. says he wants to continue to a later date the trials for 11 of the fishermen set to start next week. Another 10 fishermen are scheduled for January trials.

Davis says consolidating the 21 cases would allow a specialist on Yup'ik

Eskimo culture to act as a pro bono expert for all the fishermen.

Last month, three other fishermen tried separately in Bethel were found guilty of violating strict fishing restrictions last summer. The men were each fined \$250. In their trials, Davis argued that no one notified the fishermen about restrictions. Magistrate Bruce Ward said they were negligent for not finding out about the restrictions.

C. Ore. group plans statewide vote on trapping

BEND (AP) — A group based in Central Oregon plans an anti-trapping measure for the 2014 ballot.

The TrapFree Oregon initiative would ban trapping of animals for their fur or other body parts and outlaw the buying or selling of fur or other parts of trapped animals. It would also make poisoning animals illegal.

The ban would have exceptions for mice and other

small rodent-like animals and larger animals that can't be controlled by non-lethal means.

The movement to ban trapping started earlier this year in Bend after a half-dozen dogs were caught in traps in Central Oregon. Sponsors of the initiative say rules set by the state didn't go far enough. Voters in Oregon have twice rejected trapping bans, in 1980 and 2000.

C.Ore. ranchers prepare for wolves

BEND (AP) — Oregon's state wolf coordinator has warned Bend-area ranchers to prepare for a rapid expansion of the state's wolf population.

The wolves make their way into the state from Idaho. They were eradicated in Or-

egon in the 1940s.

At a panel last week, Eastern Oregon ranchers long familiar with wolf predation on cattle complained that they are prohibited from killing wolves and say nonlethal prevention measures are ineffective.

Big Brothers Big Sisters sign-up forms

When completed, these forms can be given to Sarah Frank, Warm Springs Big Brothers Big Sisters coordinator. Her office is at the Family Re-

source Center. Her phone number is 541-553-0497. You can reach her by email at: sfrank@bbbsco.org



"Big" Recommendation

I would like to recommend _____ to be a Big Brother or Big Sister. His/her contact information is: _____

Reason:

Your Name _____

"Little" Recommendation

I would like to recommend _____ to be a Little Brother or Little Sister. His/her parent/guardian name and contact information is: _____

Reason (not required, but helpful):

Your Name _____