



Mont. tribe seeks to turn corner in its history

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) — Montana's Little Shell tribe appeared poised to fade from history in recent years after it was denied federal government recognition, lost its financial support from the state and saw its elected leadership splinter.

But the past year has brought a sharp turnaround for the 4,500-member landless tribe that long has existed on society's fringe.

Tribal enrollment is on the rise. Government grant money is flowing again. A Little Shell cultural and visitor center opened this month in Great Falls. And a new council, sworn in Sunday, is considering launching future business enterprises to make the tribe self-sufficient—even as the battle for government recognition grinds on.

"We're starting to operate as a tribe once again," said Gerald Gray, incoming chairman for the Little Shell Chippewa Tribe.

Hard times and misfortune are familiar to the Little Shell, who struggled to stay together through more than a century of poverty and displacement.

Gray and others from the tribe said they are determined to shape a more hopeful future. That includes using the cultural center to strengthen their shared heritage and creating employment opportunities through business ventures and the tribal office.

Seventy-five new members have enrolled with the tribe in the past year, Gray said. Meanwhile, more than \$190,000 in grants and other assistance came in to help pay for the visitor center, establish a wellness program and revive the tribe's anti-tobacco program.

There's still much work to be done, including re-establishing the tribe's nonprofit status, cleaning up its enrollment records and trying to ensure the financial problems

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that crippled the tribe in recent years don't recur.

But Bonnie Stevens, a registered member of the tribe from Helena, said the tribe's ability to overcome its recent turmoil serves as a testament to its cohesion.

"We may fight, but in our own hearts and mind, we're a tribe," she said. "If we weren't a tribe, we'd just go our separate ways and scatter forever."

The tribe traces its ancestry to the Pembina Band of Chippewa Indians, who in the 1800s were under the leadership of Chief Little Shell when they were offered an unfair land deal that resulted in the band leaving North

Dakota.

Government pledges to establish a reservation for the tribe in Montana never came through, and the Little Shell are now spread across the Northern Plains and central Canada. Many also call themselves Metis, a Canadian people with mixed European and Native American roots.

The tribe is recognized by the state of Montana. But its drive for federal acknowledgement by the Department of Interior, which dates at least to the 1970s, hit a major roadblock in 2009 when federal officials rejected the bid. The agency cited in part the tribe's "departures from precedent"—a reference to the Little Shell's far-flung membership and its history of intermarriage with non-Indians and members of other tribes.

Also during that period, the tribe's finances started to unravel when accounting problems surfaced under

former chairman John Sinclair. The state of Montana suspended grants for a tobacco prevention program, and economic development funds were put on hold. That translated into an \$867,000 financial hit for the Little Shell.

Political turmoil ensued, and dueling elections were held that resulted in two groups claiming to be the tribe's rightful leader—one under Sinclair's control and another under the leadership of Great Falls businessman John Gilbert.

Gilbert's side prevailed when the matter was finally settled last December by a three-judge panel of tribal law experts. Sinclair, who could not be reached for comment for this story, said at the time he was unlikely to run again.

The elections earlier this month were the first since the political dispute was settled. Former state Sen. Joe

Tropia, who helped oversee the process, said that with the election the tribe appears to have finally quelled its internal rivalries.

Incoming chairman Gray, a vice president at a Billings advertising agency and vice chairman under Gilbert, said the strife during Sinclair's tenure revealed weaknesses within the tribe that need to be fixed. That included a flawed constitution and few financial controls.

Gray said the tribe will be renewing its drive for federal recognition, which could bring housing and education assistance and other help in addition to land for a reservation.

Montana U.S. Sen. Jon Tester has introduced legislation to force the government to recognize the tribe. The Democrat's bill will have to be reintroduced next year if it's not acted on in the next few weeks.

Spilyay Tymoo Classifieds

Tribal jobs

See Amelia Tewee in the personnel department to submit an application, or call 541-553-3262. View full descriptions and apply online at www.ctws.org.

Tribal Council Receptionist.

Provide receptionist and screening support to Tribal Council chambers and Administrative Service Center. Must have excellent telephone etiquette and public relation skills; good communication skills; written, verbal and listening. Salary Range \$21,000. Yr. To \$25,000. Yr. Norman Miller-Heath 553-3257. **Closes 11/30.**

Head Start Education/Disabilities Coordinator.

Provide a developmentally and culturally appropriate preschool curriculum which will meet the school readiness goals of the Warm Springs Head Start/Early Head Start programs in preparing children for kindergarten. Computer skills and case management skills specifically needed. Salary Range \$29,675. Yr. Kirstin Hisatake 553-3242. **Closes 12/1.**

Head Start Teacher Assistant.

Assist Head Start Teacher in providing a safe, nurturing and stimulating learning environment for a group of 3-5 year old children that enhances the development of each child and reflects the family and community culture. Salary Range DOE. Kirstin Hisatake 553-3242. **Closes 12/7.**

Day Care Teacher.

Meet Child Care Division Teacher qualifications; may include child care development college credits, teaching experience in a certified child care center. Salary Range \$20,187. Yr. Reona Trimble 553-3241.

Gaming Commission Executive Director.

Direct and oversee the activities of the gaming commission office staff and surveillance personnel. Salary Range DOE. Pamela Douglas 541-553-4890. **Closes 11/30.**

Managed Care Program: Health Systems Specialist.

Research, process medical claims weekly for prompt payment. High School Diploma or equivalent with 3 years medical office experience. Proficient written and oral communication skills required. Good attendance and workplace behaviors. Re-

sume and cover letter required with application. Salary Range \$22,026. Yr. To \$32,292. Yr. Elina Langnese 553-4948.

Community Health Nurse.

Provide therapeutic and preventive nursing care to individuals, groups and the community. Salary Range \$50,506. Yr. To \$55,393. Yr. Tammy Wilson 541-553-2459.

Voc. Rehab. Counselor.

Provide vocational rehabilitation counseling services to disabled clients. Salary Range \$26,707. Yr. To \$34,000. Yr. Cheryl Tom 553-4952.

Wildlife Biologist.

Determine the ecological impact of various land use activities on wildlife resources for the Warm springs Indian Reservation. Successfully pass a drug test. Salary Range \$35,000. Yr. To \$45,000. Yr. annually depending on experience. Doug Calvin 553-2001.

Range & Ag. Heavy Equipment Mechanic/Operator.

Maintain equipment and operate machinery associated with the Restoration Program activities in the Department of Range and Agriculture. High School diploma or

equivalent. Experience in operating and maintain equipment used in restoration and agriculture related activities such as tractor, backhoe, bobcat, trucks, trailers. Salary Range DOE. Jason Smith 553-2011.

Police Officer.

High School Diploma or equivalent. Must pass pre-employment test; basic math, spelling, reading, comprehension and writing. Must submit to pre-employment drug test. Physical examination required. Must pass DPSST academy within one year of hire. Must be 21 years of age. Possess a valid Oregon Driver's License. No bankruptcies. No felonies or Domestic Violence. No misdemeanor convictions within one year. Must maintain all minimum requirements during employment. Salary Range \$29,675. Yr. To \$37,689. Yr. Lt. John Webb 553-2037.

Corrections Officers.

High School Diploma or equivalent. No Misdemeanor convictions within one year. Must maintain all minimum requirements during employment. Salary Range \$25,235. Yr. To \$36,054. Yr. Lt. John Webb 553-3272.

Jobs at CRITFC

Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission is recruiting for the following positions:

Full-Time with benefits Fishery Technician III, - The Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission assists four tribes in the co-management of their treaty rights within the Columbia River Basin. The positions offered are associated with the Commissions Fish Science Department. This research group is engaged in several investigations of stock composition, identification, and structure, as well as, development and evaluation of restoration strategies for Pacific salmon. Specific areas of research covered under this announcement include the investigation of the length, age and stock composition of salmon passing Bonneville dam. Closing date January 4, 2013

Full-Time Temporary (Assignment runs February -May 2013) Fishery Technician II (2 positions) - The Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission assists four tribes in the co-management of their treaty rights within the Columbia River Basin. The position offered is associated with the Commissions Fish Science Department. This research group is engaged in several research projects designed to investigate salmon and steelhead limiting factors which include predation. For the last decade sea lion presence and consumption of salmon near Bonneville dam has been increasing and our research program is designed to assist managers in reducing sea lion occurrence near the dam along with investigating sea lion abundance and predation rates. The duration of this position is limited to three months. Closing date January 4, 2013

All positions require complete application materials including letter of interest, resume, and completed employment application form along with a list of at least three references. Full job announcements and application form available on our website, <http://www.critfc.org/text/jobann.html>, or by calling 503-238-0667.

Hiring preference given to qualified enrolled Native Americans and Native Alaskans. Veterans preference may also apply.

The closing date is January 4, 2013.

In the Tribal Court of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs

CTWS, Petitioner, vs. Sonja Stormbringer / Alroy Zacarias, Respondent Case No. JV08-03. TO: Sonja Stormbringer / Alroy Zacarias:

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a Annual AG Review has been filed with the Warm Springs Tribal Court. By this notice you are summoned to appear in this matter at a hearing scheduled for 19th day of December, 2012 @ 11:00 a.m., at the Warm Springs Tribal Court.

GRETA WHITE-ELK, Petitioner; Case No. DO145-12. TO: GRETA WHITE-ELK:

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a PETITION for NAME CHANGE has been filed with the Warm Springs Tribal Court. By this notice you are summoned to appear in this matter at a hearing scheduled for the 6th day of DECEMBER, 2012 @ 9 am, at the Warm Springs Tribal Court.

Christina Culp, Petitioner, vs. Cameron

Wallulatum, Respondent; Case No. DO120-12. TO: Cameron Wallulatum:

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a Conservator Guardian has been filed with the Warm Springs Tribal Court. By this notice you are summoned to appear in this matter at a hearing scheduled for 3rd day of December, 2012 @ 4:00 p.m., at the Warm Springs Tribal Court.

Legal Aid offers free service

Legal Aid Services of Oregon provides free assistance to low-income Oregonians in many civil cases. Phone Legal Aid Services of Oregon to schedule an appointment to speak with an attorney on the first Monday of the month (excluding Holidays) at the Warm Springs Community Action Team building, 1136 Paiute Ave., Warm Springs. Call (541) 385-6944 on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday mornings between 10 a.m. and noon, or on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons between 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.

Public notice from Standing Rock

This is a public notice to all Standing Rock Sioux Tribe enrollees residing outside the Standing Rock Reservation boundaries.

Individuals requesting an updated application for payment from the Salazar Settlement Funds are invited to visit the Standing Rock Tribal Administrative Service Center or download the application at www.standingrock.org.

Applications will be accepted via fax, in person or mailed to the following address: Standing Rock Sioux Tribe; Attn: Salazar Payment Office; PO Box D, Ft Yates, ND 58538.

Fax: 701-854-8595. e ask you for continued patience at this time. All requests and phone calls will be answered in the order received. For more information: www.standingrock.org or call 1-701-854-8500. Thank you.