

TRIBAL NEWS BRIEFS...

Mystery Illness Plagues Navajos

Health officials are still mystified by the unknown illness that has claimed the lives of 15 people, according to the Centers for Disease Control figures.

Six of 19 cases of the flu-like illness diagnosed in New Mexico were linked to the tiny Navajo community of Littlewater, according to the Albuquerque Journal.

The experimental drug ribavirin, which may be helpful in treating the illness, has been distributed to hospitals around New Mexico, officials said.

The illness is believed to be linked to the rodent-borne Hantavirus.

Littlewater is a remote Navajo community, 50 miles west of Gallup. The deaths last month of two Littlewater residents were attributed to the illness. After their deaths, swarms of reporters descended on the tiny town, prompting Littlewater officials to close the community to the media. Other deaths attributed to the illness have been reported in Arizona, Utah, and Colorado.

Some Navajos who live in the high country where pinon pines grow thickly are wondering about a theory that partly blames the illness on a bumper crop of pinon nuts. The idea is that the bounty of nuts has increased the population of rodents thought to carry the virus. But along the Arizona/New Mexico border, where pinon is abundant, this theory doesn't have many followers.

—reprinted from *Indian Country Today*

Hatfield Sponsors Religious Freedom Bill

Senator Mark Hatfield (R) Oregon, introduced the Native American Free Exercise of Religion Act of 1993 on May 25. Co-sponsored by four U.S. Senators, the 49-pages bill seeks to amend the Native American Freedom of Religion Act of 1978.

The legislation aims to protect areas considered sacred by traditional Native American religious leaders and puts into place a mechanism for resolving disputes.

The Senate Committee on Indian Affairs has held five hearings on the proposed bill throughout the country this past year. The Chair of this Committee, Senator Inouye of Hawaii, is a long-time supporter of Indian rights. Other co-sponsors are Senators Ben Nighthorse Campbell (D) of Colorado, and Paul Wellstone (D) of Minnesota.

A coalition of churches, environmental groups, tribes, and Indian organizations formed in 1990 following two Supreme Court decisions that resulted in the jeopardy of First Amendment rights for Native Americans. No Oregon tribes have become members of the coalition though four have written resolutions in support of their efforts. They are the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, the Confederated Tribes of Siletz, the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, and the Klamath Tribes.

The bill also extends First Amendment rights to Native Americans who use peyote as part of their worship. A third part of the bill will protect the rights of Indian inmates denied access to traditional religious services. Finally, the legislation attempts to streamline the process for Native American access to eagle feathers from the Department of Fish and Wildlife. Copies of the bill can be obtained from your Congressional representative, or are available at NAPOLS 917 S.W. Oak, Suite 4100, Portland, Oregon 97205.

—By Trudy Multine, reprinted from *Portland Indian News*

Gaming Facility, Continued

community as well as provide funding for important tribal programs. The facility will also provide significant benefits to the entire community, including more than 200 jobs and increased economic activity. It is a major project and SMDC would like input from all interested parties, especially tribal members. SMDC intends to hold an open house in the near future to describe the project in more detail. Notice of the open house will be published in the August issue of the newsletter so that as many interested parties as possible will be able to attend.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

POSITION: Counselor Technician—now accepting applications for a part-time and on-call applicant pool.

STARTING SALARY: \$7.89 per hour

LOCATION: Nanitch Sahallie Native American Youth Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Program; Keizer, Oregon

A person in this position maintains a secure environment for adolescents in an intensive residential substance abuse program to insure the well-being of the adolescents.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- *High School Diploma/GED with specialized knowledge or training in substance abuse issues preferred
 - *One year experience in working with adolescents who have behavioral problems
 - *Must be flexible to work varied shifts (day and night) and on weekends
 - *Ability to follow treatment protocol and maintain a client log
 - *Demonstrate positive role model behavior
 - *Current CPR Certification or ability to obtain within 14 days of hire
 - *Must have valid Oregon Driver's License and safe driving record
 - *Knowledge and understanding of Indian culture and customs demonstrated by working with Native Americans
 - *Must be willing to submit to a background check and pre-employment drug screen
 - *Tribal/Indian preference will apply; if claiming, send a copy of your Certification of Indian Blood
 - *Three references are required for employment/experience verification
- Send application and resume to:
Barbara Mercier
Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde
9615 Grand Ronde Rd.
Grand Ronde, Oregon 97347

POSITION: Tribal Court Clerk/Department Assistant

STARTING SALARY: \$19,968-\$20,964 annually

LOCATION: Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde; Grand Ronde, Oregon

CLOSING DATE: July 8, 1993

This is a 40 hour per week position which will be responsible for all administrative phases of Tribal Court operation including case file management, office management, transcription of court hearings, and forms development. Receives and files incoming court documents; assists individuals with filing court documents. Types court orders and ensures orders are properly mailed; assists with typing requests from other departments as needed.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- *AA/AS degree in Secretarial Science or related field and 1 year administrative/secretarial experience OR high school graduate with three years office experience preferably in a court or legal setting.
 - *Intermediate word processing skills with ability to type at least 50 wpm; skill in legal transcription and computer operations needed, though knowledge of Wordperfect 5.1 and Windows preferred.
 - *Ability to interpret federal, state, and tribal confidentiality regulations and work independently.
 - *Excellent verbal/written communication skills, ability to work well with other agencies and individuals dealing with the court.
 - *Knowledge of tribal Court operating procedures; court document preparation, and/or legal case file management preferred.
 - *Possession of or ability to obtain a valid Oregon Driver's License; a Notary registration within 30 days of hire.
- Send applications/resumes to:
Barbara Mercier
Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde
9615 Grand Ronde Rd.
Grand Ronde, Oregon 97347