

Marcellais elected tribal chairman

By Eloise Ogden
Minot Daily News

BELCOURT, N.D. — Following are the winners of the general election for district representatives to the council and also judicial positions, according to the tribal Election Board. The district representatives' terms are for two years.

DISTRICT I
Jim Baker, incumbent, 1,938
Troy DeCoteau, 2,794

DISTRICT II
Chucky DeCoteau, 2,328
Cindy Lou Malaterre, 2,161

DISTRICT III
Betty Swain, 1,881
Vince McCloud, 2,646

DISTRICT IV
Ted Henry, incumbent, 2,092
Janice Azure, 2,304

ASSOCIATE JUDGE (4-year term)
Andy Laverdure, 776

JUDICIAL CHAIRMAN
William LaVallie, 2,561

JUDICIAL REP. DISTRICT I
Ian Marcellais, 334

JUDICIAL REP. DISTRICT II
Mike Laducer, 273

JUDICIAL REP. DISTRICT III
Edward Falcon, 375

JUDICIAL REP. DISTRICT IV
Larry Belgarde, 758

Prior to the general election, a hearing was held in Belcourt Oct. 31 on complaints about the Oct. 21 primary election. George Ackre, an attorney from Cando, was the administrative officer for the hearing. Ackre's determination issued Monday included that the Election Board conducted the primary election "fairly and openly" and according to the Election Code, and that the general election should be held on Nov. 4.

Belcourt State Sen. Richard Marcellais, D-Belcourt, is the newly elected chairman of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa.

Marcellais said Thursday that he plans to serve in both positions tribal chairman and state senator. He said he feels it will be an advantage to the tribe for him to also serve in the Legislature.

Logan Davis, editor of the Turtle Mountain Times in Belcourt, said, "I believe that's a big plus for him to serve in both capacities and it gives us (tribe) a stronger voice with him speaking on our behalf."

Marcellais noted this is a historical event because it's probably the first time a tribal chairman has served in the Legislature.

Marcellais defeated Sam LaRocque 2,784-1,377 in the tribal general election Tuesday. He will replace David "Doc" Brien who did not seek reelection. The tribal chairman's term is for two years.

Currently, Marcellais also is the assistant general manager of the Sky Dancer Hotel & Casino. He said he will be "taking off that hat."

The swearing-in ceremony for Marcellais and others elected in the general election will be in early December.

As far as what his plans are for the tribe, he said, "I'm putting together a platform and will be working together with the other council members, and work as a team."

The results of the general election were announced Wednesday night.

Marcellais, who has an AAS degree in business administration and structural drafting degree, is a Vietnam veteran who served in the U.S. Army from 1968 to 1971.

He is on the board of the Turtle Mountain Community School elementary and middle school, and president of the National Indian School Board Association. He's also a member of the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars in Belcourt, and National Active & Retired Federal Employees association Charter No. 2168.

He and his wife, Betty, have two sons. He has served in the N.D. Senate since 2007.

Resources Division lists funds request

Water is the problem, future plans are needed

By Kathy Helms
Diné Bureau

WINDOW ROCK — The calendar hasn't rolled over to 2009 yet, but in Washington as well as on the Navajo Nation, they're already making plans for 2011 budget requests.

The Division of Natural Resources is hoping for a 5.5 percent increase over last year's request, according to Arvin Trujillo, who recently received approval from the Resources Committee for the 2011 external fund budget request.

"The reason why we have the outlook here is because planning for 2011 is starting now. This is what the Navajo Nation Washington Office utilizes when they go out and start lobbying," Trujillo said.

Much of the funding requested is for water supply projects to deliver potable drinking water to Navajo families who still rely on water hauling to meet their everyday needs and for irrigation projects to help Navajo farmers.

The Department of Water

Resources' P.L. 93-638 Water Development Program has requested \$1.3 million for 2011. The amount of current funding received each year is not adequate to meet the demand for water development and repair and maintenance of the existing 125 water facilities constructed under the 638 program.

According to the document presented by Trujillo, present funding is enough to drill one livestock well, construct one 24,000 gallon tank, a waterline extension, install three 4,000 gallon water tanks, and provide minor repair and maintenance.

There is presently a backlog of more than 100 wells, 120 water storage tanks and 40 miles of waterlines to be constructed. The only way to meet the increasing demand is to increase the funding level, the document states.

While the department's Water Management Branch has a number of ongoing projects, the greatest challenge is lack of funds.

Water Management is seeking

\$5,543,800 for the Many Mules Water Supply Project which would serve more than 200 homes on and adjacent to the Peabody Western Coal Co. mine lease area. Water would be conveyed from wells within the lease area to residences, and if funded, the project could be completed in two to four years.

In the LeChee area, the domestic water supply for the city of Page and LeChee Chapter comes from Lake Powell through facilities constructed in the Glen Canyon Dam in 1957. The existing facilities marginally meet the current peak demands and since it is the only system supplying both communities, failures or malfunctions leave both communities at risk of severe water shortages.

The Bureau of Reclamation completed an appraisal level report of the Page-LeChee Water Supply Project in 2003. The preferred alternative is a new intake in Lake Powell upstream from Glen Canyon Dam, a pipeline to the water treatment plant, and a new

water line to LeChee. About \$10 million is needed to complete the project. The funding request for 2011 is \$5.3 million.

About 30 percent of the homes in the Ganado area do not have access to a public water system. From 2002 through 2008, the public water system was impacted by water hauling demands due to drought conditions.

In 2002, Water Management completed a study of improvements needed for the system and recommended a new well in the Coconino aquifer as well as additional storage facilities to meet water demands through 2020. A request is being made for \$954,000 in 2011.

About 70 percent of homes in the Navajo Mountain area do not have direct access to a public water system. The Rainbow Village public water system was severely impacted by drought from 2002 through 2008. In 2002, BOR completed a feasibility study and recommended a new well field in the Navajo aquifer along

Route 16.

Indian Health Service has contributed about \$7 million toward the project. Water Resources is requesting \$2 million in FY 2011. Phase I is under construction, Phase II is undergoing final design and clearance and Phase III is being designed.

About 40 percent of homes in the Red Mesa, Aneth, Halchita, Oljato and Kayenta area do not have a public water system. The Red Mesa to Aneth Corridor Water Project would serve the Halchita to Oljato to Kayenta corridor. A preliminary estimate for the project, which has been divided into several phases, is \$20 million. Water Resources is seeking \$3 million for the project in 2011.

New to the US Senate from Oregon: Jeff Merkley

Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The son of a lumber mill worker and the first in his family to go to college, he traveled through revolution-torn Central America in his mid-20s. After graduate studies at Princeton, he worked in Washington as a presidential fellow at the Pentagon and for the Congressional Budget Office. Back in Oregon, he ran Habitat for Humanity and led the World Affairs Council of Oregon.

Merkley, 52, was elected to the Oregon House of Representatives in 1998 and was chosen speaker in January 2007, after he helped Democrats take control of the chamber for the first time in 16 years.

Under his leadership, the House created a rainy-day fund, increased education spending and expanded rights for same-sex couples. He challenged two-term Sen. Gordon Smith, a moderate Republican, after Democratic congressmen and a former governor -- all more prominent than Merkley -- declined to run.

The outcome of the race was not immediately clear. On Wednesday, Smith held a lead of a few thousand votes, but he conceded yesterday after more ballots were tallied from Democratic-leaning parts of the state.

Aztec dancers



AP Photo/Gregory Bull

Aztec dancers wait to perform at the Basilica of Guadalupe in Mexico City, Sunday, during an annual pilgrimage. Thousands of Aztec dancers dressed in feathers and beads danced at the Basilica Sunday, part of an annual pilgrimage to the site which was considered holy by local tribes long before the Spaniards arrived.

Seminoles expanding Immokalee casino

By Tracy X. Miguel
Naples Daily News

NAPLES, Fla. — The Seminole Immokalee Casino is expanding 35,000 square feet.

The casino is erecting a building on part of its parking lot to create more space for additional machines and players, Seminole Tribe of Florida Inc. President Richard Bowers Jr. said.

Naples-based Kraft Construction was hired for a project that will cost \$12 million. The construction is expected to be finished near the end of January, Fred Pezeshkan, president and CEO of Kraft Construction, said.

The opening of the new area is expected to occur in the first quarter of next year, Pezeshkan said.

The addition will help the casino expand with more games, jobs and possibly a Hard Rock label. Tribe officials had previously said that the addition of blackjack and other table games would come at the beginning of the year.

The Immokalee Seminole Casino has more than 340

employees. Once the expansion is completed, the Immokalee Seminole casino will increase employment, with more than 100 jobs, according to tribe officials.

"I think it's a positive development for the Immokalee area, obviously from the job creation standpoint," Hodges University President Terry McMahan said.

Bowers told a group of about 30 at the Economic Development Council of Collier County's VIP breakfast Thursday at the LaPlaya Beach & Golf Resort, that there are plans to add a Hard Rock casino hotel in the next five years similar to the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Hollywood, which could ultimately employ more than 5,000 people.

"That's a pretty incredible opportunity for future growth," McMahan said.

He added that it offers diversity in economic development beyond tourism, agriculture, real estate and construction.

The exact date of when the expansion will occur is

unknown.

"We are out here and ready to help with economic development," Bowers told the group.

Immokalee casino has about 800 machines, more than 400 machines were switched to Class III Vegas-style slots in the summer. "This expansion and future building will be another economical engine for the Immokalee area," Pezeshkan said.

Bowers also spoke about the Seminole Tribe of Florida partnership with other Native American tribes to launch its own brand of beef and its wind-based power plans for the reserves.

Tammie Nemecek, EDC president, also announced during the meeting that the council is launching "Project Innovation: Economy Building for Collier County." The project calls on other community leaders from both public and private sectors to engage in an exploration into how the community's economy can prosper in a dwindling economy.

"It's an exciting program," Nemecek said.

Bush administration sued over ruling blocking Native American Catskills casino

By James M. Odato
Albany Times Union

ALBANY, N.Y. — The Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohicans has sued the U.S. Department of Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne and other DOI officials alleging they arbitrarily and capriciously denied the tribe's application to take land into trust in the Catskills earlier this year.

The tribe contends the DOI made unsupported assumptions in a supposed "guidance" document that imposed new requirements on the location of off-reservation casinos.

The Wisconsin-based tribe lodged its suit was filed in the United States District Court, Southern District of

New York.

The Tribe first submitted its application to take land into trust in Sullivan County to operate a gaming facility in what it says is its ancestral New York homeland nearly seven years ago.

The tribe has offered to settle its claim to land in Madison and Oneida counties for the rights to develop a casino in the Catskills.

"With the largest projected state deficit in recent memory and an economic collapse not seen since the Depression, our proposal for economic stimulation in the Catskills must be given a fair review, as we are entitled by law," said Robert Chicks, President of the Stockbridge-Munsee Community, Band of Mohican Indians.

Tribe releases election results

Eureka Times-Standard

EUREKA, Calif. —The Yurok Tribe released Thursday unofficial results from its election. In the Northern District, Marjorie Donahue Buckskin received 56 percent of 232 votes, with Jack Mattz following at 44 percent.

In the Requa District, David L. Gensaw, Sr. received 60.80 percent of the 125 votes, beating out Ray Mattz, who won 39.20 percent.