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EDMO, continued

a Combat Action Ribbon, a silver star in lieu of five bronze stars in connection to the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry, a bronze star in connection with the Vietnam Service Medal and a Purple Heart, to name a few.

Despite the honors, he said, "It ain't something to take human life — it's something you have to live with the rest of your life — it's not good and I have a lot of bad dreams," Jody continued. "It still bothers me to this day — I have to get away out in the mountains where it's quiet and get back to Mother Nature. I feel the solitude and get away from society — it heals your body and soul."

He was treated for PTSD at Madigan Army Medical in Tacoma, Washington that helped him deal with anger and how to deal with the stress. "I had to deal with a lot of things in my mind for taking lives — I really couldn't stand authority, just couldn't hold anything down or handle past experiences." He also did a lot of drinking.

Edmo said when he returned home, he came back here "Pretty embarrassed by a few of our tribal members who called me a baby killer — I still remember them to this day."

"I hope we never fight another undeclared war — we sent our people in harms way — let the politicians run it — we were fighting without a purpose," he continued.

The Vietnam War was controversial because many viewed it as having no way to win. According to war historians, U.S. leaders lost the American pub-

lic's support for the war. It became a benchmark for what not to do in future U.S. conflicts.

He viewed himself as a compassionate person and had a lot of feelings for the Vietnamese people, "They were just like us — to see how the Americans treated them and I couldn't do nothing about it," he continued.

He is thankful to the late Daniel Posey from the Wind River Reservation who saved his life. Jody was nearly hit by a hand grenade that he didn't see but Posey grabbed him and flipped him over. "If he hadn't done that, I wouldn't be alive today," he said.

After dealing with his issues, Jody went to work as an ironworker with the local 732 in Pocatello for 15 years. He also worked as a boiler-maker out in the field for 11 years on power plants in Arizona, New Mexico, Wyoming and Montana.

He had to retire when he got cancer because the radiation treatments took his strength away, "I wasn't myself anymore," he continued.

Today he spends time with his wife Nina who he met while attending Haskell, his three daughters, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

He taught his grandson Caine how to hunt and shoot so he lets him do the hunting, "I just drive," Jody said. He also intends to teach Caine how to trap as he used to be a trapper when fur prices were good.

He was honorably discharged from military service in 1973.

"I did my duty for my country, I served," he said.

US official: Congress shouldn't control tribal recognition

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) — A Republican proposal to let only Congress decide whether American Indian tribes deserve federal recognition threatens the legitimacy of hundreds of tribes and would add delay to what was long a broken system, an Obama administration official said Wednesday.

The comments came as a House committee considered legislation to block the administration's recent overhaul of the tribal recognition process. Republicans contend that the changes finalized by the Interior Department over the summer lowered the standards for recognizing tribes and diminished the role of lawmakers.

There are 566 federally recognized tribes in the U.S., and groups in Louisiana, Michigan, Florida, California and other states want to join their ranks. Some such as Montana's Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians have waited years or decades for a decision.

Since the recent changes, federal officials announced recognition for yet another group, the Pamunkey Indian Tribe of Virginia, but the matter remains unsettled because the decision is under appeal.

Federal acknowledgement allows tribes

to be treated largely as their own nations within U.S. borders, with independent governments and legal systems. It also makes tribes eligible for federal housing, medical care and education.

Republican U.S. Rep. Rob Bishop of Utah said during a Wednesday hearing on his proposal that Congress should have the final say in such matters.

But that would bring back the worst of the old system, undermining attempts to create a more transparent and efficient process, Interior Department Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Kevin Washburn said in remarks prepared for Wednesday delivery.

Washburn also said the Republican plan "creates serious doubts" about the legitimacy of more than 200 tribes in Alaska and more than a dozen in California recognized by his agency over the past several decades.

"Every one of those tribes is at risk because they are not Congressionally recognized," he said.

Bishop, who chairs the House Natural Resources Committee, said the recognition system has been a mess for decades. Any tribes that were lawfully recognized would not be

affected by his proposal, he said.

"My goal is to empower Native American tribes. We don't have a great record. We do a lot of lip service to it," he said, adding that he would be open to changes to his proposal as long as Congress makes the final decisions.

Existing tribes with casino operations have aired similar concerns about the recent changes to the process.

The ranking Democrat on the Natural Resources subcommittee that is considering the issue, Rep. Raul Ruiz of California, said the proposal would infuse "hyper-partisan" politics into the issue, allowing Bishop and the speaker of the House to control which groups are recognized, since they can decide what matters come up for a vote by lawmakers.

Yet the Interior process also has been tainted by politics, according to past investigations by the agency's Office of Inspector General. That includes a 2002 investigation that found a senior Interior official issued recognition decisions contrary to staff recommendations.

The Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa in Montana has taken a two-pronged approach to seeking recognition, pursuing it through

the Interior Department and working with Montana's congressional delegation on legislation to mandate recognition of the tribe and its more than 6,000 enrolled members.

Little Shell Chairman Gerald Gray told The Associated Press on Wednesday that both options should be kept open.

"If it gets bogged down in Interior, tribes shouldn't have to wait years, Congress should be able to pick it up and move it along faster," he said. "If Congress is not going to do anything, then (the Interior Department) should be able to do it."

The tribe petitioned for recognition through the Interior Department in 1978. Gray and other members trace their first attempts to the 1860s, when the related Pembina Band of Chippewa Indians signed a treaty with the U.S. government.

In 1892, when the government created a commission to negotiate land for some Chippewa, Chief Little Shell refused to accept the terms. His people were later carved out of the agreement, and Chief Little Shell's descendants eventually dispersed to scattered areas across Montana and southern Canada.

2 young boys who went missing in Arizona found uninjured

BESHBITO, Ariz. (AP) — Authorities say two young boys who went missing while hauling wood with their grandparents and aunt in northeastern Arizona have been found and are uninjured.

Navajo Nation officials say the boys — ages 3 and 4 — wandered off into the woods about 2 p.m. Tuesday.

The incident wasn't reported to the Navajo Nation police until five hours later.

A search party was organized in the area

15 miles north of State Route 264 in Beshbito Valley, Arizona.

They worked throughout the night without finding the boys.

But at 10 a.m. Wednesday, the search party found the boys three miles south of

where they were originally went missing.

Authorities say the boys are reported to be in good health. Their names haven't been released.

WASTE, continued

to do is to get the community to recycle more. Any type of metal, tin cans, aluminum, and cardboard — those are the biggest things we see coming through the waste stream," Hernandez-Beasley continued.

The Rural Community System Corporation (RSC) has teamed up with tribal communities and rural communities in Idaho working specifically with waste water and solid waste, and have now teamed up with Fort Hall's Solid Waste Program to help the Tribes develop a waste management system, and assist them with starting a campaign for medical waste, recycling, and safety hazards.

The Indian Health Service medical providers and the Tribes Diabetes Program does advise patients of needle disposal, however needles and medical waste still ends up in the trash. Hernandez-Beasley said Solid Waste is gearing up to get the word out people can bring the medical waste to them to have it properly disposed of.

For those who are using needles, she encourages them to place them in Clorox bottles or laundry soap bottles, rather than just throwing them away.

Some of the biggest safety hazardous they see is the Freon. Freon is what is placed in refrigerators to keep them cool. Several staff members will attend training soon so they can safely remove the Freon and sell it for a high price. The refrigerators could then be recycled, rather than having to pay companies to come and get them. In the future Solid Waste hopes to get other bins out in circulation for recyclables only, but that may be several years down the road, for now, they hope to continue encouraging tribal members to recycle.

Hernandez-Beasley also said the tribes are seeing a lot more illegal dumpsites for needles in the cedars, Buffalo Lodge, and even the Cedar Cemetery to name a few. They suspect the cause of the illegal dumpsites might be from non-Indians who are trying to avoid the landfill rates from town.

The assessment includes the following: 300 needles, 5 catheters, one dead goose, and one home dialysis kit. This shows that it is not safe for workers to try and find recyclables, and they can no longer allow anyone one else search through the bins. The good news is not very many recyclables were pulled, which means that people may

be recycling on their own at other locations. There was also a high margin of food being wasted.

"We can now start working on a grant using the data and demographic information we found, present it to Land Use, and then to the Fort Hall Business Council as we search for more funding," said Hernandez-Beasley.

They intend to develop strategies and may put recycling bins in the Townsite and reservation districts. Solid Waste staff intend to refurbish the old roll out bins to use for recycling.

She concluded with a reminder of the winter hours: 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and on Saturday 8:30 to 4:30 p.m. They are closed on Sunday.

Omaha Tribe considers trying to legalize marijuana

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — The Omaha Tribe of Nebraska is considering getting into the marijuana business, but at least one tribal expert fears doing so could put the tribe at risk of losing any investment it may make in marijuana industries.

Omaha Tribe members voted Tuesday on whether the tribe should allow recreational use of marijuana, medicinal use of marijuana and growing industrial hemp on its northeast Nebraska reservation, the Lincoln Journal Star reported (<http://bit.ly/1WnjUVk>) Saturday.

The ultimate decision lies with the Tribal Council. The referendum vote simply will give the council guidance on whether to move forward.

It would be difficult for the Omaha Tribe to legalize the use or manufacture of marijuana on its reservation, despite a U.S. Department of Justice memo issued last year on the subject, said tribal law expert Lance Morgan, who also is CEO the Winnebago Tribe's economic development arm, Ho-Chunk Inc.

Morgan said the memo doesn't actually allow tribes to legalize marijuana.

Rather, it allows them to work with local U.S. attorneys to do so. Morgan says U.S. attorneys in many states have been unwilling to allow tribes to move forward.

Morgan pointed to federal raids of tribal hemp operations in California and Wisconsin earlier this year in which federal agents seized and destroyed thousands of hemp and cannabis plants.

The Justice Department memo has encouraged tribes across the country to launch expensive marijuana and hemp operations, Morgan said, and now some of those tribes have discovered they don't actually have the right to legalize marijuana.

"This is just one of the dumbest things I've ever seen come out of D.C.," he said. "Encouraging us to invest capital, and then coming in and destroying that capital and raiding the tribe doesn't make any sense at all."

Morgan said the Winnebago Tribe has discussed legalizing marijuana, but has no plans to do so.

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