

Wounded Knee Anniversary Stirs Reflection

BY KRISTI EATON
Associated Press

SIoux FALLS — American Indian activists took over the tiny village of Wounded Knee on South Dakota’s sprawling Pine Ridge Indian Reservation on Feb. 27, 1973, in what would become a 71-day, fatal standoff with FBI agents that attracted national attention to the impoverished reservation and the plight of local tribes.

On Wednesday, the occupation’s 40th anniversary, some of the protest’s central figures — most notably Russell Means, the late American Indian Movement’s charismatic leader — will be noticeably absent from a commemoration at the reservation. But organizers hope the events remind people of the struggles that led to the standoff and problems still reverberating throughout Indian Country, as well as changes the protest helped spark.

“They need to remember how far the anti-Indian policies had pushed us to the point that the only way to fight back was to pick up arms,” AIM co-founder Dennis Banks said. “Of course, that’s not a way to resolve any issue, but we were pushed to that. That was our last degree of how we could struggle back.”

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also helped found the AIM movement in the late 1960s. “A lot of good things have happened since then. People across the country are practicing their sovereignty ... You know (tribes) have casinos, they have their own clinics, they’re own schools, junior colleges.”

Demanding the federal government honor its treaties with their tribes, nearly 200 American Indian activists took over the village —the same place where, 80 years earlier, soldiers slaughtered an estimated 300 Native American men, women and children. Means stood at the center of the protest as he sought to restore pride in tribal culture, and he became the first nationally known advocate for American Indians.

Means died in October at age 72 after battling throat cancer, a day before the passing of former U.S. Sen. George McGovern, who had traveled to the reservation to try to facilitate

an end to the hostilities. Former South Dakota Gov. Bill Janklow — who had prosecuted AIM members involved at a riot a few weeks before the Wounded Knee occupation — died in January 2012, after fighting brain cancer.

“It means my circle is getting smaller. They’re going to have a roll call of men, women and children who were at Wounded Knee and a lot of them have passed on,” Banks said. “It’ll be sad, particularly for me because Russ and I were close all those years.”

Means will be remembered Thursday as part of the events surrounding the anniversary. Several hundred AIM supporters, tribal leaders and spectators are expected.

During the 1973 occupation and throughout the previous decade, members of AIM and their backers fought with then-tribal President Dick Wilson and his supporters, as well as the FBI, which has jurisdiction on tribal land. Two Native Americans were killed, another went missing, and a federal agent was wounded in the standoff.

The conflict ended on May 8, after the occupiers agreed to disarm once they secured a letter saying White House representatives would meet with Oglala Sioux tribal leaders to discuss broken treaties and compensation for lost lands. Wilson, who the activists alleged wasn’t traditional enough to lead the tribe, remained in power and later re-elected to a second term.

Neb. Bill Would Limit School Bus Drivers’ Cellphone Use

BY GRANT SCHULTE
Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — A Nebraska lawmaker pushed for a state law Tuesday that would prohibit school bus drivers from using cellphones while their vehicles are moving.

Sen. Kate Sullivan of Cedar Rapids said Nebraska should join 19 other states and the District of Columbia in banning the practice. Sullivan told the Legislature’s Transportation and Telecommunications Committee that her bill would apply to school buses that contract with districts or directly with parents.

Sullivan said she introduced the

measure after a woman who lives in a rural area complained to her school district and the state Department of Education about spotting a bus driver who was looking down at an object in his left hand and appeared distracted.

The woman “was concerned because it appeared that the driver was looking at a cellphone,” the senator said.

School district officials explained to the woman that their policy allowed bus drivers to use cellphones in emergencies.

Texting while driving is already illegal in Nebraska, and the state Department of Education has approved a rule that requires school bus drivers to pull over if they want to use a wireless device. But

Sullivan thinks it’s still necessary for lawmakers to put restriction of cellphones for school bus drivers into law for clarity.

She said the “precious cargo” that the buses carry along with the size and weight of the vehicles should merit a state law that bans the drivers from using their phones while traveling.

“The last thing a school bus driver needs to be doing is talking, dialing or answering a cellphone while their school bus is in motion,” said Sullivan, adding that the drivers might already be dealing with student noise and other distractions.

School buses account for less than 1 percent of fatal crashes each year nationally, according to

federal highway safety data.

Sullivan’s proposal, which the Nebraska State Education Association supports, would exempt dispatch communication devices such as two-way radios, although cellphones are quickly replacing that technology.

“I think it’s going to be very hard anymore to have a direct-connect device that’s also not a cellphone at the same time,” said Sen. Beau McCoy, of Omaha.

A U.S. Department of Transportation regulation that went into effect in January prohibits commercial motorists, including truckers and bus drivers, from using hand-held mobile phones while driving.

Visiting Hours

February Is Kids’ Ear, Nose And Throat Month

BY MATTHEW D. RUMSEY, A.U.D.
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Avera Sacred Heart Hospital

The world is a very noisy place. Many of the noises in our world are helpful. Some noises allow us to engage in conversations, enjoy music and avoid dangerous situations. Other noises can be harmful if they are excessively loud or if we listen to loud noise for too long. Noise induced hearing loss is the most common cause of hearing loss which affects people of all ages. Most noise induced hearing loss occurs gradually, which makes it more difficult to notice.

A recent survey revealed that approximately 13% of children ages 6 to 19 have permanent damage to their ears caused by exposure to loud noises. The same survey showed that approximately 16% of adolescents ages 12 to 19 have some permanent hearing loss in one or both ears from noise exposure. These numbers have risen in recent years, but the good news is this type of hearing loss is 100% preventable.

Children of all ages can be exposed to excessive noise in their everyday lives. This noise can come from almost anything: toys, mp3 players, farm equipment. It is the role of parents to help identify the sources of loud sounds that can contribute to hearing loss and try to reduce exposure to those sounds or reduce the sounds to safe levels. Parents can also help their children by being good role models on how to protect their hearing. If hearing and the use of hearing protection are important to a parent, it will be important to their children, as well.

Toys for very young children are often noisy. Unfortunately, toy companies are not required to keep toy noise at safe levels. A toy might be perfectly safe when it is used appropriately, but we all know kids like to be creative with the way they play with toys. For example, a whistle blown appropriately would not likely cause immediate

harm, but a whistle blown loudly in a siblings ear has the potential of causing irreversible hearing loss.

The Sight and Hearing Association publishes a list of the noisiest toys each year (www.sightandhearing.org). Each year they find popular toys for young children sold in this country which are louder than chain saws. Some of these toys can begin causing damage after just 15 minutes of play. Many parents have a false sense of safety because they assume harmful toys are not permitted to be sold in this country.

As children grow older, their risk of damaging their hearing comes from different sources. One of the most prevalent causes of hearing loss for children through young adults is the use of iPods or mp3 players. Maximum sound levels of personal music devices are estimated to be between 100 and 115 decibels which is extremely harmful to listeners. Other dangers include video games, firearm exposure and concerts.

When encountering excessive noise, there are three options to protect our hearing and the hearing of our children:

1. Walk Away — Simple enough. Remove yourself from the source of noise or at least increase the distance between yourself and the noise. (An example would be to sit further back at a concert. Never stand near the speakers.)

2. Turn It Down — Turn the volume down. (This is effective for music, television, radio, video games, etc.)

3. Protect Yourself — Earplugs, earmuffs or even custom earmolds can all offer protection when used properly. (This is best used for noises without adjustable volume such as mowing the lawn, hunting, tree trimming, etc.)

For more information on kid’s ear, nose and throat health, contact Avera Medical Group Ear, Nose & Throat Yankton at (605) 665-6820 or the AAO-HNS website at www.ent-net.org/kidsent.

Tips On Farm Business Meetings

BY DR. MIKE ROSMANN

Today’s Farm and Ranch Life message is a follow-up on last week’s edition about managing conflict among farm family members. Both columns stem from the considerable interest readers expressed about September and November 2012 columns concerning farm family estates and jealousy that hurts farm families.

Several Swedish and American studies indicate properly conducted farm business meetings enhance employee morale and contribute to reductions in worker physical and behavioral health issues and increased productivity of the agricultural operation. Effective business meetings are especially important for family farm operations in which the children and parents work together.

Often the farm family members are enmeshed in each other’s activities and bring unresolved relationship problems into their work situation. Their competitive nature worsens tension and detracts from making the most beneficial decisions for the overall enterprise.

Conducting effective farm business meetings. Gregorio Billikopf of the University of California (<http://nature.berkeley.edu/ucce50/ag-labor/7labor/11.htm>) and Colorado State University Extension staff, Dr. Bob Fetsch and Beryl Jacobson (www.ext.colostate.edu/pubs/consumer/10249.html), offer tips on conducting effective business meetings. I also drew on my experience teaching farm families how to conduct farm business meetings and my own experience meeting with employees on the farm and in behavioral health settings.

- Start the meeting on time and finish at a set time
- Usually the head of the operation runs the meetings but others can be designated
- All employees, family members involved in the farm operation, and sometimes both, should attend, depending on what is being discussed
- Appoint a capable person, such as an objective family member, to record the minutes and send them to all the participants prior to the next meeting
- One person may speak at a time and without interruption; if the meeting gets out of order, the speaker must be acknowledged before speaking, or asked to leave
- No profanity, name-calling or slurs should be allowed, and if continued, the speaker should be asked to leave until the person regains control over these behaviors
- Discuss and resolve one item at a time, or table an unresolved matter and set a date for resumption of its discussion; then move to another issue
- When together with trusted family members, take a one-down position that allows others to say their pieces and do not react while they are speaking
- Ask for a time to indicate your position on an issue and state your position as objectively as possible, pointing out its advantages and shortcomings
- Provide options for reaching the desired outcome
- If someone displays a lot of emotion while speaking, usually that means the subject has importance or fear attached to the issue and the person needs encouragement to verbalize his or her concerns



Dr. Mike
ROSMANN

- Private conversations and phone calls are not allowed; if phone calls occur, the answerer should step out of the meeting
- Take scheduled breaks for refreshments, use of the bathroom and phone calls
- The meeting leader should ask for an analysis of a problem or concern, seeking a full hearing of all aspects of the matter without taking a side; solutions should be deferred for the time being
- When the problem is fully understood, then the meeting leader may ask the participants to brainstorm about solutions
- Ask for further study when issues are not resolvable and put them on the agenda for future meetings
- Often, important matters cannot be resolved during a single meeting or even during several meetings; this means the issue should be visited as many times as necessary until everyone is as comfortable as possible with the proposed solution (I have seen family estate plans take several years to resolve.)
- Keep in mind the principle that the more proposed solutions there are and the more diverse they are, the more likely the best solution will emerge
- Seek a democratic consensus decision about which solution is best; declarations of a resolution

by the leader or autocratic decisions by the person with the most power usually are met with skepticism or outright resistance

- Bring in an outside mediator or consultant to help run the meetings and to generate solutions if necessary

Every farm family is different. Some families can discuss sensitive issues without rancor. I usually have to recommend using the farm business meeting approach to deal with personal issues such as anger toward siblings. This makes the resolution process more objective and fairer.

Applying a consensus decision-making process in farm family business meetings usually requires the best in us and makes us better persons. The process can be learned. Successful outcomes enable us to develop confidence and to achieve respect from competitive family members.

Thanks to everyone who wrote me. Feel free to share your further thoughts, recommendations and questions with me. My contact information is shown below.

Dr. Rosmann is a psychologist and farmer at Harlan, Iowa. Contact him at: www.agbehavioral-health.com.

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S.D. Death-Row Inmate Seeks New Hearing

SIoux FALLS (AP) — A man on death row in South Dakota has asked for a new sentencing hearing so he can show that a new relationship with his son and grandchildren provides a reason for him not to be executed, court documents show.

Lawyers for Rodney Berget filed documents last week requesting a new sentencing hearing, KELO-TV reported Tuesday. Berget was sentenced to death for killing prison guard Ronald “RJ” Johnson in April 2011.

The state Supreme Court overturned Berget’s death sentence, ruling that the circuit judge improperly considered a statement Berget made to a psychiatrist.

Berget now wants a completely new hearing in front of a jury. According to the documents, Berget’s 31-year-old son only found out who his real father is as an adult, and the death-row inmate has now established a “meaningful relationship” with his son, daughter-in-law and two grandchildren.

South Dakota Attorney General Marty Jackley said Berget already waived his right to be sentenced by a jury.

“If family and fatherhood was such a meaningful consideration to Berget, it should have deterred him from robbing RJ Johnson’s son and daughter of their father,” Jackley wrote in the response. “Where Berget sees redemptive mitigation evidence in this new-found-son scenario, the state sees only further aggravating evidence of selfishness and failure to accept his responsibilities in life.”

Northern State Students Seeking Smoking Ban

ABERDEEN (AP) — Students at Northern State University in Aberdeen have begun collecting signatures to bring a smoking ban to a campus-wide vote.

The college’s student association is looking to collect 200 signatures to put the issue in front of students, faculty and staff.

Association president Kody Kyriess says the referendum was started because students are worried about their health.

The measure would ban people from smoking on campus, except in the university’s parking lot.

The *Aberdeen American News* reports that Northern State and South Dakota State are the only public universities in the state that do not have a complete smoke-free policy.

Pine Ridge Leader Pleads Guilty In Drug Case

RAPID CITY (AP) — A former spiritual and cultural leader on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation has pleaded guilty to drug charges.

Jerome Lebeaux was charged Monday and pleaded guilty to possession of a controlled substance and driving under the influence of a controlled substance.

The 35-year-old Lebeaux had served as cultural coordinator for Thunder Valley Community Development Corp.

The possession charge carries a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison. Sentencing is set for March 18.

The *Rapid City Journal* reports that Lebeaux is being held without bond in the Pennington County Jail.

Captain/Belle Noms Now Being Sought

The Director Riverboat Days Board of Yankton is seeking nominations for Captain and Belle 2013.

Applications can be sent either by email to office@riverboatdays.com or by mail to: Riverboat Days Board, PO Box 483, Yankton, SD 57078.

The deadline to submit nominations is March 21.

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50th Anniversary Celebration



Mr. & Mrs. John Mesman

Mr. and Mrs. John and Barb Mesman, Springfield, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on March 8, 2013.

Their family requests a card shower. Greetings may be sent to 31375 412 Ave., Springfield, SD 57062. Barb Gretschnann and John Mesman were married March 8, 1963.

Happy Anniversary, Mom and Dad!