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PRESS RELEASE

Corrections Manager Released from Duty

May 12, 2010: Following two back-to-back escapes from the condemned Fall Hall jail, the newly-hired correctional manager has been dismissed by the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes.

Greg Sage was hired by the tribes as chief of corrections on Jan. 25, said Angelo Gonzales, tribal executive director. Sage joined the tribes with 20 years law enforcement and corrections experience, including 16 years as a jail administrator and patrol lieutenant for the Blaine County Sheriff's Office prior to his retirement there in 2005.

"With his level of experience, we are disappointed that we had not only one, but two escapes within the last 30 days under his leadership," said Gonzales.

On April 17, six inmates escaped, but were immediately apprehended. Early yesterday morning, two inmates escaped and are still at large, but are not considered dangerous.

The tribes have promoted their Captain of Juvenile Corrections Paul Guisande to the position of chief of corrections. Guisande has been with the Fort Hall Police

Department for 16 months. Prior to that, he worked 18 years with the California Department of Corrections' Folsom Prison, most recently as a corrections administrator. He left the prison in 1992 to work with juvenile offenders in California.

To increase security at the old jail, Guisande is increasing jail checks to once every 15 minutes, adding an alarm to the emergency egress door where the escapes occurred, as well as stationing personnel in the courtroom as added insurance against future breakouts.

"The tribes' condemned facility was never intended to be a jail and it is just not secure. We need to move the inmates over as quickly as possible and the BIA is committed to working with us to make that happen," said Guisande.

To prepare for the move of inmates to the new 80-bed adult, 20-bed juvenile detention facility, the tribes have ramped up its corrections staff from eight to its current level of 37 employees. The juvenile side of the facility will open once the adult inmates are transitioned over.

The tribes are currently working with the BIA to determine the minimum number of certified staff members that need to be on board before the inmates are transferred.

The BIA requires that all new Justice Center detention staff undergo six-weeks of corrections training at the Indian Police Academy in Artesia, N.M., within the first year of employment. The tribes expect seven new officers to complete the training

in early June and an additional 10 are lined up to go through the next class this summer.

"Part of our challenge here is that the tribes had such a small window of time between when the facility opened, when operations funding from the BIA was made available and when we brought additional staff on board. We are now focused on getting all the new corrections officers through the required training as soon as possible," said Gonzales.

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