Shekóli. Ingenuity, innovation and resilience are the hallmarks of Native culture, whether we’re talking about the agricultural marvels of Iroquoia, Pueblo terraces, Tlingit craftsmanship or Lakota winter counts. Whether due to necessity or an innate connection to the land and setting, Indians thrive when it comes to tactics and problem solving. Three features this week illustrate the point. Each one profiles a Native-run program or initiative that addresses a need in Indian country.

The first piece, by Harlan McKosato, charts the progress of the National Indian Youth Council in New Mexico (NIYC). As Natives migrate to cities in search of work, they are often confronted with sets of challenges that are sometimes bewildering. Finding a job and acquiring the right skills is foremost, and that is where NIYC comes in. Since 1981 the group has worked with Indians in Albuquerque, Farmington and Gallup to assist low-income arrivals to town. By providing them with resources, knowledge and a small degree of comfort, NIYC helps Natives in need integrate into the job market.

To the north, First Nation entities have established a winning formula to increase revenue from tourism. There are more than 200 Native tourism businesses in British Columbia alone. This week’s article about the formation and success of the Aboriginal Tourism Association of British Columbia, an umbrella group designed to promote tourism and help entrepreneurs develop and market new businesses, is an example of the strength in collaboration. These Native businesses contribute $561 million to the economy, and there has been an 85 percent growth rate since 2006.

The U.S. government has also begun turning to Indian nations and organizations to administer services that are best handled by the community. So it is with great optimism to report the transfer of control of an elementary school in New Mexico. Isleta Elementary is the first BIE-to-tribal school to make the transition under President Obama’s Generation Indigenous initiative. One hundred years after its founding, the formerly federally run school is enjoying its first year as an Isleta Pueblo institute.

Innovation, ingenuity, resilience. And patience.

NA Ki wa,

Ray Halbritter

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IndianCountryTodayMediaNetwork.com October 7, 2015
Dartmouth Should Have Known Better

Dartmouth College alumnus Andre Cramblit (Karuk) explains the importance of his alma mater’s Native American Program Director and admonishes Big Green for filling the position with Susan Taffe Reed, a member of no federally recognized tribe:

The Native American Program (NAP) Director plays a critical role in the success of Native American students. They are the emotional and physical liaison between them and the unfamiliar world of an Ivy League institution. For students who are coming from a reservation, Native community or a traditional background, Dartmouth is like an alien world as far distant from their reality as another solar system.

If it had not been for Grace Newell, the NAP Director when I matriculated in 1982, I would have not survived even one complete quarter and would have been headed back home on the Greyhound. That is not just hyperbole. Grace helped me navigate the rocky shoals of attending college so far from home. She fought for all Native students to have the best opportunity to find a home, family and support system.

All of the NAP Directors I have admired, respected and strived to emulate have been strong cultural role models and have served the college and Native students well beyond the scope of their job description. It was their ability to understand the needs and problems of a lonely, poor student from a Native community that made them successful.

Dartmouth could have and should have known better than this. In performing their due diligence in the hiring of the NAP Director position they retained a headhunting firm to vet the candidates and shepherd the process forward. I hope they get a refund. http://bit.ly/1OSz9uZ

Jeb Bush’s Tin Ear

Tribal rights attorney Tara Houska (Couchiching First Nation) is astonished that Jeb Bush not only doesn’t find the Washington Redskins’ team name offensive, but that he thinks Native Americans don’t, either:

While Native American condemnation of the racial slur that is “The Washington Redskins” grows, Republican presidential candidate Jeb Bush defended the Washington team to Sirius XM’s The Arena in a broadcast that was set to air on October 2. “I don’t find it offensive,” Bush told Sirius XM. “Native American tribes generally don’t find it offensive.”

The Change the Mascot campaign fired back, stating, “[Bush] somehow believes he speaks for Native Americans and can assert Native American people do not find this slur offensive. He clearly is missing something.”

Wasting no time to point out the Republican party’s struggles with issues concerning minorities, Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-Florida), chair of the Democratic National Committee, noted Bush’s “shocking disregard for America’s diverse society” and asserted that his stance is “one of many reasons he will not earn the Native American vote. The team’s name is a racial slur that perpetuates negative stereotypes of Native American people, and reduces proud cultures to an insulting caricature.”

Over one hundred tribes representing nearly 1.5 million Native Americans have formally opposed the Washington team logo and moniker. Not one of the 567 federally recognized tribes has given support. Mr. Bush might want to do a bit more outreach in Native America if he feels another urge to assert what we do or don’t find offensive.

Incidentally, it was fairly unsurprising to read of team owner Dan Snyder’s $100,000 contribution to a pro-Bush super PAC, in light of his repeated attempts to buy Native American support for the team. http://bit.ly/1QN8djz

The Vatican’s Careful Native Sidestep

ICTMN contributor Steven Newcomb parses the words of Pope Francis following his whirlwind visit to these shores:

During his address to Congress on September 24, Pope Francis alluded to the collision between the colonizing nations of Christendom and this continent’s original nations and peoples. “Tragically,” the pope said, “the rights of those who were here long before us were not always respected.”

Is this meant to suggest that the rights of our ancestors and our nations were mostly respected, and just not always respected? Actually, history provides ample evidence that the right of our nations to live free from domination and dehumanization has hardly ever been respected by dominating societies.

Pope Francis further said, “Those first contacts were often turbulent and violent, but it is difficult to judge the past by the criteria of the present.” But with regard to U.S. federal Indian law, the doctrine of Christian discovery and domination is not in “the past.” It is still being maintained in 2015.

Then there was his statement, “For those peoples and their nations, from the heart of American democracy, I wish to reaffirm my highest esteem and appreciation.” He said this one day after officially and ceremonially declaring Junipero Serra to be a saint for carrying out what Pope Alexander VI called a “sacred” and “praiseworthy” purpose of “subjecting” and “reducing” the “barbarous nations” for “the propagation of the Christian empire.”

The Spanish Catholic Mission system that Junipero Serra founded in Alta, California resulted in some 150,000 Native people dying in those missions. And yet Pope Francis did not utter one word of sympathy for the victims. Someone should inform His Holiness that it is not possible to esteem and appreciate distinct nations by disrespecting their dead. http://bit.ly/1NZVXwW
2015 Annual Convention & Marketplace  
Town & Country Resort, San Diego, CA  
October 18-23, 2015

2016 Executive Council Winter Session  
Capital Hilton, Washington, DC  
February 22-25, 2016

2016 Mid Year Conference & Marketplace  
Spokane Convention Center, Spokane, WA  
June 27-30, 2016

2016 Annual Convention & Marketplace  
Phoenix Convention Center, Phoenix, AZ  
October 9-14, 2016

2017 Executive Council Winter Session  
Capital Hilton, Washington, DC  
February 13-16, 2017

2017 Mid Year Conference & Marketplace  
Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, CT  
June 25-28, 2017

2017 Annual Convention & Marketplace  
Wisconsin Center, Milwaukee, WI  
October 15-20, 2017

2018 Executive Council Winter Session  
Capital Hilton, Washington, DC  
February 12-15, 2018

2018 Annual Convention & Marketplace  
Denver, CO  
October 21-26, 2018
Choctaw and Chickasaw Receive $186 Million in Historic Settlement

The Choctaw and Chickasaw nations have agreed to a combined $186 million settlement with the Department of the Interior for the federal government's alleged failure to protect trust land in the sale of 1.3 million acres of timberland between 1908 and 1940.

Under the settlement, the Choctaw will receive $139.5 million and the Chickasaw Nation $46.5 million stemming from a land-trust-management suit they filed in December 2005 against the Interior Department and other parties, it was reported on September 25.

In the complaint, Chickasaw Nation and Choctaw Nation v. U.S. Department of the Interior, the tribes alleged that the sale of the 1.3 million acres of unallotted timberlands under a 1906 federal law violated the Administrative Procedure Act, as well as the Fifth Amendment. The government also failed to provide “adequate accounts of their lands and trust funds,” the legal-news site Law360 said.

The tribes and the government initially agreed to settle in July but did not discuss details of the settlement pending final approval by the tribes in question. The money will be used for education, among other initiatives.

“Our tribes have suffered many, many generations now,” Chickasaw Nation Governor Bill Anoatubby told The Oklahoman. “This settlement that we’ve achieved ... is a historic settlement—one that is intended to right the wrongs that were done after the turn of the century.” He added, “For me, it’s about empowerment of our people.” 

http://bit.ly/1YLICXD

EPA Revises Fish Consumption Rate For Washington State

BY TERRI HANSEN

After 20 years of tribal lobbying, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has revised the fish consumption rate for Washington State drastically upward, from a mere bite of 6.3 grams per day to 175 grams per day. The new rate not only more accurately reflects fish consumption by Native peoples and others, it also sets standards for water quality and cleanup of contaminated sites.

The old consumption level, said Quinault Indian Nation President Fawn Sharp, was “far too low and far too dangerous.” The new, elevated figure “would require that water be safe from poisonous chemicals to that level.”

Establishing the higher consumption rate will force polluters to reduce the amount of contaminants they dump into the water, keeping salmon and other seafood clean. Corporations such as Boeing had opposed the measure, arguing that it would increase their cost of doing business.

EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy signed the proposed rule on August 31. The 20 treaty tribes that constitute the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission had long pushed for the measure; Washington Gov. Jay Inslee formally proposed it in August 2014.

However, said Fawn Sharp, when Inslee did so, he “also proposed to decrease protection from carcinogens from one part per million to one part per 100,000. That, in effect, removed the benefit.” Inslee’s proposed legislation failed in the 2015 state session.

“This is the first positive step forward we’ve seen in our fight to protect human health and the food we’ve always depended on,” said Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission Chair Lorraine Loomis. “We appreciate EPA’s willingness to protect the integrity of our state’s environment and the water-based resources that are central to human health and treaty rights.” 

http://bit.ly/1MSqGxc

Indigenous Grassroots Leaders Hail Shell Decision To Cease Arctic Drilling

Environmentalists, Alaska Natives and grassroots indigenous leaders rejoiced last week as Royal Dutch Shell announced it would no longer drill for oil in offshore Alaska.

The decision, the company said, was taken because of disappointing results from, and the high cost of, a test well, the Burger J, “and the challenging and unpredictable federal regulatory environment in offshore Alaska.”

“Today Shell pulled out of our waters, hopefully never to return. This is a huge victory for our people and our traditional ways of life,” said Allison Akootchook Warden, Iñupiaq Artist and Community Organizer, in a statement from the Indigenous Environmental Network (IEN). “It is too risky for Shell to be in our waters, where the bowhead whale thrives and takes care of us. The Iñupiaq culture will continue to thrive as we live off of the land and ocean as our ancestors have for thousands of years. ... My heart is overjoyed to hear about Shell’s decision to pull out.”

“The Lummi Youth Canoe Family is more than happy to hear about the news this morning ... that Royal Dutch Shell Oil Company is removing from the Arctic, ‘for the time being,’” said youth leader Justin Finkbonner, a community organizer and the skipper of the Lummi Youth Canoe Family, in the IEN statement. “With this news though, I’m afraid that Shell will go to Congress to seek funding from the taxpayers to pursue oil at a later date.”

The overall exploration effort had cost $7 billion over seven years.

In 1990, the Ramah Navajo Chapter brought suit against the Government in the United States District Court of the District of New Mexico claiming that the Department of the Interior (DOI) improperly calculated indirect cost rates for Indian Self Determination and Education Assistance Act, Pub. L. 93-638, as amended (ISDA) contractors. In 1993, the District Court certified a class of all Tribes and tribal organizations that have BIA ISDA contracts or compacts. In 2012, the Supreme Court ruled that the plaintiffs’ claims covering fiscal year 1994 and later years were not barred by the government’s appropriations law defense. Salazar v. Ramah Navajo Chapter, 132 S. Ct. 2181 (2012). Following nearly three years of settlement discussions, including final negotiations facilitated by Chief U.S. Magistrate Judge Karen B. Molzen, the parties have agreed upon the proposed Final Settlement Agreement now pending before the Court.

The parties have agreed to a proposed Final Settlement Agreement (FSA), which requires Defendants to pay $940,000,000 to settle the remaining claims in this lawsuit. The settled claims are for alleged underpayments of contract support costs by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and/or the Office of Self Governance (OSG) under ISDA during fiscal years 1994 through 2013. Your Tribe or tribal organization may be a Class Member eligible to share in this settlement. The settlement is not final until approved by the Court.

SUMMARY OF SETTLEMENT TERMS

Under Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, the Court advises you as follows:

1. The Class consists of those Indian tribes and organizations that have entered into contracts with BIA or self-governance funding agreements with OSG under ISDA at any time between FY 1994 and FY 2013.

2. Upon payment by the Defendants of the settlement amount, the Class Counsel will be deemed to have fully released the Defendants from all settled claims as to underpayment of contract support costs, both indirect and direct, for FY 1994 through FY 2013.

3. Each eligible Class Member will be entitled to share in the net settlement amount remaining after the deduction of (1) attorneys’ fees and costs; and (2) funds for a reserve account to cover certain expenses.

4. Each eligible Class Member’s share has been predetermined according to a methodology set forth in the Final Settlement Agreement.

5. Each Class Member will be required to file a claim on a form to be provided by the Settlement Administrator. Unclaimed amounts exceeding $10,000,000 will be repaid to the United States Treasury.

6. Class Counsel have applied to the Court for an award of attorneys’ fees of 8.5% of the settlement amount for achieving this final settlement. The Government agrees that an 8.5% fee is fair and reasonable for achieving this settlement and supports the application for attorneys’ fees. Class Counsel have also applied for reimbursement of estimated costs to date of $1,158,222.01 to be paid out of the settlement amount.

7. Class members that entered the Class since March 27, 2002 (identified on Table 2, at pages 21-22, of Appendix 2 to the Final Settlement Agreement, ECF No. 1306-2, Sept. 16, 2015), may request exclusion from the Class by filing a Notice of Exclusion with the Court on or before November 19, 2015. If a Class Member is excluded, that Class Member’s share of the Settlement Amount will be retained by the Government and the Settlement Amount will be reduced accordingly.
OBJECTIONS

Any Class Member that wishes to object to the proposed settlement or fee application must file a Notice of Intention to Appear and Object (Objection) with the Clerk of the Court and deliver it to all listed Counsel no later than November 19, 2015, and must appear at the fairness hearing described in this Notice. If more than one Class Member makes the same objection, the Court may designate one of them to present the objection at the hearing. Objections must be sent to the Clerk of Court, 333 Lomas, NW, #270, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102. Each Objection must include (i) a reference to the case number, “No. 90-CV-0957;” (ii) a statement of each reason for the Objection; (iii) the specific ground(s), if any, for each reason, including any legal support, evidence, papers or briefs the Class Member wishes the Court to consider; (iv) the person or persons who will present the Objection at the hearing; and (v) the signature of the responsible official or attorney for the Class Member making the Objection.

Objections must also be sent to the following attorneys:

Michael P. Gross
Lead Class Counsel
M. P. GROSS LAW FIRM, P.C.
460 St. Michael’s Drive, Suite 401
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505-7602
Telephone: (505) 995-8066
Fax: (505) 989-1096
E-mail: mike@mpgrosslaw.com

James D. Todd, Jr.
Counsel for Defendants
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, CIVIL DIVISION
Federal Programs Branch
20 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20530
Telephone: (202) 514-3378
Fax: (202) 616-8470
E-mail: james.todd@usdoj.gov

C. Bryant Rogers
Co-Class Counsel:
VANAMBERG, ROGERS, YEPA, ABEITA & WORKS, LLP
P. O. Box 1447
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-1447
Telephone: (505) 988-8979
Fax: (505) 983-7508
E-mail: cbrogers@nmlawgroup.com

Lloyd B. Miller
Co-Class Counsel
SONOSKY, CHAMBERS, SACHSE, MILLER & MUNSON, LLP
900 West Fifth Avenue, Suite 700
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
Telephone: (907) 258-6377
Fax: (907) 272-8332

The Court will conduct a hearing at the Federal Building and United States Courthouse, 421 Gold SW, Sixth Floor, Albuquerque, New Mexico at 9:00 o’clock a.m. on January 20, 2016, at which time the Court will hear Objections, if any, to the settlement and fee application and thereafter render a ruling approving or declining to approve the settlement, and acting upon the fee application. Persons intending to appear at or attend the hearing are advised to so inform the Court and to reconfirm the date, time and place of the hearing by contacting the Clerk of Court before traveling to Albuquerque.

DEADLINES

The Court and counsel must receive any Objections or other motions or applications for relief no later than November 19, 2015, 45 days after the dissemination of this Notice.

APART FROM FILING OBJECTIONS, PLEASE DO NOT CONTACT THE COURT OR THE CLERK’S OFFICE ON ANY SUBSTANTIVE MATTER DEALING WITH THIS NOTICE EXCEPT TO CONFIRM THE DATE OF THE FAIRNESS HEARING.
Federal Government Gives $1 Million For Juvenile Justice In Alaska

The Department of Justice (DOJ) has announced that $1 million in grant funding will be awarded to the Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska. The funding was announced on September 18 and is granted under the DOJ’s Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation (CTAS). It will go toward two projects planned by the tribes’ Central Council—the Children’s Justice Act and Tribal Youth Prevention.

The Council’s Children’s Justice Act received $450,000 to assist in developing and implementing a multi-year program of training and system improvements within the Tribal Family and Youth Services department. The three-year project will support the investigation, prosecution, and treatment of cases of serious child abuse, neglect, and child sexual abuse within the service area of Juneau.

Another $550,002 will assist in the Central Council’s three-year Tribal Youth Prevention and Delinquency Diversion project. The project will identify Native youth between the ages of 12-18 who are at risk for delinquency, academic failure, substance abuse and involvement with the juvenile justice system. The project will further allow the Central Council to develop the full capabilities of its Tribal Court to provide peacemaking circles and diversion efforts for tribal youth who are in legal distress.

All together, the DOJ awarded $97.3 million to American Indian and Alaska Native tribes to boost law enforcement, improve tribal courts, combat violence against women, address substance abuse, assist youth and provide services to victims of crime. In Alaska, 17 tribes were awarded funding. [http://bit.ly/1YIOgjE](http://bit.ly/1YIOgjE)

Tribes Assail Nuclear Waste Storage Plan As ‘Environmental Racism’

A proposal to store nuclear waste under Yucca Mountain in Nevada, which was shelved by President Barack Obama in 2010, has been revived, prompting the Western Shoshone and Timbisha Shoshone tribes to call the plan “environmental racism.”

In August the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) released an environmental impact report on the proposal, which involves carving 40 miles of tunnels under the sacred mountain and burying 77,000 tons of highly radioactive nuclear waste there. The possibility that radioactive material could leach into the groundwater, potentially affecting the purity of American Indian springs in Death Valley in neighboring California, has many residents opposing the project, the Las Vegas Review-Journal reported on September 26. They voiced their concerns at a meeting before an NRC panel on September 15.

“From our perspective the processes employed by the DOE is environmental racism designed to systematically dismantle the living ‘lifeways’ of the Western Shoshone people in relation to our land,” said Western Shoshone member Jan Zabate, a board member of the Native Community Action Council, the Review-Journal reported.

Timbisha Shoshone Tribe Chairman George Gholson echoed his thoughts. “The tribe vehemently opposes the storage of radioactive waste in our backyard,” he said.

The clash occurs as cleanup of nuclear waste continues at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in New Mexico following a February 2014 accident that unmasked numerous safety violations there, as well as at Los Alamos National Laboratory, where the waste was processed. As recently as early September, more violations were found at the lab, the Associated Press reported on September 5. [http://bit.ly/1ODQ6Pz](http://bit.ly/1ODQ6Pz)

In South Dakota, Cheyenne River Sioux Will Be Matched With Jobs

State, city, tribal, and nonprofit entities have joined to fill over 600 job vacancies in Pierre, South Dakota, while lowering unemployment rates on the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation. The partnership was forged at a September 18 meeting in Eagle Butte, where participants pooled their resources.

With a 2.5 percent unemployment rate—the lowest in South Dakota—Pierre has an abundance of job openings but too few candidates to fill them. “By all measures, our economy is doing very well, and we couldn’t be happier about this,” said Pierre Mayor Laurie Gill. “However, the challenge of longstanding job vacancies can stifle future growth.”

At the same time, a study recently conducted by the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe found a 27.1 percent unemployment rate on its reservation. Therefore, matching jobless tribal members with openings in Pierre seemed a natural fit.

“This is an opportunity for the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, the State of South Dakota, the City of Pierre, and nonprofit organizations to work together to implement a focused strategy that will help people enter the workforce while growing a regional economy,” said Cheyenne River Sioux Chairman Harold Frazier.

“Lowering the unemployment rates on Cheyenne River, unfortunately, is not a simple solution like connecting people with jobs,” noted Lakota Mower, assistant director at Four Bands Community Fund. “We are dealing with generational poverty and transforming the ideology resulting from that.”

She added, “We are taking a holistic view of the issues at hand. With more partners we have more resources, which ultimately means greater community impact and economic growth.” [http://bit.ly/1O1s27v](http://bit.ly/1O1s27v)
Serra Statue Is Vandalized
Desecration follows papal canonization
On the weekend after Pope Francis canonized Junipero Serra over widespread Native protest, a statue of the Franciscan friar at Mission Carmel, California was toppled and vandalized. Police say the vandals splashed green and white paint around the cemetery, wrote “Saint of Genocide” on a headstone and attacked some gravesites. The incident is being investigated as a hate crime, Carmel Police Sgt. Luke Powell told the Los Angeles Times, because the vandals targeted “the headstones of people of European descent, and not Native American descent.” The mission, which Serra founded soon after his arrival in California in 1769, was infamous for the torture, slavery, land theft and cultural decimation of the local Native population. http://bit.ly/1O2p3M0

Jess Sixkiller Is Murdered In Phoenix
Cherokee activist dies in home invasion
The Cherokee elder and activist Jess Sixkiller, 78, was found shot to death early in the morning of September 25 at his home in Phoenix, Arizona in what police are calling a “random” home invasion. A Yale alumnus and the first Native American detective in the Chicago police department, Sixkiller was a founder of the National Urban Indian Organization. There, he devoted himself to studying the challenges of Natives living away from their reservations. He was instrumental in opening conversations about the differing needs of urban Indians and in noting that the federal government’s goal of Indian assimilation was being obstructed by discrimination. http://bit.ly/1L4w3as

Nebraska Tribes Lauded For Whistle Blowing
Health service mismanagement cited
Nebraska’s Omaha and Winnebago Tribes were honored last month for their efforts to correct injustices and deficiencies of the Indian Health Services (IHS). The tribes have been demanding IHS accountability for mismanaging the Omaha/Winnebago Indian Health Services Hospital for years; in a joint resolution passed in August, they charged the IHS with “callous disregard for the lives, health and safety” of their members. In recognition, the National Indian Health Board (NIHB) bestowed upon the tribes the 2015 National Impact Award on September 23. Their “actions and advocacy,” the NIHB said, “serves as a beacon of hope and light on the path for other tribes experiencing similar challenges.” http://bit.ly/1KLvpgN

Cochiti Pueblo Partners With EPA
Will address water issues
The Cochiti Pueblo of New Mexico is partnering with the Environmental Protection Agency to address water issues via green infrastructure projects that will mitigate flooding, enhance drainage and boost drinking water systems. Examples of green infrastructure are the use of vegetation, soils and natural processes to manage storm water and create healthier urban environments. The initiative is part of the EPA’s efforts with communities on projects that promote environmental justice, create sustainable practices for local industry and build environmentally friendly infrastructure. The Cochiti Pueblo were one of several tribes suffering water-related aftereffects of the Las Conchas fire of 2011. http://bit.ly/1LS3tKc

Name Change For Squaw Bay?
Confrontational epithet prompts petition
The Washington State Committee on Geographic Names is being petitioned to change the controversial name of Squaw Bay on Shaw Island in the San Juan Islands to Sq’emenen Bay. “Sq’emenen” is the Lummi name for Shaw Island, according to Lummi hereditary chief Bill (Tsílìtxw) James. The petition states that over time, “squaw” has come to be used “as a term of condescension, as a racialized epithet, and in a way that implies Native American women are second-class citizens or exotic objects.” The committee, which meets twice a year, will consider the petition on October 23 and will decide in May whether to recommend the change to the state Board on Geographic Names. http://bit.ly/1KBZcIz

Funding To Combat Native Domestic Violence
Federal government distributes $21 million
The federal government is awarding nearly $21 million to 136 tribes and tribal organizations to address domestic violence. The Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families (ACF) and the Indian Health Service (IHS) announced the grant on October 1. The funds will support tribal domestic violence victims and organizations in American Indian and Alaska Native communities across the nation, the government said, and will help to strengthen tribal responses to domestic violence and emphasize public awareness, advocacy, and policy, training, and technical assistance.” The ACF funding comes under the terms of the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act. http://bit.ly/1J45xUn

Former Chickasaw Governor Walks On
Overton James was a landmark leader
Overton James, who as Chickasaw Nation governor from 1963 to 1987 was the first and youngest man to serve in that capacity, died on September 16 at age 90. Among his other accomplishments, James secured federal funding that brought about federally funded health care and housing facilities for his tribe in Oklahoma. During his tenure, the number of tribal employees grew from about 30 to nearly 200, and tribal revenues increased from $750,000 to approximately $11 million. In addition to other posts, James served five terms as president of the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes and was president of the Choctaw-Chickasaw Confederation. http://bit.ly/1KLMd79
Working On Putting More People To Work

What happens when Natives move without job prospects?

BY HARLAN MCKOSATO

Bottom Line: In New Mexico, three cities are offering an innovative path out of Native unemployment.

With increasing frequency, Native Americans are moving into urban areas in search of better opportunities. Usually, they cite education and employment as their main motives. But often their hopes and aspirations do not materialize, leaving them desperate for help.

That is where the National Indian Youth Council (NIYC) comes in.

Headquartered in Albuquerque, and with field offices in the New Mexico cities of Gallup and Farmington, the organization works with low-income Native people, many of whom are jobless or homeless—or both—to get them back on their feet. NIYC has two major programs for qualified participants, classroom training and work experience. Both are funded by the Department of Labor.

“When we have applicants or participants come in, they need temporary employment or a living stipend,” said Tera Frank (Navajo), job developer for NIYC. “The classroom training program is kind of a last resort for those who are in college or want to get their GED.”

NIYC was founded in 1961. Tsosie emphasized that those who are interested in the program should not let the word “Youth” in its title throw them off.

“We started off as a program somewhere along the lines of how the American Indian Movement started in the 1960s, when civil rights were questioned for Native American people,” she said. “The Indian youth across the country were going on marches, and they were taking part in sit-ins and involved in protests. They wanted to be taken serious. We keep the name out of respect for the founders.”

Tashina Silversmith, who is originally from the Twin Lakes Chapter on the Navajo Reservation, is a NIYC success story. She has gone through the program twice, the first time in 2012.

“I couldn’t find any employment,” she said. “I went through the [NIYC] interview process and within a few days they were able to place me with a non-profit here in Albuquerque called People Living Through Cancer. They eventually hired me as a full-time employee.”

Ultimately, she said, “I resigned to look for something better because I was only making minimum wage, and came back to NIYC.” She is now employed full time with the American Indian Chamber of Commerce (AICC).

“I started off as a temporary office assistant with the program here and a job...
opened up at AICC,” Silversmith recalled. “I nailed the interview and started a couple of days later.”

She remains grateful to the program. “A lot of times we don’t realize, as Native Americans living in the city, that we have resources like NIYC.”

NIYC mandates several eligibility standards that are required by the Labor Department. Participants must be at least 18 years of age, living off the reservation and residing in the urban and surrounding areas of Albuquerque, Gallup and Farmington. Moreover, they must provide proof of Native American ancestry and be unemployed, underemployed or economically disadvantaged.

For all the requirements, the results have been gratifying.

“When we start them in the program they begin to feel a sense of empowerment,” said Deborah Tsosie (Navajo), Albuquerque Field Office Manager for the initiative, of the applicants. “We do see the changes, starting from their first pre-application, their first interview.

“By the time we get them three months down the road they’re a completely different person — outspoken, out in the community, confident, and they’re building on their résumé. It’s very heartfelt.”

Admittedly, there are challenges. “We meet so many of our Native people here who have all kinds of issues and situations,” said Tsosie. “We deal with homelessness, veteran’s issues, domestic violence and substance abuse issues, extensive unemployment or there are family issues — transportation or child care.”

But Tera Frank has found that such setbacks can often be overcome. She instanced one particular case.

“There was a woman who came in, a single parent,” Frank said. “She came in needing employment, needing income. She was considered homeless. I was doing an individual employment plan with her. It gets emotional. She was crying and said, ‘I can’t get a job anywhere.’ She was a bartender and was sick of being in that kind of environment.

“I placed her at one of our sites and two months later she was hired.” http://bit.ly/1iZxYD3
A New School And A New Vision For Isleta Pueblo

Transfer to tribe reflects educational empowerment by Tanya H. Lee

Bottom Line: For more than 100 years, the federal government ran a certain elementary school in New Mexico. Its new proprietors are now determined to do better.

On a recent summer day, the Isleta Elementary School in New Mexico was filled with bubbly, friendly, well-behaved children, smiling teachers who were eager to show off their classrooms, and committed staff who took time to share their programs and plans for the future.

The enthusiasm was understandable. For more than a century, after it was founded in the 1890s, the school had been under the control of the federal government. But now it is being
administered by Isleta Pueblo itself. It is the first Bureau of Indian Education (BIE)-to-tribal school transition under the Obama administration’s Blueprint for Reform and Generation Indigenous (Gen-I) initiative.

The transfer became official on July 1. A few days before school started in August, a bevy of dignitaries turned out to celebrate the occasion and turn over the keys. Joining Isleta Pueblo Gov. E. Paul Torres were Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, Bureau of Indian Education Director Charles Roessel, Sen. Martin Heinrich (D-New Mexico) and Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs Kevin Washburn.

“Tribal Nations understand the unique needs of their communities and schools better than federal officials in Washington, D.C.,” said Washburn. “Our encouragement and support for tribal efforts to manage BIE-funded schools struck a responsive chord with Pueblo leaders.”

Isleta Elementary had once been an important gathering place for the community and provided a sense of continuity; Gov. Torres’ own grandparents had gone there. But lately, it has been losing students to the surrounding communities of Los Lunas and Albuquerque. There have also been problems with low test scores, as well as with teaching and administrative turnover: the school had nine principals in 10 years.

“It’s going to be hard convincing the parents to bring their kids back to Isleta Elementary,” Torres told the Albuquerque Journal, “but that’s what we have to do.”

The idea of tribal control to boost enrollment had been long discussed among the Isleta Pueblo Tribal Council, former Gov. Frank Lujan and Gov. Torres. The challenges were considerable. Among other issues, the Bureau of Indian Education teachers were paid on a federal scale. So 90 percent of the school’s budget ended up going toward their salaries. This made it impossible to initiate new programs in technology, language and culture.

Nonetheless, Isleta Pueblo applied to assume control of the school about a year ago. Their application was fast-tracked, so school personnel had their work cut out for them to show BIE in a short time that they had the capacity and resources to take over. They produced binders of policies and procedures for BIE review, set up a board to oversee the school, coordinated with other governmental departments, responded to questions and kept the community informed of their progress.

“It was a long, arduous process,” said Debbie Jojola (Isleta Pueblo), whose company, Rain Cloud Consulting, coordinated the transition.

Final approval came in March, whereupon the school hired 25 new teachers, 10 of them Native American and many from Isleta, said Education Program Administrator Eileen Montoya. The support staff is also new, with the exception of just two bus drivers and two cooks.

“I’ve never been anywhere where community pulled together and pooled all of its resources like this,” said the new principal, Frank Fast Wolf (Lakota). “Every department in the tribe from parks and recreation to maintenance were here working on landscaping, roofing and carpets” in preparation for the academic year.

Perhaps the most urgent curricular matters confronting the educators concern language and culture. While 30 percent to 40 percent of tribal members are fluent in Tiwa, most of the speakers are over 50.

“We are worried about losing the language,” said Paul Lujan (Isleta Pueblo), director of the Isleta Department of Education/Language Department. “In just 100 years, we’ve gone from 100 percent fluency to 30 or 40 percent.”

The pueblo has had a language program for about 10 years, Lujan said, but it was extremely difficult to initiate the program in the elementary school under the BIE. “The turnover of principals meant that every year we had to start negotiations over again.”

The current language program has been active in the school for about two and a half years, with David Lente (Isleta Pueblo) serving as language teacher for grades K-6. “We’re incubating the language program now, working up to integrating language/culture into all instruction at the school,” he said.

Among the initiatives under way, Lujan said, are the production of cartoons in Tiwa for the younger students and working with a private contractor to develop a Tiwa language program to run on Apple devices, called Tiwa Talk. There are also plans to get more elders involved in language teaching, to integrate the arts into language instruction and to present more subject-matter instruction in Tiwa.

“The kids want to learn language and culture,” said Lente. “They keep asking, ‘Why do we do this?’ and I tell them they must learn the language in order to understand.” While children are taught to transcribe the language phonetically, tradition does not allow Tiwa to be a written language, making the oral instruction in school all the more important.

“Language, culture, and tradition are the focus of our new school,” said Gov. Torres. “We need our future leaders to be strong in language and culture to keep our identity.”
Tourism On The Agenda

Linking cultures, creating business in British Columbia by Hans Tammemagi

Bottom Line: There are more than 200 aboriginal tourism businesses in British Columbia, and a leading umbrella organization is doing its best to get the word out about them.

Loud whoops reverberated, spears waved and deer hooves attached to ankles rattled as a dozen Tzinquaw Dancers of the Cowichan First Nation, their faces painted in fierce red stripes, hopped and swayed to the beat of drums. After the performance, visitors wandered among towering totems, watched carving demonstrations, and savored hanoonk and salmon cooked over an open fire.

Welcome to the Qw’utsun Cultural Centre in Duncan on Vancouver Island, British Columbia. It is not merely a magnet for those seeking to learn about Native culture. It is also one of the many beneficiaries of the umbrella organization Aboriginal Tourism Association of British Columbia (ATBC).

Today there are more than 200 aboriginal tourism businesses in British Columbia, which together contribute $561 million in value-added GDP. Industry growth has been strong, with an 85 percent increase since 2006. Eight major cultural centers, numerous art galleries, museums, canoe voyages, wineries, resorts and golf courses are evidence that First Nations tourism is flourishing.

A key ingredient to this success is the nonprofit, stakeholder-based ATBC, which was formed in 1998 to promote Native culture and nurture native tourism businesses. It was a natural fit: B.C. First Nations offer rich and attractive art and culture, with considerable diversity. Indeed, there are 198 distinct First Nations in B.C. with different customs, myths and languages.

ATBC helps potential enterprises and entrepreneurs learn basics such as designing business plans and acquiring/managing finances. Once the businesses are running, the association helps them market their products by preparing brochures and advertising, attending trades shows, operating a website and raising public awareness.

There are powerful reasons to take the indigenous-tourism path, said ATBC Chief Executive Officer Keith Henry (Métis).

"For many Native communities it’s the single most important economic opportunity because forestry has come and gone and there are difficulties with pipelines and the oil-and-gas industry," he told Indian Country Today Media Network. “Cultural tourism is sustainable, and it can be achieved simply by sharing the community’s story and building appropriate infrastructure.

"Furthermore, indigenous tourism helps preserve Native culture and identity while offering society the opportunity to learn about a history that goes back thousands of years."

That dynamic was on display at the recent Pacific Asia Indigenous Tourism conference in Vancouver, where 130 delegates from 10 countries gathered to share knowledge. It was recognized that aboriginal tourism can contribute significantly to increasing the rights, respect and standard of living for Indigenous Peoples around the globe.

An excellent place to experience aboriginal tourism is the mist-enshrouded isles of Haida Gwaii, off the northern coast of B.C. Visitors can tour Skedans and four other protected sites. They are spiritual places with a sad legacy, where fallen and leaning totem poles are the only traces of once-flourishing villages that were wiped out by settlers and disease.

In contrast, the Haida Heritage Centre is a joyful place with its museum, performance hall, carving shed and restaurant. The Haida also offer fishing charters, art galleries, and wildlife viewing.

ATBC Chair Brenda Baptiste (Osoyoos First Nation) suggested that those breaking into the tourism sector should “have a very clear vision for where you’re heading. Then you need to stay true to your vision, because it will take a lot of work.” Research is key as well, she added.

“A vital step is to conduct research into the potential market. Without baseline data, how can you proceed? How would you get financial support? This can be difficult for people with an oral tradition.”

Baptiste also feels that an organization like ATBC, which operates at arm’s length from government, is needed to represent and coordinate all levels of market development.

“The market is not even close to being saturated,” said Henry. “Our research shows that last year four million visitors to B.C. wanted an aboriginal experience, but we could only satisfy about 15 percent of that demand, which is growing. Our big challenge is to harness enough Native experiences and get them market ready.”

Such tourism provides jobs as well as meaningful interaction. “Aboriginal tourism,” said Henry, “helps create sustainable and meaningful employment for Native communities, and provides the impetus for elders to pass down culture, history and tradition to youth.”

http://bit.ly/1OMt49c
The Association of Village Council Presidents, a non profit organization in Bethel, AK is currently recruiting for a Family Services Director.

- Competitive Salary
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**Summary Job Goal:** The Family Service Center Director (FSC Director) is responsible for the planning, design, management and direction of the Family Service Center (FSC). The FSC will house several departments under the umbrella for Community Services for AVCP. Under the direction of the Vice President of Community Services, the FSC Director designs, plans, directs and manages the administrative and operational activities of the FSC.

Contact AVCP’s Human Resources Department at 800-478-3521 for an application, to submit your resume or more information. Review our job description at www.avcp.org

Per Public Law 93-638 (Indian Self Determination & Education Assistance Act) qualified Alaskan Natives/ American Indians are given preference but candidates from all backgrounds are welcome to apply.
Tribe in Washington are hailing a new federal assessment of the state's fish consumption rate.

A name change is contemplated for Squaw Bay in the San Juan Islands off Washington State.

Cherokee activist Jess Sixkiller was murdered on September 25, the victim of an apparent home invasion.

Chickasaw archer Shiloh Butts was recently crowned International Bowhunters Organization champion.
Headlines from the Web

TEJON INDIAN TRIBE MAKES COMMUNITY DEBUT WITH POWWOW
http://bit.ly/1MSmkX5

COUNTY, CHUMASH START TALKS ABOUT LAND USE, OTHER CONCERNS
http://bit.ly/1YLRYml

TRIBE, STATE EXPLORING WALK-AND-BIKE PATH AROUND BAY
http://bit.ly/1KPC8mJ

SOUTH DAKOTA TRIBE TO OPEN NATION'S 1ST MARIJUANA RESORT
http://bit.ly/1LMNzAB

NATIVE AMERICAN BOARDING SCHOOLS HAVE NEARLY KILLED MICHIGAN'S NATIVE LANGUAGE
http://bit.ly/1QIIpvo

AKWESASNE MOHAWKS TO LAUNCH OWN TV STATION
http://bit.ly/1FC23Ce

Upcoming Events

NATIVE AMERICAN PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE
OCTOBER 11-12
The conference is designed to provide the tools, resources and professional development guidance needed to help advance individual careers. Attendees will have the opportunity to meet Native professionals from various university campuses to build their networks. The conference includes nationally renowned speakers and presenters from within and outside the University of California system to provide new skill sets and empowerment.
Location: University of California Riverside, Riverside, California

NATIVE AMERICAN UTILITY SYSTEMS FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE
OCTOBER 13-14
Tribal leaders, administrators, finance directors, utility managers and operators are encouraged to attend the conference, which will offer sessions in “Introduction to Financial Management,” “The Budget Process,” “Rate Setting Process for Native American Communities,” “Asset Management,” “Energy Loss and Water Loss” and “Managing Funding Resources.” Hosted by United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.
Location: USET Offices, Nashville, Tennessee

INAUGURAL NATIVE ALASKAN LEADERSHIP FORUM
OCTOBER 14
The forum will emphasize the discussion of successful leadership and how to leverage it. Emphasis will be placed on positive communication, engagement, motivation, taking action and delegating responsibility. Some of the segments that will be offered are “Leaders Versus Managers,” “Communication,” “Conflict Management,” “Surrounding Yourself With Excellence,” “Navigating the Politics” and “Embrace the Change.”
Location: Sheraton Anchorage Hotel and Spa, Anchorage, Alaska

NIEA CONVENTION & TRADE SHOW
OCTOBER 14-17
“Building Education Nations Through Traditional Foundations” is the theme of the National Indian Education Association’s 46th annual gathering. Pre-convention offerings are “Native Control of Native Education,” “How Do I Say? Learner-Driven Languages Learning Model” and “Practical, Close Reading Strategies To Meet the Needs of Native Students.” The convention proper will present workshops, regional caucuses, focus forums, discussions of early learning and special education, leadership sessions, film screenings and a general assembly.
Location: Oregon Convention Center, Portland, Oregon

CALIFORNIA INDIAN LAW ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE & GALA
OCTOBER 15-16
Conference panels at the 15th annual gathering will include “Strategies and Practice in Indian Country,” “Update on California Indian Law, Litigation & Legislation,” “A Path To Retrocession,” “Tribes and the Marijuana Industry,” and “California Water Rights, Groundwater, and the Drought.” Attending attorneys may receive 6.2 regular Minimum Continuing Legal Education credits and 0.5 Legal Ethics credits.
Location: Jackson Rancheria Casino Resort, Jackson, California

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Re “High Salt Levels Killed Bison,” which stated that “nineteen genetically pure bison that suddenly died in July on the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation were likely killed by salt toxicosis, caused by insufficient water” (issue of September 16):

Fort Belknap Tribal Council President Mark Azure’s statements that “there was water in the trough” and that “I think we may never know what took their lives” were provocative at the very least. What, pray tell, is he implying?
I say, exhume the buffalo and run some tests.
—Kathryn Wild
San Diego, California

Re the decision of Dartmouth College to appoint a non-Native as director of its Native American Program:
I am saddened by the recent events, as I think they reflect poorly on the college. I hope, however, that people will not doubt the seriousness and sincerity of Dartmouth’s efforts overall. One does not see the same criticism of Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Columbia, Brown, Cornell or Penn—because they have no such programs or commitments.
—David Rettig
Santa Fe, New Mexico
OMAHA TRIBE LOOKS TO FOSTER CARE
With a $300,000 grant from the Department of Health and Human Services, the Omaha Tribe of Nebraska has begun planning an independent, tribally run foster care system to help preserve its culture. The initiative would allow the tribe to make use of the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978, which emphasizes placing Native foster children in Native, rather than non-Native homes. “We know what’s best for our children,” Omaha Tribal Council Chairman Vernon Miller said. “The federal government recognizes that.”

CONFLICT OVER FISHING BOUNTY
An offer by the Coeur d’Alene tribe to pay a bounty for pike caught in a portion of its namesake lake has sparked conflict with the North Idaho Pike Association. Association President Brock Morrow said that his group was working with the Coeur d’Alene to determine how the pike might affect native species, and that the tribe had been netting pike for redistribution within the lake. “Then out of the blue we hear about this,” Morrow said. “They are not only jeopardizing the fishery, they are overstepping their bounds.”

POARCH BAND MEMBER JOINS LAW FIRM
Venus Prince, who served as deputy solicitor for the Bureau of Indian Affairs within the Office of the Solicitor at the Department of the Interior, has joined the law firm of Kilpatrick, Townsend & Stockton. Prince, a member of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians, had previously served as attorney general of her tribe, which is based in Alabama.

INDIAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE TAKES UP BILLS
The Senate Committee on Indian Affairs will receive testimony on seven bills on October 7. Among them are S. 817, to provide for the addition of certain real property to the reservation of Oregon’s Siletz Tribe; S. 818, to amend the Grand Ronde Reservation Act to make technical corrections; S. 1761, to take certain federal land in Lassen County, California, into trust for the benefit of the Susanville Indian Rancheria; and S. 1986, to provide for a land conveyance in Nevada.

NATIVE YOUTH COMMUNITY PROJECTS GRANTS
The Department of Education is distributing $5.3 million in grants to help Native American youth prepare for opportunities in higher education and the job market. The grants, awarded under the first round of funding for the Native Youth Community Projects program, will support activities for thousands of students in more than 48 schools that serve 30 tribes in nine states. The money will help “turn the page in a broken history and invest in the success of the next generation of American Indian leaders,” said Interior Secretary Sally Jewell.
UPCOMING POW WOWS

LAKOTA DAKOTA NAKOTA LANGUAGE SUMMIT & FIRST NATIONS EDUCATION CONVENTION
10/8/15—10/10/15
Rushmore Plaza Holiday 444 Mount Rushmore Road
Rapid City, SD 605-867-5193
mike@tuswecatiospaye.org Tuswecatiospaye.org

SAN MANUEL POW WOW
10/9/15—10/11/15
California State University, San Bernardino
5500 University Parkway
San Bernardino, CA 909-425-3450
powwowsanmanuel@gmail.com SanManuel-NSN.gov

INDIAN PLAZA COLUMBUS DAY POW WOW
10/9/15—10/12/15
Indian Plaza Pow Wow Grounds Charlemon, MA
413-339-4096

CHATTAHOOCHEE RIVER PARK LANDING POW WOW
10/9/15—10/11/15
269 River Landing Road Chattahoochee, FL
850-209-7083 or 850-277-1026 chattahoocheepowwow@yahoo.com

CHATTAHOOCHEE RIVER PARK LANDING POW WOW
10/10/15—10/11/15
National Guard Armory Highway 69 West
Arab, AL 256-590-8109
mbredlove39@gmail.com Facebook.com/CherokeesOfAlabama

BERKELEY INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY POW WOW AND INDIAN MARKET
10/10/15
Berkeley Civic Center Park
Berkeley, CA 510-595-5520
info@ipdpowwow.org
IPDPowWow.org

ABENAKI NATION OF NEW HAMPSHIRE ABENAKI HERITAGE WEEKEND
10/10/15—10/11/15
Mi-Te-Jo Campground
Milton, NH 603-473-2746

45TH ANNUAL WACCAMAW SIOUAN TRIBAL POW WOW
10/16/15—10/17/15
7230 Old Lake Road
Bulton, NC 910-655-8778
Waccamaw-Siouan.com

34TH ANNUAL INDIAN EDUCATION POW WOW AND FALL FESTIVAL
10/16/15—10/18/15
Long Hunter State Park
2910 Hobson Pike
Hermitage, TN 615-232-9179
naia@naiatn.org NAIATN.org/

11TH ANNUAL HUNTING MOON POW WOW
10/16/15—10/18/15
UW-Milwaukee Panther Arena
400 West Kilburn Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 414-847-7320
HuntingMoonPowWow.com

23RD ANNUAL LAND OF FALLING WATERS TRADITIONAL POW WOW
10/17/15—10/18/15
Middle School at Parkside
2400 4th Street
Jackson, MI Facebook.com/landofthefallingwaters

WOLF DEN POW WOW
10/17/15—10/18/15
Wolf Den State Park
Pomfret, CT 860-428-7271

4TH ANNUAL NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP INDIAN POW WOW
10/17/15—10/18/15
9333 Southwest Loop 410
San Antonio, TX TradersVillage.com/san-antonio/events/4th-annual-native-american-indian-championship-pow-wow

LANCHESTER HARVEST FESTIVAL AND POW WOW
10/17/15—10/18/15
Salisbury Park
Gap, PA Facebook.com/lanchesterharvestfestival

14TH ANNUAL CHEROKEES OF ALABAMA FALL INDIAN POW WOW
10/16/15—10/18/15
Facebook.com/CherokeesOfAlabama

INDIANCOUNTRYTODAYMediaNetwork.com October 7, 2015
The Western Shoshone and Timbisha Shoshone Tribes are opposing a federal plan to store nuclear waste under Yucca Mountain.