



Indian Country

THIS WEEK FROM

TODAY

THE PREMIER E-NEWSLETTER SERVING THE NATIONS, CELEBRATING THE PEOPLE

A Letter from the Publisher



Shekóli. The past few weeks have seen dozens and dozens of articles in the mainstream press covering our ongoing campaign to change the name and mascot of the Washington football team. There have been a few stubborn opinions,

clinging to their right to offend, and many columnists and sports writers—and entire media outlets, such as Slate and The Kansas City Star—that have vowed to never use the name again. Then there is another brand of story, where reporters present what they see as two sides to what they deem a controversy. Frequently, these types of stories are characterized by a question of whether or not all Native Americans are equally offended or see the term similarly (as if acceptable levels of racism should be determined by a popular vote). Then the story might cite a flawed poll, or identify a dissenter who more often than not is woefully short on previously claimed Native knowledge and identity. The reporters are universally non-Native, but often will state with authority that many Indians are not concerned—overlooking decades of protests, lawsuits and common sense. So it goes.

When Rick Reilly, one of the most illustrious sportswriters working today, tackled the subject for ESPN.com, he stood out for several reasons. First, he was in the tiny mi-

nority of columnists who stood up for the name—and he said as much. And, as befitting his long history of creative presentations, he raised the stakes by quoting his father-in-law, described as a Blackfeet elder of high regard, who he said laughed off the subject. Powerful stuff.

As the world learned this week however, Bob Burns, Reilly's relative, did not actually share the view ascribed to him. Some of what Reilly said is true—Bob Burns is a man of authority, and holds a place of great respect among his people. However, it turns out he holds the name and term used by Washington to be abhorrent. In a thoughtful and sobering letter, published by Indian Country Today Media Network (see this week's Commentary), Bob Burns defended his reputation and set the record straight.

While the media loves when someone points out facts that get in the way of a celebrated writer's opinion, this incident is not about one-upmanship. Rather, it points to a number of larger truths. It shows that even now, five centuries in, and unlike the Irish-American experience, or the Jewish-American experience, the story of the Indian is more often than not defined for mainstream America by people who are not Native. Also, even though our cultures and people are still intact and present on Turtle Island, we are often overlooked—so all someone needs to say

is, "I knew an Indian once" to claim expertise when it comes to our hearts and minds. Even a man such as Rick Reilly, with positive family relations and a personal relationship with someone steeped in history and reverence for his culture, can somehow parse and filter the wrong information and present it, second-hand, incorrectly. Sadly, this is not an unfamiliar situation for us; it is the rule and not the exception.

There is a reason we have created and supported Indian Country Today Media Network: It is a platform for Native voices to be heard. It is a way for Indians to share news with one another, without the troubling filter of a third party that most likely will misrepresent information. Most important, it is a way for our brothers and sisters in the mainstream culture to learn about who we are, where we are, and what we think. We implore any writer who wishes to weigh in on the mascot issue, or land-rights issues, or environmental issues for that matter, to please review the wealth of information on our website.

We think you'll find it fascinating.

Na ki wa,

Ray Halbritter

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I Was Misquoted on 'Redskins'

*In the Bear River Massacre of 1870, 173 Blackfeet were slaughtered. One was Chief Heavy Runner, the great-great grandfather of Blackfeet Elder **Bob Burns**. Here he corrects a widely reported story that he supports the name "Redskins" for the Washington, D.C. NFL franchise:*


You can imagine my dismay when I saw my name and words used to defend the racist Washington Redskins name. My son-in-law, ESPN's Rick Reilly, completely misunderstood the conversation we had, quoting me as saying "the whole issue is so silly. The name just doesn't bother me much. It's an issue that shouldn't be an issue, not with all the

problems we've got in this country."

But that's not what I said. What I actually said is that "it's silly in this day and age that this should even be a battle—if the name offends someone, change it." When Rick's article came out, it upset me to be portrayed as an "Uncle Tom" in support of this racial slur. I asked him to correct the record. He has not, so I must do it myself.

I grew up seeing store signs in the nearby town of Cutbank that read "No dogs or Indians allowed." Our Indian families who live on reservations continue to feel the sting of racism. I could never support the term "redskins" because we know first-hand what rac-

ism and ignorance has done to the Blackfeet people. Our people grew up hearing terms like "nits," "dirty redskins," "prairie nigger," "savages," "heathens," "lazy Indians" and "drunks"—all derogatory terms used to label us. "Redskins" is part of that mentality from colonial times when our people were hunted by soldiers and mercenaries who were paid for the scalps of our men, women and children.

Let me be clear: The racial slur "redskins" is not okay with me. It's never going to be okay with me. It's inappropriate, damaging and racist. In the memory of our Blackfeet relatives, it's time to change the name. <http://bit.ly/1cAZ8tS> 

A Smarter Plan for Economic Development


***Gary Davis**, president and CEO of the National Council for American Indian Enterprise Development (NCAIED), urges tribes to reconsider outmoded models for financial health:*

Tribes today have become very sophisticated and understand that in order to advance and diversify their economic development pursuits, for the well being of generations to come, new approaches must be taken to generate sustainable revenue. Organizations like the Native American Financial Services Association have been created to advocate for best practices. As more tribal governments continue to find ways to overcome centuries of obstacles to economic development, it is clear that tribal engage-

ment in exploring new global financial opportunities is critical, especially for tribal governments that have been left behind, until now. E-commerce, for example, stands to be a tremendous opportunity for tribal economic diversification.

Many tribal governments are now engaged in exploring e-commerce via Internet gaming and how it can expand their gaming footprint and overall customer demographic. Other tribal governments are exploring small-dollar, short-term online lending. These tribally owned and operated businesses create jobs on the reservation while raising revenues for critical government programs and services. These online lending businesses are an example of tribes

exercising their sovereignty and helping to build a better future for their communities.

The expansion of tribal economic development into various new sectors, literally, represents the NCAIED's mission of "putting Indian country to work" through creating jobs and economic development for our people. It also figuratively represents the NCAIED's mission of putting visionary minds throughout Indian Country "to work" and encouraging a whole new generation of thinkers and doers who have the heart and the vision to achieve and pursue opportunity now ... for the benefit of generations to come. That is what those who walked before us did, and what we must do, to ensure that no tribes will ever be left behind. <http://bit.ly/19uEDxA> 

The Plight of 'The Nooksack 306'


***Akilah Kinnison**, an independent contractor and consultant in the fields of federal Indian law, international human rights and indigenous peoples' law, explains why the current attempts to disenroll 306 members of the Nooksack tribe of Northern Washington State are illegitimate:*

Since early 2013, Nooksack Chairman Bob Kelly has been operating outside the bounds of the Nooksack Constitution, refusing to hold constitutionally mandated meetings of the Tribal Council or the entire Nooksack People at which disenrollment could be discussed. Such measures violate due process, a right guaranteed by Articles 7 and 14 of the ICCPR as well as

other international law.

Further, the Nooksack 306 seem to have been targeted, at least in part, because they are of mixed Filipino-Nooksack ancestry, even though each is at least one-quarter indigenous, as previously required under the Nooksack Constitution. The controlling Nooksack Council faction disputes that the disenrollments are racially motivated. However, an October 2000 *Los Angeles Times* article, "Nooksacks Allege Filipino Family Has Conquered Tribe From the Inside," and the Council's lawyers' public reliance on the piece, illustrates that this rivalry, a long-running and significant feature of Nooksack politics, is at least partially motivated

by racial animus. This animus is also evidenced by the fact that prior to a vote to amend the tribal constitution's membership criteria this past summer, Chairman Kelly sent certain election materials only to non-Filipino Nooksack members.

The right to live in community is, in many ways, indigenous peoples' most fundamental human right because it is critical to maintaining their identity and ways of life. It is this right that permits the Nooksack 306 to live on their traditional lands and to participate in the cultural and political life of their nation. Without the threshold right to citizenship, other protections for indigenous peoples' human rights are rendered ineffective. <http://bit.ly/15YfhCn> 

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Ho-Chunk Inc. Subsidiary Wins \$1.9 Million Contract

All Native Solutions, a member of The Flatwater Group, a Ho-Chunk, Inc. subsidiary, has received \$1.9 million contract to oversee the planning and building of the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate Tribe's 400,000-square-foot administration building on the reservation in South Dakota. This includes the acquisition of furniture, fixtures and equipment; the installation of those items; and the overall project management of the contract. The building is scheduled to open this fall.

The Flatwater Group—headed in Winnebago, Nebraska with additional offices in Bellevue, Nebraska and Arlington, Virginia—is the government products division of Ho-Chunk, Inc., the award-winning economic development corporation owned by the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska. All Native Solutions, a Flatwater Group member, is a skilled provider of comprehensive business solutions to commercial, industrial and government clients throughout the United States. All Native Solutions has provided services for the Internal Revenue Service, the Defense Commissary Agency, the Marine Corps and the Air Force.

Ho-Chunk, Inc.'s mission is to provide long-term economic self-sufficiency and job opportunities for the Winnebago Tribe. It operates 35 subsidiaries, employs more than 1,000 people from diverse ethnic backgrounds and skill sets, and constitutes operations that span more than 16 states and 8 foreign countries. Other subsidiary operations include information technology, construction, government contracting, green energy, retail, wholesale distribution, marketing, media and transportation. <http://bit.ly/GOFbln> 📱

Study of Tribal Emergency Management Is Formalized at the University of Nebraska At Omaha

Tribal nations from around the United States will soon benefit from the knowledge of how to prepare for and respond to emergency situations, thanks to a first-of-its-kind partnership between the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO) and the Tribal Emergency Management Association (iTEMA). The partnership, which creates the country's first certificate in emergency management designed for members of tribal nations, was formally announced on October 8.

The divisions of the university that have teamed with iTEMA are the College of Public Affairs and Community Service Emergency Services Program and the College of Arts and Sciences Native American Studies Program.

"This marks the formalization of an already strong working relation-

ship with the national tribal emergency management association and UNO," said UNO Emergency Management Coordinator Pat O'Neil. "UNO is uniquely positioned to offer this certificate by having Native American Studies and Emergency Management programs that can work together closely."

"We are excited about this partnership with UNO because it formalizes tribal emergency management services as a specialized field of study," said Jake Hefflin, Osage, president of iTEMA, of the agreement. "This is about promoting and enhancing tribal sovereignty and developing future generations of tribal emergency managers and tribal emergency service providers."

The goal of the new certificate will be to provide nationally accredited certification to members of every tribal nation in the country. The memorandum of understanding between the parties allows the university to move forward on establishing the certificate program.

The university's bachelor of science degree in emergency management officially launched in the fall 2012 semester. <http://bit.ly/GLDfKX> 📱

Idle No More Rally in Denver Targets Oil Spills

BY CAROL BERRY

Denver held its first end-of-summer Idle No More (INM) rally on October 5 in support of Canada's Day of Solidarity and in opposition to oil and gas companies that INM has charged with failing to clean up spills caused by September's massive flooding in northeast Colorado. The rally took place outside offices of Anadarko Petroleum Corp., a large oil and gas operation in the area.

"Even though their offices are closed [for the weekend], the Creator knows we're here," said Tessa McLean, Ojibwe,

who organized the event. "We want a clean-up because it's a destruction of nature. We protest oil companies that won't clean up their spills." Denver INM intends to send a letter querying the company's policy on cleaning up the spills, she said.

Currently, about 40,000 gallons of leaks have been reported in the Colorado incident, mostly from damaged storage tanks. Critics have also expressed concern about gas and oil operations near rivers and streams because of their

potential to cause pollution to the waterways. They are also criticizing hydraulic fracturing chemicals for their damage potential.

Closed and flood-impaired roadways have made some repairs difficult, including those to gas and well operations, officials said. But the Idle protesters are calling for action. "It's time to start stirring things up right now," said Rudy Balles, a Latino activist from Pueblo. Although the customary distinction among people is to the right or the left, Balles said, "We need to find a way for global humanity to begin." <http://bit.ly/1hCwSVn> 📱


CDFI Fund Awards Indian Land Capital Company its Third Consecutive Award Of \$750,000

For the third year in a row, Indian Land Capital Company (ILCC), an American Indian-owned and -managed Native Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) and leader in the tribal land financing and acquisition movement, has received the highest tier financial award of \$750,000 from the Treasury Department's CDFI Fund.

The CDFI Fund recently announced awards totaling nearly \$12.4 million for Native CDFIs. Sixty-five organizations had submitted applications during this round of funding, with 35 groups eventually receiving awards. The Fund's Native American CDFI Assistance program provides technical and financial assistance to Native American tribes, tribal entities and other CDFIs serving Native American, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian communities.

"To be recognized again as a leader in the rapidly expanding Native CDFI movement is a great honor," said Gerald Sherman who was recently elected Vice President of the newly formed Native CDFI Network.

"Native CDFIs are playing a growing role in providing financial services and low interest loans to tribes to purchase land, drive economic development, and promote tribal sovereignty," added Sherman (Oglala Lakota).

ILCC has made over \$7 million in loans to Indian nations and entities to date, and has assisted in the recovery of nearly 30,000 acres of tribal land in Washington State, Montana, Minnesota, South Dakota, California, and has approved a loan in Michigan. Projects made possible through ILCC financing have included expansion of a health care facility, construction of homes for tribal members, sustainable forest management, wetland restoration, agriculture/ranching, and protection of sacred and cultural sites among others. <http://bit.ly/15kZ4K2> 

Amherst College Acquires Rare Native Book Collection


Amherst College has acquired what it describes as the "most complete collection of Native American literature and history in existence." The collection, now at the college's Frost Library, includes items ranging from religious pamphlets from before the United States existed to first-edition crime by noted novelist Martin Cruz Smith.

"This collection is significant because it is a collection of works written by Native Americans," said College Librarian Bryn Geffert. "It presents a unique opportunity for Native American Studies scholars here at Amherst and elsewhere to mine the most complete collection ever compiled by a single collector."

The Younghee Kim-Wait '82 Pablo Eisenberg Collection—named to honor the financial support of an alumna who helped make acquiring the collection possible—comprises 32 boxes hold-

ing some 1,500 volumes written from the 1700s to the 21st century. Its extent astounded Native American Studies scholars at Amherst, who began the task of unpacking the boxes.

"Since the collection arrived, it is difficult to describe how it has felt—like suddenly being amidst a seemingly infinite living sea, a literary and intellectual tradition that I have been studying and teaching, immersed in, my whole life," said Lisa Brooks, associate professor of English and American Studies at Amherst College, and co-chair of the Five Colleges Native American Indian Studies program.

"The comprehensive nature of the collection is what makes it special," said Michael Kelly, director of archives and special collections. "We have the Native American authors you've heard of and for every Native American author you've heard of there are two dozen you haven't heard of whose books we also now have," Kelly said. <http://bit.ly/1gnVgfQ> 


2013 Arizona American Indian Excellence in Leadership Awardees Announced

The Phoenix Indian Center has announced the 2013 American Indian Excellence in Leadership Awardees. In its 31st year, the annual dinner celebration boasts an impressive list of leaders. This year's awardees—John Lewis, LuAnn Leonard, Mary Kim Titla, Randy Kemp, Arizona Indian Gaming Association, the Arizona Science Center, and youth awardees—will be honored at a dinner planned for November 19 at the DoubleTree Resort in Tempe.

"It is important we take time to thank our community leaders for their dedication as stewards and advocates for our American Indian people," says Robert Roessel, president of the Phoenix Indian Center's Board of Directors. Phoenix Indian Center Chief Executive Officer Patricia Hibbeler added, "Not only are we honoring today's leaders, we have created the opportunity for businesses in the com-

munity to partner with us in honoring their American Indian employees."

The Phoenix Indian Center's American Indian Excellence in Leadership Awards began in 1982 as a one-day celebration consisting of a community dinner, which celebrated community leaders. The event initiated what is now known as the Native American Recognition Days that takes place annually in October and November, with more than 15 Native American events that include the awards dinner, a parade, pageants, art markets and more.

Today the banquet hosts an attendance of nearly 400 people, coming together to recognize these distinguished community leaders. The awardees are chosen through an open and competitive nomination process each year, administered by the Phoenix Indian Center. <http://bit.ly/19abo18> 

Dusten Brown Stops Litigation

Wants a 'normal childhood' for Veronica

Dusten Brown, Cherokee, who lost an epic custody battle for his biological daughter, Veronica, will no longer litigate against her adoptive parents, Matt and Melanie Capobianco of South Carolina. "The time has come for me to let Veronica live a normal childhood that she so desperately needs and deserves," Brown said in a statement released on October 10. "Veronica is only 4 years old, but her entire life has been lived in front of the media and the entire world, and I cannot bear for that to continue any longer." Brown thanked all parties who helped him and said to Veronica, "You will always be my little girl, my princess, and I will love you until the day I die." <http://bit.ly/16zS2SH> ☞

Chickasaw Web Site Earns Multiple Honors

Top marks in travel and tourism

The Chickasaw Nation's web site, ChickasawCountry.com, has won multiple awards for excellence in web-based design. The Nation received two Destiny Awards at the U.S. Travel Association's annual Educational Seminar for Tourism Organizations conference; the awards were for Best Travel Web-site and for Best Use of Social Media Platform. The Nation also won the

Web Marketing Association's 2013 Web Award for Outstanding Achievement in Web Development, as well as a Silver Magellan Award from *Travel Weekly*. The awards, judged by the marketing and communications giant J. Walter Thompson, focused on the sites' creativity, marketing, and local and regional promotion. <http://bit.ly/GIhwDo> ☞

Connor Sails Through Committee

Poised to be Deputy Interior Secretary

Michael Connor was on October 8 favorably reported out of the U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee to become the Deputy Secretary of the Interior. There was no opposition to his nomination, which will now be sent to the full Senate for a vote. Connor is currently Commissioner of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation at Interior. Interior officials say Connor would be the first person with ties to Indian country to serve as its deputy secretary; his maternal grandmother was an original member of Taos Pueblo's water rights task force, and his mother was half Taos Pueblo, though not an enrolled citizen of the tribal nation. <http://bit.ly/19zWJyu> ☞

Shoshone-Bannock Man Dies In Crash

Head-on car wreck kills tribal member

Richard "Tazzy" Peyope, 45, a member of the Sho-

shone-Bannock Tribes, was killed in a high-speed, head-on car collision on the Fort Hall Indian Reservation late on October 7. The crash occurred before police could locate a reckless driver on Highway 91 who was reported to be heading north at a high rate of speed. Idaho State Police identified the speeding driver as 39-year-old Jody Underwood, of Blackfoot; he was injured in the incident. The Fort Hall Police Department is leading the investigation into the crash and will submit a report to the U.S. Attorney's office for possible federal charges against Underwood. <http://bit.ly/1bHANCZ> ☞

Native Archer Is USCAA Champion

Navajo Tech makes strong impression

Filberto "Beto" Vecenti, an environmental science major at Navajo Technical University, has shot his way to first place in the U.S. Collegiate Archery Association 3-D North Region Archery Championships. Ranked 22nd in the country in the male recurve division of the US-DAA when he competed for Dine' College, he failed to place in the top 10 last season. But this year he redeemed himself. In addition to Vecenti, Navajo Technical University had two archers finish in the top five. Dudley Larrison placed second in the recurve division behind Vecenti, and Collins Woodly placed fifth in the competitive bow hunter division. <http://bit.ly/1c09q43> ☞

White House Tribal Conference Announced

Fifth meeting will be November 13

President Barack Obama recently announced that the fifth White House Tribal Nations Conference will be held on November 13 at the Department of Interior. President Obama will host the conference that will give leaders from 566 federally recognized tribes the opportunity to interact directly with the president and members of the White House Council on Native American Affairs. A representative from each of the 566 tribes will be invited to share their concerns and help improve the government-to-government relationship. More details will be released at a later date. <http://bit.ly/17WZuHx> ☞

Sand Creek Claims Dissed by Justice

Government moves to end 'eternal litigation'

While calling the 1864 Sand Creek Massacre "a tragedy and a disgrace," the Justice Department has filed a motion to deny descendants further reparations or an investigation of charges of trust funds mismanagement. Denying that any claim could be made under the *Cobell* case, the government said that the two-year statute of limitations on federal damage claims had long since expired. Although more than 150 Cheyenne and Arapaho people were killed or mutilated by Army troops in the massacre, the department said that even such an "egregious" act was not "a warrant for eternal litigation." <http://bit.ly/19oRD6a> ☞

The Unlucky Seven

A litany of environmental disasters BY TERRI HANSEN

Bottom Line: Colonization and the corporate mentality that grew out of it have been ravaging Indian country for centuries. But since the 1800s, increased industrialization has stepped up the scale of destruction to Mother Earth. Here are some of the most egregious examples of what industry has wrought on Turtle Island and its peoples.

1. BP DEEPWATER HORIZON OIL SPILL

The worst environmental disaster in U.S. history began when a well below the surface of the Gulf of Mexico blew out on April 22, 2010, followed by an explosion on BP's Deepwater Horizon rig that killed 11. It spewed over 200 million gallons of crude before it was capped July 16, 2010. The oil and use of toxic dispersants harmed health, curtailed seafood consumption, destroyed jobs, and devastated wildlife. Two years later, the Isle de Jean Charles Band, one of several tribes in the Gulf, reported dwindling oyster and shrimp populations, other forms of marine life dead, and negative health effects to those involved in cleanup efforts. Nor had their tribe yet seen any compensation for their losses.

2. GULF OF MEXICO DEAD ZONE

Another disaster for Gulf tribes is its dead zone, which this year stretched 8,500 square miles. It develops each summer as the Mississippi River deposits fertilizer and animal waste from the Midwest farm belt into Gulf waters, where it fuels explosive algae blooms that deplete oxygen as they die and decompose. Creatures that can swim away do. The others die. The zone is suffocating, in addition, the sports and subsistence fisheries still recovering from the BP spill, commercial fisheries that were worth \$629 million in 2009.

3. EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL

The Exxon Valdez supertanker hit a reef in Prince William Sound, Alaska, on March 24, 1989, rupturing 11 cargo tanks

and spilling 10.8 million gallons of crude that eventually covered 11,000 miles of ocean. Natives remember it as the day the water died. It is estimated that 250,000 seabirds, 2,800 sea otters, 300 harbor seals, 250 bald eagles and up to 22 killer whales died, along with billions of salmon and herring eggs. The disaster proved catastrophic both culturally and in regard to health to Native peoples, who had to replace their subsistence way of life with a reliance on store-bought goods.

4. TOXIC LEGACY OF PCBS

The St. Regis Mohawks' neighbor is a federal Superfund site once occupied by General Electric. GE's facility dumped

Never, it seems, has Turtle Island been so beset by mishaps, unexpected consequences and sheer environmental assault.

tons of hazardous waste into landfills that released polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), which were banned in 1979. Nearby Reynolds and Alcoa aluminum smelters, now New York State Superfund sites, also released PCBs. PCBs are linked to some cancers and have adverse health effects on the immune, reproductive and nervous systems. Ongoing research through May 2011 has established that high PCB levels in the St. Regis community has produced autoimmune disorders, altered thyroid gland function and lowered testosterone levels.

5. UNPRECEDENTED ARCTIC METHANE RELEASES

Climate change is fueling the release of

methane, buried in the Arctic permafrost and offshore waters since the end of the last ice age. Patricia Cochran of the Alaska Native Science Commission, speaking of melting permafrost, told ICTMN in 2010, "I think everyone knows methane is [the] worst." Scientists are concerned that as Arctic ice retreats, warming seas will allow offshore permafrost to release greater quantities of methane, a greenhouse gas more potent than carbon dioxide. Now, scientists fear the bursting of massive methane bubbles may lie in our future.

6. LEAD'S WORST TOXIC NIGHTMARE

The Quapaw deserve two top mentions for the same man-made mess, this one for health impacts. Picher, Oklahoma, part of the Quapaw's tribal jurisdictional area, was home to productive zinc and lead mining until 1967, when mining companies abandoned 14,000 mine shafts, 70 million tons of lead-laced tailings, 36 million tons of mill sand and sludge and contaminated water, leaving residents with high lead levels in blood and tissues. Cancers skyrocketed, and 34 percent of elementary-school students suffered learning disabilities. The area was declared the Tar Creek Superfund site in 1983, but Picher was deemed too toxic to clean up. Instead, a federal buyout paid people to leave.

7. DUST BOWL

The 1930s Dust Bowl resulted from sustained drought coupled with years of poor farming practices, leaving moisture-depleted topsoil susceptible to winds that whipped it into great, thickened clouds of dust and sand. The agricultural and economic damage devastated residents of the Great Plains, and Native American communities suffered along with the others. An increasing Native population in California was part of the famous Dust Bowl migration. <http://bit.ly/1e8dwHQ> ☞



Guests enjoy their midday meal at the American Indian College Fund's October 2 luncheon in New York City.

Funding a Generation

A focus in the Big Apple on higher education

Bottom Line: *On the eve of its silver anniversary, the American Indian College Fund continues its invaluable work, as a recent luncheon gathering amply demonstrated. Much heavy lifting, though, still lies ahead.*

"Tribal colleges are truly the brightest stars of our reservation communities," Rick Williams, Oglala Lakota and Northern Cheyenne, told nearly 40 attendees at a recent American Indian College Fund luncheon in New York City. "Tribal colleges have changed education in Amer-

ica."

Williams, the former president and chief executive officer of the College Fund since 1997, handed the baton to his successor Cheryl Crazy Bull, Sicangu Lakota from the Rosebud Sioux Reservation in South Dakota, in September 2012. While Williams left his post, he simply "shape-shifted" his involvement—"an old Indian trick," he said.

A year after the transition, the pair traveled from Denver, Colorado, where the Fund is headquartered, to Manhattan to attend a special October 2 luncheon,

held at a stunning loft space in Manhattan's West Village and co-hosted by Gail Bruce, a founding board member of the Fund, which formed 24 years ago, and Fund trustee Kim Blanchard. During their weeklong visit to New York City, Crazy Bull and her College Fund colleagues met with numerous potential corporate sponsors and private investors, seeking support for the country's 37 tribal colleges and universities and Native students through scholarships.

The mission of the Fund is to transform Indian higher education by fund-

ing and creating awareness of the unique, community-based tribal colleges and universities across Indian country. Only one in 20 American Indian College Fund scholarship applicants can afford to go to college without financial assistance. The Fund and its contributors make a college education possible for Native students eager to pursue a higher education—steeped in their rich tribal identity.

“Tribal colleges educate about 20,000 American Indian students; they are the largest provider of education for American Indians in this country,” Crazy Bull told the luncheon guests, a diverse crowd that included longtime American Indian College Fund supporters and philanthropists recently introduced to the work of the Fund. Many of them learned of the Fund through Bruce—who, in addition to being a tireless American Indian education activist, is an esteemed artist who serves on the Multicultural Audience Development Initiative of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York and is cofounder of Unreserved, a not-for-profit devoted to celebrating and leveraging American Indian fashion and art.

Crazy Bull continued, “They [tribal colleges and universities] provide an education, as Gail [Bruce] mentioned earlier, on a shoe-string budget. Their faculty are dedicated to the work that they do despite the fact they’re seriously underpaid.

“They’re all rural institutions for the most part; they cover a significant part of Indian country. But they’re so much more than academic institutions. They provide programs and services that bring food sovereignty to our communities; they help people access traditional food knowledge, build gardens. They help bring financial literacy services to our communities so people can understand how to navigate the financial environment that they live in. They do a lot of work with health and wellness; they operate sometimes the only fitness centers in their communities. They provide an incredible amount of access to the cultural knowledge of our people, which is just so valuable to who we are.”

Prior to a sit-down meal of salmon, roasted chicken, field greens and pasta salad, Bruce asked all guests to watch an

American Indian College Fund video, a compilation of the TV advertisements produced by pro-bono advertising partner Wieden+Kennedy. One of the firm’s public service advertisement campaigns, Help A Student Help A Tribe, features students at tribal colleges. The videos reveal how tribal colleges help preserve American Indian culture and values, such as reverence for the land, in ways that help solve modern-day problems.

Since the College Fund’s inception 24 years ago, it has given over 85,000 scholarships to Native students. Annually, the Fund provides \$5.5 million to \$6 million a year in scholarships and raises more

*‘Tribal colleges
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than that to support fellowships and tribal college university programs, Crazy Bull told Indian Country Today Media Network with pride. But the ambitious education advocate and fundraiser added, “We should be raising \$50 million [a year].”

Crazy Bull, who has 30 years of experience working with tribal colleges and universities, can attest to how tribal colleges empower American Indians and their communities. Prior to joining the American Indian College Fund, she served as the president of Northwest Indian College on the Lummi Nation in Washington for 10 years. And before that, she was superintendent of St. Francis Indian School and worked in several teaching and administrative roles at Sinte Gleska University, both on her home reservation of Rosebud in South

Dakota. She also served for four years as the Chair of the American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC) Board and four years as member-at-large of the AIHEC Executive Committee.


Crazy Bull’s extensive experience has made her keenly aware of the tremendous economic and personal obstacles most American Indian students must prevail against to get a college education. She sees firsthand how the Fund and its contributors help make Indian students’ dreams of a higher education a reality. And she can testify to the positive impact these graduates have on their communities.

Her favorite part of her job as president and CEO of the Fund, she tells students, is that “I get to tell your story. All of the things that you’ve overcome, the poverty that you’ve overcome, the historical trauma that occurs in your community—I get to tell your story, so that you get to walk across that stage.”

For Crazy Bull, witnessing these American Indians prosper and in turn enhance the lives of their communities is an emotional experience. They are her family, her relatives, she explained to the luncheon guests. “Indian people are about one degree separated from each other,” she said. “We all know each other, and we have a relationship with each other.”

At the conclusion of the luncheon, Crazy Bull asked everyone to visualize Indian country devoid of tribal colleges and universities, all 37 institutions that have educated thousands of Indian students, while restoring the cultural knowledge of their communities:

“Imagine what it would be like on these reservations if the tribal colleges were not there. Imagine what it would be like if people did not get an education, so they could be teachers in the school systems, so that they could be nurses in the hospitals, so that they could open their own businesses and run tribal programs.

“So the thousands of students that we’ve educated—whether they got their degree or not—would not have had any access at all to education. Because the reality is, for the most part, these students are not able to access or have a successful experience in another education environment.” <http://bit.ly/17XsvTD> 



Virginia Allrunner, Cheyenne, told a Denver Idle No More rally against oil and gas spills that “We have to uphold our Indian way of life.”



Filiberto “Beto” Vecenti of Navajo Technical University at the U.S. Collegiate Archery Association championships.



‘Free Birds,’ a new animated story about the first Thanksgiving, may appeal to the kiddies, but it looks like a turkey.



Amherst College has acquired what it calls “the most complete collection of Native American literature and history in existence.”

Changing the Name

Symposium on 'Redskins' lays issue bare **BY ROB CAPRICCIOSO**

Bottom Line: *As officials of the National Football League held their fall meeting in Washington, an alternative summit pondered the hot-button issue of the name of the city's NFL franchise. The conclusion: It's time for a change.*

An emotion-laden symposium on October 7 organized by the Oneida Indian Nation in Washington, D.C., highlighted the voices of many people who are aggrieved by the Washington NFL team's racist Redskins name and mascot.

"No matter what the history of something is, if it is offending people, then it's time to change it," said Ray Halbritter, Oneida Indian Nation representative and CEO of Nation Enterprises, parent company of Indian Country Today Media Network, in his introductory remarks to the Change the Mascot symposium. "It's a dictionary-defined offensive term."

Held at the Ritz Carlton in Georgetown, the event featured many American Indian leaders and citizens attesting to the racist nature of the slur. A psychologist, Dr. Michael Freidman, detailed the harmful emotional social and psychological effects of such mascots on both Indian and non-Indian children, backed up by recent scientific studies. Kevin Gover, Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma, director of the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of the American Indian, discussed the negative historical and contemporary roots of the word. There were high school youth who had taken on similarly offensive school names in their school districts and gotten them removed. Also present were congresswomen Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-Washington, D.C.) and Betty McCollum (D-Minnesota), who are working their political pathways to drive change.

But there was no Daniel Snyder, owner of the Redskins since 1999, who made news in May when he said he would "never" change the team's name, despite the growing criticism of it. And there was no Roger Goodell, commissioner of the National Football League, who spotlighted Snyder's position when he said on a radio program in September, "[I]f we are offending one person, we need to be listening and making sure that we're doing the right things to try to address that."

Suzan Shown Harjo, an American Indian activist who has been battling for

some point."


The discussion of the Redskins moniker comes at a time when it is being increasingly seen as unsupportable. An ever-growing list of news organizations and sportscasters is refusing to allow the word into print or speak it publicly; *New York Times* columnist Maureen Dowd last week devoted a whole column to the subject that effectively argued for change. She concluded, "All you have to do is watch a Western. The term 'redskin' is never a compliment."

Even President Obama has weighed in.

"If I were the owner of a team and I knew that there was a name of my team—even if it had a storied history—that was offending a sizeable group of people, I'd think about changing it," he recently told the Associated Press.

That kind of attention may well be having its effect. Soon after the conclusion of the symposium, which was well covered by local and national media, a spokesman for the league announced that it would send a representative to meet with Oneida Indian Nation leaders. Adolpho Birch, the NFL's senior vice president of labor policy and

government affairs, plans to meet with the tribe this fall, according to a spokesman. Birch has requested that the meeting take place somewhere in New York, either on the tribe's homelands in upstate New York or in Manhattan.

Halbritter said he is looking forward to the meeting. "It's the right direction," he said. "I think there is a real tipping point happening on this issue right now." But he cautioned that he will not negotiate: "These mascots need to end because they are disparaging. As we saw today, there is scientific evidence that it damages not only Native children but all children. That cannot go on anymore." <http://bit.ly/1fvXMY> 

Sportswriters, news organizations and even politicians are urging a switch to something less offensive. And yet owner Dan Snyder is acting like 'a petulant child.'

decades to get the team's trademark revoked, told ICTMN at the gathering that she had sent Snyder a letter in 1999 when he first took over the team, requesting a meeting on this issue. He did not respond to her request, which surprised her, especially in a town where perfunctory form letters are the norm.

"Dan Snyder has acted like a petulant child," Harjo said. "He has dug in his heels, like a child. He's being a big baby."

Harjo believes that all the current attention, including the recent message from President Barack Obama, will oblige Snyder to reconsider his position. "It's going to be not worth keeping it at

Financial Controller: Salary: Grade 12. Schedule: M-F, 8am- 5pm. Position based in Burney, Ca. The Financial Controller is responsible for the financial stability and accountability of all program activities, to develop, implement and maintain the Fiscal Policies and Procedures. Required education: Bachelors Degree in Accounting, Financial Management or Business Administration. Two years experience in non-profit, private or government health care organization performing similar duties.

Health Administrator: Salary: Grade 13. Schedule: M-F, 8am- 5pm. Position based in Burney, Ca. The purpose of the work is to administer and direct the program to fulfill the Pit River Health Service, Inc.'s primary mission of delivering the highest possible quality of preventative, curative and rehabilitative health care to the Indian people served. Ensure compliance with all applicable IHS and legal requirements. Required education: Master's Degree in one of the following: Public Health, Business Administration (MBA), Hospital Administration, Public Administration and not less than three (3) years experience after graduation from an accredited college or university.

Staff Dentist: Salary: Negotiable. Position is based in Burney, Ca. Plans and implements Dental Program in conjunction with Dental Director which includes preventative education and corrective dental services to eligible persons within the scope of the contract. Provide routine dental services: General restorative procedures, crown and bridge, removable prosthetics, endodontics, and oral surgery.

All applicants must be willing to submit to and pass a pre-employment drug screening and background check. Preference will be given to Native Americans in accordance with P.L. 93-638. Benefits after successful completion of 90 day initial trial period include: Health Insurance, paid holidays, accumulative vacation and sick time.

FOR DETAILED JOB DESCRIPTIONS, APPLICATIONS AND/OR TO SUBMIT A RESUMES CONTACT

Sophia Villarruel, HR Manager @
sophiav@pitriverhealthservice.org or call Pit River Health Service, Inc. 36977 Park Avenue Burney, CA 96013 (530) 335-5090, ext. 132 or (800) 843-7447 Toll-free or (530) 335-5241 Fax

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Att: Waiting List
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If you have a disability & need assistance
with the application process, please contact
Carmela Siragusa at 516-487-0050.

All requests must be postmarked no longer than
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Request for Proposals for a Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) Project

The Yakama Nation Housing Authority is requesting proposals from qualified individuals and firms for professional services for a proposed low-income housing tax credit development to be located in Wapato, Washington.

The intent of this proposal is to assist the housing authority with the following: All necessary work to submit a LIHTC application and associated requirements.

Indian Preference applies to the work under this contract, pursuant to 24 CFR 1000.48-52

Proposals to assist with these services must be submitted to the Housing Authority by 4:00 p.m. November 15, 2013.

Please email proposals in PDF format to Alfred Roberts at alfred@ynha.com. Proposals received after the deadline will not be accepted. Please contact Al Roberts for a copy of the proposal requirements and scope of work. **Please Note: A condition of this RFP will be that the selected firm has no less than twenty-five projects specifically financed through the LIHTC program (other low-income housing experience will not be applicable).**

All proposals should be addressed and directed to:
William Picotte, Executive Director, YNHA

Headlines from the Web

HIGH-END EXTRAS AREN'T A SURE BET FOR TRIBAL CASINOS

<http://bit.ly/162Z0Mp>

SAN PASQUAL SET TO BUY VALLEY WOODS GOLF COURSE

<http://bit.ly/1ebh5gB>

BANGOR MAN ACCUSED OF THREATENING TO BOMB CASINO

<http://bit.ly/1bfMuMX>

JUDGE: FOND DU LAC BAND MUST PAY DULUTH \$10.3M

<http://bit.ly/19CnOev>

TRIBAL COUNCIL VOWS TO REMOVE ST. MARKS AGAIN

<http://bit.ly/19CSceD>

NARF AND NCAI ADVISE TRIBES TO STAY AWAY FROM SUPREME COURT

<http://bit.ly/15XlO5q>

Upcoming Events

NATIVE AMERICAN ART STUDIES ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 16-19

With a strong focus on collaboration, the organization's 18th biennial conference will feature dozens of plenary sessions, discussions and scholarly papers, behind-the-scenes tours of the Denver Art Museum, financial and membership reports, and elections to the board of directors.

Location: Sheraton Denver Downtown Hotel, Denver, Colorado

SYMPOSIUM FOR ALASKA NATIVE LEADERS OCTOBER 21-22

The event will bring Alaskan tribal leaders together to meet, exchange ideas and share success stories regarding the unique challenges they face. Attendees will hear from both tribal and corporate experts on a myriad of topics, including economic development, the energy in-

dustry, health care, education and land conservation.

Location: Westmark Fairbanks Hotel and Conference Center, Fairbanks, Alaska

RES ARIZONA OCTOBER 22-24

Sponsored by the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development, the event is part of the expansion of the group's National Reservation Economic Summit (RES) into regionally focused, nationally attended and relevant events throughout the nation. Tribal leaders, state and local elected officials, and top chief executive officers will be present.

Location: Wildhorse Pass Hotel and Casino, Chandler, Arizona

NATIVE AMERICAN CONSTRUCTION AND REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE OCTOBER 24-25

Designed to maximize tribal land potential, the conference will offer experts from the real estate industry as they explores various strategies. Sessions will focus on, among other subjects, the benefits of diversification, tackling legal hurdles, risk management and insurance, financing real estate projects, thinking outside the box, case studies and the HEARTH Act.

Location: Morongo Casino Resort & Spa, Cabazon, California

ND'NAKWESHKODAADIMIN: A GATHERING OF ANISHINAABE SCHOLARS OCTOBER 24-25

Highlights of this 10th annual indigenous law conference include sessions on Ezhi-naakonigeyin (How We Decide), Aki Gganawendami (We Care for the Earth), Niijaanisag G'ganawenimaanaanig (We Care for the Children) and Ezhi-Maamwi-Bimaadiziying (How We Live Together).

Location: Michigan State University College of Law, East Lansing, Michigan

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper rode into office promising an accountable and ethical government. Yet he reappointed MP Dean Del Mastro to a senior position as a Parliamentary Secretary, a mere week before he was charged with four violations under the Elections Act. Mr. Harper kept MP Peter Penashue in his cabinet while under investigation for similar elections

violations before he was forced out. Mr. Harper appointed Mike Duffy, Pamela Wallin and Patrick Brazeau to the Senate, all of whom are under investigation by the RCMP.

It's clear that the Conservatives believe there is one set of rules for them, and one set of rules for everyone else.

It doesn't have to be that way. The Liberal Party believes that politicians should

be held to higher standards. This fall our caucus members will begin posting all their expenses online every quarter. The records will be searchable and comparable so that anyone can understand them. We hope this will be the first step of a cascade of transparency and openness as the other parties try to outdo each other.

— Scott Andrews, MP
Liberal Party of Canada Ethics Critic

Let us know what you think. To have your letter to the editor considered for publication, please email us at editor@ictmn.com

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MANAGING ATTORNEY VACANCY

Closes: November 29, 2013

The **Colville Confederated Tribes** is recruiting for a Managing Attorney within the Office of Reservation Attorney.

- 10 years experience
- 5 years of supervisory and government experience.

To apply or to get a complete list of requirements, please go to:

<http://www.colvilletribes.com/jobs.php>



Department of Economics

The St. Olaf College Department of Economics seeks a tenure-track appointment in microeconomics with expertise in health care economics. The ideal candidate will also have teaching interests in one or more of the following areas: game theory, behavioral economics, statistics, or intermediate microeconomics. Highest consideration will be given to applicants who show a potential for excellence in teaching, scholarship, and service. Candidates with a research focus on domestic health policy and those with experience analyzing large data sets are particularly encouraged to apply. Review of applications will begin December 1, 2013.

Additional details about the position and the application process may be found on the following website: <http://www.stolaf.edu/offices/doc/jobs/>

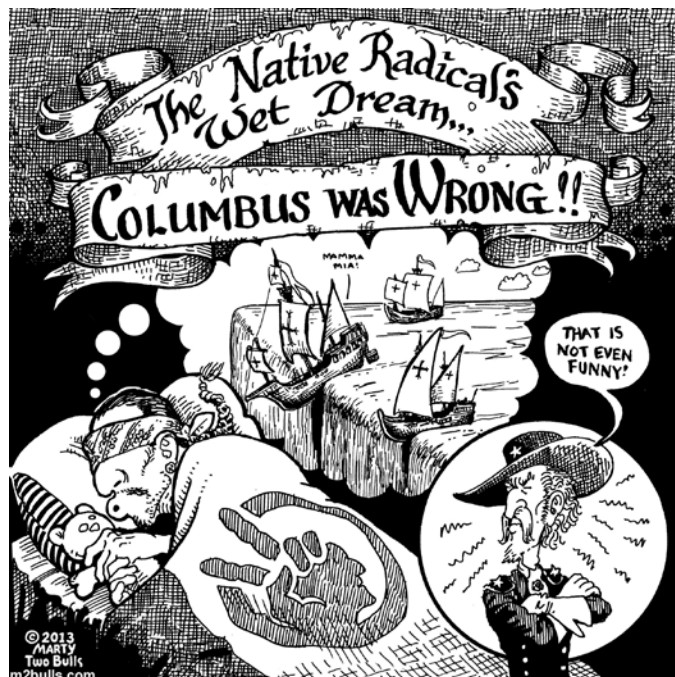
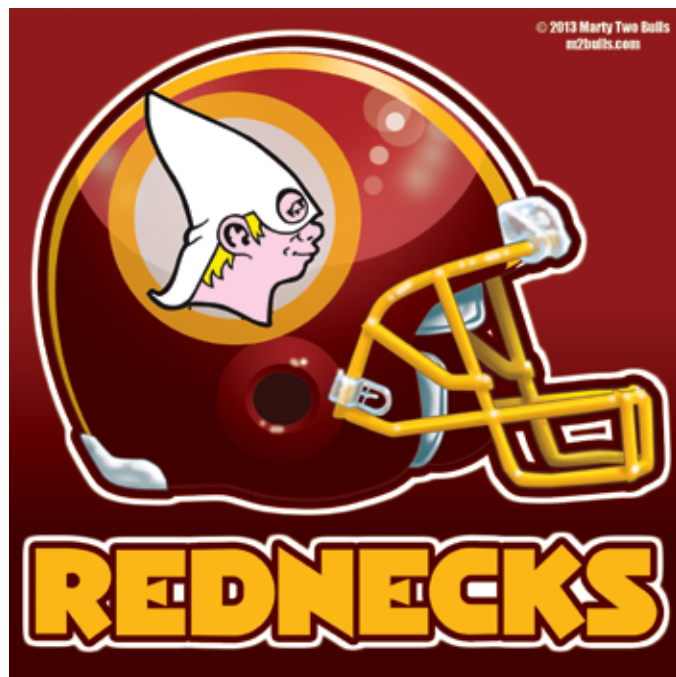
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TOP NEWS ALERTS

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JUDGE DISMISSES HOPI CLAIM

A federal judge has dismissed a suit by the Hopi Tribe against the federal government that claims that public water systems serving villages on its reservation in Arizona contain arsenic that exceeds standards set by the Environmental Protection Agency. Although Washington acknowledged that it holds Hopi water rights in trust, it argued that the tribe did not provide evidence that the federal government was legally obliged to ensure that arsenic levels met EPA standards. The motion to dismiss was granted by the U.S. Court of Federal Claims on October 4.

SHELLY BACKS OFF ON HORSE SLAUGHTER

Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly, under pressure from both animal-rights groups

and his own people, says he no longer supports the slaughter of tens of thousands of feral horses that roam freely on tribal lands. As part of a formal agreement, the federal government will be asked to help manage the horse problem, which Shelly estimates costs the Nation \$200,000 annually in property damage. "I am interested in long-term humane solutions," Shelly said. "Horses are sacred animals to us."

YOCHA DEHE WINTUN ANNOUNCE TRIBAL COLLEGE

The Yoche Dehe Wintun Nation, which runs the Cache Creek Casino Resort in Yolo County, California, has announced that it will open a nonprofit tribal college in the Sacramento region by 2014. Yoche Dehe Wintun Chairman Marshall McKay

made the announcement at the 28th annual California Indian Conference and Gathering at Cal-State Sacramento, noting that more than 40 California Indian nations have endorsed the plan and that more than \$800,000 has been raised. "Our strength depends upon education our next generations in the history, language and government of our tribes," he said.

MASHPEE WAMPANOAG CASINO CLEARS HURDLE

The Massachusetts State House voted 116-38 to ratify the gaming compact between Gov. Deval Patrick and the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe for Project First Light, a proposed \$500 million tribal resort casino. The compact, which tribal officials said would generate at least \$2.1 billion over 20 years, as well as 1,000

construction jobs and another 2,650 permanent jobs, now moves to the State Senate. Last year, the Bureau of Indian Affairs rejected a Mashpee Wampanoag compact because it was deemed insufficiently lucrative for the tribe.

NEW CHAIRMAN FOR MOHEGANS

Kevin Brown, who retired as a colonel in 2011 after 24 years in the Army, was elected on October 7 to lead the nearly 2,000-member Mohegan Tribe. Brown, who had been elected to the Tribal Council in August, views his new role much like his old one. "I've lived a life of public service," he said. "To transition from a lifetime of service in the military to another opportunity to serve at home, with my family—it doesn't get any better than that."

UPCOMING POW WOWS

Cox Osceola Fall Pow Wow

October 17 - October 20,
Cox Osceola Indian Reservation,
Orange Springs, Florida
Contact: 352-658-1739
rez@coxosceola.com

Second Annual Native American Heritage Festival

October 18 - October 20,
Moncks Corner, South Carolina
Contact: 843-899-2576
nacaesc@hotmail.com
Nacaesc.Webs.com

Alligator Warrior Festival

October 18 - October 20, O'Leno State
Park, High Springs, Florida
Contact: 352-804-8846
pg.rowley@yahoo.com
AlligatorFest.org

32nd NAIA Annual Pow Wow and Fall Festival

October 18 - October 20, Long Hunter
State Park, Nashville, Tennessee
Contact: 615-232-9179
leah.caudle@tn.gov
TNVacation.com

Second Annual UNACC Harvest Pow Wow

October 19, UNACC,
Devens, Massachusetts
Contact: 978-772-1306
Intergate.com/~unacc/2013events.html

Waccamaw-Siouan Tribal Pow Wow

October 19 - October 20,
Waccamaw-Siouan Tribal Grounds,
Bulton, North Carolina
Contact: 910-655-8778
siouan@aol.com
Waccamaw-Siouan.com

Land of Falling Waters Traditional Pow Wow

October 19 - October 20, Parkside
Middle School, Jackson, Michigan
Contact: 269-781-6409
landoffallingwaters@hotmail.com

Healing of All Nations

October 19 - October 20,
Bending Water Park,
Marion Station, Maryland
Contact: Chief Rudy Lasughing
Otter Hall
410-623-2660
accohannock@verizon.net
IndianWaterTrails.com

Auburn Big Time Pow Wow

October 19, Gold County Fairgrounds,
Auburn, California
Contact: 530-888-8767
afabela7@sbcglobal.net
SierraNativeAlliance.org

Adai Caddo Indian Nation Pow Wow

October 19, Adai Caddo Indian Nation
Cultural Center, Robeline, Louisiana
Contact: 318-472-1007
adaiindiannation@aol.com
AdaiCaddoIndianNation.com

Williston Basin Indian Club Contest Pow Wow

October 25- October 27, New Williston
Armory, Williston, North Dakota
Contact: Joe McGillis
701-472-4375
joseph.mcgillis@ihs.gov

Meherrin-Chowanoke Pow Wow

October 25 - October 27, Ahoskie
Ampitheater, Ahoskie, North Carolina
Contact: 252-370-2237
meherrinchowanokepowwow@gmail.com
Meherrin-Chowanoke.com

30th Annual Roy Track Memorial Mesa Pow Wow

October 25 - October 27,
Pioneer Park, Mesa, Arizona
Contact: 602-799-0260
roytrack@aol.com
MesaParksFoundation.org

Trail of Tears Route Walk & Remembrance Ride

October 26, Adams Street,
Fayetteville, Tennessee
Contact: Debbie Shattuck Capino
931-937-4644
shattuck@firstnationspeople.org

Spirit of Our Nations

October 26 - October 28, Credit Union
Centre, Saskatoon, Canada
Contact: Kara Stonechild
306-225-1146
powwow@sicc.sk.ca
SICC.sk.ca

Red Clay Pow Wow 2013

October 26 - October 27, Red Clay Sate
Park, Cleveland, Tennessee
Contact: Tamera Hicks
423-240-7270
nasoftn@aol.com
TNStateParks.com/RedClay

OSU NASA Pow Wow 2013

October 26, Payne County Expo Center,
Stillwater, Oklahoma
Contact: Twauna Williams
405-744-0401
twanna.williams@okstate.edu
OKState.edu

MCNAA Fundraising Auction & Luncheon

October 27, VFW, Middleboro,
Massachusetts
Contact: 617-642-1683
mcnaa@comcast.net
MCNAA.org



This white moose, considered a spiritual being among the Mi'kmaq, was gunned down by hunters in Nova Scotia on October 3. Millbrook First Nation member Brandon Maloney, happening upon the hunters as they were driving away with their prize, snapped this photo to bear witness.

BRANDON MALONEY

THE BIG PICTURE