



Indian Country

THIS WEEK FROM

TODAY

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

A Letter from the Publisher

Shekóli. With the four major headlines in this week's newsletter as a guide, it's clear that we have witnessed a very busy week in Indian country. In one feature, we see that the Mashpee Wampanoag are closer to their goal of opening a casino and resort; in another, the frustration over a lack of political will to push through a lively idea worth exploring—tax-free tribal economic empowerment zones. There has also been outcry over budgetary proposals to shortchange federal money for contract support costs for tribal nations.

There is also a welcome wealth of news from New Mexico, as explored in the article "A Housing Boom in New Mexico" by Indian Country Today Media Network business correspondent Mark Fogarty. It's a story about the combination of private financing and government funds that are driving construction of residential homes on tribal land that would have been unimaginable 15 to 20 years ago, and it points to the happy results that come from nurturing the entrepreneurial spirit in Indian country. Housing authorities for at least five of the state's 22 tribes are working with private lenders with money backed by the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Department of Agriculture's Rural Development unit. Take the case of the San Felipe Pueblo, which had engaged in new housing starts in four decades: Last year, the pueblo finished 28 single-family homes and a dozen more are in the final stages of completion. The goal of the executive director of the housing authority is to build a total of 150 housing units and to develop



a commercial area—a projected \$17 to \$18 million spend overall. This ambitious project has already created 70 jobs, with many filled by tribal members. HUD initiatives and grants are providing fund and guaranteeing loans provided by Bank of America for construction, while individual families are securing mortgages through HUD's section 184. Similar arrangements are being made at San Ildefonso pueblo and the Jicarilla Apache Reservation. Nambe pueblo is raising money for a 61-unit development, with plans in the works for mortgage financing by outside banks such as Wells Fargo.

These stories, involving real activities benefiting real tribal members, are happening all across our nations. They stand in contrast to hurtful stereotypes and malaise often depicted as part of sensationalistic stories in

other outlets. They point the way to a brighter future, one in which self-determination dominates and we are insulated from the vagaries of politics and forces outside of our control.

Ná ki' wa,

Ray Halbritter

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Of Materialism, Growth and Marginalization

Peter d'Errico, a consulting attorney on indigenous issues, considers the vexing relationship of economic growth and human development in a Native context:

A representative of the United Nations Development Programme said recently that “Human development is more than just economic growth.” This is a crucial point to remember in any discussion of what it means to be marginal. Marginalization is generally discussed in terms of economics: who gains, who loses, who

decides, who feels the impact—positive and negative—of resource extraction, production and consumption.

If human development is not only, or even primarily, an economic growth concept and phenomenon, what is it? If culture is more than what goods we have, what is it? If life is not only, or even primarily, about how much we own, what is it? These questions are at the heart of debates about marginalization, and they are more difficult to discuss than the strictly economic issues.

The world of finance, capital and development builds on a material definition of being human, expressed in terms of “having.” To the extent that every culture is de-

fined in part by what it has, this definition has utility. But to the extent that life and culture are intangible—literally, “untouchable”—we are faced with a deep mystery: When are material things immaterial, and when do immaterial factors matter most?

Being Indian is more about a way of life than about blood, despite the frequent focus on blood-quantum as a measure of identity. As Phillip Deere said, the “Indian way of life” is really a “human being way of life.” The question is, what does it mean to be human? Perhaps the most profound outcome of the Indigenous challenge to marginalization is a deeper understanding of humanity. <http://bit.ly/1fNbU5p> ☞

The Best Use of Keepspeagle Funds

News that the lawyers who settled the Keepspeagle farming lawsuit have proposed using \$380 million in unclaimed funds to create an agricultural foundation has sparked much controversy. But Keepspeagle Class Representatives Marilyn and George Keepspeagle (Sioux), Claryca Mandan (Hidatsa) and Porter Holder (Choctaw), along with Ross Racine, Executive Director of the Intertribal Agriculture Council, embrace the idea:

An important provision of the foundation proposal is that it would be managed and controlled by leaders from Indian

Country. The foundation board would comprise those who are familiar with the farming and ranching needs of our communities. With the court’s approval, this board—rather than class counsel or any other non-Native entity—would approve recipients of foundation funds.

The benefits that this foundation ultimately can achieve within our farming and ranching communities are boundless. Consider what it would mean to have funds available year after year to provide, among other things, agricultural scholarships for our promising young people; unique programs for the unique needs of Native American communities all over the country; control of Native American

natural resources by Native Americans; educational programs at Tribal colleges that build our capacity to grow livestock and crops and provide needed income for our farmers and ranchers; financial and technical assistance to Native farmers and ranchers now and into the future; and, finally, assurance that Native peoples would be able to remain on the land we all hold sacred.

We urge all who believe as we do that “the land does not belong to us; it is only borrowed from our children” to support this legacy foundation so that this unexpected inheritance will pay forward for countless generations to come. <http://bit.ly/14MAIek> ☞

Pine Ridge Finally Fights Back

ICTMN contributor Gyasi Ross, Blackfeet, finds much to commend in the recent decision of the Oglala Sioux Tribe to consider liquor sales on the Pine Ridge Reservation:

The decision challenged those violent impacts of white settlement and Christianity that have replaced our values. It challenged colonialism. The Oglala Sioux Tribe decided to get rid of the assumption that Native people aren’t smart enough or strong enough to make our own decisions about whether or not we will choose to indulge in alcohol or not.

We are smart enough. We are strong enough. Some will continue to make bad decisions—that is unfortunate. But the Oglala Sioux Tribe showed that it champions tribal sovereignty as well as individual sovereignty—the ability of individual members to make their own decisions and be treated like adults.

Almost as importantly, the Oglala Sioux Tribe stopped treating alcoholism like a sin and started treating it like a disease. That is important. Sins stain. Sins create guilt. Sins mean that God’s mad at you. Once God’s mad at you, who knows when he’ll start being your friend again. God being mad at you can’t be good for someone trying to do better. On the oth-

er hand, diseases are treatable. Diseases need acknowledgment and get better the more honest discussions that you have about them and programs that you create to help those suffering from them. Diseases remove victimhood: there are no victims because the individual has the responsibility to seek treatment.

Good job, Oglala Sioux Tribe. This decision won’t make things better overnight, not even close. In fact, things might look worse in the short term, while the Tribe gets accustomed to easy access to liquor. But that is what leadership is about—making tough decisions for the long-term benefit of your people. <http://bit.ly/14zDm73> ☞

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ACLU and Tribal Association Join in South Dakota Voting-Rights Complaint

BY STEPHANIE WOODARD

The American Civil Liberties Union and the Great Plains Tribal Chairman's Association are supporting a federal civil-rights complaint against South Dakota officials who have refused to pay for satellite early voting stations that would give on-reservation voters the same number of days to vote as those living off reservations.

The complaint was filed by the voting advocacy group Four Directions. It charges that South Dakota Secretary of State Jason Gant, the state's top elections official, refused to use money from South Dakota's Help America Vote Act reserve to pay for satellite polling places on the Crow Creek, Cheyenne River and Pine Ridge reservations.

Both the ACLU and the Chairman's Association have asked Attorney General Eric Holder to investigate. The association's resolution called enfranchisement "vital" to tribal interests and voting opportunities "vastly unequal" on the reservations in question. The ACLU has urged Holder to advise South Dakota to provide the polling places, arguing that "failure to do so would likely violate Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act."

Some South Dakota leaders fear what they perceive as "unleashing" the Native vote, said Richard Casey, Sioux Falls attorney and member of the South Dakota Board of Elections. As a result, he said, the solution to the early-voting question may have to come from out of state: "This may take the involvement of the Department of Justice. At the end of the day, this is about voting equality, a fundamental principle of our democracy, and we are failing that test." <http://bit.ly/19liHvK> 🌐

Agua Caliente Band Closes Canyons Indefinitely After Flash Flooding

The Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians has indefinitely closed the Tahquitz and Indian Canyons as it assesses damage from two days of flash flooding, the tribe announced on September 5.

"The Indian Canyons are nearly unrecognizable in the condition they are in today," Chairman Jeff Grubbe said in a statement from the tribe, whose reservation is near Palm Springs, California. "We are working diligently to assess the damage and determine the next steps to remove debris, repair damage and return the Canyons back to as close to their natural beauty as possible."

The tribe said rangers and emergency management workers were gauging the extent of damage after heavy rains dumped fast-moving water that sent trees, boul-

ders and mud tumbling down the canyons. The havoc damaged trails, roads and access to parts of the Indian Canyons, the statement said.

The entire Coachella Valley was under flash flood watch on Friday September 6 as more stormy weather loomed, the *Desert Sun* reported.

It is the second time this year the canyons have been closed. In July, the Mountain Fire scorched 6,000 acres on the tribe's reservation, cutting off access to the canyons temporarily. Damage from that fire, which occurred in the San Jacinto Mountains just north of Palm Springs, paved the way for flood damage throughout the valley that shut down several roads during the week, the *Desert Sun* said. <http://bit.ly/14Eci1g> 🌐

United Nations Demands Respect for Baby Veronica's Human Rights

The United Nations Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights has demanded that the United States "take all necessary measures to ensure the wellbeing and human rights" of Veronica Brown, a 4-year-old Cherokee tribal member at the center of one of the most contentious custody battles in U.S. history.

The statement was issued by Dr. James Anaya, the UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples, an independent expert charged with working to ensure that governments enforce and protect the human

rights of their indigenous citizens. Anaya said that Veronica's rights are "guaranteed by various international instruments subscribed to or endorsed by the U.S., including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

"Veronica's human rights as a child and as member of the Cherokee Nation, an indigenous people, should be fully and adequately considered in the ongoing judicial and administrative proceedings that will determine her future upbringing," Anaya stressed. "The

individual and collective rights of all indigenous children, their families and indigenous peoples must be protected throughout the United States."

"We are grateful to Dr. Anaya and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights for their strong endorsement of the rights of Veronica and all Native American children in the United States," said Chrissi Nimmo, assistant attorney general for the Cherokee Nation. "We believe the statement speaks for itself and we thank the international community for their support." <http://bit.ly/1aqd4Dv> 🌐



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Shakopee Mdewakanton Funds New White Earth Nation Capital Projects

The Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community (SMSC) is providing the White Earth Nation with a \$250,000 grant for a water and sanitary sewer system that will serve a new workforce center and an adjacent housing project in Naytahwaush, Minnesota. The grant, which matches funds from the Indian Health Service, is part of the SMSC's most recent round of more than \$10 million in grants awarded to 18 American Indian tribes in eight states.

Construction on the workforce center will begin this month and is expected to be completed in June 2014. Occupational and vocational skills training, as well as access to job opportunities, will be available for low-income people. The workforce center will primarily benefit the estimated 2,000 area residents who are unemployed but available for work.

The adjacent Giwanikimin Supportive Housing Project is financed by the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency and sponsored by the White Earth Tribal Council and Naytahwaush LLC. Consisting of 20 two-story, wood-framed townhouses in four buildings, the project includes a wood-framed community center. Construction will also begin this month and take about a year. The White Earth Tribe is developing the project to benefit homeless and at-risk families.

"Your tribal government's generosity toward tribes and other organizations within the state is to be commended," wrote White Earth Chairwoman Erma Vizenor to the SMSC. <http://bit.ly/18Q7cRN> 📱

Navajo Housing Authority Ordered to Repay More Than \$11 Million to Washington

The Department of Housing and Urban Development has asked the Navajo Housing Authority to repay more than \$11 million that was slated for the failed South Shiprock housing project, which the Authority funded. The project was halted in April 2005 after the contractor became embroiled in bankruptcy proceedings while performing work for the former Fort Defiance Housing Corp., which was also a sub-recipient of the Navajo Housing Authority at the time.

"Approximately \$11,751,274 in IHBG [Indian Housing Block Grant] funds were expended on the construction of 91 single family homes that have never been inhabited," the department wrote to the Authority on September 5. The government directed that the Authority "Re-

pay with non-HUD resources' the IHBG funds spent by check or wire transfer."

"This is exactly what we have been saying all along," said Aneva Yazzie, who took over as CEO of the Navajo Housing Authority in February 2007. "There were a lot of things that happened prior to my coming on board that we had to clean up. This is one of them and we are still not done."

The housing project started in 2003 after then-Navajo Housing Authority Chief Executive Officer Chester Carl and the Authority awarded South Shiprock Housing, Inc. \$9 million in Native American Housing and Self Determination Act funds to build 53 houses. The project then received additional funds of \$5,523,808 under the same authority to build another 38 houses.

On September 10, Bill Aubrey, the contractor for the Shiprock housing project, was sentenced to 4.2 years in federal prison by a Nevada federal judge. <http://bit.ly/15nnpiL> 📱

Choctaw Nation Wants Keepseagle Millions Awarded to Their Foundation

The Choctaw Nation has asked a federal court to direct a sizeable portion of the unclaimed funds in the *Keepseagle* settlement to the tribe's foundation, fearing that the plaintiffs' lawyers could misdirect such monies.

On September 5, the tribe filed with the D.C. District Court a motion asking that the tribe's Jones Academy Foundation be considered to receive \$58.5 million of the \$380 million in unclaimed *Keepseagle* settlement funds. The *Keepseagle* case was settled for \$760 million in 2011 between the Obama administration and Native American farmers who had been discriminated against by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

"Tribal governments like Choctaw want

to work together to ensure that the remaining \$380 million in *Keepseagle* cy pres money is spent on the ground, in Indian country by Indian tribal governments, on behalf of actual Indian farmers and ranchers," Brian McClain, a tribal legislative advocate, told Indian Country Today Media Network.

The request contrasts with a plan offered in a status report filed in federal court August 30 by the firm of Cohen Milstein, lawyers for the *Keepseagle* plaintiffs. The firm said they want to establish a nonprofit agricultural foundation with the leftover cy pres funds that would ultimately be overseen by Native Americans solicited by the firm.

McClain and other tribal leaders oppose that plan. "We don't need a new organization; we already have hundreds of organizations—we call them tribal governments," McClain said. "What we lack is enough money to meet the needs of our members, including farmers and ranchers." <http://bit.ly/18XxxMG> 📱

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Mental Health Cuts And Lost Lives

Funding is down and suicide rates are up

Mental health services for Native Americans have taken a five percent cut thanks to federal sequestration, costing tribes essential staff, programs and lives, NPR has reported. For Natives ages 15 to 24, the suicide rate is 3.5 times that of other Americans and rising, according to the Indian Health Service (IHS). Tribes have declared states of emergency and set up crisis intervention teams. But many mental health and suicide prevention programs are either being forced to scale back or are stunted and unable to expand to meet their community's needs. "People are overwhelmed," said Diane Garreau, a child-welfare official on the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation in South Dakota. "Sometimes they'll say, I just can't go to another funeral." <http://bit.ly/15nOhzk> 📱

Forbes Picks Up On Coal Dispute

Predicts that Bad River Band will lose fight

Forbes magazine ran an account on September 9 of the fierce battle between billionaire Chris Cline and a coalition including the Bad River Band of the Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians over the former's proposed open pit taconite mine in Wisconsin. The mine would operate just six miles from the band's reservation in the Penokee Hills. *Forbes* predicted that Cline would emerge victorious because his coal costs about half as much to extract as coal

in other states: "Being the cheapest ton on the market means that even with the Obama administration and Environmental Protection Agency siding with the Sierra Club in a war on coal, Cline's mines will probably end up being the last ones standing." <http://bit.ly/1aFAbgF> 📱

'Not Guilty' Plea In Blackfeet Protest

Anti-corruption activists charged with assault

Six Blackfeet tribal members who are part of a group calling itself "Blackfeet Against Corruption" pleaded not guilty in tribal court on September 6 to charges of assault and other disorderly conduct, the Associated Press reported. The charges stem from an arrest on September 3 during a protest against the Blackfeet tribal government, following a year of political unrest on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation. The group protested outside tribal headquarters in Browning, Montana, demanding "that Chairman Willie Sharp Jr. obey an August 25 ruling by a traditional customs court that said an interim tribal council should be named until a new election could be held." <http://bit.ly/13N26Gd> 📱

Top NFL Writer Won't Use 'Redskins'

Joins growing chorus of dissenting journalists

Sports Illustrated writer and NBC football analyst Peter King will no longer use the name "Redskins" in referring to the NFL's Washington, D.C.-based team. "In some stories I've tried to use it sparingly," King explained in his September 5 "Monday

Morning Quarterback" blog. "But this year, I decided to stop entirely because it offends too many people, and I don't want to add to the offensiveness. Some people, and some Native American organizations—such as the highly respected American Indian Movement—think the nickname is a slur. Obviously, the team feels it isn't a slur, and there are several prominent Native American leaders who agree. But I can do my job without using it, and I will." <http://bit.ly/15HcCfE> 📱

Server Fired For Anti-Indian Slam

Suggested that Natives are bad tipplers

Andrea Casson, a server at Famous Dave's in Bismarck, North Dakota, was fired after she turned up in a photo on Facebook that implied Native Americans are bad tipplers. Bismarck was the recent site of the 44th Annual United Tribes International Powwow, and Casson was seen in a Facebook photo of herself holding a sign reading, "Spare change? Help I'm a server at Famous Dave's on Pow Wow weekend! Anything helps! 5¢ 25¢! Its [sic] more than my tips". Last Real Indians publicized the image, sparking hundreds of angry comments. Casson told KMOT-TV that although she had posed with the sign at a friend's behest, "I take full responsibility. It was something I chose to do." <http://bit.ly/1aFwhVh> 📱

Lake Okeechobee Threatens Region

Flooding upsets a delicate balance

Lake Okeechobee, whose

name is Seminole for "big water," is so heavily polluted that it is threatening numerous surrounding ecosystems, *The New York Times* reported on September 5. Heavy rains have forced the lake to flood its polluted fresh water into the delicately balanced fresh and salt water of the St. Lucie River estuary to the east and the Caloosahatchee River estuary to the west. "Oysters died in droves," the *Times* reported, and "Manatees, shellfish and the sea grasses and reefs that help sustain the estuaries all were badly hit." At over 730 square miles, Okeechobee is the largest leak in the southeastern U.S. <http://bit.ly/1eedstB> 📱

Another Voice Against Mega-Loads

Solidarity with Nez Perce and other tribes

The Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission has joined the burgeoning Native opposition to the transportation of mega-loads bearing equipment bound for the oil sands of Alberta, Canada through tribal territories. "The development, transportation, and use of Canada tar sands oil will have long-lasting negative effects and pose significant threats to the Columbia River Basin," states an August 23 resolution passed on behalf of the Umatilla, Yakama, Warm Springs and Nez Perce tribes. For years protesters have demonstrated against trucking huge pieces of equipment and supplies, some as large as football fields, through the Nez Perce Reservation along the Clearwater Wild and Scenic Corridor of Route 12. <http://bit.ly/15K7tn3> 📱

Administration Rebutts Contract Support Cost Criticisms

BY ROB CAPRICCIOSO

Indian Health Service (IHS) officials are pushing back against tribal concerns over an Obama administration plan that would cut contract support cost (CSC) reimbursements to tribes as part of the federal budget's continuing resolution currently being considered by Congress (see story, p. 11).

At least 45 tribes and tribal organizations have written to Congress asking for protection against the proposal, which they say cheats tribes out of millions of dollars they are due. They believe the proposed tribe-by-tribe federal cap on CSC funding would wipe out tribal legal claims and put tribes in the difficult position of being required to spend large amounts of money to administer contract support programs without providing them the funding to do so.

IHS leaders say the tribal concerns have been heard but that the administration believes the plan still needs to be implemented by Congress due to federal budget concerns and sequestration.

"The administration's decision was made after careful consideration of all views," Dianne Dawson, a spokeswoman for IHS, told Indian Country Today Media Network by e-mail. "This option is a short-term approach in this difficult budget climate and is consistent with the Supreme Court's decision in *Salazar v. Ramah Navajo Chapter*. We are currently consulting with tribes to

find a long-term solution for CSC funding."

"Our views were never asked for, and so the only views that were considered were views within the administration," Edward Thomas, president of the Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes, told ICTMN after reviewing the administration's response. "This proposal should never be a short-term solution without clarifying what the impact would be. [This] interpretation of the Supreme Court decision as a budget or financial issue is wrong and not consistent with promises made by the President to not try to balance this nation's budget on the backs of the less fortunate."

The proper "long-term solution," Thomas said, "is to put 100 percent funding of indirect costs into each and every budget. It isn't complicated. This can easily be absorbed by the administration."

"A special account exists in the Treasury to pay any claims over contract shortfalls," pointed out Lloyd Miller, an Indian affairs lawyer with Sonosky Chambers, who represents several tribes with pending CSC claims. "No other government contractors are being treated this way. The administration's proposal to cut off tribal contract rights is nothing less than racial discrimination." <http://bit.ly/1esf2YY> ☘



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Health Insurance Marketplace

Empowerment Zones Are Not Yet Empowered

A modest proposal goes nowhere **BY ROB CAPRICCIOSO**

Bottom Line: *Tax-free tribal empowerment zones could create growth that current reservation employment and investment tax credits have so far failed to deliver. But Congress isn't exactly champing at the bit to enact them.*

A limited pilot plan that would aid reservation economies by promoting tax-friendly incentives for private business creation and growth could easily have enough support in Congress to be enacted this year, tribal analysts say. But for a myriad of reasons, legislators have yet to include it in their larger tax reform proposals.

The plan calls for “tribal empowerment zones” that would offer tax-free incentives to private companies to establish a presence in a limited number of reservations in a limited area on each reservation. For those tribes without casinos, or for those with struggling gaming enterprises, the plan would both establish and diversify business and job opportunities. For tribes that already have successful gaming ventures, the plan would promote broader economic growth and wealth.

Robert Odawi Porter, then-president of the Seneca Nation, testified before the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs in May 2012 that there has been no significant economic benefit for Indian country under current Indian reservation employment and investment tax credits that legislators have been extending for two decades. That is because most of Indian country has not had the business structures in place to benefit from the current congressional tax incentives.

To get around that Catch-22, tribal officials nationwide are thus calling for the targeted tribal empowerment zones. “I suggest you shape tax reform law so as to restore complete tax immunity in a dem-

onstration or pilot project that is constrained in order to make it cost feasible but with unlimited benefits to facilitate its success,” Porter testified. “If it works, this policy could be expanded in the future. If it does not work, the outcome would be no worse than the application of the current failed policy.”

The idea would likely cost no more money than Congress already allocates toward tribal tax incentives, and there are portions of it that are attractive to Democrats and Republicans alike. Yet it

An alternative to nonproductive tax credits.

has gone nowhere to date.

Why not?

“I have had specific discussions with [congressional] staff who have felt it was too radical an idea, particularly in the current economic environment,” said one tribal lobbyist who spoke on background as conditions in Congress on tax reform remain fluid. In other words, some legislators actually fear that this plan could be successful, and therefore it could end up costing the federal government more money than the largely useless tax incentives it currently offers tribes.


Another reason for the slow uptake is that tribes have been largely focused on getting congressional support for what is known as the General Welfare Exclusion that would end the Internal Revenue Service’s practice of taxing critical programs and services provided by American Indian tribes to their citizens. There has

been limited success in this area, with Rep. Devin Nunes (R-California) introducing legislation in early that would achieve that tribal goal. That success has come at a cost to other tax reform ideas that would benefit tribes, tribal financial experts say.

“In this environment, there are so many other tax issues that tribes are focused on—they are especially working on shoring up their jurisdiction,” said Dante Desiderio, executive director of the Native American Finance Officers Association. “A lot of good tax reform ideas that would aid tribes are getting placed on the back burner.”

“Tribes have pushed so hard for the General Welfare Exclusion to be dealt with that I think there is little room for other tribal issues to be heard,” added the aforementioned tribal lobbyist, who has been working with congressional staffers on tribal tax reform proposals.

Still, many tribal financial and legislative experts say that important members of Congress are intrigued by—and even support—the tribal empowerment zone plan. Among them are Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus (D-Montana). In any event, support from Baucus and House Ways and Means Chairman Dave Camp (R-Michigan), as well as from the White House, will be crucial to getting any tax reform done this year, tribal analysts agree—and the clock is ticking fast for anything to happen at all.

“Sen. Baucus and Rep. Camp are laying good groundwork for strong tribal tax reform, but the expectation that something is going to be done this Congress is fading,” Desiderio said. “It’s a possibility that looming budget battles could make something happen here, though, and we know Baucus and Camp are not backing away from getting it done.” <http://bit.ly/1eik5dC> 

Mashpee Gaming Compact Moves Forward

Next step is legislative approval **BY GALE COUREY TOENSING**

Bottom Line: *Things are looking up for the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe's proposed Project First Light destination casino.*

A joint committee of the Massachusetts legislature gave the green light to the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe's revised tribal-state gaming compact, bringing the tribe's proposed \$500 million Project First Light destination resort casino a step closer to reality.

The Joint Committee on Economic Development and Emerging Technologies approved the gaming compact between the tribe and Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick September 10. The compact will now move on to the full state legislature for a vote.

The revised gaming compact was signed by Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Chairman Cedric Cromwell and Patrick on March 20. It replaces an earlier compact that was rejected last fall by the Interior Department's then-newly appointed Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Kevin Washburn. Washburn said the first compact violated the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGR) in a number of ways, including an excessive 21.5 percent share of all gross gaming revenues, while asserting "illusory concessions" by the state.

Cromwell thanked committee members for supporting the revised compact, "which brings us another step closer to breaking ground on Project First Light. We believe this agreement will keep our world-class destination resort casino on track, ultimately provide thousands of jobs for southeastern Massachusetts and the economic stimulus that will result."

The Massachusetts legislature approved a bill in 2011 to license three resort-style casinos, including one Indian casino, in three different areas of the

state, and a single slots parlor. None of those licenses have been issued yet. On September 10, West Springfield residents rejected a Hard Rock Casino by a 55-45 percent vote.

In April, the Massachusetts Gaming Commission declared it would allow a commercial casino development in the Mashpee Tribe's exclusivity zone in the southeastern part. However, it is not clear if the commission has the author-

Five months after the first attempt, a second compact offers considerably more benefits for the Tribe.

ity to allow a fourth casino in the state in contradiction to the law. Cromwell called the commission "a rogue group" and warned that the state would forfeit its share of Project First Light revenues if a commercial casino were to open in the tribe's area.

The new Mashpee-state gaming compact sets the state's share of revenue at 21 percent of gross gaming revenue. Although that is only .5 percent less than the amount in the previous rejected compact, other provisions are considerably more beneficial to the tribe. For example, the 21 percent will continue to be paid as long as the tribe's casino is the only one


operating in the state. When a commercial facility opens in one of the other two gaming regions, the state's share of revenue from the Mashpee casino will fall to 17 percent. The state's revenue share will be reduced by an additional 2 percent to 15 percent if a slot parlor opens in the southeast region of the state.

Project First Light would be built on 146 acres in Taunton, Mass., in the state's southeastern area. The project is expected to create 1,000 construction jobs, more than 2,650 permanent jobs, and an \$80 million annual payroll. The \$500 million project will include a 150,000 square-foot casino, hotels with 300 rooms apiece, 3,000 slot machines, 150 tables and 40 poker tables, and an events center.

The Mashpee Tribe has asked Interior to take into trust 170 acres of land in Mashpee, Cape Cod, in addition to the 146 acres in Taunton under the 1934 Indian Reorganization Act and to declare the lands as the tribe's "initial reservation" under the IGRA. Both sites are currently held in fee.

The City of Taunton signed an inter-governmental agreement to host the resort casino in May 2012 and residents voted 63-37 percent to approve the project a month later. Taunton Mayor Thomas Hoyer welcomed the joint committee's approval of the tribal-state compact.

"Project First Light will provide much-needed employment opportunities to the people of Taunton, as well as the residents of southeastern Massachusetts," Hoyer said in a statement. "This compact is essentially a job creation bill, which will help our region's struggling families gain sustainability in this difficult economy. I am hopeful that the Legislature will approve the compact, as the Tribe continues their quest to have their land in trust application approved at the federal level."

<http://bit.ly/17tQvJK> 

A Housing Boom in New Mexico

Private lenders are helping growth **BY MARK FOGARTY**

Bottom Line: *Across the Land of Enchantment, private financing and government assistance are combining to erect residences in a way that no one could have envisioned in the 1990s.*

Echoing across the desert plateaus of New Mexico is a welcome noise—the sound of barriers to home ownership being torn down for state tribes, thanks in part to financing that would have been unimaginable just a couple of decades ago.

Private lenders are currently putting up large sums of money on Indian housing in New Mexico, with projects going on for at least five of the state's 22 tribes. The financing, mostly federally guaranteed, is insured by the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Department of Agriculture's Rural Development unit. Even so, that financing is being arranged by private lenders who until fairly recently would not even have come onto a reservation to win a bet.

At the San Felipe Pueblo north of Albuquerque, the tribe and its housing authority are going full throttle. San Felipe, which had not seen any housing development in 40 years, last year completed 28 single-family homes and is now putting the finishing touches on a dozen more. It has secured a second HUD Title VI project loan from Bank of America and Indian Community Development Block Grant money. That means that Phase II—another 28 homes on top of the 40—will come into being at the Black Mesa View subdivision.

San Felipe Pueblo Housing Authority executive director Isaac Perez isn't stopping there. His goal is 150 units of new housing, 132 single-family homes and 18 multifamily, plus a commercial area. The total cost will be somewhere around \$17 or \$18 million, at least a third of which has been raised.

Bank of America made a \$2.8 million "project" loan through HUD Title VI (95 percent guaranteed by the federal government), which is intended to provide construction and infrastructure costs for housing in areas that may lack both. The 12 units being built now are being funded by HUD's Rural Innovation initiative. Phase II financing from Bank of America (a second Title VI loan) will build another 21 homes and money from HUD's Indian Community Development Block

mon, with three more being extended for projects on San Felipe (Phase II), San Idelfonso pueblo, and the Jicarilla Apache reservation.

Ten housing units are going up at San Idelfonso pueblo, north of Santa Fe, all supported by a HUD Title VI loan, said Eric Schmieder, Indian loan specialist for NMMFA. At the Jicarilla Apache reservation adjacent to the Colorado border, 10 or 12 units are set, also using Title VI. And at Zuni pueblo in the west of New Mexico, four or five "sweat equity" homes are going up using the Rural Development RHS section 502 direct mortgage.

At Nambe pueblo, north of Santa Fe, more than \$10 million has been raised for a 61-unit housing development that will have 37 single-family homes, all with HUD 184 mortgages (to date four have been built and sold) and 24 multi-family units. This housing project, called the Buffalo Range subdivision, has a 10-year timeline, according to project manager Andrew Martinez and Nambe Pueblo Housing Entity executive director Christine Brock. It has received three separate grants from the state's TIFF program (Tribal Infrastructure Fund) plus money from the federal stimulus program.

At Nambe, mortgages are being planned for tribal borrowers from such dominant culture lenders as Wells Fargo, Bank of Albuquerque, and Gateway Mortgage. A New Mexico Native lender, Native Community Finance, is involved in construction lending and NMMFA is supporting both NCF and the individual mortgages with downpayment assistance. Three full-time jobs have been created, with as many as eight workers at peak times.

Taken altogether, it looks like the beginnings of the kind of housing markets taken for granted in the dominant culture. <http://bit.ly/18QhYYd> ☞

Housing projects are under way for at least five of the state's 22 tribes.

Grant will finance another seven. Seventy jobs have been created as modular units are built right on the reservation, including many jobs for tribal members.

Now add into the mix mortgage finance for the individual families, through HUD's Section 184, 100-percent-guaranteed Indian mortgage.

The housing authority is the borrower on the HUD 184s, which have been extended on all 40 units built to date. The housing authority then resells the loans to the individual borrowers, who are being assisted by the New Mexico Mortgage Finance Agency for down payments.

The San Felipe Title VI loan for the first 28 units was the first of its kind in New Mexico in 10 years. But these big project loans are becoming more com-



Andrea Casson, a server at Famous Dave's in Bismarck, North Dakota, was fired after she appeared in this Facebook photo.



The United Nations has called for the human rights of Veronica Brown, shown with her father, Dusten, to be respected.



A protester wears a protective mask in connection with the environmental degradation of Lake Okeechobee in Florida.



At Nambe pueblo, north of Santa Fe, more than \$10 million has been raised for the 61-unit Buffalo Range subdivision housing project.

Clash on reimbursements

Obama v. Congress on contract support costs **BY ROB CAPRICCIOSO**

Bottom Line: *The Obama administration is trying to avoid paying millions of court-ordered dollars that tribes need to administer critical contract support programs. That has infuriated some House members.*

House members of both parties are criticizing a White House plan to cut contract support cost (CSC) reimbursements to tribes in a continuing federal budget resolution that is currently being considered by Congress.

The White House budget proposal, shared with some members of Congress late this summer, would allow the Indian Health Service (IHS) and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) to limit how much each tribe would be paid for CSC. Tribes would be left to pay for any CSC funding not appropriated by Congress. President Barack Obama's 2014 budget request falls \$140 million short of what is required to honor all tribal contracts with the IHS, and \$12 million short of what is required to honor all BIA contracts, according to testimony provided to Congress in April.

"If the administration has its way, tribes would lose their ability to obtain the legitimate contract support cost funds that Indian Health Service has failed to pay," Rep. Don Young (R-Alaska), chairman of the House Subcommittee on Indian Affairs, told Indian Country Today Media Network.

"I'm extremely disappointed in the administration for even suggesting this," Young said. "Fully funding contract support costs is the right thing to do. Providing healthcare services is a critical component of the federal government's trust responsibility to tribes, and imposing a 'hard cap' that limits tribes' compensation for healthcare services that they provided on behalf of the government would undermine our sacred trust obligation."

Rep. Tom Cole (R-Okla.), a Chickasaw Nation citizen who sits on the House Appropriations and Budget Committees,

told ICTMN that the administration's plan is "outrageous."

"The record from this administration on Indian affairs has been pretty good, but this is an area it has not been," Cole said. He added that he had not seen the final text of the House's continuing resolution bill, so he did not know if the Republican leadership had included the administration's proposal.

"I hope and I expect—but I don't want

"I'm extremely disappointed in the administration for even suggesting this," said Rep. Don Young (R-Alaska).

"Providing healthcare services is critical."

to tell you I got it for sure—that this is going to be fixed, that we will be offering a continuing resolution that does not cap these payments," Cole said. "I know the Appropriations Committee has forwarded this matter to leadership. I'm assuming word got through to the guys who put together the final draft of the whole thing."

Democratic tribal allies in the House also say they are concerned. "We have yet to see the text of the continuing resolution from the Republican leadership in the House, however, any proposal of this nature would be concerning, and the im-


pact on tribal communities would need to be closely reviewed," Rep. Ben Luján (D-New Mexico) told ICTMN.

"The United States has a trust responsibility that must be upheld, and it is critical that tribal leaders and members of Congress work together to ensure we are meeting the funding needs of Indian country," Luján said. "A key component is undoing the failed experiment of sequestration that I have opposed every step of the way, in part because of the negative effect it is having on Native American communities."

In the Senate, Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) has vowed to do whatever she can to quash consideration of the proposal, but Democrats control that chamber. So it remains to be seen if Democratic Senate leaders are willing to counter the Democratic administration's plan. For his part, Young said he would "continue to work with the Alaska delegation to prevent the harmful language from being included on the Senate side."

Congress is scheduled to be in session for only nine days in September. It must pass a continuing resolution by October 1 to avoid a partial government shutdown. If the administration's language is included in the continuing resolution, tribes would likely lose out on millions of dollars.

The administration's request comes after a June 2012 U.S. Supreme Court ruling that said the federal government must pay for the full CSC incurred by tribes while providing healthcare and other governmental services for their tribal citizens through Indian Self-Determination Act contract agreements. It was a rare tribal victory at the Supreme Court, which is one reason why the current White House position has alarmed tribal leaders.

Cole predicted legal consequences if the administration's plan were to pass Congress. "Do you really think this won't be challenged in court?" he asked. "I suspect it will." <http://bit.ly/18cgFXv> 



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Headlines from the Web

A ROAD TO HEALTH? RURAL ALASKA TOWN ARGUES FOR ACCESS

<http://bit.ly/14JwUKC>

NEW YORK, INDIAN TRIBES TO FACE OFF IN COURT ON LOANS

<http://on.wsj.com/15ZTf0z>

CHOCTAW BREAK GROUND ON NEW HEALTH CENTER

<http://bit.ly/17tFsDA>

PAMUNKEY TRIBE STILL AWAITING FEDERAL RECOGNITION

<http://bit.ly/1e6Wyw3>

COWLITZ TRIBE ANNOUNCES OPPOSITION TO COAL TERMINALS

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

SAKAKAWEA LAND TRANSFER ISSUE SURFACES AGAIN

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

Upcoming Events

HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE ON INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE AFFAIRS SEPTEMBER 19

Chairman Don Young (R-Alaska) will chair an oversight hearing on “Executive Branch Standards for Land-in-Trust Decisions for Gaming Purposes.”

Location: Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C.

NATIVE CHILDREN’S RESEARCH EXCHANGE CONFERENCE SEPTEMBER 19-20

The focal point of this year’s conference, “Community Level Intervention and Outcomes for Native Youth”, will be presentations by Dr. Ed Trickett and Dr. David Henry of the University of Illinois at Chicago about conceptualizing community level interventions and assessing their im-

pact. Roundtable discussions, panels, and breakout sessions will follow.

Location: University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, Aurora, Colorado

AINTA AMERICAN INDIAN TOURISM CONFERENCE SEPTEMBER 22-25

Since 1999, the American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association has sponsored a conference designed to share knowledge, experience and best practices from tourism programs around the U.S. This year’s conference, “Tourism: The Economic Engine for Indian Country”, will feature workshops, networking events, a tourism trade show and tribal artist vendors.

Location: Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, Tulsa, Oklahoma

GLOBAL GAMING EXPO 2013 SEPTEMBER 23-26

“G2E”, as it is popularly known, offers the world’s largest and most comprehensive education for the gaming industry. From iGaming and security & surveillance to

casino design and hospitality, this year’s G2E Expo will feature 14 tracks and more than 100 sessions led by industry leaders and experts from around the world. Specialized events include cross-training for management-level casino executives and a social media boot camp.

Location: Sands Expo & Convention Center, Las Vegas, Nevada

COLLABORATIVE APPROACHES TO JUSTICE INFORMATION SHARING SEPTEMBER 24

This webinar will focus on justice information sharing among tribal, state and local justice agencies. Tribal law enforcement officials will discuss efforts to bridge jurisdictional boundaries as partners in the Regional Organized Crime Information Center for the Southeastern United States and the East Valley Fusion Center in Phoenix. A representative of the Regional Information Sharing System will participate.

Contact: The National Criminal Justice Association (www.ncja.org)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I understand why many find the team name and logo for the Washington Redskins to be offensive. I am part Native and haven’t found it as disturbing as many do. Then again, not a lot offends me. I do, however, find that certain things offend me almost immediately—for instance, a black (I’m also

part African/American) person calling another the N-word and considering it okay because neither one is white. I find that to be a double standard, and I also find offensive. I thus am asking this of Indian Country Today Media Network:

How is it that the team name “Redskins”

is offensive but your Native News articles are listed under the subject heading “The Thing About Skins” and that is not offensive? How is this different from the situation of the N-word as used above?

—Wendy S. Congdon
East Jordan, Michigan

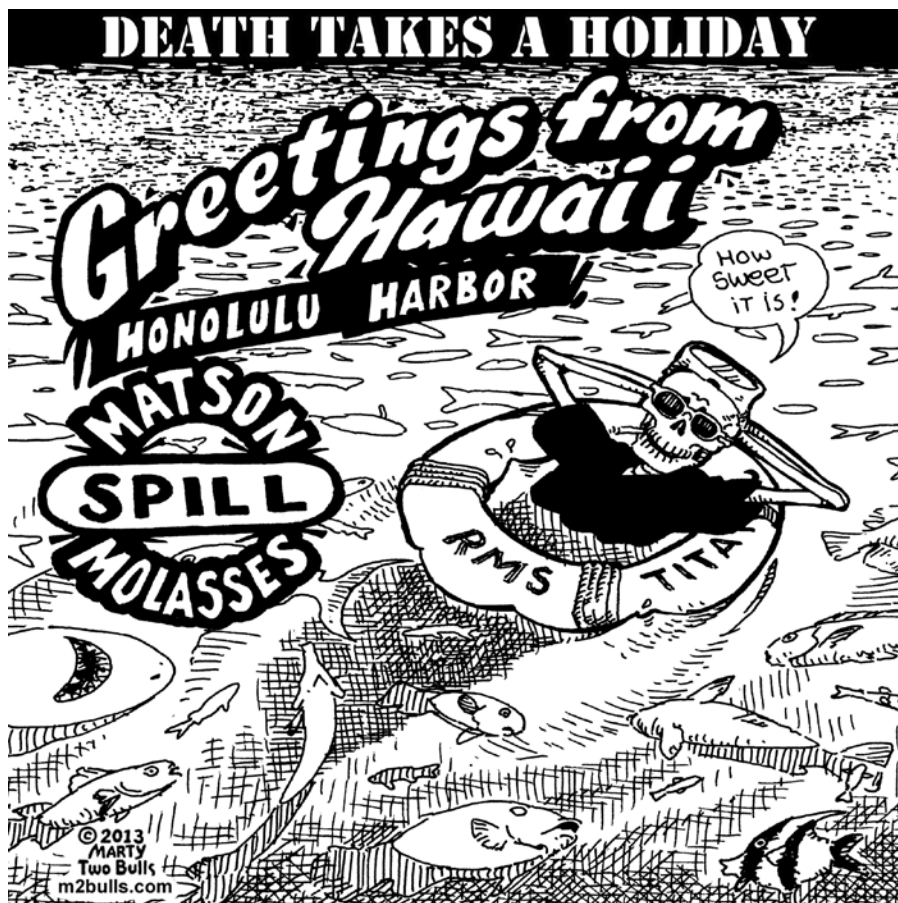
THE EDITORS RESPOND:

“The Thing About Skins” is the name of a blog crafted by Gyasi Ross that lives under the umbrella of ICTMN. Its title uses slang to convey immediacy and familiarity with its audience, who understand the associations, etymology

and source of the term as being a derogatory remark appropriated by those it was meant to demean and turned on its head. In this context, “skins” is a word used by Natives to speak to Natives and is akin to the appropriation of the N-word in the black community (and the

debate over its use is very similar). We would argue that words debated and used among in Indian communities are very different than the use of “Redskins” as a brand and mascot by a football team that has no relationship to our Indian nations.

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



TOP NEWS ALERTS

From IndianCountryTodayMediaNetwork.com

FIRST SAME-SEX SUQUAMISH MARRIAGE

James Abler and Terry Johnson became the first same-sex married couple to be recognized by the Suquamish Tribe when they were married on September 11, the fourth anniversary of their first date and Abler's 27th birthday. The happy couple has two foster children, ages 5 and 7. "You can't legislate love," Suquamish Tribal Judge Randal Steckel, who officiated, told the *North Kitsap Herald*. "Love makes a family."

BLACKFEET AND BIA CLASH OVER BUILDING SITE

The Blackfeet Tribe is formally opposing the construction by Bureau of Indian Affairs of a new dormitory for the Cut Bank Boarding School near the site

of a prehistoric bison slaughter in Browning, Montana. "It's kind of a big thing because the BIA never really consulted at all with us," Blackfeet Tribal Business Council Chairman Willie Sharp Jr. told the *Great Falls Tribune*. "There's been a stop order placed on all work and for people not to enter."

STRONG SUPPORT FOR MENOMINEE CASINO

Eight of Wisconsin's 11 tribes support the Menominee Tribe's proposed \$800 million off-reservation casino in Kenosha. Besides the Menominee, the tribes who gave their backing in a letter to Gov. Scott Walker are the Bad River, Lac Courte Oreilles, Lac du Flambeau and Red Cliff Bands of Lake Superior Chippewa; the Sokaogan

Chippewa Community; the St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin; and the Stockbridge-Munsee Community. The Forest County Potawatomi Community and the Ho-Chunk Nation oppose the plan, while the Oneida Indian Tribe of Wisconsin is undecided.

SAN DIEGO AND SAN PASQUAL BAND SQUARE OFF

Officials in San Diego County, California are opposing the San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians' plan to take 29 acres of land into trust to build a civic center and fire station. The officials say the land is currently zoned for low-density residential use and that the plan "may impact public safety, as well as the surrounding land uses, traffic

flow, water quality, groundwater capacity and a host of other sensitive resources."

ANCIENT CHEROKEE REMAINS TO BE REINTERRED

The remains of 15 Cherokee dating from before European contact, accidentally found by cave explorers in Tennessee this spring, will be properly reburied, authorities said. Found on Tennessee Valley Authority property, the remains are subject to the National American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act. "It is such a sensitive issue dealing with human remains, such a sacred undertaking, our preference is that they will be reburied as close to [the] original location as possible," said Miranda Panther, NAGPRA officer for the Eastern Cherokee Nation.

UPCOMING POW WOWS

29th Annual Fall Great Mohican Pow Wow

September 20 - September 22, Mohican Reservation Camp & Festival Grounds, Loudonville, Ohio
Contact: Chris Snively
800-766-2267
powwow@mohicanreservation.com
MohicanPowWow.com

Tule River Pow Wow

September 20 - September 22, McCarthy Ranch, Porterville, California
Contact: Zona Franco
559-782-5554 x1
zonafranco@aol.com
TuleRiverTribe-NSN.gov

Northern Cherokee Gathering

September 20 - September 22, Northern Cherokee Grounds, Clinton, Missouri
Contact: Ken DesCombs
573-885-1070
boatmd@hotmail.com
NorthernCherokeeNation.com

Montrose Indian Nations Pow Wow

September 20 - September 22, Friendship Hall, Montrose, Colorado
Contact: Roland McCook
970-921-7707
Nuche@bresnan.net
MontrosePowWow.info

41st Annual Mahkato Traditional Pow Wow

September 20 - September 22, Dakota Wokiksuye Makoce, Mankato, Minnesota
Contact: Dave Brave Heart
507-625-9360
gem7773@mchsi.com
MahkatoWacipi.org

Cabarrus Pow Wow

September 20 - September 21, Camp Cabarrus, Kannapolis, North Carolina
Contact: 540-427-1246
oneill2u@yahoo.com
CabarrusPowWow.Webs.com

37th Annual American Indian Day and Pow Wow Celebration

September 20 - September 21, St. Joseph's Indian School, Chamberlain, South Dakota
Contact: 605-234-3300
STJO.org/powwow

15th Annual Battle Point Traditional Pow Wow

September 20 - September 22, County Road 73, Battle Point, Minnesota
Contact: 218-335-7573
diane.smith@lojibwe.com

1st Annual Hawaii Island All Nations Pow Wow

September 21 - September 22, Mooheau County Park, Hilo, Hawaii
Contact: Ruby Webster
808-747-2903
hawaiiipowwow@hotmail.com
NicheHawaii.org

38th Annual Trail of Courage Living History Festival

September 21 - September 22, Fulton County Historical Society Grounds, Rochester, Indiana
Contact: 574-223-4436
fchs@rtcol.com
CultonCountyHistory.org

Walk in the Spirit Pow Wow

September 21 - September 22, Historic Charlton Park, Hastings, Michigan
Contact: 616-717-2121
walkinthespiritpowwow@yahoo.com
WalkIn-TheSpirit.com

Red River Pow Wow

September 21 - September 22, O'Connor Field House, Caldwell, Idaho
Contact: Melanie Fillmore
fillmoreml@gmail.com
RedRiverPowWow.org

One Shot Antelope Pow Wow

September 21, Lander, Wyoming
Contact: 800-768-7743
WaterForWildlife.com

Nottoway Indian Tribe of Virginia Pow Wow

September 21 - September 22, Surry Parks & Recreation Center Grounds, Surry, Virginia
Contact: 757-686-8602
nottowayofva@aol.com
NottowayIndians.org

Heritage of Healing Traditional Pow Wow

September 21, Ypsilanti, Michigan
Contact: Shoshana
734-323-0762
info@heritageofhealing.org
HeritageofHealing.org

Harvest Moon American Indian Festival

September 21 - September 22, 31st & Troost, Kansas City, Missouri
[Facebook.com/harvestmoonamericanindianfestival](https://www.facebook.com/harvestmoonamericanindianfestival)

FDR State Park Pow Wow

September 21 - September 22, FDR State Park, Yorktown Heights, New York
Contact: 718-686-9297
native@redhawkcouncil.org
RedHawkCouncil.org

Clara Brown Dance

September 21, Caddo Nation Tribal Dance Grounds, Binger, Oklahoma
Contact: 405-656-2503

4th Annual Reconnections Days & Stomp Dance

September 21 - September 22, Vinyard Indian Settlement, Herod, Illinois
Contact: Barney Bush
618-264-5909
vinyardindiansettlement@yahoo.com
VinyardIndianSettlement.com

19th Annual Harvest Pow Wow

September 21 - September 22, 523 S. Webster St., Naperville, Illinois
Contact: Janet Sevilla
773-585-1744
msfpowwow@aol.com
MidWestSoaring.org

56th Annual Curve Lake Pow Wow

September 21 - September 22, Lancewood Park, Curve Lake, First Nation
705-657-2758
info@curvelakefn.com
CurveLakeFN.ca

Indain Days Celebration and Pabanamanina Pow Wow

September 27 - September 29, Paiute Palace Casino, Bishop, California
Contact: Cindy
760-920-2612
bishoppowwow@yahoo.com
PaiutePalace.com

National Indian Days Celebration & Pow Wow

September 27 - September 29, White Swan, Washington
Contact: 509-949-5647
yak49er@yahoo.com

Last Chance Community Pow Wow

September 27 - September 29, Lewis & Clark County Fairgrounds, Helena, Montana
Contact: Linda Dishon
406-439-5631
lccpw@hotmail.com
LCCPWHelena.com

Kaua'i Pow Wow

September 27 - September 29, Kapā'a Beach County Park, Kaua'i, Hawaii
808-635-1199
kauaipowwow@gmail.com
KauaiPowWow.com

Cedar River Pow Wow

September 27 - September 29, Mitchell County Conservation Center, Osage, Iowa
Contact: Julie Martineau or Betty Whipple
319-208-4707
cedar.river.powwow@aol.com

23rd Annual Thunder and Lightning Pow Wow

September 27 - September 29, Pow Wow Grounds, Cabazon, California
888-MOR-ONGO
Morongo.com

22nd Annual Comanche Nation Fair

September 27 - September 29, Comanche Nation's Complex Ground, Lawton, Oklahoma
Contact: Tomoah Yeahquo
580-492-3384
catherinef@cne.com
ComancheNation.com

20th Annual Standing Bear Pow Wow

September 27, Standing Bear Park, Ponca City, Oklahoma
Contact: 580-762-1514
info@standingbearpark.com
PoncaCity.com

Indian Trail Pow Wow

September 28 - September 29, 100 Navajo Trails, Indian Trail, North Carolina
MetrolinaNativeAmericans.com

14th Annual Permian Basin Inter-Tribal Pow Wow

September 28 - September 29, Odessa College Sports Center, Odessa, Texas
TransPecoAmericanIndianAssn.com

Festival of Native American Culture

September 28 - September 29, Camp Verde Community Center, Camp Verde, Arizona
Contact: Ken Zoll
928-567-0066
center@verdevalleyarchaeology.org
NAFestival.org

Echota Cherokee Tribe of Alabama Pow Wow

September 28 - September 29, Oakvilly Indian Mounds Education Center, Danville, Alabama
Contact: Faron Weeks
256-734-7337
faron.weeks@gmail.com
EchotaCherokeeTribe.Homestead.com

35th Annual Council of Three Rivers American Indian Center Pow Wow

September 28 - September 29, Council of Three Rivers American Indian Center, Dorseyville, Pennsylvania
Contact: Mike Simms
412-292-7683
rsimms3671@msn.com
COTRAIC.org

Chemawa's Back to School Pow Wow

September 28, Chemawa Indian School, Salem, Oregon
Contact: 503-399-5721 x 225
karen.serna@bie.edu
chemawa.bie.edu

32nd Annual Mt. Juliet Pow Wow

September 28 - September 29, Mundy Memorial Park, Mt. Juliet, Tennessee
Contact: 615-443-1537
cindyahola@my.julietpowwow.com
MtJulietPowWow.com

22nd Annual Fort Omaha Intertribal Pow Wow

September 28, Metropolitan Community College, Omaha, Nebraska
Contact: Barbara Velazquez
402-457-2253
bvelazquez@mccneb.edu
MCCNEB.edu

11th Annual Gathering: A Woodland Indian Celebration

September 28 - September 29, 27174 Hull Prairie Road, Perrysburg, Ohio
Contact: 419-381-7042
perrysburgpowwow@hotmail.com
BlackSwampInterTribalFoundation.com

San Geronimo Feast Day

September 30, Taos Pueblo, New Mexico
Contact: 575-758-1028
tourism@taospueblo.com
Taos.org



Flooding in the Crownpoint, New Mexico area caused the Navajo Technical University to evacuate its Crownpoint campus on September 13.

COURTESY NAVAJO TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY

THE BIG PICTURE