



# Indian Country

THIS WEEK FROM

## TODAY

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

### *A Letter from the Publisher*

*Shekóli.* This week's newsletter features the latest installment of our ongoing series about a prominent Indian Child Welfare Act-based lawsuit in South Dakota. *Oglala Sioux Tribe v. Van Hunnik* charges South Dakota State and local Pennington County officials with violating the rights of Indian parents and tribes in state child custody proceedings. The class-action lawsuit challenges the alleged systematic removal of Indian children in South Dakota from their families and tribal communities without proper hearings, violating the constitutional right to due process and the ICWA.

The American Civil Liberties Union the ACLU of South Dakota, and Dana Hanna of the Hanna Law Office in Rapid City, South Dakota, filed the lawsuit in March 2013 on behalf of two tribes—the Oglala Sioux Tribe and the Rosebud Sioux Tribe—and three Indian parents who allegedly suffered the loss of their children without regard for state law and without receiving timely and adequate hearings as mandated by the Fourteenth Amendment's due process clause and ICWA.

On January 28, 2014, a federal court denied a motion by South Dakota officials to dismiss the case. Indian Country Today Media Network correspondent and accomplished journalist Suzette Brewer has delved into the story of the case for months, and her



coverage this week illuminates the pre-filing actions of the attorneys working on behalf of the tribes, and their communications with state government officials. One of the most telling aspects of how the state is handling the custody of children—and the point of greatest criticism for Indian plaintiffs—is a hearing held within the first 48 hours after a child is initially removed from their home. It is a crucial period that determines just how deep into the state system the child will go—and, generally speaking, how far away they will be from personal connections and support networks in their nation. In this episode, the attorneys for the tribes were unsuccessful in negotiating what for them was a more cooperative and transparent process. With adjustments seemingly taken off the table, they took the next available action: filing a lawsuit that is shaping up to be the most closely watched litigation in Native America today.

*Na ki' wa,*

Ray Halbritter

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## Rescind the Medals of Dishonor

*ICTMN contributor Simon Moya-Smith calls for the return of 20 Medals of Honor that were awarded to soldiers who took part in the Wounded Knee Massacre of 1890:*


It has been more than 120 years since the U.S. 7th Cavalry opened fire on the camp of Lakota. Yet, those 20 “Medals of Dishonor,” as they’ve often been referred to, remain. And although there have been numerous calls by Native American leaders to have the medals rescinded, no action has been taken on the part of any president or Congress since that day of carnage.

Since the Medal of Honor was created in 1861, it has been reserved for those military personnel who have exhibited selflessness, bravery and heroism on the field of battle. But Wounded Knee was not a battle. It was a massacre, and to award 20 U.S. soldiers who acted in stark contrast to what the Medal of Honor stands for tarnishes its purpose and diminishes its value.

Native Americans continue to feel the pierce of what occurred that deplorable winter day. The story of the brutality and the inhumanity of what occurred is passed down to us from our elders be-

cause, quite unfortunately, these dark moments of American history are not shared in our schools as much as they should be.

It is very difficult for this country to fully recognize what it has done to its indigenous population. Well, it is time to start recognizing, and in so doing a time of healing (and learning) can begin. It is imperative that we restore the integrity to the Medal of Honor by revoking those medals awarded to the soldiers of the 7th Cavalry. If we truly seek to do what’s right and just, then let’s do what’s right and just and revoke the 20 medals from those who exhibited the antithesis of honor.

<http://bit.ly/1daBGp3> 

## Native American Land and Classism

*Tim Richmond, who writes about the mortgage industry, personal finance and home ownership, strongly urges greater use of personal loans as one way out of poverty on reservations:*

Reservations are not traditionally known for their affluent living conditions. Some tribes are better off than others, but overall, tribes tend to scrape by. This is the result of years upon years of being shuffled aside by the United States government.

As if that is not bad enough, until recently tribes have had limited capability of applying for loans. Tribes and tribal members could not borrow money to

improve, purchase, or build homes. The problem was that the property that they would put the mortgage on was “trusted” to the United States government, otherwise known as “trust land.” This meant that it could not be sold. Lenders were unwilling to take the chance that they could not collect the property as payment for an unpaid loan. This kept tribal members in the unenviable situation where they needed to improve their living arrangements, but could not, nor could they acquire the proper funds.

In an effort to solve this problem, HUD 184 was created. HUD is better known as

the Housing and Community Development Act. Section 184 allows tribes and tribal members to request that land in trust become a leasehold estate. This allows a mortgage to be taken on a lease that is associated with the land. If the Native borrower cannot repay the loan, the lender will be repaid by HUD, which will then take over the leasehold.

This is a miniscule step in the right direction. But loans should not be necessary if the American government would release control of Native land to the tribes, or at the very least, ensure that the funds were used in a manner that would benefit the tribes and not outside entities.

<http://bit.ly/1j0e1FO> 

## Why ‘Redskins’ Is Different

*DaShanne Stokes, a Lakota doctoral candidate in sociology at the University of Pittsburgh, notes the crucial difference between the term “Redskins” as applied to the Washington, D.C. NFL franchise, and similarly stereotypical team names:*


I have a hard time buying what so many people say about Native team names and mascots—that they are meant to honor Native people, that they are no different from team names and mascots like the Fighting Irish, the Vikings, and even the Cowboys. Nonsense. The Vikings, Fighting Irish, Cowboys, and others indeed portray caricatures and stereotypes, which some people do find offensive. In

that sense, they share a basic commonality with Native mascots and team names.

That’s where the similarity ends. The Fighting Irish, Vikings, Cowboys, and others, despite being stereotypes, do not function to suppress entire peoples in the same ways that they function to suppress Native Americas. Those with primarily Viking or Irish descent, after all, can still benefit from the privilege of having light skin. And there are no masses of Irish Americans living on reservations, no hordes of people with Viking descent fighting to retain their languages and ways of life.

Furthermore, even though team names and mascots like the Fighting Irish, Vi-

kings, Cowboys, and others may indeed be hurtful and offensive—a very real problem that needs to be taken seriously—their use does not activate or maintain the same historical legacy of genocide and institutionalized racism that helps to create high rates of unemployment, poverty, health problems, and inadequate education plaguing so many indigenous people today.

The Redskins are right about one thing. There truly are many challenges facing Native Americans. But it’s high time they acknowledge, despite their best hopes and intentions, that they are helping to create the very problems they say we should be fighting to solve. <http://bit.ly/1mdDBMg> 

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## Settlement in Native Voting Rights Lawsuit

BY STEPHANIE WOODAR

The Fort Peck Indian Reservation in northeastern Montana took a large step toward equal voting rights on March 14 when a magistrate judge recommended that a federal district court reapportion a local school board, in accordance with an agreement that was reached by plaintiffs and defendants in a federal lawsuit.

Under the settlement reached in the case of *Jackson v. The Board of Trustees of Wolf Point School District*, the board will include one at-large and five single-member election districts, said plaintiffs' attorney Laughlin McDonald, longtime head of the ACLU's Voting Rights Project.

The new arrangement will be fully in effect in 2015 and will ensure one-person-one-vote representation, according to McDonald. "This result demonstrates that the courts are concerned that Native people have equal access to the vote. The lesson will be felt in Indian country and, beyond that, in districts that include any minorities," he said.

The Montana School Boards Association defended the Wolf Point board. Association attorney Tony C. Koenig has told ICTMN that a negotiated settlement was his client's aim. His side won a concession; the district was not "bailed in" for ongoing Justice Department oversight, as the plaintiffs had requested.

The lawsuit's national import is matched by its local significance, said McDonald. "Things will not change overnight," he cautioned. "However, with redistricting, new people, including tribal members, will be in decision-making positions in the schools. With them present, the old language can't be used. The way people think will start to change, along with policies and practices." <http://bit.ly/Ozuc3o> 📱

## Shut Out of Nez Perce Turf, Mega-Loads Rumble Through Montana

Missoula, Montana has become the latest battleground against so-called mega-loads trundling gargantuan hunks of equipment destined for the oil sands of Alberta, Canada.

Three women were arrested recently as about 80 protesters blocked the oil-field equipment on a street in the city just east of the Idaho border. Carol Marsh, Debbie Florence and Gail Gilman were protesting along with members of a group called Indian Peoples Action, Northern Rockies Rising Tide and the Blue Skies Campaign, the *Missoulian* reported on March 14.

"We are standing in solidarity with our cousins of the Nez Perce tribe, the Umatilla and the cousins to the north whose lives are being drastically affected by the destructive nature of the needless

extraction of tar sands," said Indian Peoples Action in a statement. "This is leaving the land uninhabitable and our people with no place to go."

The Nez Perce fought successfully to keep the mega-loads from being transported along the more northerly scenic Highway 12, which runs 50 feet from their creation site. A federal judge ordered that route closed late last year, ending years of court battles and protest.

The 750,000-pound (375-ton), 450-foot-long load of equipment was only delayed for about 20 minutes, the *Missoulian* said. It was scheduled to turn northeast from Missoula and then north, KBZK News reported. The load was the third, and last, piece originating in the Port of Umatilla in Oregon, the *Missoulian* said. Members of the Umatilla Tribe have protested the loads' transport through their territory as well. <http://bit.ly/1qRlgW4> 📱

## Ho-Chunk Inc. Subsidiary Gets \$2.3 Million Federal Contract

All Native Solutions, a Ho-Chunk subsidiary in the corporation's Flatwater Group division, was recently awarded a \$2.3 million contract with the Bureau of Indian Affairs to provide furniture, fixtures, equipment and related services to the Riverside Indian School in Anadarko, Oklahoma. The Flatwater Group 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 will provide project management, procurement,

delivery and installation services to the 65,000-square-foot academic building. This contract includes classrooms and offices; multi-purpose science laboratories; a computer laboratory; media center; two records vaults and a teacher's lounge.

Additionally, the company will provide furniture, fixtures and equipment for the two 94,000-square-foot dormitory buildings. This will include over 100 dorm rooms, living and activity rooms, offices, conference rooms, and exercise equipment for the gymnasium. The contract has a scheduled completion date of September 30.

Founded in 1871, the Riverside Indian School is the nation's oldest federally

operated American Indian boarding school. The new academic and dormitory buildings will support students in grades 9-12.

The Flatwater Group includes companies specializing in federal business products and services for information technology, office equipment and furnishings, electronics and support services. All Native Solutions and the Flatwater Group are headquartered in Winnebago, Nebraska and also maintain offices in Bellevue, Nebraska and Arlington, Virginia. The company has provided services for the Internal Revenue Service, Defense Commissary Agency, U.S. Marine Corps, and the U.S. Air Force. <http://bit.ly/1LMhyZX> 📱


## Minnesota Moose Deaths Still Confound Scientists

The hunts have been canceled, and the studies are ongoing. Yet moose in Minnesota are still dying, and scientists are stymied. Stress and brain worm, both exacerbated by a changing climate, may be playing off each other in moose deaths, which are twice the normal rate for sustaining the animal's population, *The New York Times* reported on March 5. The bottom line, though, is that there is still a mystery.

Winters are both warming and growing shorter—this year's seemingly interminable frigid temperatures notwithstanding—and this may both compromise the moose's immune system and boost the number of white-tailed deer, which carry brain worm, a parasite that is fatal to moose. Several tribes canceled their seasonal hunts while the decline was studied.

"I'm not necessarily convinced that brain worm is the silver bullet that's killing all of the moose," Seth Moore, a wildlife biologist in Grand Portage, told the *Times*. "There are a number of different issues."

Minnesota seems to be the epicenter of the die-off, as New Scientist reported back in October, but it is occurring all along the southern edge of the moose's range, including places like Sweden. And the causes are disparate, leading researchers to suspect an underlying common cause.

"The combined effects of climate change, parasitism and poor nutrition are involved in the die-off, and in the foreseeable future these factors likely will drive the population to extinction," wrote Dennis Murray, a biology professor at Trent University in Peterborough, Ontario, Canada, on the web page describing the lab's research. "Consequently, we predict that over the next decades a widespread northward push of the distributional limit for moose will occur." <http://bit.ly/1gC3Ic8> 



## Sign up for health care insurance by March 31!

Act now to provide peace of mind for you and your family—and save money on quality coverage.

Everyone who applies and enrolls by Monday, March 31 will have health coverage that starts May 1, 2014. Members of federally recognized tribes have special protections and can enroll any month.

### HELP SPREAD THE WORD!

Enroll by March 31 and have coverage starting May 1.

Many American Indians and Alaska Natives will qualify for free or low-cost coverage. And if you enroll in a Marketplace health plan, you can still use your Indian health care provider.

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## Casinos Associated With Lower Obesity Rates

BY TANYA H. LEE


Opening a new tribal casino or expanding an existing one is associated with a reduction in childhood obesity, a new study has found. The research does not prove a causal relationship between casino development and fewer overweight/obese youths, but it does strongly suggest that such a relationship exists.

The report, "Association Between Casino Opening or Expansion and Risk of Childhood Overweight and Obesity," concluded it was likely that casinos increased families' and communities' economic resources, which in turn led to a decrease in excess weight or obesity. The findings were published in the *Journal*

of the American Medical Association in early March.

Researchers examined 117 California school districts that encompassed tribal lands, based on information from the U.S. Census Bureau. Of those districts, "57 gained or expanded a casino, 24 had a preexisting casino but did not expand, and 36 never had a casino," the report said. The investigators then looked at BMI (body-mass index) for the children in those districts. Forty-eight percent of the BMI measurements for children whose parents identified the child's race as American Indian or Alaska Native were classified as overweight/obese.

In school districts that encompassed

tribal lands where a new casino had been built or an existing casino expanded between the years 2001 and 2012, the risk of being an overweight/obese AI/AN child dropped 0.19 percent per new slot machine. Since there were on average 13 new slots per capita, the total reduction in the risk of being overweight or obese averaged 2.47 percent. Each new slot represented a per capita increase in annual income of \$541 and a decrease in the number of people living in poverty. For the average of 13 new slots per capita, this would mean a 7.8 percent reduction in the number of people living in poverty. <http://bit.ly/N1P4PG> 

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## Tribes Net \$3.2 Million in Energy and Mineral Grants From Interior

The Crow Tribe has received a \$655,000 grant for its Yellowtail hydropower project, making it one of 19 tribes netting 21 grants totaling \$3.2 million under the federal Energy and Mineral Development Program Awards, the Department of the Interior announced on March 14.

Mineral grant awards totaling \$505,420 went to the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa, Hualapai Tribe, Moapa Band of Paiute Indians, Nez Perce Tribe, Spirit Lake Tribe and Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, the department said. The Pueblo of Jemez, Jicarilla Apache Nation and Ute Mountain Ute Tribe collectively received \$765,234 for oil, gas and geothermal projects.

For renewables, including the Crow Tribe's grant, a total of \$1.9 million went to the Bad River Band of the Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa, Bois Forte Band of Chippewa, Crow Creek Sioux Tribe, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Ho-Chunk Nation, Pueblo de Cochiti, Shoshone Bannock Tribes, the Tule River Tribe and Blue Lake Rancheria, which received two grants.

"The Crow Nation is working to provide reliable, low-cost, renewable power to tribal members, and this grant will help make that vision a reality," said Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell, who made the announcement while on a tour of the Crow Reservation. "These grants are about strengthening self-determination and self-governance by enabling tribal nations to evaluate and promote their energy and mineral assets, negotiate the best agreements with partners or investors and develop these resources for the social and economic benefit of their communities." <http://bit.ly/1fCZcWa>

## No To 'Redskins,' Pelosi Says

*Opposes trademark protection for name*

House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-California) has said that the word "Redskins," used as the team name of the Washington, D.C. National Football League franchise, should not be a protected trademark. "We all respect freedom of speech, but the [U.S. Patent and] Trademark office has rejected names which are considered offensive and they should do it now," Pelosi said at an event hosted by the National Congress of American Indians. "It's time to choose another name. In fact, it's long overdue." A lawsuit to revoke the name is currently pending before the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board. <http://bit.ly/1go105x> 📱

## New York-Oneida Payments Begin

*Several counties to benefit*

A week after an historic agreement between the Oneida Indian Nation and New York State was finalized, the two parties marked its formal approval with the first of substantial dedicated payments to Madison and Oneida counties. On March 11, the transfer of \$11 million to Madison County to settle tax claims was announced. Madison County will also be receiving annual payments of \$3.5 million from the state pursuant to the agreement. Oneida County will begin receiving its annual payments in April of approximately \$10-\$12 million from the state's share of revenue from the Nation's net win from

slot machines. The state will also provide Oneida County with an additional \$2.5 million for the next 19¼ years to cover tax claims. <http://bit.ly/1gbr4GG> 📱

## Sand Creek Efforts Announced

*To commemorate massacre anniversary*

Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper announced two major efforts on March 17 to commemorate the upcoming 150th anniversary of the Sand Creek Massacre. The first is a Memorandum of Agreement between of Colorado and History Colorado with the Northern Cheyenne of Montana, the Northern Arapaho of Wyoming and the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes of Oklahoma, to create a government-to-government agreement to educate the public about the Cheyenne and Arapaho people and culture and the history of the massacre. Hickenlooper also announced a new Sand Creek Massacre Commemoration Commission, which will include tribal, federal, state and local governments, historians, scholars, religious leaders, and institutions of higher education, to work together to commemorate the sesquicentennial. <http://bit.ly/1eVYILg> 📱

## Cherokee Chief Named 'Centurion'

*Baker honored by alma mater*

Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Bill John Baker is among 10 recipients of this year's Centurion Award, presented by Northeastern State University. NSU has given the award since 2009 to alumni,

professors, athletes or staff whose leadership has made a significant impact in the community. "I am a proud alum of Northeastern State University and tremendously humbled to be recognized," said Baker, who graduated from NSU in 1973 with education degrees in history and political science. "The school will always hold a special place in my heart. The education I received at NSU helped prepare me for a life dedicated to public service, and I am deeply appreciative of that." <http://bit.ly/1d13Z92> 📱

## Focus on Pre-Contact Landscapes

*New CBC series spotlights environment*

The new four-part CBC-TV documentary series *Wild Canada*, which premiered on March 13, offers a broad tour of how Indigenous Peoples shaped the land, from the prairie grasslands that nurtured bison to the salmon-rich rivers near the Pacific coast. Shot in ultra-high definition, the series "takes viewers on an exploration of some of our country's most spectacular landscapes, and intimate encounters with the animals that live there," the network said. The series was produced by nature documentary filmmaker Jeff Turner, whose credits include the BBC series *Planet Earth*. <http://bit.ly/1gjeAH9> 📱

## Scare At Legends Casino

*Suspicious device not a bomb*

Approximately 600 patrons and 150 employees of the Yakama Nation's Legends Casino were evacuated on

March 18 when a suspicious device was discovered that morning in a trash can outside the casino main entrance. Other tribal offices, including a housing facility, medical clinic and the Cultural Heritage Center, were placed on lockdown. Ultimately, the object was determined to be a "nondevice," Cheryl Bishop, special agent and public information officer for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives Seattle field office, which covers Yakima, told the YakamaHerald.com. Although Legends reopened that same day, it remained mostly vacant during the evening hours. <http://bit.ly/1du1irF> 📱

## Awa Invaders Comply With Deadline

*Non-indigenous settlers are leaving*

Non-indigenous settlers involved with destroying Awa land in Brazil are leaving, according to reports from Survival International (SI) and Brazilian sources. The campaign to save the Awa people of northern Brazil reached a milestone recently, as the Brazilian government had set March 9 as the deadline for expelling all of the non-indigenous ranchers, loggers and other settlers who have devastated a large portion of Awa territory. Government sources reported that some families had left before the deadline and hundreds of others have been cooperating with government outreach efforts aiming to help re-locate the non-indigenous ranchers, loggers and others, some of whom are eligible for various government assistance services. <http://bit.ly/1pfBXH6> 📱

# The Van Hunnik Crucible

The tortuous labyrinth of South Dakota's foster care system **BY SUZETTE BREWER**

**Bottom Line:** *This is the second part in an ongoing series about the lawsuit Oglala Sioux Tribe v. Van Hunnik, which charges South Dakota and Pennington County officials with violating the rights of Indian parents and tribes in state child custody proceedings.*

From the beginning, he sensed that something was off.

Soon after Rapid City attorney Dana Hanna saw two Indian parents lose their children into the South Dakota foster system in less than a minute during a routine court appearance in October 2011, he began requesting records from the Pennington County Court Clerk's office.

Initially, his assistant had gone to the courthouse to obtain case numbers, transcripts and dates of the 48-hour hearings on behalf of his clients, the Oglala and Cheyenne River Sioux Tribes in Pennington County Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) cases. The court clerks rejected the requests. They refused to hand over any information, even though accessing these documents is commonplace in the course of legal proceedings for parties to a case.

Hanna then went to the court clerk's office to retrieve what should have been a routine request. He was acting directly on instructions from his clients by attempting to discover exactly how many tribal members, and which ones, were being affected by the 48-hour hearings in which hundreds of children were disappearing into state custody. Again he was denied, even though he was the attorney of record for the tribes, both

of whom had filed motions of intervention on behalf of their members in ICWA cases pending before the court in Pennington County.

Hanna, by now becoming aware of what he suspected was a growing, systemic problem within the state, had already been in contact with the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). After his requests for court documents and

professional and very courteous during their meeting.

"We were trying to avoid filing a lawsuit, so I met with Judge Davis once in his chambers to discuss the Tribes' objections to the way 48-hour hearings were handled in general," said Hanna. "I respectfully advised him that we wanted to come to an agreement with the court and the state as how these hearings

should be handled in a way that would not give DSS [Department of Social Services] unfettered discretion to take Indian children into state custody."

During this meeting, Hanna said, it became clear to him that Judge Davis had no real interest in pursuing changes in court procedures in regard to the 48-hour hearings. The conversation then turned to the records request, with which both the judge and the attorney had had a point of contention.

"We also discussed his order denying the Tribes what I believed was their statutory right to order transcripts of the 48-hour hearings in which the Tribes were parties in the case," said Hanna,

whose requests for such transcripts had been repeatedly denied.

"Judge Davis had ordered that the Tribes could only order transcripts of 48-hour hearings of cases that were still pending in court, not cases that were closed, although state statutes gave the Tribes and any other parties the right to get court records—which would include transcripts of hearings—in abuse and neglect cases in which they were parties. He would only allow me to read those transcripts in his chambers, but would not allow me to have a copy of any hearing transcripts or take notes while reading them."

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*Rapid City Attorney Dana Hanna said the discussions with Judge Jeff Davis of the Seventh Judicial Circuit were cordial, professional and courteous. But the limited access he had to transcripts also meant they 'were not fruitful.'*

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transcripts were refused, he decided to meet with Judge Jeff Davis, the presiding judge for the Seventh Judicial Circuit in South Dakota. He wanted to discuss the procedures for these 48-hour hearings and to ask again for the records he had been requesting for weeks.

Hanna, who attended law school at the University of Nebraska, is a veteran litigator who spent 15 years as a criminal defense attorney in New York City before moving to South Dakota. He and Davis knew each other professionally, though they had only occasionally met in court. According to Hanna, Judge Davis and his clerk were cordial, pro-

"The discussions [with Judge Davis]," Hanna added, "were not fruitful."

### The Hard Way

Four months later, Stephen Pevar's flight touched down at the Sioux Falls Regional Airport in South Dakota. After nearly six months of research, conference calls and discussions with Indian law and civil procedure experts across the country, he had come to discuss a state-tribal compact regarding South Dakota's alleged violations of the Indian Child Welfare Act and the federal Due Process Clause in removing Native children from their homes.

Pevar, national staff counsel for the American Civil Liberties Union, had flown in from Connecticut. Hanna had driven from Rapid City to pick him up. The two men had scheduled a meeting with J.R. LaPlante, who had been appointed in 2011 by Gov. Dennis Daugaard as Secretary of South Dakota Department of Tribal Relations.

LaPlante, who is a member of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, is also an attorney and former tribal judge. In his official capacity as a cabinet-level member of Daugaard's administration, he had agreed to meet with Pevar and Hanna in Vermillion the following day, March 14, 2012.

As Pevar and Hanna drove to Vermillion, the county seat of Clay County, they discussed the case at length, strategizing how they intended to handle the meeting and the subsequent course of action, should the state refuse to address the litany of issues that were on the table.

"There's a provision in ICWA [25 U.S.C. 1919(a)] that allows states to enter into written agreements [with tribes]," said Pevar. "So Dana and I met with J.R. in an effort to avoid a lawsuit. We laid out all the complaints we ultimately included in the lawsuit, as

well as some other issues, and asked if the state would commit to improving things in a written agreement."

At this juncture, Hanna, Pevar and their colleagues had not yet decided which legal course they would pursue, and there were no identified plaintiffs in the case. Additionally, it was not decided whether they should—or even could—have the tribes sue on behalf of their members, which had never before been attempted in a federal suit in relation to ICWA. But they were determined to open the dialogue to assess whether the state was amenable to an agreement.

Hanna had sent a detailed letter to LaPlante, advising him of the key


of a day with LaPlante going over their concerns regarding the policies and procedures involved in the 48-hour hearings. They also discussed the fact that the children were being placed in non-Indian foster homes. They said LaPlante told them his office had no authority or administrative capability to implement or even suggest the sort of changes that would be needed to address the ongoing removal of children from their families.

But they also said LaPlante said he would inform them that he would take up their concerns with the administration to see if any out-of-court remedies were attainable.

On May 31, 2012, Hanna received a letter from the state that began, "Thank you for your interest." It ended with an invitation to the legal team to "evaluate" the South Dakota Guidelines for Judicial Process in Child Abuse and Neglect Cases as a basis for any further discussions, "since the crux of your letter was about court procedure."

"States generally don't want to settle with the ACLU," said Pevar. "Many politicians often find it difficult to settle with us and would rather have a judge order them to do it. Whether that played a role here, I'd have no idea."

With that letter, Pevar and Hanna believed the state had sent a clear message. "They gave no reason to believe that they were willing to seriously pursue an agreement that would avoid litigation," Hanna said. "Stephen and I interpreted their response as meaning, 'Go sue us if you want.' So we did."

In March 2013, Pennington County state's attorney Mark Vargo, State Secretary of Social Services Kim Malsam-Rysdon, Pennington County Social Services Director Luann Van Hunnik, or District Court Judge Jeff Davis were all named as defendants in *Oglala Sioux Tribe v. Van Hunnik*. <http://bit.ly/1cRnfpr> 

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*'States generally don't want to settle with the American Civil Liberties Union. Many politicians often find it difficult to settle with us and would rather have a judge order them to do it.'*

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points he and Pevar wanted to discuss and what they had hoped could be addressed in a tribal-statement agreement. "Most of the issues focused on the 48-hour hearings, but not all," said Hanna. "I wrote that letter so that [LaPlante] would be prepared to discuss the issues and so that he could have something to show to the Governor, the Attorney General, DSS, and anyone else on the State side, so they would know our position on these specific issues."

### The Harder Way

Pevar and Hanna spent the better part

# Aftermath at Yellowstone

Bison slaughter over but controversy remains

**Bottom Line:** *Political, cultural and health issues have attended this year's ritual buffalo killing at the country's most famous national park.*

The slaughter of bison in Yellowstone National Park has been declared finished for the year, but the controversy is far from over. A season that saw acrimony erupt between two tribes, as well as the arrest and arraignment of a young activist, was topped off by a U.S. government study that said bison do not have to be killed to prevent the spread of the infectious disease brucellosis.

It has become something of an annual tradition: Bison seeking sustenance in deepest winter edge out of Yellowstone National Park's northern border to forage in Montana. There, ranchers say, the potential contamination of the animals with brucellosis threatens their livestock.

This year, tribes were permitted to partake of the slaughtered bison for food purposes. But many conservationists objected to one of the killing methods, which entailed the trucking of hundreds of bison to slaughterhouses, rather than hunting.

"The problem isn't with killing buffalo, it's with indiscriminate killing of buffalo," Jim Stone, chairman of the Inter Tribal Buffalo Council, told the *Billings Gazette*. "The tribes have been opposed to a lot of what the park has done."

What tribes would like to see, Stone said, is for disease-free calves to be transplanted to tribes that already have bison herds, with slaughter reserved for older bulls and cows only. Fifty-eight tribes in 19 states belong to the Tribal Buffalo Council, and 50 of those tribes maintain herds, the *Billings Gazette* said.

Earlier this month Comfrey Jacobs of Grand Junction, Colorado, was arrested after chaining himself for five hours to a 50-gallon, cement-filled drum in the middle of the road leading to a bison capture facility, the *Billings Gazette* reported on March 6. Though he did not slow the

process—three horse trailers laden with bison headed for slaughter rumbled by as authorities were cutting his chains—he was charged with disorderly conduct, breaking the area closure around the capture facility and interfering with government operations, the *Gazette* said. Arraigned on March 11, Jacobs refused a plea bargain and will appear in court again on April 2.

The season was declared over on March 7 after about 600 bison had been removed in total. Authorities said that 258 bison that had migrated outside the park had been captured and shipped to

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*'The problem isn't with killing buffalo,' said the chairman of the Inter Tribal Buffalo Council, 'it's with indiscriminate killing of buffalo.'*

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slaughter, while hunters had killed 264 or more, and 60 others had been put into an animal-contraception experiment.

Although ranchers do not support the release of bison outside the park, a study by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Wildlife Conservation Society found recently that bison may be quarantined and determined to be brucellosis-free. This makes it safe to take young bison out of Yellowstone and combine them with herds elsewhere without risking brucellosis transmission to a new set of animals, the study authors said.

"The results of this study indicate that under the right conditions, there is an

opportunity to produce live brucellosis-free bison from even a herd with a large number of infected animals like the one in Yellowstone National Park," said Dr. Jack Rhyne, APHIS Veterinary Officer, in a statement released by the Wildlife Conservation Society. "Additionally, this study was a great example of the benefits to be gained from several agencies pooling resources and expertise to research the critical issue of brucellosis in wildlife."

Brucellosis, which causes miscarriage in the animals, can be passed on to a cow that comes in contact with the aborted fetus of a bison, elk or cattle. The study took young bison from an infected herd and kept them long enough to calve. The animals and their offspring were tested for brucellosis and found to be disease-free.

Yellowstone bison are the most genetically pure strain, meaning they are a match for the herds that used to thunder across the Great Plains, a mainstay of culture and sustenance for Indigenous Peoples. An agreement with Montana mandates the park to keep the bison population at 3,200 in its northern herd and 1,400 in the central, the latter being the one that tends to migrate out of the park in winter.

Meanwhile, a dispute flared between two historically antagonistic tribes when a Blackfoot man accused the Nez Perce of killing pregnant female bison. Nez Perce Tribal Chairman Silas Whitman spoke out after James St. Goddard of the Blackfoot Confederacy showed up at Montana Governor Steve Bullock's office bearing a bloody bison heart in a plastic bag. Whitman said that although they did not agree with the methods used, Nez Perce members welcomed the meat. The Salish Kootenai, Umatilla and Nez Perce all have hunting rights outside the park, according to the *Helena Independent Record*, while the Blackfoot do not.

"We deal with the hand we've been given, and our people need to eat," said Whitman. <http://bit.ly/1d7a30b> 📱

# The Navajo Nation's Electoral Challenge

Why geography matters as much as issues **BY ALYSA LANDRY**

**Bottom Line:** *The next leader of the Navajo Nation must appeal to voters over 27,000 square miles and three states—and history offers a glimpse at the possible outcome.*

Navajo voters this year will elect their eighth president in a race that comes as the tribe wrestles with unemployment, controversial energy policies and widespread government corruption.

The August 26 primary election promises to pit several political veterans against each other, including some big names from across the 27,000-square-mile reservation. If history holds true, however, candidates from the Arizona portion of the reservation will have a better chance of being elected.

"Traditionally, it has been harder for New Mexico candidates to get elected because there are more voters on the Arizona side," said Edison Wauneka, executive director of the Navajo Election Administration. "Arizona has a bigger land mass and more voters."

According to voter registration records, nearly 58,000 Navajo voters live in Arizona, while about 47,000 live in New Mexico. Utah, which makes up the smallest portion of the reservation, reports only about 5,000 voters. The numbers are stacked against candidates from outside Arizona, who face an uphill battle when it comes to generating support.

Since Henry Chee Dodge was elected as the first tribal chairman in 1922, 18 individuals have held the office of the tribe's top executive, either as chairman or tribal president. Ten of those people came from Arizona, eight were from New Mexico—including Dodge, who was from Crystal—and none came from Utah.

After the tribe restructured its government in 1989 to include an executive office, seven individuals have served as

president. Five of them, including the first president, Peterson Zah, were from Arizona.

The tribe's current president, Ben Shelly, is from Thoreau, New Mexico, which proves it is possible to gain support across the reservation, said Albert Hale, who served as second president, from 1994 to 1997. The third president, Thomas Atcitty, was from Shiprock, New Mexico.

"Historically, very few people from New Mexico have been elected," said Hale, of Klagnetoh, Arizona. "All the rest have been from Arizona. Anyone from New Mexico has to overcome that history."

Two people have filed paperwork and paid the \$1,500 fee to run in this year's election, Wauneka said. Political newcomer Myron McLaughlin and Joe Shirley Jr., who served as the tribe's only two-term president from 2003 to 2011, have officially joined the race. Both candidates are from Chinle, Arizona.

Several other people have picked up packets from the various election offices across the reservation. They have until May 28 to complete them and pay the fee.

Presidential hopefuls from New Mexico include Shelly, who served as vice president under Shirley, and Donald Benally, a career politician from Shiprock.

Benally ran for president four years ago against 11 opponents. He came in third during the primary election, after Shelly and former New Mexico Sen. Lynda Lovejoy, who faced off during the general election.

The 2010 election was unique because of the candidates who led the race, said Raymond Tsosie, a political insider from Upper Fruitland, New Mexico. All three top candidates were from New Mexico. "It's doable, but you've got to get that Arizona portion," Tsosie said. "Arizona is a different animal. It's very different from New Mexico."


Although part of the same reservation, the Arizona, New Mexico and Utah communities differ in language, culture and religion, Tsosie said. New Mexico tends to be more progressive and more Christianized, while Arizona has remained more isolated and the people cling tighter to traditions and ceremonies.

Successful candidates must demonstrate traditional and modern knowledge, Tsosie said. "A president needs to know about traditional things and about what's coming in the future. They need to speak Navajo and English and be articulate in both languages."

Candidates also need to communicate a vision to the people, Hale said. "As a candidate, you need to connect with all the people, elderly to children, traditional and modern," he said. "You have to have a vision that connects with all the people and you need to be able to speak about that vision."

Whoever wins this year's election will inherit myriad challenges, including stricter energy policies coming from the federal government, an unemployment rate that tops 50 percent and ongoing criminal investigations into members of the legislative and executive branches who were accused of misusing tribal funds.

The tribe's next president—like every preceding leader—also will be expected to help keep the young generation at home, Hale said. That means economic development and opportunity for young, educated Navajos to stay on the reservation and connected to the culture.

"There are a lot of Navajos moving off the reservation," he said. "If the exodus continues, the language and culture will be gone. As leaders, we haven't done enough to keep our children and grandchildren on the reservation." <http://bit.ly/1eVQ9QI> 



*A year after being assaulted, Washington State University instructor David Warner of Canada's First Nations is still recovering.*



*Moose are dying at an alarming rate, especially in Minnesota, the apparent epicenter of a blight along the southern edge of their range.*



*House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi now opposes trademark protection for the Washington Redskins football team name.*



*The Fond du Lac Ojibwe High School basketball team celebrated its victory in the Class 1A quarterfinals in triple overtime.*

**The Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee (MRRIC) is seeking comments to their proposed Charter amendments on or before April 19, 2014.**

MRRIC proposes an amendment adding the Osage Nation to the list of eligible Tribes for membership, adding a 29th stakeholder seat and revising the term limits of the Committee's Chair and Vice-Chair seats.

Comments can be emailed to **Info@MRRIC.org** or mailed to **Corps of Engineers Attn: Mary Roth 1616 Capitol Ave. Ste. 9000 Omaha, NE 68102**

For more information, visit **www.MRRIC.org**

One, Two & Three Bedrooms or writing to:

Timpson Place Associates  
588 Timpson Place  
Bronx, NY 10455  
Management Office

Or picking it up in person at:

Bruckner Houses  
588 Timpson Place  
Bronx, NY 10455

Completed applications sent by regular mail must be Received NO LATER than 5/31/2014.



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# Headlines from the Web

## STATE HOUSE CONDEMNS EPA CHIEF'S REMARKS ABOUT ALASKA GIFTS

<http://bit.ly/OCFbsG>

## CITY BALKS AT PROVIDING TAX DOCUMENTS TO TRIBES

<http://bit.ly/OxZ1pg>

## TRIBE HOPES TO REVITALIZE SOUTH TULSA SHOPPING, ENTERTAINMENT CENTER

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

## 2 PLEAD NOT GUILTY TO THEFT OF OMAHA TRIBE FUNDS

<http://bit.ly/1gB0hOw>

## DOJ'S 'OPERATION CHOKE POINT' INFRINGES ON TRIBAL TRUST

<http://bit.ly/1j7ZhsZ>

## NEW PROGRAM LAUNCHES IN GREEN COUNTRY TO PROTECT INDIAN CASINOS

<http://bit.ly/1nGK4B7>

## Upcoming Events

### 17TH ANNUAL TRIBAL ENVIRONMENTAL SUMMIT MARCH 26-28

The Tribal Summit provides the opportunity for tribal representatives and other environmental professionals to obtain a firsthand view of various products and training materials that are necessary to enhance environmental programs. Agenda topics from past summits have included wetlands, land revitalization, air monitoring, underground storage tanks, grant administration and strategic planning, assessment methods and technologies, and safe drinking water.

**Location:** Wyndham Dallas Suites-Park Central Hotel, Dallas, Texas

### NATIVE AMERICAN LITERATURE SYMPOSIUM MARCH 27-29

Spirited participation on all aspects of Native American studies—art, history, politics, science, religion—is welcomed at this annual gathering. Sessions will include “Tribal Identities and Epistemologies,” “Literature and Language Preservation,” “Life Writing in Indian Country” and “Contemporary Issues in Education and Identity,” culminating in a keynote address by Louise Erdrich, National Book Award winner for *The Round House*.

**Location:** Mystic Lake Casino Hotel, Minneapolis, Minnesota

### ALASKA NATIVE HEALTH RESEARCH CONFERENCE MARCH 27-28

The theme for the fourth annual conference reflects the primary purpose of Alaska Native health research: “Research for a Healthier People.” A highlight will be a discussion with leaders from key research-funding institutions about how to better align Alaska Native research needs with federal and state funding opportunities. Environmental health research, intervention development, injury prevention, tobacco research, hepatitis investigations and community-based research will be among the panels and breakout talks.

**Location:** Hotel Captain Cook, Anchorage, Alaska

### CONTEMPORARY NORTHWEST TRIBAL HEALTH CONFERENCE MARCH 28-29

The second conference in this series, sponsored by the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board, the Northwest Native American Research Centers for Health, and the Oregon Health & Science University Center for Healthy Communities, will highlight various health research efforts in the Northwest through oral and poster presentations, sharing best prac-

tices and lessons learned, and providing time for networking and learning more about health research for American Indian and Alaska Natives. Included will be urban and non-urban Indian health updates and health-related academic programs designed for Natives throughout Oregon, Washington and Idaho.

**Location:** World Trade Center Portland, Portland, Oregon

### TRIBAL COURT TRIAL ADVOCACY TRAINING PROGRAM MARCH 31-APRIL 3

This program's training emphasis will be on prosecution of individuals trafficking illegal narcotics. Through lecture and practical exercises, the course will provide classroom instruction as well as breakout sessions instructing on trial preparation, opening statements, direct examination, exhibits and evidentiary foundations, cross examination, impeachment, closing arguments, opposing strategies, components of a plea agreement and information from the Veteran's Affairs representative specializing in VA courts. Sponsored by the Office of Justice Services Division of Tribal Justice Support of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

**Location:** Renaissance Denver Hotel, Denver, Colorado

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I wish to respond to two recent articles in Indian Country Today Media Network.

Regarding “The Democratic Party's Indian Problem (And Guess Who's Next?)” (March 17), and the efforts of Mark Wandering Medicine and his

compatriots to secure support for equal voting access in Montana, I believe the Democratic leadership should have respected Mr. Wandering Medicine by listening to him.

As for “Eureka Considers a Formal

Apology for Wiyot Massacre” (March 17), I say the apology should have happened long ago. Not only is it the right thing to do, it is the only thing to do.

— Ronna Sommers  
Springfield, Missouri

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



## TOP NEWS ALERTS

From [IndianCountryTodayMediaNetwork.com](http://IndianCountryTodayMediaNetwork.com)

### FCC WANTS NATIVE BROADBAND APPLICANTS

The Federal Communications Commission is soliciting nominations for its Native Nations Broadband Task Force, which the White House created in May 2011 to help improve broadband service in Indian Country. "We hope and expect that many members will recommit, but we also need more regional representation from across Indian Country, and the inclusion of more subject matter experts from new areas of tribal government institutions," FCC chairman Tom Wheeler told the National Congress of American Indians on March 12. Letters of nomination are due May 14.

### TORTOISE ROCK CASINO TO OPEN

After 10 months of construc-

tion, the boutique Tortoise Rock Casino is gearing to open March 31 in the Mojave Desert enclave of Twentynine Palms, California, located just outside Palm Springs and nestled between Joshua Tree National Park and one of the country's largest military training facilities, the United States Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center. The 30,000-square-foot gaming complex, owned and operated by the Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians, will offer 490 slot machines, seven table games and live poker.

### ANOTHER RUN FOR PAULETTE JORDAN

Paulette Jordan, director for enrollment for the Coeur d'Alene Tribe, is running again for the Idaho State House. She will seek

the Democratic nomination to represent District 5, which includes portions of Benewah and Latah County in May's primary. Although she lost her last election attempt, she said, "I am intimately familiar with the issues of jobs and economic development in the area. Whether it is tourism, timber, agriculture, our economy is critical to the people of District 5."

### PETITION AGAINST ACTRESS IN INDIAN ROLE

More than 5,000 people have signed an online petition against the casting of the white actress Rooney Mara in the Native role of Tiger Lily in *Pan*, the Warner Bros. live-action prequel to the 1953 animated Disney classic *Peter Pan*. The blogosphere has erupted with individual protests;

Jacqueline Keeler (@jkeeler), one of the #NotYourTonto organizers, tweeted, "Rooney Mara cast as Tiger Lily in a *Peter Pan* remake? WT-? Why won't they stop! I need a rest!"

### GAMING DEFEAT IN MAINE

The Maine Senate on March 19 effectively killed six bills would have allowed for the expansion of casinos and gaming, including three that would have benefited several of the state's tribes. The affected tribes are the Penobscot Nation, the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians, the Passamaquoddy Tribe and the Aroostook Band of Micmacs. Although the tribal measures were not formally defeated, they were indefinitely postponed, meaning that they are not likely to pass this during this legislative session.

## UPCOMING POW WOWS

### 10th Annual American Indian Disability Summit

March 27 - 28  
Phoenix Airport Marriott  
Phoenix, AZ  
602-264-6768 x 2206  
[igeorge@phxindcenter.org](mailto:igeorge@phxindcenter.org)  
[AmericanIndianDisabilitySummit.wordpress.com](http://AmericanIndianDisabilitySummit.wordpress.com)

### Brigham Young University Cedartree Memorial Competition Pow Wow

March 28 - 29  
Wilkinson Student Center Ballroom  
Provo, UT  
801-422-3065  
[cedartree\\_powwow@byu.edu](mailto:cedartree_powwow@byu.edu) or [multicultural@byu.edu](mailto:multicultural@byu.edu)  
[multicultural.BYU.edu/content/byu-cedartree-memorial-competition-pow-wow](http://multicultural.BYU.edu/content/byu-cedartree-memorial-competition-pow-wow)

### 49th Annual Florida Indian Hobbyist Association's Pow Wow and Family Gathering

March 28 - 30  
Savannas Recreation Center 1400 East Midway Road  
Fort Pierce, FL  
722-464-7855  
[douglas@douglas.rogers.name](mailto:douglas@douglas.rogers.name)  
[FIHA.info](http://FIHA.info)

### 4th Annual Ida'ina Gathering

March 28 - 30  
Dena'ina Civic & Convention Center  
600 W. Seventh Ave.  
Anchorage, AK  
907-646-3115  
[emccord@tyonek.com](mailto:emccord@tyonek.com)  
[www.tebughnafoundation.com](http://www.tebughnafoundation.com)

### Miss Junior Miss & Little Miss Indian Oklahoma City Honor Dance

March 29  
Shawnee Expo Center  
1700 West Independence  
Shawnee, OK  
405-632-5227  
[swapskineh@sbcglobal.net](mailto:swapskineh@sbcglobal.net)  
[MissIndianOKC.org](http://MissIndianOKC.org)

### Red River Intertribal Club

### Benefit Pow Wow

March 29  
National Guard Armory 3701 Armory Road  
Wichita Falls, TX  
950-782-7747  
[redriverintertribalclub@yahoo.com](mailto:redriverintertribalclub@yahoo.com)  
[RedRiverIntertribal.org](http://RedRiverIntertribal.org)

### 11th Annual Westwood High School Social Pow Wow

March 29  
Westwood High School 945 West Rio Salado Parkway  
Mesa, AZ  
480-472-4497  
[tdreetop@mpsaz.org](mailto:tdreetop@mpsaz.org)  
[MPSAZ.org/westwood/activities/clubs/native](http://MPSAZ.org/westwood/activities/clubs/native)

### 17th Annual South Central Foundation Gathering

March 29  
Dena'ina Civic Convention Center 555 West 5th St.  
Anchorage, AK  
907-729-4953  
[scfmediarelations@scf.cc](mailto:scfmediarelations@scf.cc)  
[SouthCentralFoundation.com](http://SouthCentralFoundation.com)

### 27th Annual Carolina Indian Circle Pow Wow

March 29  
UNC Chapel Hill Campus  
Chapel Hill, NC  
919-843-4189  
[jloxendi@email.unc.edu](mailto:jloxendi@email.unc.edu)  
[americanindiancenter.UNC.edu/powwow](http://americanindiancenter.UNC.edu/powwow)

### 22nd Annual East Carolina Native American Organization's Pow Wow

3/29/14  
East Carolina University  
Greenville, NC  
252-328-5390  
[hunta@ecu.edu](mailto:hunta@ecu.edu)  
[Facebook.com/events/776551479039997](https://Facebook.com/events/776551479039997)

### 6th Annual Augsburg College's Traditional Pow Wow

3/29/14  
Si Melby Gymnasium  
715 23rd Ave. South  
Minneapolis, MN  
612-330-1144

[simonj@augsborg.edu](mailto:simonj@augsborg.edu)  
[Facebook.com/AISAPage](https://Facebook.com/AISAPage)

### 26th Natchez Pow Wow

March 29 - 30  
Grand Village of Natchez Indians, 400 Jefferson Davis Blvd.  
Natchez, MS  
601-442-0200  
[cborum@hotmail.com](mailto:cborum@hotmail.com)  
[NatchezPowWow.com](http://NatchezPowWow.com)

### 42nd Annual University of South Dakota Wacipi

March 29 - 30  
Dakota Dome  
North Dakota St.  
Vermillion, SD  
605-677-5331  
[tiospaye@usd.edu](mailto:tiospaye@usd.edu) or [studentservices@usd.edu](mailto:studentservices@usd.edu)  
[sites.USD.edu/tiospaye](http://sites.USD.edu/tiospaye)

### 27th Annual Mole Lake's Youth TRAILS Pow Wow


March 29 - 30  
Mole Lake Casino Lodge 3084 Highway 55  
Crandon, WI  
715-478-7519 or 715-622-0212 or 715-478-7616  
[tvz33@yahoo.com](mailto:tvz33@yahoo.com)  
[Facebook.com/events/1455147438041465?\\_ft\\_](https://Facebook.com/events/1455147438041465?_ft_)

### University of Redlands Pow Wow

March 29 - 30  
University of Redlands  
1200 E. Colton Ave.  
Redlands, CA  
909-748-8878  
[nora\\_pulskamp@redlands.edu](mailto:nora_pulskamp@redlands.edu)  
[Facebook.com/events/1410831759159460](https://Facebook.com/events/1410831759159460)

### University of Nevada Reno Social Pow Wow

March 30  
Joe Crowley Student Union 1664 North Virginia St.  
Reno, NV  
775-682-6499  
[smitrovich@unr.edu](mailto:smitrovich@unr.edu)  
[UNR.edu/cultural-diversity/events](http://UNR.edu/cultural-diversity/events)

A full-page photograph of model Jade Willoughby. She is standing outdoors against a cloudy sky, with a city skyline visible in the background. She is wearing a dark navy blue suit consisting of a jacket and trousers. Underneath the jacket, she wears a white collared shirt. Her hands are in her pockets, and she is looking off to the side with a serious expression.

*Model Jade Willoughby, a Whitesand First Nation Citizen, recently, completed her first New York Fashion Week. "It was nothing I had expected," she said, "but it was great."*

COURTESY JADE WILLOUGHBY

**THE BIG PICTURE**