Vol. 1, Issue 23 December 18-25, 2013

Indian Country the premier e-newsletter serving the nations, celebrating the people

A Letter from the Publisher

Shekóli. Bureaucracies can bludgeon the best of intentions. A perennial question for Indian country has been how to manage and unlock the dollars owed us that have been legislatively allocated hundreds and thousands of miles away in Washington, D.C. For decades, the Department of Agriculture has played a key role in the health and well being of our Nations, from the negative impact of commodities food supplies to today's attempts to make good on directives to support investment in our communities. Still, even with one of the most supportive presidential administrations Indian country has seen in recent memory, challenges endure when it comes to making sure allocated funds and programs reach their potential—and their intended beneficiaries.

Enter civil servants such as Patrice Kunesh, the Deputy Under Secretary of the Agriculture's Rural Development. Ms. Kunesh is one of those laudable Native women who have dedicated their lives to improving the lives of those around them. On a

personal level, she is no personal stranger to USDA programs: As a young mother of two children, she received food stamps and was a recipient of WIC (Women, Infant and Children) vouchers. She credits food stamps as a necessary component as she strove to complete her education and build her career.

In a Q&A with Indian Country Today Media Network this week, Kunesh, who took the post in May 2013, spoke with enthusiasm about the strides made in her division and pointed to \$660 million invested in Indian country by Rural Development. She also sees room



for growth. "I don't think tribes are doing enough," said Kunesh. "Tribes don't know generally what we can do in terms of our programs and in terms of housing, business and utility infrastructure." It is a sentiment heard many times by our correspondents from the USDA, which in fact has many resources that can be tapped by Nations. But, as many of us know, the process of applying for and obtaining these funds can fall by the wayside for tribal governments, which can be consumed by such day-today concerns as making sure the senior care center can provide services to all who need it.

When Kunesh speaks of the real success stories she sees, she talks about the partnership between leaders of Nations and Rural Development. It helps, of course, to have a sympathetic and active personality like Kunesh who can help our officials navigate the red tape. We also hope that ICTMN facilitates news and initiatives that might otherwise go unnoticed by tribal leaders. Indeed, one may say that

is at the heart of everything we do: provide information that can be shared for the betterment of all.

NΛ ki' wa,

Kay Hallout

Ray Halbritter

Table of **Contents**



2	COMMENTARY
4	NEWS
8	ONLINE GAMING DIVIDE
9	TRIBES AND PROGRAMS
11	NUCLEAR FLASHPOING
12	WEEK IN PHOTOS

.3	TRADEWINDS CLASSIFIEDS
.4	WEB, EVENTS, LETTERS
5	CARTOON, NEWS ALERTS
6	UPCOMING POW WOWS
7	THE BIG PICTURE

Targeting of Tribal Lenders is an 'Outrage'

On November 15, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) filed an amicus curiae brief supporting the New York State Department of Financial Services in tits pending litigation with three federally recognized Indian tribes and their lending enterprises. Afterward, **Tex Hall**, chairman of the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation and Chairman of the Great Plains Tribal Chairman's Association issued the following statement:

We are outraged that the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau would engage in unnecessary and improper federal action to blatantly attack the sovereignty of our Indian Tribal Nations. Our tribes work tirelessly

Honor Mandela by Freeing Leonard Peltier

The late South Africa President Nelson Mandela called for the release of the American Indian Movement activist Leonard Peltier, who many believe was wrongly imprisoned for tkilling of two FBI agents in 1975. **Ruth Hopkins** (Sisseton-Wahpeton/Mdewakanton/Hunkpapa) urges President Obama to honor Mandela's memory by doing so:

Nelson Mandela was far from alone in requesting that Leonard Peltier be released. Amnesty International, the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights, the National Congress of American Indians, Archbishop Desmond Tutu and the

Why Disenrollment Demands Serious Attention

Against the background of the Nooksack Indian Tribe's disenrollment of 306 members, **Ryan Seelau** of the Native Nations Institute for Leadership, Management and Policy at the University of Arizona considers the basis of such actions:

Since disenrollment has such profound effects on the rights and identity of an individual, as well as the cohesion and identity of the community, substantial procedural safeguards must be erected. Governments serious about their sovereignty-and who want to be taken seriously as sovereigns by their own citizens as well as other sovereigns-need to spend time determining what these safeguards with Congress and the Administration to promote economic development opportunities for Indian country and our people. The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's actions are a preemptive strike against tribes who have worked in good faith over the past year to establish a working relationship with the bureau and educate them on the complexities of tribal and sovereign law.

As mandated by Executive Order 13175, all federal agencies must engage in meaningful consultation on issues that affect tribes' right to self-government and self-determination. In its own meager Policy for Consultation with Tribal Governments that barely exceeds one page in length after excluding legal disclaimers, the CFPB has expressed its commitment

Dalai Lama, among many others, have all called for his freedom. Leonard was extradited from Canada after two other individuals were found not guilty of the murders. That extradition was based on an affidavit that was later recanted. Leonard's trials and subsequent appeals have been replete with error, including the manufacturing and hiding of evidence, false testimony, the withholding of over 900 FBI documents related to the participation of 24 other people in the shootout, and multiple constitutional violations.

Leonard has suffered severe beatings and mistreatment behind bars at Coleman Federal Correctional Complex in Coleman, Florida. Now an elder, he has

should be, and what cultural, judicial, or other democratic systems need to be bolstered or established, in order to ensure the protection of citizens' rights.

One source of inspiration for such protections might be the United States, where the safeguards are nearly absolute and in favor of an individual citizen's right to remain a citizen. In America, no citizen by birth may have their citizenship revoked involuntarily; rather, a U.S. citizen may only change that portion of their identity by voluntarily choosing to renounce their citizenship. The same safeguard essentially holds true for state citizenship as well, so long as an individual meets certain minimum requirements. For naturalized citizens, revocation can to honor this federal-tribal relationship.

Yet, in its brief...the CFPB continues conduct to accomplish indirectly what it cannot do directly. Acknowledging in its brief that it is tasked with the enforcement of federal law, the CFPB then argues for 12 pages that the court should allow New York to enforce its state laws against the tribes. The law of this land is to the contrary—only Congress, not the CFBP, not the State of New York, has authority to abrogate tribal sovereignty....

This behavior is truly shameful. It hurts Indian country deeply. It violates our trust. Finally, it undermines both the Agency's and President Obama's—professed commitment to improve relations with our people. <u>http://bit.ly/1d5mpAz</u>

already spent nearly 40 years behind bars. He maintains his innocence.

President Obama, photo ops and handshaking at the White House Tribal Nations Conference are a nice gesture of solidarity, but for true healing and reconciliation to begin, we must acknowledge our painful history and set about fixing those injustices. As Malcolm X said, "You don't stick a knife in a man's back nine inches and then pull it out six inches and say you're making progress." Honor Nelson Mandela's legacy by doing what your presidential predecessors failed to do and free Native activist Leonard Peltier. Please, let our Mandela come home. http://bit.ly/1bpvr8T #

occur, but it is extremely rare and there are a substantial number of procedural hurdles that the U.S. government must overcome-starting with an under-oath affidavit of just cause to even initiate the process-before the revocation process can proceed.

It is beneficial for Native Nations like the Nooksack Indian Tribe to examine their own histories and apply their own time-tested core values when determining how to act in circumstances such as these. After all, the decision to exclude members not only has a powerful impact on the individuals affected, but also on the identity of those individuals who remain within the collective. *http://bit. ly/1gWO2i5*



Impaired Driving Mobilization

December 12, 2013 - January 1, 2014

The Indian Highway Safety Program would like your help in saving lives in Indian Country during the *Don't Shatter the Dream* Indian State Impaired Driving Mobilization! For information on how you can participate and possibly receive an incentive award, contact:

> BIA Indian Highway Safety Program Contact: Patricia Abeyta 1001 Indian School Road NW, Suite 251 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87104 (505) 563-5371







Study Finds Some Climate Changes Could Slam Us Hard, and Soon

Climate change may be progressing incrementally, but one of those increments is sure to produce abrupt, possibly irreversible effects, the National Research Council said in a new report.

"Research has helped us begin to distinguish more imminent threats from those that are less likely to happen this century," said James W.C. White, professor of geological sciences at the University of Colorado, Boulder, and chair of the committee that wrote the report.

The report puts many aspects of climate change in perspective and gives something of a timetable for when major changes might occur, so as to facilitate planning. For instance a massive methane release from melting permafrost, while worrisome, will most likely not happen this century, the report says. Neither will a shutdown in the Atlantic Ocean circulation patterns.

But the resurgence of mountain pine beetles, which is decimating forests in Canada and in the western U.S., is due to an absence of bitterly cold winter nights, which used to kill the beetles. The well documented drop in Arctic summer sea ice, which has occurred much faster than anticipated, was also cited in the report.

Much of this is already known to Indigenous Peoples, whose communities are at the forefront of climate change's effect on daily life and the environment. Many have already made plans to adapt. The trick, according to the report, lies in averting the thresholds so as to stay on the preservation side of the tipping point, the researchers said.

"Right now we don't know what many of these thresholds are," White said. "But with better information, we will be able to anticipate some major changes before they occur and help reduce the potential consequences." http://bit.ly/1hluWPA @

Native Ties Increase at Portland's Largest Employer

Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU), Oregon's only academic health and research university, recently invited NativeOne Institutional Training to participate in a significant \$126,365,000 bond underwriting. Lead underwriters were J.P. Morgan Securities LLC and Morgan Stanley, with NativeOne serving as a co-manager alongside Bank of America Merrill Lynch, Loop Capital Markets and Cabrera Capital Markets, LLC.

"OHSU is pleased to add NativeOne to the team for our bond refinancing," said Lawrence Furnstahl, OHSU chief financial officer. "We feel strongly that a diverse group of banking partners adds new ideas, brings additional insights, and helps build new capacities—ensuring the best outcome for the University."

As Portland's largest employer, with approximately 14,000 employees, OHSU provides many services and community support not found anywhere else in the state. The university serves patients from every corner of Oregon and is a conduit for learning for more than 4,300 students and trainees. OHSU is the source of more than 200 community outreach programs that bring health and education services to each county in the state.

The university also conducts both basic and applied health research across several specialties. Each summer, the university offers a research-training program, as well as tuition scholarships, to Native American health professionals. According to its website, the "curriculum is designed to meet the needs of professionals who work in diverse areas of American Indian and Alaska Native health." The summer institute is sponsored by the Northwest Native American Research Center for Health at the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board and by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention-funded Prevention Research Center, the Center for Healthy Communities. http://bit. ly/1bwSAL7 🐗

Mortgage Trends Spotlighted in LendingPatterns Repot

BY MARK FOGARTY

Quicken Loans of Michigan moved into the number three position in terms of number of loans to Indians, according to federal Home Mortgage Disclosure Act data for 2012.

Quicken, known for its online and TV presence, made 1,295 mortgages to Indians and Alaska Natives last year, according to federal Home Mortgage Disclosure Act data sorted by LendingPatterns, an online database tool developed by vendor ComplianceTech.

That was good for a 3.76 percent share of the Indian market. The numbers included both first and second mortgages (often called home equity loans or lines of credit). The total dollar amount was \$246 million. Wells Fargo and JPMorgan Chase were the number one and two lenders for 2012.

The LendingPatterns report also noted that of 35,000 loans made to Indians last year, more than a third were made to those defined as "upper income," while just 7,000 combined went to those in "low" or "moderate" income categories. Perhaps surprisingly, there were few manufactured housing loans made to Indians. There were mortgages on 33,000 one-to-four family homes, but just 1,500 manufactured housing liens. There were also very few second liens, with the vast majority being first mortgages. More than half of those mortgages were refinances.

Meanwhile, the effort to bring mortgage lending to American Indian reservations moved slowly ahead last fiscal year, federal data show. The Department of Housing and Urban Development's section 184 Indian mortgage, designed to overcome a key land issue and bring home loan finance to Indian homelands effectively redlined before the turn of the century, saw a slight increase in lending volume for fiscal 2013. The \$52 million of mortgages extended to borrowers on reservations last year topped the \$48 million in fiscal 2012. The number of loans made, however, actually declined from FY 2012 to FY 2013, from 467 to 392. http://bit.ly/1bxqVJU 🐗



A Happy Ending for Auctioned Sacred Items

Hopi and San Carlos Apache tribal members received an early Christmas gift in the form of the news that a clutch of sacred items is on their way back to them.

As ICTMN has previously reported, international efforts failed to stop 25 of the items from being auctioned in Paris on December 9. It was the second notable auction this year of such pieces, most of them *katsinam*, known to non-Natives as "masks."

But on the day after the auction, it was announced that 24 of the 25 pieces had been bought anonymously by the Annenberg Foundation, at a total cost of \$530,000. Twentyone of them will be returned to the Hopi, and three to the San Carlos Apache. Gregory Annenberg Weingarten, director and vice president of the organization, put into words what many Hopi have been saying all along: "These are not trophies to have on one's mantel; they are truly sacred works for the Native Americans. They do not belong in auction houses or private collections. It gives me immense satisfaction to know that they will be returned home to their rightful owners."

Hopi cultural leader Sam Tenakhongva was pleased at the development. "The Annenberg Foundation set an example today of how to do the right thing," he said. "Our hope is that this act sets an example for others that items of significant cultural and religious value can only be properly cared for by those vested with the proper knowledge and responsibility. They simply cannot be put up for sale."

The 25th sacred item was purchased by Pierre Servan Schreiber, the lawyer who made the case in a French court on Friday. He, too, plans to return it to the Hopi. "Now we have reason to celebrate," he said. http://bit.ly/1coDdAY

Ramapough Blast 'Out of the Furnace' as 'Hate Crime'

New Jersey's Ramapough Indians are protesting the newly released film *Out of the Furnace* as a harmful depiction of their community.

"It eats up and destroys one's self-esteem, particularly for the children. You can't really measure the destruction," Ramapough Lenape leader Dwaine Perry told NJ.com. "It's a massive social humiliation. Not only is it a hate crime, it's an extremely violent crime."

In the movie, Casey Affleck plays an Iraq War veteran who has taken up bare-knuckle boxing as a means to make money to pay off gambling debts. He travels to the Ramapo Mountains of New Jersey, where he gets into trouble with an insular backwoods community rife with drugs and crime. Although this society is not identified as Ramapough in the film, Ramapough critics of the depiction say it is obviously playing on a harmful stereotype of their people.

One character, played by Woody Harrelson, has the last name DeGroat, which is a common family name among the Ramapough—a detail that Perry said "stepped over the boundaries of decency," reported the *Hackensack Record*.

Sharing Perry's concern was Mahwah, New Jersey Mayor Bill Laforet. "These residents live in homes no different than our neighbors and are employed by major corporations and businesses," LaForet said. "They are a vital component of our heritage and should be looked upon for the contributions they have made."

A spokeswoman for Relativity Media, the film's production company, said that "the filmmakers conducted research and drew upon their own personal life experiences in creating an original screenplay, and the story and the characters are entirely fictional." http://bit. ly/19CgmB9 #

Problems Remain for Iron Mine Near Bad River Ojibwe

BY MARY ANNETTE PEMBER

Gogebic Taconite (GTac), the company that is seeking to dig the world's biggest open pit iron ore mine near the Bad River Ojibwe Reservation in Wisconsin, is again in the news as it continues its battle with the tribe and the state Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

A December 3 article in *The Progressive* magazine notes that even though Wisconsin's environmental laws were changed earlier this year to facilitate the mining project, GTac "is having difficulty meeting even those relaxed requirements." Moreover, despite repeated requests from the DNR, the Florida-based mining company still has not addressed concerns about how they will contain asbestiform minerals or the presence of sulfuric acid from pyrite infused rock. In addition, the Wisconsin Geological Survey has documented in the proposed mining site the presence of grunerite, which the-National Academy of Sciences says is one of the most toxic forms of asbestos.

GTac leaders continue to deny the presence of grunerite in the area. "Asbestos and acid mine drainage are merely issues in the media," GTac mining engineer Tim Myers told *The Progressive*. In the same article, CEO Bill Williams maintained that there are no scientific studies confirming the presence of asbestos.

But geochemist Joseph Skulan, now a research professor at the University of Arizona, disagrees. "Their response is a lie or it indicates scientific incompetence," he told ICTMN in August. "This should kill the mine." *http://bit. ly/1bWLaCE*



New Head For Indian Education

Roessel bring federal experience

After serving almost two years as acting director of the Bureau of Indian Education, Dr. Charles "Monty" Roessel has been named full director. Reporting directly to Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs Kevin Washburn, Roessel heads a staff that includes three associate deputy directors who are responsible for education line offices serving 183 BIE-funded elementary and secondary day and boarding schools. Roessel is former director of community services, executive director and superintendent of Rough Rock Community School in Chinle, Arizona, on the Navajo Reservation, and in 2011 was named the BIE's associate deputy director for Navajo Schools. http:// bit.ly/19EQjJE 🐗

Petition Circulates Against Logo

Taking aim at the University of Utah

An online petition filed on Change.org is calling for the retirement of the "Drum and Feather" logo and the "Ute" nickname used by the sports teams at the University of Utah. "By allowing University of Utah students and fans to wear Native American headdresses, paint their faces red and 'play Indian' throughout campus, at tailgating events and in the football stadium, the University of Utah is unilaterally allowing the denigration and mockery of Native American traditions, customs and religious symbols," the petition states. Filed by Samantha Eldridge of Salt Lake City and Indigenous Students and Allies for Change, the petition has garnered over 300 signatures. *http://bit. ly/1gdK51j @*

\$20,000 For Angels Of The Cherokee

The latest holiday donation

As is customary, the Cherokee Nation Businesses and its employees are brightening the holiday for thousands of youngsters in northeast Oklahoma by supporting the Angels of the Cherokee. Employees have adopted hundreds of angels, and the company is contributing \$20,000 to help fulfill unmet gift needs for some children this Christmas. Cherokee Nation Entertainment's Hotel Services department raised \$2000 and adopted 16 angels this year alone. In 2012, more than 2,100 children received such gifts as clothes, toys, and games through the program. http://bit.ly/1f7SE3T

Billy Mills Gets Top NCAA Honor

Recognition for Olympic medalist

Olympic gold medalist Billy Mills, Oglala Lakota, will receive the Theodore Roosevelt Award of the NCAA in January. The designation, considered the NCAA's highest honor, is given annually to an individual "for whom competitive athletics in college and attention to physical well being thereafter have been important factors in a distinguished career of national significance and achievement." Mills, who overcame type-2 diabetes and the death of his parents and sister by the time he was 12, went on to join the Marines and win a gold medal for the 10,000 meters in the 1964 Tokyo Olympics. He remains the only American to have placed first in that event. http://bit.ly/1eYqxEc I

Offensive Signs At Restaurant

Mounted one after the other

An outdoor sign at a Sonic Drive-In Restaurant in Belton, Missouri displayed not one, but two, anti-Indian messages on December 8. The first one, rendered in moveable letters, read 'KC CHIEFS' WILL SCALP THE **REDSKINS FEED THEM** WHISKEY SEND - 2 - RES-ERVATION. Though it was taken down, it was soon followed by another that read, 'KC CHIEFS' WILL SCALP THE REDSKINS DRAING THE FIREWA-TER - OUT OF THEM -. "Our understanding," said a Sonic executive, "is the first was displayed for about 15 minutes and a poor attempt to rectify it was posted for about 10 minutes." Calling them "part of the same incident," he affirmed that "both messages are unacceptable and contrary to the values of our brand." http://bit. ly/19fphfy 🐗

Not Guilty Verdict In Casino Case

Four Mohawks are acquitted

Four Mohawk men in New York who were charged with operating an illegal casino

and illegally transporting and using gambling devices "within Indian Country" have been found not guilty. Since summer 2011, the four men had been operating the Three Feathers Casino at the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe's reservation in Akwesasne without state or federal licensing or approval from the tribal council. But the traditional Men's Council of the People of the Way of the Longhouse-Kanienkehaka Kaianerehkowa Kanonhsesne-say that they set up a gaming commission and operated Three Feathers by standards that met or exceeded those of the National Indian Gaming Commission. http://bit. ly/1jXIvu8 🐗

Atleo Attends Mandela Ceremonies

Presents feather for burial

Assembly of First Nations National Chief Shawn Ain-chut Atleo attended both the memorial service and lying in state of the late South African President Nelson Mandela on December 10 and 11. "We gathered the full Canadian delegation in a circle and presented the South African High Commissioner with an Eagle Feather and, in full respect, passed to him the sacred responsibility to carry it with him to Madiba's ancestral homeland to be buried with Madiba," he said. "I presented a second Eagle Feather to the [South African] High Commissioner in friendship and as a reminder of the participation of First Nations in the memorial events." http://bit. ly/1b2OLJc 🐗

Online Gaming Divide

Disagreement among witnesses before House subcommittee BY GALE COUREY TOENSING

Bottom Line: *If a recent House hearing is any indication, the future of regulating Internet gaming is far from clear.*

Indian gaming experts and tribal leaders were conspicuously absent at a House subcommittee hearing on Internet gaming. But it was probably just as well that they didn't participate. It turned out to be an arena for some of the most powerful players in the commercial gaming industry to display their disagreements.

Earlier this month, New Jersey became the third state in the country to go online with state-sanctioned virtual gaming, joining Delaware and Nevada and keeping alive the long running controversy over its potential federal regulation. "The State of Online Gaming" was the topic on December 10 before the House Energy and Commerce Committee's subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade, chaired by Lee Terry (R-Nebraska).

"While unfettered online gaming here in the U.S. is surely not the ideal, absent a clear mandate from Congress, we risk exposing our constituents to an environment where a 'race to the bottom' could present itself," Terry said in his opening statement. "It is my hope that hearings such as this one will shed light on what logical steps Congress can take to address this growing dilemma."

Geoff Freeman, the chief executive of the American Gaming Association, was the first witness. He told legislators that online gaming is here to stay and needs federal approval. "It's not often an industry comes to you asking for regulation. The gaming industry is coming to you today," Freeman said.

Freeman argued that federal regulation is needed to protect consumers, ensure the integrity of online gaming and give law enforcement agencies the tools they need to combat illegal operators. "[It will] provide Americans with access to an online gaming marketplace they unquestionably desire," he said.

Last year, before any state authorized

online gaming, Americans spent nearly \$3 billion on illegal, unregulated offshore gaming sites, Freeman testified. To put that in further context, Americans accounted for nearly 10 percent of the entire \$33 billion worldwide online gaming market in 2012. "Rather than pursuing more futile attempts at prohibition, the American Gaming Association supports strong regulation and oversight of online gaming that respects states' rights to pursue what is in the best interest of their residents," Freeman said.

Next up was Andrew Abboud, vice

"Just because we can do something doesn't mean we should,' said a vice president of Las Vegas Sands. Others differed.

president of Government Relations and Community Development of the Las Vegas Sands Corporation, whose chairman, billionaire casino magnate Sheldon Adelson, recently announced plans to push Congress to ban online gaming. He has launched an advocacy group called The Coalition to Stop Internet Gambling to carry his message.

"Internet gambling takes gambling too far," Abboud said. "Just because we can do something doesn't mean we should," he said. He invoked the Justice Department's December 2011 opinion that the 1961 Wire Act prohibits online betting only for sporting events, not lotteries or online gaming. Departmental attorneys, he said, did not consider the potential impacts of Internet gaming on security, child safety, problem gamblers, and the financial consequences for brick-and-mortar casinos.

"We urge Congress to hit the 'reset button' and restore our government's longstanding interpretation of the Wire Act, leaving any changes to laws governing Internet gambling to be considered under regular order," Abboud concluded.

John Pappas, executive director of the Poker Players Alliance, lined up with Freeman in advocating for Internet gaming and spoke in favor of HR 2666—the Internet Poker Freedom Act of 2013, which was introduced last summer by committee member Joe Barton (R-Texas). Barton's bill provides federal regulation for online poker, allowing individual states to opt out, if they choose.

"The Internet Poker Freedom Act is not about the expansion of gambling in America," Pappas said. "It focuses on corralling the current unregulated marketplace and turning it into a system that is safe for consumers and accountable to regulators and our government."

National Indian Gaming Association (NIGA) Chairman Ernie Stevens Jr. attended the hearing but did not testify. He did, however, submit a statement reiterating that any legislation must adhere to the principles unanimously adopted in a resolution by the association's members. Among them are that all tribal governments must have the right to operate and regulate Internet gaming within their borders without taxation or state government interference; that the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA) and tribal-state gaming compacts will be respected; and that federal legalization must provide positive economic benefits for Indian country.

Tribes And Programs

A conversation with Patrice Kunesh BY BRENDA AUSTIN

Bottom Line: The Deputy Under Secretary of the Agriculture Department's Rural Development program says that tribes are not doing enough to take advantage of its many services. care facility in the form of a \$40 million direct loan and a \$10 million loan guarantee.

Kunesh recently spoke with Indian

Patrice Kunesh began her tenure as Deputy Under Secretary for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development (USDA-RD) on May 22, 2013. Among her many responsibilities are the oversight of Operations and Management of the Office of Civil Rights; she also works with the state directors.

According to the USDA, during fiscal year 2013 Rural Development's electric programs invested a historic high of \$275 million in new and improved electric infrastructure for more than 80,000 American Indians and Alaska Natives. That total includes a loan for \$167 million to the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority in Arizona. Through their Community Facilities program, Rural Development invested \$114 million this year in 73 loans and grants, representing a 600 percent increase over FY 2012. Of that funding, \$3 million (24 grants)

was provided to tribal colleges and universities. Rural Development also made their largest single investment in a tribe this year to help the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians finance a new health-



Kunesh: 'It was an opportunity I couldn't refuse.'

Country Today Media Network about Rural Development's program assistance to American Indian tribes, goals for 2014 and her own interest in Indian country. With your background in tribal law, governance and economic development, what made you want to make the leap to USDA Rural Development?

> It was an opportunity I couldn't refuse. I was teaching at the University of South Dakota School of Law and received a call from the White House asking if I would consider coming to Washington, D.C. and working on behalf of Indian Affairs in the Solicitors Office at the Department of the Interior (DOI). Then around the election I received another call from the White House saying that I have done good work for the administration and would I consider branching out. They asked me where might I go and the USDA was at the top of my list.

> In the back of my mind I have always had great admiration and appreciation for USDA. As a young mother of two little ones I had received food stamps for a number of years. I also was a recipient of WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) vouchers. I lived in public housing and went to public health clinics. It was a precarious time for me. I was able to continue my education and earn

a college degree because I had food stamps.

USDA Rural Development has invested in tribal infrastructure, housing, education and health, both in grant funding and loans. Is there anything that tribes can or should be doing to take advantage of what Rural Development has to offer?

I don't think tribes are doing enough. Tribes don't know generally what we can do in terms of our programs and in terms of housing, business and utility infrastructure.

One of the things I am doing with my colleagues in Natural Resource Conservation Services, the Farm Service, the Office of Tribal Relations and our Food and Nutrition Services is to spread the word wherever we possibly can. So, as busy as this week was with our observances of Native American Heritage Month and the White House Tribal Leader Summit, we are working with other federal agencies such as the Departments of Energy, Commerce and the U.S. Treasury, as well as the Department of the Interior, to let tribes know there is a whole host of support that we can provide to them that they may not realize is available to them.

To my great surprise and tremendous appreciation I find that Rural Development alone last year invested \$660 million in Indian country. That is tribal colleges and tribal schools, health clinics and an abundance of housing that we have built on Indian reservations.

But more than the investments that Rural Development has made in terms of funding, we have really forged wonderful relationships with Indian tribes. And much of this work in the field has taken many years of developing the trust, rapport and respect of tribal leaders, and to help provide the technical assistance tribes may need to get the grant or loan application in to be awarded these funds.

What are your goals for working with tribes in 2014?

In 2014 we are going to be trying to establish significantly more partnerships across the federal government and with tribes. Our top priority right now is that we need Congress to provide a comprehensive multi-year Food, Farm and Jobs Bill as soon as possible so we can ensure for all Americans, as well as tribal governments, that Congress is committed to supporting rural America and Indian country.

We need to put nutritious food on the table in Indian country and we need to invest in good food for tribal youth in schools. We need to continue improving infrastructure in tribal communities and that goes well beyond community centers and clinics—it's about growing local and regional food systems to feed Indian people. It's about reviving traditional foods that tribes have historically cultivated. It's educating Native students at every level. So we have tremendous goals both in Rural Development and throughout the USDA.

'I don't think tribes are doing enough. Tribes don't know generally what we can do in terms of our programs.'

With the current state of our economy, underfunded health care and the effects of sequestration on tribal governments and employees, what relationship would you like to see this year between Rural Development and tribal nations?

We can only do this work in partnership and the partnership between the federal government and Indian tribes is really based on a legal obligation, and I would say a moral obligation. This partnership has been our purpose since we participated in the first White House Tribal Nations Conference in 2009, but it goes beyond that in terms of trust responsibility and a trust relationship that drives us to work with tribes across the nation. This year President Obama established the White House Council on Native American Affairs and that is to further expand the federal tribal collaboration and understanding. We are proud of our results thus far. I think we have stepped up to provide a coordinated response to many of the needs in Indian country.

We also have to recognize that our veterans have served our nation with great pride and are part of the picture here too. Native American veterans have served in greater percentage per population than any other segment of the population. We truly see that as remarkable, but also an opportunity for us to give back to them to support them and to include them in our work in very meaningful ways.

You are invested in Native communities and are personally of American Indian descent. Did you grow up in a rural environment knowing your tribal culture and traditions?

My mother was a member of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and her father was born on the Fort Berthold Reservation in North Dakota and grew up on the Standing Rock Reservation. My grandfather left the reservation due to the harsh conditions at the time in the early 1900s.

I grew up in Minnesota knowing and feeling very grateful for our Indian family on the reservation. My father worked for Indian tribes through the Youth Conservation Corp and we participated in more of the Ojibwe culture at the time then the Lakota or Sioux communities. At that time it was the American Indian movement and a lot of Indian people were very concerned about how we were going to maintain cohesive coherent cultural ways and build strong tribal governments.

And I think it was from that work and from hearing my mother talk about growing up on the reservation that I decided this is what I want to do with my life. I decided I wanted to do what I can to improve and secure the wellbeing of Indian children. That is how I started my work and that's how I think of my work right now—through the lens of child well being. http://bit.ly/1brgEuo I

Nuclear Flashpoint

A cross-border conflict over waste BY MARTHA TROIAN

Bottom Line: A growing coalition has joined the Saugeen Ojibwe Nation in opposing a nuclear-waste project along the border with Canada.

A controversial proposal to bury nuclear waste a half mile from Lake Huron's shoreline in Ontario is proceeding over indigenous objections, in a plan that has repercussions for both sides of the U.S.– Canada border.

Opposition to the plan, which would inter low- and intermediate-level radioactive waste about 2,230 feet underground in solid rock, is sparking opposition from Indigenous Peoples and U.S. politicians alike.

"We have a long list of fears, legitimate fears, in our community about these facilities, interaction with our rights, our interests and our way of life," Saugeen Ojibwe Nation Chief Randall Kahgee told Indian Country Today Media Network.

The Saugeen Ojibwe is one of several indigenous communities opposing the application of Ontario Power Generation for a license to store nuclear waste in an underground facility. Ontario Power, a public company owned by the provincial government, is one of the largest power generators in North America. It wants to construct a deep geologic repositoryakin to a mineshaft-for storing low- and intermediate-level nuclear waste within the municipality of Kincardine. The repository would be located at an existing nuclear site known as the Bruce Generating Station, where there is already an above-ground nuclear waste-management facility.

A three-member joint review panel appointed by the Canadian Nuclear Regulator, which oversees nuclear projects in Canada, wrapped up weeks of hearings at the end of October. The panel will report to Canada's environment ministry after reviewing testimony and documents, and the federal government will issue the final decision sometime in the spring.

Kincardine agreed to host the waste

in return for \$35.7 million that Ontario Power will pay the town and some neighboring communities over 30 years. The facility would be about 2,300 feet below ground, built to store waste from the power generator's nuclear plants all over the province, down to the ashes of items used at nuclear facilities such as mops, clothes, floor sweepings and gloves. The site has been studied and analyzed by engineers, geologists, geoscientists and hydrologists and is safe for this purpose, Ontario Power officials told ICTMN.

"This is 450-million-year-old rock where we propose to store the low and in-

We have a long list of fears, legitimate fears, in our community about these facilities.'

termediate waste," said company spokesperson Neal Kelly. "It can be safely stored, and there are multiple, natural barriers around it."

But this is not enough for Kahgee, whose Saugeen Ojibwe Nation lies on the shores of Lake Huron. "We've been very careful how we've maneuvered ourselves with respect to this project," said Kahgee. "Our people should not have to shoulder the burden for the industry forever. That is something that is not contemplated in our treaties."

The Saugeen Ojibway Nation said they were never even consulted about construction of the Bruce Generating Station in the 1960s, despite its being located on their traditional territory. Bruce Power, the generating station's parent company, is the outfit that two years ago proposed to ship defunct radioactive steam generators by boat through the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence Seaway to Sweden for recycling.

Kahgee, who made three submissions to the joint review panel, said new issues kept arising out of the hearings, such as Ontario Power's desire to eventually store decommissioned waste there. But Kelly said the company would have to undergo another round of regulatory hearings to do so.

That is just what alarms Kahgee, and it only validates his community's longstanding fears about Ontario Power's intentions. Ontario Power's president has vowed not to put a shovel in the ground without Saugeen Ojibwe approval. The company has also agreed to deal with past grievances.

Stop The Great Lakes Nuclear Dump, a nonprofit organization, has also spoken out against the project, collecting nearly 42,000 signatures in an online petition by late November. Notable signatories included the Canadian environmentalist David Suzuki, Democratic Michigan State Senator Hoon-Yung Hopwood and Farley Mowat, a Canadian author. The organization has several concerns, said spokesperson Beverly Fernandaz, foremost among them the site's proximity to North America's greatest fresh water supply, upon which 40 million people in two countries depend.

Moreover, Ontario Power did not inform New York, Ohio, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Quebec or other Ontario communities outside of Bruce County, Fernandez said. Kelly counters that Ontario Power has held hundreds of briefings over the past seven years.

Hearings or no, the opposition is strong in Michigan, which lies on the other side of Lake Huron from Ontario.

"Neither the U.S. nor Canada can afford the risk of polluting the Great Lakes with toxic nuclear waste," U.S. Representatives Dan Kildee, Sander Levin, John Dingell and Gary Peters of Michigan said in a letter submitted to the panel. *http:// bit.ly/1gsWYOI*



New Jersey's Ramapough Indians feel the new movie Out of the Furnace, with Casey Affleck and Woody Harrelson (above), conveys harmful stereotypes.



Charlie Hill, an inspiration to legions of Native comedians, is calling for donating help at EverRibbon.com in his battle against lymphoma.



A car crash has taken the life of Dr. Arthur Taylor, Nez Perce, Indigenous Affairs Officer at the University of Idaho.

INVITATION FOR RFQQ

Notice is hereby given that the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation (CTCR) Facilities Maintenance Department is issuing a Request for Qualifications and Quotation (RFQQ) seeking an Architectural/Engineering Firm to provide Programming, Site Analysis, Schematic Design, Design Development, Construction Documents and Bid Phase services for our new 13,000 foot Nez Perce Longhouse project located at Nespelem, WA until **2:30 p.m.** (prevailing local time) on **Thursday, January 16, 2014.** A **pre-submission conference** will not be held.

Responses shall be submitted on the form provided in the RFQQ or identical. Firms may obtain a copy of the RFQQ with a **written request** to the Owner's Representative:

Paul Tillman, Facilities Maintenance Manager P.O. Box 150 Nespelem, Washington 99155 Ph. (509) 634-2402, Fax (509) 634-2433 E-mail <u>paul.tillman@colvilletribes.com</u>

The Architectural/Engineering Firm shall be licensed to do business in the State of Washington. CTCR reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals, to waive any informalities or irregularities in the Qualifications and Quotations process, and to accept the response considered to be in the best interests of the CTCR.



Kewa Pueblo Health Corporation (KPHC) is seeking applicants in the following positions to join their dynamic team:

CEO - Responsible for the overall administration and oversight of all programs provided by KPHC; assures the highest quality of care to the community. Works with the KPHC BOD in the management and direction of the Corporation's programs and services. Master's degree in Public Health, Health Administration or related field plus 5-7 years' experience in an executive capacity within the health care field. Experience in 638 health centers and community health programs. Prior experience working with IHS, Tribe or Tribal organizations and skill in the Keres language preferred.

Health Center Director –Responsible for the administrative and program development for the provision of a community-oriented primary health care delivery system; assures the highest quality of care. Operates, as a team, with the KPHC CEO in the management and direction of the Health Center. Bachelor's degree in Public Health, Health Administration or related health field plus 3-5 years' management experience in an ambulatory care setting. Experience in 638 health centers and community health programs. Prior experience working with IHS, Tribe or Tribal organizations and skill in the Keres language preferred.

APPLICANTS must possess and maintain a valid driver's license and must be insurable. Must be able to successfully pass a pre-employment drug/alcohol screen and background investigation with fingerprint check. Native American preference. Please submit your letter of interest and resume to staffing@valliant.com or fax to 505-246-8891.

RELATED MANAGEMENT

Arbor Court Apartments located at 802 Seminar Road, Houston, Texas 77060 is accepting applications for our 1 & 2 bedroom apartments. Income and program guidelines apply. Applications may be requested by calling, writing or stopping by. Below is our contact information

> Arbor Court Apartments 802 Seminar Drive Houston, Texas 77060 (281) 445-4790 TTY (800) 735-2989

Hours of operation are Monday thru Friday between 9:00 – 5:30 pm

> Arbor Court Apartments Not Discriminate On the Basis of Disability



GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTANT

North Slope Borough, Barrow, AK.

Salary range \$80k - \$100k. Minimum requirements: Undergraduate degree in Accounting or Business Administration; 2 years of college accounting courses, 3 years professional experience; 2 years government accounting experience, or equivalent combination of education and experience; I year supervisory experience. Prefer CPA license and experience working with state/federal grants. Generous benefit package includes Alaska

PERS retirement program, comprehensive health insurance, and six weeks of annual leave. For more information please visit our website at www.north-slope.org. EOE. Not a Subscriber? **Get your own**

This Week From Indian Country Today eNewsletter!



Headlines from the Web

SHINNECOCKS ELECT TRIBAL LEADERS http://bit.ly/JbALGD

STARK LOOK AT ABUSE AND VIOLENCE AIMED AT NATIVE AMERICAN CHILDREN http://alj.am/18EUhlt EPA: RIVERTON PART OF THE WIND RIVER INDIAN RESERVATION http://bit.ly/1bAF7Rr

APPEALS COURT REVERSES TRIBAL JURISDICTIONAL RULING http://bit.ly/1bAFqM3 **TRIBE TO REPATRIATE ANCESTRAL REMAINS** *http://bit.ly/180jd5G*

SAN MANUEL ANNOUNCES NEW GAMING COMMISSIONER AMID RESIGNATIONS http://bit.ly/1fnNWQ2

Upcoming Events

ORIENTATION TO HEALING TO

WELLNESS COURTS DECEMBER 18 Led by the Tribal Law and Policy Institute, this webinar will provide a brief overview and introduction to the Healing to Wellness Court Model. Also known as Drug Courts, Healing to Wellness Courts are a specialized docket intended to combat the root cause of drug and alcohol addiction through holistic, team-based treatment and intense supervision. **Registration:** http://bit.ly/1bAXoOo

COMMUNITY FOOD PROJECT GRANT WEBINAR DECEMBER 19

Independent consultant Vicky Karthu will lead the next webinar in the First Nations Knowledge series titled "I'm Thinking of Applying for the USDA Community Food Projects Competitive Grants Program." The event will focus on application components and other requirements of the program and highlight strategies for writing a successful proposal, as well as offer tips for thinking creatively about the matching-funds requirement. Sponsored by the First Nations Development Institute. **Registration:** http://bit.ly/18xcFQf

HOLDING EFFECTIVE MEETINGS/ TRIBAL GOVERNMENT DECEMBER 19

TRIBAL GOVERNMENT DECEMBER 19 An online tribal government course in determining when meetings are really necessary and how to make them an effective use of time and resources. Objectives include explaining the main functions of conducting a meeting; defining its purpose; creating meeting agendas that support an organization's goals; and setting and following through on those goals. Conducted by Staci Eagle Elk, director of training and technical services for the Native Learning Center, and offered by the Center in conjunction with KerretvOnline. **Registration:** http://bit.ly/1hITV5i

CRITICAL SKILLS FOR TRIBAL EMPLOYEES TRAINING

DECEMBER 19-20

This two-day seminar, offered by Native American Consulting, is designed for both entry-level employees and current supervisors and managers who wish to refresh their skills. The first day is given over to professional networking, enhancing communication skills, team building, strategic planning, conflict resolution and negotiation skills. Day two emphasizes the importance of ethics and confidentiality, goal setting, organizational skills, professional etiquette, customer service, setting objectives and evaluations. **Location:** Adobe Eco Hotel, Rapid City, South Dakota

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I am a Pima/Papago Indian woman who lives on the Ak-Chin Indian Reservation. I have had to deal with Indian Health Services in the past, so I know the funding challenges many tribal clinics and hospitals face. I have at many times had to keep pressing my doctor and the hospitals to process my bills, especially emergency room visits. Thanks to insufficient funding for Indian Health Services to provide better care, more resources or adequate levels of staffing, many of these struggles become the burden of the people they were meant to help.

The new legislation that has been passed to include Native Americans is great for Indian Country but we have yet to understand it. There needs to be more education, along with a greater push to get assistance out to the Indian health care facilities and reservations. We have so much to gain in the Affordable Care Act, and we are behind the ball in informing the Native American community of its importance and how it pertains to Indian Country.

> — Jennifer Boehm Arizona

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

HAALAND ENTERS NEW MEXICO RACE

Deb Haaland, Laguna Pueblo and former Native American vote director for the Obama campaign, is formally seeking the Democratic nomination for lieutenant governor of New Mexico. "I am proud to be enrolled at Laguna Pueblo and to have worked so hard to increase participation of Native Americans in the political process," she said. "The next step in that process is to get elected to statewide office." Haaland is currently tribal administrator for the Pueblo of San Filepe and is the first female chair of the Laguna Development Corporation board of directors.

KARUK ENTER INTO GAMING COMPACT

The Karuk Tribe and the state of California have signed a Class III

gaming compact. As envisioned, the tribe's proposed gaming facility in Yreka would include a 34,493 square-foot casino that would feature 1,500 slot machines, to be followed by a hotel. Groundbreaking on the casino could begin as early as next summer, and construction is expected to take about one year, said Jaclyn Goodwin, the tribe's self-governance coordinator. The public comment period for the project ends on December 27.

NO HONOR SONG AT GRADUATION

For the second time, the school board of Chamberlain, South Dakota has voted against allowing a Lakota honor song to be played at the district's high school graduation ceremony. Students petitioned the school board to include the song last year but were met by a 6-1 vote against its use; this year, the vote was 4-2 with one abstention because of a conflict of interest. More than onethird of the school district's 900 students are Native American.

OSAGE OBJECT TO EAGLE KILLING

The Osage Nation has criticized the federal government's decision to allow companies to seek authorization to kill golden and bald eagles without penalty. "President Obama knows how important eagle feathers are to us," said Osage Assistant Principal Chief Scott N. Bighorse. "He was adopted into the Crow Nation and was adorned with a full war bonnet containing eagle feathers from head to toe." The change resulted from a request by the wind energy industry; the Osage are opposing wind farms in Oklahoma areas that house significant numbers of eagle nests.

MAKEOVER FOR SENECA NIAGARA CASINO

A \$26 million makeover of the Seneca Niagara Casino in upstate in New York that began in July is about three-quarters complete, the Buffalo News reported. The redesign includes a \$6 million air-scrubbing system that should do a better job of removing smoke, which is permitted in contravention of New York State smoking laws because the casino is located on Seneca land. According to Cathy Walker, president and CEO of Seneca Gaming Corp., customers also wanted "to see a more Las Vegas-like, open, airy experience; easier aisles, easier ways to move about the facility."

UPCOMING POW WOWS

White River Christmas Pow Wow

December 23 - December 25 Northern Cheyenne Tribal School Gym, Busby, Montana Contact: L. Jace Killsback 406-477-4857 *voaxaa@gmail.com CheyenneNation.com*

13th Annual New Years Eve Sobriety Pow Wow

December 31 100 Civic Center Tulsa, Oklahoma Contact: Lorraine Bosin 918-639-7999

9th Annual Red Paint Pow Wow and Indian Market

January 17 - 19 Western New Mexico University Silver City, New Mexico Contact: 575-534-1379 office@redpaintpowwow.net RedPaintPowWow.net/Powwow/powwow. html

Quincy's Great River Eagles Days and Standing Bear Council's Winter Gathering

January 25 - 26 Lindsay Center Quincy, Illinois Contact: Leslie Haslem 217-577-1930 thedragonlvrs@yahoo.com

Cox Osceola Pow Wow 2014

February 06 - 09 Cox Osceola Indian Reservation Orange Springs, Florida Contact: 352-658-1REZ(1739), 352-546-1386 rez@coxosceola.com CoxOsceola.com

Bois Forte Mid-Winter Pow Wow

February 14 - 17 Nett Lake School Gymnasium Nett Lake, Minnesota Contact: Donald L. Chosa Jr. 218-757-3261 dchosajr@boisforte-nsn.gov BoisForte.com

40th Annual Denver March Pow Wow

March 21 - 23 Denver Coliseum Denver, Colorado Contact: Grace B. Gillette 303-934-8045 *denvermarchpowwow@comcast.net*

DenverMarchPowWow.org

4th Annual Ida'ina Gathering

March 28 - 30 Dena'ina Civic & Convention Center Anchorage, Alaska Contact: Emil McCord 907-646-3115 emccord@tyonek.com TebughnaFoundation.com

Anadasgisi

April 05 University of Tennessee-Knoxville Campus Knoxville, Tennessee Contact: Tiffany Donner, Savannah Hicks 931-302-3699, 828-734-5727 tdonner@utk.edu, shicks17@utk.edu Facebook.com/groups/80588568624

Circle of Nations Indigenous Association's 30th Annual Pow Wow

April 05 University of Minnesota Morris Morris, Minnesota Contact: Kelsey Scareshawk 952-992-9813 ummcnia@morris.umn.edu studentorgs.morris.UMN.edu/cnia/powwow. htm

44th Annual Idaho State University Spring Pow Wow

April 19 20 ISU Reed Gymnasium Pocatello, Idaho Contact: Nolan Brown 208-282-4220 brownola@isu.edu

42nd Annual UC Davis Pow Wow

April 19 University of California Davis Outdoor Quad Davis, California Contact: Crystal Marich 530-752-7032 *cmarich@ucdavis.edu* http://ccc.UCDavis.edu/powwow.html

16th Annual National

Pow Wow July 10 - 13 Vermilion County Fairgrounds Danville, Indiana Contact: 434-316-9719 *info@nationalpowwow.com NationalPowWow.com*

11th Annual Roanoke Island American Indian Cultural Festival and Pow Wow

August 09 - 10 Manteo, North Carolina Contact: Marilyn B. Morrison 757-477-3589 pacoeagle1@ncalgonquians.com www.NCAlgonquians.com

Manito Ahbee Festival

September 13 - 14 MTS Centre 345 Graham Ave Winnipeg, Manitoba Contact: Candice Hart 204-956-1849 powwow@manitoahbee.com ManitoAhbee.com

16th Annual 2014 Kauai Pow Wow "Rejuvenate Your Spirit"

September 26 - 28 Kapaa Beach Park Kapaa, Hawaii Contact: Dr. Kani Blackwell 808-651-7733 kauaipowwow@gmail.com KauiPowWow.com

Bacone College Fall

Pow Wow 2014 October 25 Muskogee Civic Center Muskogee, Oklahoma Contact: Wil Brown 918-687-3299 brownw@bacone.edu

RAYONNEMENT DANGER-RADIATION NO UNAUTHORIZED ENTRY

The Saugeen Ojibwe Nation is opposing a plan by Ontario Power Generation to permanently store radioactive waste in a rock chamber at the Bruce Power nuclear complex near Kincardine, Ontario—which already holds intermediate-level waste in shallow pits—to be built more than 2,000 feet below the earth's surface and less than a mile from Lake Huron.

THE BIG PICTURE