

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

### A Letter from the Publisher

Shekóli. During the course of his 30-year run in Congress, retired Senator Byron Dorgan (D-North Dakota), former chair of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, proved to be one of the most dedicated friends of Indian country in the United States government. So it's no surprise that he has continued to work handin-hand with Natives in the three years since he left the Senate. This week, we feature an interview with Senator Dorgan by Indian Country Today Media Network's Washington, D.C. Bureau Chief Rob Capriccioso. In it, Dorgan describes his current ongoing projects, namely his Center for Native American Youth, and his thoughts in general on the federal government's interactions with Indian country. The discussion is a fascinating primer on the interrelationship of major issues from the perspective of someone intimately aware of how broadstroke federal policies can impact the poorest and youngest among us.

Dorgan's vision for the Center for Native American youth is for it to focus on general well-being of children, teen suicide prevention, and the celebration of positive achievements by kids on reservations through a program called "Champions for Change." This program focuses on establishing role models nominated by tribal leaders as particularly exemplary. In fact, Dorgan credits the early success of his Center to its dedication to consultation. As he says, "You can't work on these issues without having very close



consultation with tribal officials and parents."

Most important, Dorgan emphasizes the shortsightedness of the U.S. government's inability to properly foster educational opportunities for Native kids. He does not mince words as he draws the connection between the perennial failures of the government to live up to its treaty obligations and promises; the underfunding of the multitude of programs designed to live up to these legal obligations; and the vulnerability of the funds to budgetary politics. "These are commitments by treaty and by promises made," says Dorgan. "I think they should have been protected against sequestration, and they should be protected into the future."

While Dorgan's presence in the Senate is missed, his ability to form partnerships with Native peoples is heartening, and an example of how cooperation within Indian country offers promise for

our youth, and future generations to come.

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in Hallout

Ray Halbritter

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### Calling Out Dick Cheney

Former Vice President Dick Cheney raised hackles when he publicly joked at a roast that the loser of an antelope-hunting contest in Wyoming had to dance "with an Indian squaw." Here his Yale College classmate **Philip S. "Sam" Deloria** (Standing Rock Sioux) tells what happens when he confronted him at a party some weeks later:

I said, "Dick, I don't know if you remember, but I am an Indian; you don't know my wife, but she is an Indian. Do you know what an awful word 'squaw' has become? Do you really mean to say that our women are so low on the human scale that having to dance with an Indian woman is punishment, a form of humiliation?"

Immediately he said, "Well, you have to understand, that is the system in Lander [Wyoming]. That is the way things are done up there." I said, "What system? There is a system in Lander that requires you to talk like that?" "You need to understand the system," he kept saying. "What is the power in Lander that made you tell that story? What the hell are you talking about?" He proceeded to make his escape, apparently having given up any hope that I was capable of understanding the system in Lander.

I wrote to a good friend of mine, a white man of great principle from Wyoming who happens to know Dick Cheney. I asked him about the "Lander system," and he told me there is an annual Governor's One-Shot Hunt in Lander, featuring one shot at some critter and a lot of drinking and carousing by people who for the most part should have more dignity than that. My guess is that in Lander, as in other parts of the country, it is possible to seek out and find pockets of racism. But nasty, dehumanizing racism is no longer a requirement for white people to be socially acceptable.

Dick, if there is such a system in Lander, you can change it by saying, "We shouldn't dehumanize people, even among ourselves." What are you risking? *http://bit. ly/19jHniC @* 

### Native Solidarity With Palestine Makes Sense

The December vote of the American Studies Association (ASA) to support the boycott, divest and sanctions movement against Israel was widely criticized. But **Dina Gilio-Whitaker**, a research associate at the Center for World Indigenous Studies, explains why the Native American and Indigenous Studies Association (NAISA) recently passed a similar declaration of support.

ASA and NAISA are discreet entities with objectives and agendas of their own, but they do share ties. The field of American Studies is a mix of academic disciplines that frequently crosses paths with Native American Studies and many Native scholars have feet in both Native American and American Studies (myself included). What they have in common is their critical perspectives on American colonialism.

American Indians can often be heard comparing their experience of persecution to that of the Jewish people, but such a perspective exhibits a lack of knowledge of more recent history. Israel is usually portrayed as the homeland of the Jewish people who were exiled 2,000 years ago and to which they have been righteously returned. But the conditions of that return reveal a dark and agonizing story for the people who were already there. These are people who were also indigenous to the land. It is a story of modern-day settler colonialism in which the experience of Palestinians being ejected from their lands and ethnically cleansed far more closely resembles the experience of American Indians, Native Hawaiians and other indigenous peoples in settler states such as Canada, Australia, and New Zealand.

American Indian intellectuals and scholars recognizing this express their solidarity for the Palestinian people—not against Jewish people, but against an unjust system of repression and profound human rights violations. And when the boycott, divest and sanctions movement has finally reached critical mass and Israel is at its tipping point, the only question left will be why it took so long. *http://bit. ly/JpEssI* 

### Why Indian Gaming Won't Overrun North Carolina

Some North Carolinians fear that the gaming efforts of the Catawbas would, when added to the current activities of the Eastern Band of Cherokee, lead to a dramatic expansion of gaming in their state. But lawyer **Tim Moore** says the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act of 1988 makes this effectively impossible, even with IGRA's built-in exceptions:

The exceptions to IGRA are very limited. There is an exception for land that is taken into trust as part of a settlement of a land claim, but there are no federally recognized tribes asserting land claims in North Carolina. Another exception is for the initial reservation of a newly federally recognized tribe, but there are no newly federally recognized tribes in North Carolina. And the one with the best chance of recognition-the Lumbee Tribe-has agreed to language in its recognition legislation that would prohibit it from gaming. Finally, the act provides that land taken into trust after 1988 can be used for Indian gaming if both the governor of the state and the Secretary of the Interior agree such use would be beneficial. Obviously, this exception grants a state official veto power over the process, effectively requiring state consent before

such an acquisition could take place.

As for the Catawbas, their federal settlement act exempts them from the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act and so they operate free of its restrictions. However, the Catawbas' proposed site is only about 30 miles from their current reservation and is both within the Tribe's congressionally established service area and its ancestral lands. It would be acquired pursuant to its land settlement, and so would be eligible for gaming if the federal gaming act did apply.

The bottom line is that the Eastern Band and the Catawbas are the only tribes that can establish gaming operations in North Carolina. <u>http://bit.ly/1emDJ5b </u>

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### Tester Seeks Secure Funding for Indian Health Care

Democratic Sen. Jon Tester, Montana's only member of the Senate Indian Affairs Committee, is backing bipartisan legislation that will secure Indian Health Service (IHS) funding a year ahead of time, letting the agency plan for the future and avoid last-minute budget cuts like those caused by sequestration.

By knowing how much it will have to spend, IHS will be able to distribute resources and hire staff with more certainty. If Tester's bipartisan bill had been law in 2013, funding for IHS would have been protected from October's disastrous government shutdown. Advanced funding would also have allowed tribal health administrators throughout Indian Country to serve their patients without wondering if necessary federal funding would come through.

"Good health starts with good health care and this bill is a big step in making sure Native Americans get the support they need," Tester said. "We have a solemn responsibility to Native Americans and that starts with ensuring that IHS has the funding and certainty it needs."

Tester, a member of the Indian Affairs Committee since he joined the Senate in 2007, recently pushed Interior Department officials to work with members of Indian Country to move forward with the department's Land buy-Back Program. His current bipartisan bill is supported by Alaska Sens. Lisa Murkowski (R) and Mark Begich (D). A companion bill was introduced in the House of Representatives in October.

IHS provides comprehensive medical and environmental health services for about two million American Indians and Alaska Natives. *http://bit.ly/1d3EM70* 

### Navajo Technical University Awards First Degrees

Despite a snowstorm that swept the northern border of New Mexico and Arizona, Navajo Technical University (NTU) awarded its first degrees as a university to over 50 students in a small ceremony at the Chinle Community Center in Chinle, Arizona on December 13.

NTU became a university in mid-August by expanding its curriculum to include more bachelor's degrees programs and a master's degree program. Four months later, the Navajo Nation's first university issued its second bachelor of applied science degree in IT-computer science to Tiffney Segay of Farmington, New Mexico after Dody Begay of Sawmill, Arizona received the same degree a semester earlier.

"It wasn't easy, but I'm done," exclaimed Segay, who began her academic career at NTU's Chinle instructional site before transferring to Crownpoint to pursue a fouryear degree. "I'd like to thank my parents for supporting me from the beginning. For five years I traveled back and forth to go to school, and it's all worth it."

One hundred students from across NTU's three sites in Crownpoint, Chinle, and Teec Nos Pos were set to graduate, but because of the weather, only 55 were able to walk. The graduation speaker was Nelson Gorman Jr., who served on the Navajo Nation council for 20 years representing the Chinle community.

"This is something special," said Gorman, who also was the Navajo Nation's first Speaker of the House. "On the Navajo Nation it's a struggle for most people to advance to the level of college. What an honor this is for the Navajo Nation." http://bit. ly/1kVV5dQ #

### Wisconsin Takes 'Step Backward' on Native Logos

Just before Christmas, Wisconsin's Republican governor, Scott Walker, signed a controversial "mascot" bill that makes it harder to force public schools to drop tribal or Native nicknames.

The law requires at least 10 percent of school district board members to sign a complaint that would be reviewed by the Department of Public Instruction, with hearings in front of an administrative law judge. The new law also places the burden on those who file a complaint to prove that a race-based mascot or team name promotes discrimination, pupil harassment or stereotyping.

Many Native groups were outraged. "[The bill] is an example of institutionalized racism in content and process," Barbara Munson, Oneida, who chairs the Wisconsin Indian Education Association's mascots and logos task force, told the Associated Press. "It's a poke in the eye with a sharp stick to all Wisconsin tribes, and it is an act of discrimination leveled directly at our children."

"I was deeply saddened to hear that Wisconsin Governor Walker signed a misguided bill that protects racist stereotypes reinforced by using Native American names and images as school mascots," said Brian Cladoosby, president of the National Congress of American Indians. "Wisconsin just took a big step backward in the journey toward a more inclusive and respectful society."

In a statement, Walker said he did not want to stifle speech by preventing schools from choosing their mascots. He also said that a person's right to speak does not end just because what he or she says is offensive. "Instead of trying to legislate free speech, a better alternative is to educate people about how certain phrases and symbols that are used as nicknames and mascots are offensive to many of our fellow citizens," he said. http://bit.ly/18HUkC4 @



### Apsaalooke Warriors Complex Eyeing to Break Ground This Spring

The future is looking bright for homeless veterans of the Crow Agency-Apsaalooke Nation. On December 9, the Nation announced it had secured the Montana Board of Housing's annual housing tax credits. And with unanimous approval, the Apsaalooke Warriors Complex, which will serve homeless veterans, was awarded \$259,000.

The Helena, Montana facility will leverage the credits by selling them to an investor. The process could generate in excess of \$2,000,000 in equity. The equity would be used for the construction of the 15-unit apartment complex. "Our veterans of the Apsaalooke Nation cannot be overlooked and we are so proud of the opportunity to serve them with much needed attention," said Shawn Backbone, vice secretary of the Nation. "For too long, the veterans needed assistance in all levels and our administration is making that change for them."

Backbone, who also oversees the tribe's Veteran Affairs Office, and Nation Secretary AJ Not Afraid have worked tirelessly on the project since last spring.

"In just a few months since the planning stages of this project the Apsaalooke Warriors complex is coming into reality," said Tribal Chairman Darrin Old Coyote. "We are very pleased with the outcome and foresight of various departments to make this happen. I commend the Apsaalooke Nation Housing Authority, Tribal Grants departments and others who were involved. We will sit down and make plans to move forward with ground breaking and construction starting in the spring. We will also look at purchasing vans for transportation needs of our veterans."

Blueline Development Inc. of Missoula will develop the complex. http://bit.ly/1k0HtA4

### Texas Tribe Would Forgo Congressional Millions for a Casino

In 2003, a federal court recommended that Congress pay the Alabama-Coushatta Indians \$270.6 million in compensation for oil and gas production, timber harvesting and trespassing on its ancestral lands. The tribe never received a dime.

Yet the tribe is now willing to waive compensation, and relinquish efforts to regain ownership of its 5.5 million acres, in exchange for the right to operate a Class II casino on its reservation in Livingston, reported the *Austin-American Statesman*.

"What the tribe is willing to give away is huge," said Andy Taylor, a lawyer for the Alabama-Coushatta. "We're willing to forgive the past and walk away from our rights in order to have some economic independence in the future."

There are two other federally recognized tribes in Texas: the Kickapoo Traditional Tribe and the Ysleta Del Sur Pueblo. The Kickapoo, the state's only tribe that may conduct gaming—because it was authorized under a different law—owns and operates the Class II gaming facility Kickapoo Lucky Eagle Casino in Eagle Pass. The Alabama-Coushatta and Ysleta Del Sur operated casinos before they were shut down in 2002.

Now the Alabama-Coushatta tribe wants back in the game. Legislation introduced by Rep. Steve Stockman (R-Texas) would delete a federal provision barring the tribe from conducting gaming as prohibited by Texas, extinguish any land claims and the payment, and approve any land grants by the state. It also requires the tribe to withdraw a lawsuit it filed last year against the federal government demanding a stake in leasing timber, oil and natural gas rights in the Big Thicket National Preserve and the Sam Houston and Davy Crockett National Forests.

"The tribe does support the bill," Ronnie Thomas, chairman of the Alabama-Coushatta tribal council, told the *Statesman.* "We had a tribal referendum and that passed overwhelmingly." *http://bit. ly/1d3P3AI* 

### Justice Announces Funding Opportunities For Tribes and Tribal Consortia

Federally recognized tribes throughout the United States have another avenue to improve law enforcement and crime prevention throughout reservation communities. On December 20, the Justice Department announced the opening of this year's Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation [CTAS], a comprehensive grant solicitation for funding to support public safety, victims services, and crime prevention by American Indian and Alaska Native governments.

"Over the past four years, more than \$437 million in much-needed assistance has been provided to American Indian and Alaska Native communities through the Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation," said Associate Attorney General Tony West. "These resources are helping to strengthen justice, hope, and healing in tribal communities and are supporting efforts to intervene in the lives of at-risk youth, prevent violence against women, improve community policing, and explore alternatives to incarceration."

Tribes or tribal consortiums can submit a single application and select from nine competitive grant programs that the CTAS calls "purpose areas." They are Public Safety and Community Policing; Comprehensive Tribal Justice Systems Strategic Planning; Justice Systems, and Alcohol and Substance Abuse; Corrections and Correctional Alternatives; Violence Against Women Tribal Governments Program; Children's Justice Act Partnerships for Indian Communities; Comprehensive Tribal Victim Assistance Program; Juvenile Justice; and Tribal Youth Program.

Applications should be submitted through the department's Grants Management System, which allows potential grantees to register and apply online. Registration must be completed no later than Tuesday, March 4, with an application deadline of 7 p.m. Eastern Standard Time on March 24.

CTAS is a cooperative effort among the Justice Department's Office of Justice Programs, the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services and the Office on Violence Against Women. <u>http://bit.ly/1eTHJP8</u>



### Obama Signs Transfer Act

*Healthcare facility for Native Alaskans* 

A 170-room facility that will provide housing for rural Native Alaskans seeking medical treatment in Anchorage is one step closer to reality, now that President Obama has signed the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium Land Act. The act allows for the transfer of a 2.79-acre parcel of federal land in Anchorage from the Indian Health Service to the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, a nonprofit that provides tribal healthcare to thousands of regional patients. The parcel adjoins the Alaska Native Medical Center, and on it the consortium will build the new facility. The facility will also allow families to stay close to their loved ones during difficult medical times. *http://bit*. ly/19EPfpl ₩

### New Member For Buffalo Council

### Cherokee Nation joins group

The Cherokee Nation has become the 59th tribe to join the InterTribal Buffalo Council, which began in 1990 as a cooperative to coordinate and assist tribes in returning buffalo to Indian country. In addition to coordinating the transfer of surplus buffalo to tribal lands, the council provides training and technical assistance to its members. The Cherokee Nation Natural Resources Department will now work with the council to develop a business plan that will go before the tribal council early this year. Gunter Gulager,

director of Cherokee Nation Natural Resources, called the Nation's new membership "a very positive move in the bison acquisition process." *http://bit.ly/19EIMuI* 

### Navajo Nation Acquires Mine

### *Move toward clean coal technologies*

The Navajo Nation has completed the \$85 million purchase of the Navajo Mine from BHP Billiton Limited. after more than a year of negotiation, public input and protest. The Navajo Transitional Energy Company (NTEC) LLC, which effected the purchase, has agreed to supply the Four Corners Power Plant with the mine's coal. The acquisition allows the Navajo Nation to better control its own natural resources, said Steve Gundersen, chairman of the management committee of NTEC, which will help the Nation move to cleaner coal technologies and renewable energy. The purchase is in line with the Nation's wish "to become part of the solution to create a cleaner more sustainable world," he added. http://bit.ly/1cn6H1C 🐗

### Carter Camp Walks On

An activist for four decades

Ponca tribal member Carter Camp, who was synonymous with the milestones of the early 1970s Red Power movement, fought his final bout with cancer on December 27. Camp was known for his role in the Trail of Broken Treaties, the Bureau of Indian Affairs takeover in Washington, D.C. and the

### I already have IHS. Why do I need health insurance?

The Indian Health Service is not health insurance. IHS provides many services, but it may not cover all your health care needs. There may be times when you need certain care that IHS does not provide or does not have the means to fund.

New health insurance options can give you the peace of mind knowing you are covered. When you have insurance, you can still get care from your IHS, tribal, or Urban Indian health provider. Your Indian health provider can bill your new insurance for services, making more health care resources available for more people.

If you use IHS, a local tribal clinic, or an Urban Indian program, and you do not want to buy health insurance, you need to apply for an IRS hardship exemption so you won't have to pay a tax penalty. If you sign up for health insurance, you may qualify for free or low-cost health insurance.

Questions? Contact your Indian health program or visit www.healthcare.gov/tribal. Call 1-800-318-2596 24 hours a day, 7 days a week (TTY: 1-855-889-4325).



1973 occupation of Wounded Knee. But the legacy of this leader of the American Indian Movement's Oklahoma Chapter extended up to the time he departed, as his opposition to the Keystone XL Pipeline attests. Funeral services were conducted on New Year's Eve at the Ponca Tribal Cultural Center at White Eagle, Oklahoma. http://bit.ly/1alrbb6 @

### New Navajo Gaming Ventures?

Five possible New Mexico casinos

Approval of a new gaming compact currently before the New Mexico legislature would authorize five Class III facilities on the Navajo side of the reservation in the state. The compact, which would extend through 2037, includes provisions pertaining to revenue sharing and Internet gaming. But some lawmakers and neighboring tribes oppose the compact. They say it not only presents new competition for nearby gaming tribes, but that unfavorable terms in the agreement between the tribe and Gov. Susana Martinez's office create a troublesome precedent for similar compacts. The Navajo Nation currently operates two Class III facilities in New Mexico under a compact that expires next year. http://bit.ly/KlmTeb 🐗

### Chickasaws Open New Center

For conferences and retreats

Chickasaw Nation Governor Bill Anoatubby was joined by dozens of tribal citizens,

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leaders and community members December 19 for ribbon cutting ceremonies at the Chickasaw Retreat and Conference Center, located in the heart of the Arbuckle Mountains in Murray County, Oklahoma. Perched on 1,750 acres along the shores of Arbuckle Lake, the center offers an ideal getaway for groups looking for a secluded, pristine setting for group outings, business conferences, corporate retreats or company parties. Built in 1994 as a health improvement resort, the site was recently purchased and completely renovated by the Nation. http://bit. ly/1coO94w 🐗

### Baseball Team Says It In Salish

### Spokane Indians show respect

In 2006 the Spokane Indians, a Class A Northwest League baseball team affiliated with the Texas Rangers, collaborated with the Spokane Tribe of Indians to devise a team logo that not only rendered "Spokane Indians" in English but was printed in Salish on the uniform sleeve. Now, for the 2014 season, the team will take that collaboration one step further by making the Salish language icon the main logo on the front of its home uniforms. "We thought the best way to show respect to the local tribes was to avoid any Native American imagery used with the team setting," said Andy Billing, co-owner of Brett Sports and Entertainment, which owns and operates the Indians. http://bit.ly/1bxubB0 🐗



Former Sen. Byron Dorgan (center) at the Justice Department hearing on violence in Indian communities in Bismarck, North Dakota on December 9.

# Dorgan's New Life

### Ex-Senate Indian Affairs chair is keeping busy BY ROB CAPRICCIOSO

**Bottom Line:** *It has been three years* since the retirement of U.S. Sen. Byron Dorgan (D-North Dakota), chair of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, but he has kept Indian country near and dear to his heart. The Justice De[art,emt recently announced that he is co-chairing a commission on Indian youth safety and violence issues, and his Center for *Native American Youth is keeping up* the pressure on policy makers to do right by Indian children and families. In an interview with Indian Country Today Media Network, Dorgan, now a policy advisor with Arent Fox, discusses his post-Senate work.

Hello, senator, please update us on the progress of the Center for Native American Youth. I'm really pleased with what we've done do far. We've created a startup nonprofit from scratch. In 21/2 years, I think we've done some significant things. We're focusing on the well being of Native American youth; we're working on teen suicide prevention; and education opportunities-a series of issues. We're also doing youth summits on Indian reservations, working with tribal officials, and parents and children. We created a program called "Champions for Change" in which we're seeking and finding some extraordinary young people on reservations across the country who have been nominated by their tribes. We have been able to celebrate their successes and create mentors back home for others on their reservations. I'm really, really pleased with what we've been doing.

### Have there been challenges?

It's gone pretty much as we expected. There are over 500 Indian tribes in the United States, and some of them are remote and small, and some of them are large with large reservations-so you have very different circumstances. We've worked closely with the National Congress of American Indians, and we've had good relationships with the tribes. I decided long ago, and I know from the work I did in Congress, consultation is unbelievably important. You can't work on these issues without having very close consultation with tribal officials and parents. So, we've done that, and I think we're making a difference in the lives of children.

In the current Congress, Sen. Heidi

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### Heitkamp (D-North Dakota) recently introduced legislation with Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) that would create a federal Commission on Native American Children. How do you feel about that idea?

She consulted with me and my staff at the Center, and we were well aware of the commission as it was drafted, and we offered some suggestions as well. I think it is an important step as well. It's another way to shine all the spotlights on Native youth. A presidential commission will be helpful.

### Various tribal advocates and leaders are concerned that this administration is not doing enough to support Native education—any thoughts on that?

I think it's always the case that there

needs to be more focus from every administration and every Congress on Native education. It's the steppingstone to progress and to opportunity for children. I think Indian children have for a long, long period been left behind. And that "left behind" statement refers not just to education, but especially to education. It's safe to say that no administration, including this one, and no Congress, including this one, ever does enough.

Until they start meeting promises and commitments that have been made, it will never be enough.

#### How do you get beyond a campaign promise to improve Native education to actually doing it?

It requires resources. It isn't just a money problem, but more resources are certainly necessary. Sequestration has been a fundamentally ignorant policy. It cut investments in the most vulnerable Americans [instead of focusing on cutting] at the same level that it cut the most wasteful federal spending. That's ignorant public policy. But I know that President Obama has had great interest in Indian issues, and he cares about them; I've talked to him about them. But, you know, the country has kind of ridden into a box canyon here on funding issues. And putting sequestration on top of it all was a real cut in education and a number of other elements important to Native children.

### Should federal tribal funding have special protection and not be treated as discretionary funding that can be cut at will?

These should not be faucets of funds that can be turned off and on. These are commitments by treaty and by promises made. I think they should have been protected against sequestration, and they should be protected into the future.

The Tribal Law and Order Act was a major piece of legislation that was signed into law under your tenure, and there was recently a report out from

'I'm really pleased with what we've done so far. We've created a startup nonprofit from scratch.'

### Troy Eid and the Indian Law and Order Commission that highlighted some ways for the federal government to make that law and its effects stronger. Have you reviewed the report and realized its scope?

I have, and I think they did a lot of interesting work. They have come up with proposals that are creative and unique and worthy of significant consideration by the president and Congress. The circuit court idea focusing on Indian justice is a specific proposal that I think should be seriously considered by the Congress. It reflects the issue of tribal sovereignty in a thoughtful way and creates a new system where tribes would have substantially more authority and capability, but there would be protective reviews as well.

You have long been a proponent of bi-

partisanship on Indian issues especially. What do you think about the recent change in Senate filibuster rules that will allow 51 senators to affirm presidential nominees, making it easier for the majority to do so?

My inclination when serving was to be very cautious about changing the rules, because there are significant consequences to doing so. But, the fact is that since I left, things have gotten much, much worse, and I think the Republicans have decided on a strategy that would mean the president would not have the ability to appoint nominees to the courts and to certain federal agencies. That is not something that the administration and the Democratic majority in Congress should allow to happen. I think they finally had enough,

> and they said that can't happen anymore. "Advise and consent" does not mean wholesale stoppage of nominees just because they are nominated by a president of the other party.

### Will there be retribution from Republicans if they regain the majority in the Senate?

When you do this, you should expect that at some point you will lose the majority, and

those in the majority will use as justification for what they want to do that these rules were changed. That's a result that could very well happen.

### Are you happy to be out of the Senate?

(Laughs) Well, I'm doing a lot of other things, and I'm enjoying it immensely. I do miss going to a vote on the floor of the Senate and seeing all my friends, Republicans and Democrats that you can share tall tales with and enjoy companionship. But I made the right decision. I had been in Congress for 30 years, and I wanted to do some other things, which I am doing now—teaching, consulting, and writing more books. But the most important thing to me has been being able to create a non-profit organization to reach out to and support Indian children. http://bit.ly/ KmFWnE @

# Why Wounded Knee Lives

### Family history has not been forgotten BY CHRISTINA ROSE

**Bottom Line:** The infamous massacre at Wounded Knee still resonates with a descendant of the Makes It Long and High Hawk families.

On December 29, 1890, a band of Miniconjou Lakota led by Chief Spotted Elk—called Big Foot by the government—were massacred at Wounded Knee in South Dakota. After the death of Sitting Bull, the band decided to head towards the Pine Ridge Agency to ask Red Cloud for help.

Clementine "Debbie" Day is a descendant of the Makes It Long-High Hawk families, who were among those who survived the massacre. The family's story is recorded in a ledger book still held by the family. Day's grandfather, Alec High Hawk, also told the story to her father, Isaac Makes It Long-High Hawk.

"When Spotted Elk came back from Washington, he and his followers packed up during that night, and they took off for the Pine Ridge Reservation," Day said. "On the way, the snow was so deep. My other grandfather was an Army scout, John Makes It Long-High Hawk."

Keeping a low profile, the band hid from the scouts as they made their way. "They were afraid the scouts were looking for them," Day said. "The band followed the Cheyenne River and went to a ranch called Two Rivers, 16 miles west of my place," near present-day Bridger, South Dakota, on the western side of the Cheyenne River Reservation.

Leaving some of their belongings there, they crossed the Badlands. "It was hard, snowy, and cold," Day said. "They got as far as Wounded Knee. The soldiers finally found them and wanted their weapons."

On December 28, 1890 Major Samuel Whitside and the 7th Cavalry intercepted Spotted Elk and his band, who surrendered peacefully. Documents state that the soldiers searched among the brush, calling out "How Kolah" ("Hello friend") and assuring the women and children they would be safe. Yet, cannons were set up and aimed at the Lakota camp. Spotted Elk, suffering from pneumonia and coughing up blood, was given a tent with heat.

The next day, the Army demanded the Lakota turn in their weapons. All did, except for a deaf man named Black Coyote, who it is assumed did not un-

Survivors remember seeing Christmas decorations still hanging from the church rafters. All the dead were buried in a mass grave.

derstand what was at stake. He refused to give up his weapon, insisting he had paid a lot for the gun.

"The old man couldn't hear and he hid his rifle under a blanket," Day recalled. "He wouldn't give up his gun, so a soldier wrestled for it and a shot went off. They all scattered and ran."

When the soldiers began to shoot, the Lakota grabbed whatever weapons they could. One soldier's report reads, "Just at that moment I could indistinctly see through the brush the faint outlines of a person and raising my gun I quickly fired. We supposed we were hunting the party of Indians we had seen and were ready to fire at a flash as we did not propose to let any Indian get the first shot at us if we could help it. Immediately I fired, Kern fired a second time and I heard squealing in the brush. I then called to the captain that it was a squaw, and he replied, 'Don't kill the squaws.' I said—it is too late, I am afraid they are already killed."

Numbers vary, but some official reports numbered 90 warriors and close to 200 women and children killed.

It was late at night before wagons carrying wounded soldiers and 47 Lakota women and children arrived at the Episcopal Church in Pine Ridge. The church pews were removed and hay was spread on the floor for bedding. Reports of the survivors include seeing the Christmas decorations still hanging from the rafters of the church. A blizzard ensued and eventually a burial party returned to Wounded Knee where they found the frozen remains of Spotted Elk and the others. All were buried in a mass grave at Wounded Knee.

Day's great-grandmother and two younger boys, who had lost their parents at Wounded Knee, returned to the Cheyenne River Reservation. The boys stayed with and helped Day's great-grandmother; soon afterward, they and other children were taken and sent to the Carlisle Indian Industrial School in Pennsylvania.

"It was a very sad situation," Day said. "My great-grandfather John Makes it Long-High Hawk came back, and after the boys went to Carlisle, he stayed with my great-grandmother Buffalo Pretty Hair Woman."

But Day is happy to see that many still remember Wounded Knee. "They honor Spotted Elk—the Memorial Riders are coming to Bridger and going to Wounded Knee on horseback.... In August, we have the Wounded Knee memorial motorcycle riders. So they really honor him, and I am so proud of the people who are doing these things to remember Wounded Knee." http://bit.ly/1kT3j6v #

# **Saving Native Education**

Parents, advocates team up to rescue programs BY RICHARD WALKER

**Bottom Line:** *A few months ago, all seemed lost for two school communities in the Pacific Northwest. But they were saved by innovation.* 

This is a tale of two threatened schools in Seattle, Washington.

The first, Wilson-Pacific School, was slated for demolition to make way for a new K-8 school, sounding the death knell for its 40-year-old program for Native American students in grades 6-12. The second, Pinehurst School (formerly Alternative School No. 1), was also slated for demolition, for construction of a new K-8. It would mean the end of its 42-year-old program of experiential, project-based learning, with an emphasis on social justice.

But in rallying to save their programs, parents and advocates from both schools discovered similarities in values and pedagogy. At the urging of school board member Sharon Peaslee, they developed an idea: Merge the programs into a new K-8 program called Native Heritage AS-1, to be housed in the wing of an existing school until the new school is finished at the Wilson-Pacific site.

The merger was approved by the school district 5-2 on November 20. Students offered their voices at the board meeting, testifying for the need for Native Heritage AS-1. "We made our voices heard in a constructive, positively influential [way]," said Sarah Sense-Wilson, Oglala, chairwoman of the Urban Native Education Alliance. "This was truly historic."

She added, "A lot of people have volunteered their time to create a real solution for supporting Native learners and [to] develop programs which serve the unique cultural and educational needs of Native kids and families." Sense-Wilson also said the Native Heritage AS-1 program will help the district comply with its own policy regarding educational and racial equity, and meet its Title VII obligations, for which it receives federal funding.

Students from Pinehurst and the for-

mer American Indian Heritage School program will attend Native Heritage AS-1 beginning in September, in a wing of the former Lincoln High School. That school no longer exists, but the buildings house other educational programs.

Native Heritage AS-1 will be housed at Lincoln until the end of the 2016-17 school year, when it will move to the new school at the Wilson-Pacific site. Meanwhile, parents and advocates are working to develop a high school Native Heritage program at Ingraham High School, which has the highest population of Native students, so that Native

In rallying to save their programs, parents and advocates from both schools discovered similarities in values and pedagogy.

Heritage AS-1 is K-12 when it moves to Wilson-Pacific.

The Wilson-Pacific site is significant to Seattle's Native community. A spring, long ago diverted underground, flows under the property. It was so important to the Duwamish people that the neighborhood's name-Licton Springs-is derived from the Duwamish name for the spring's reddish mud. On several school walls are murals depicting Native heritage and leaders, including Chief Seattle, the city's namesake, by noted Haida/Apache artist Andrew Morrison. (The murals were threatened by the demolition of the school, but parents and advocates rallied and the school district agreed to incorporate them into the new school.) The school has long been a venue for powwows and other Native events. The Urban Native Education Alliance and the Clear Sky Native Youth Council regularly host events there.

According to the proposal, the Native Heritage AS-1 program will focus on Native culture, history and worldview with culturally competent leadership. It will also collaborate with Native communitybased organizations on instructional materials.

Despite the closure and the assimilation of its students into other schools, student participation in cultural activities presented at Wilson-Pacific remains high. As many as 75 Native students participate twice a week in Clear Sky Native Youth Council activities there. Over the summer, dozens took part in rallies to preserve the Indian Heritage program and the murals.

At Pinehurst, despite cutbacks in resources and district support, the school maintains its commitment to social justice. The school has an Equity Committee committed to "undoing institutional racism." On its walls are photos of students participating in rallies to save their school. A poster by Tahltan artist Alano Edzerza features the Raven-Frog crest, Ga,ahaba, flying out of the reach of despair, with a quote from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Letter from a Birmingham Jail: "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

Parents and advocates expect enrollment will climb once Native Heritage AS-1 opens at Lincoln. Because of low enrollment, the district estimates it spends \$6,500 per student. Projected enrollment increases, and merging two programs under one administration, are expected to drop that cost to \$5,500 per student.

John Chapman, a Pinehurst parent and member of the school's site committee, who helped write the 12-page merger proposal and will now work on staff training, is enthusiastic about the next school year. "We're eager to get it going," he said. http://bit.ly/1etlyea I



An oil train derailed and exploded in North Dakota, prompting warnings from the Quinault Indian Nation about shipping oil via rail.



Tiffney Segay was one of the 100 students who recieved degrees from Navajo Technical University on December 13.



Sen. Jon Tester (D-Montana) is pushing a bill that would secure funding for the Indian Health Service a year ahead of time.



*Carter Camp, who was synonymous with many touchstones of the early 1970s Red Power movement, walked on December 27.* 



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# Headlines from the Web

WAMPANOAG TRIBE SAYS CASINO IS A FEDERAL CASE http://bit.ly/1arcMdF

COURT WON'T HEAR DISPUTE OVER GRAND CANYON SKYWALK http://bit.ly/1a4el4G

### Upcoming Events

#### 16TH NATIVE DIABETES PREVENTION CONFERENCE JANUARY 12-15

"Protecting the Generations: A Lifespan Approach to Preventing Diabetes" brings together tribal members from American Indian, Alaska Native and Canadian First Nations communities, along with representatives from academia, tribal health systems, public health services and others. Topics will include traditional foods, target populations, tribal community and schoolbased intervention, the role of stress and trauma, and coping mechanisms.

**Location:** Hilton Phoenix/Mesa, Mesa, Arizona

### STRENGTHENING RELATIONSHIPS FACILITATOR CERTIFICATION

**TRAINING** JANUARY 14-16 Sponsored by the Native American Fatherhood and Families Association (NAFFA), the curriculum of this intensive training session provides individuals with the

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Re Dick Cheney's joke about "the loser has to dance with an Indian squaw" (see p. 2):

I am not surprised by Dick Cheney's behavior. Arrogant people of power never really see the errors of their ways, and racists very rarely see the light. The philosopher Jean-Paul Sartre always said that bigotry was a reflection of somebody's PUEBLO: STATE IS NOT ACTING IN GOOD FAITH http://bit.ly/1hYzO0A

HORSE SLAUGHTER PLANTS GEARING UP FOR BUSINESS AS COURT LIFTS STAY http://bit.ly/1cpbkrY

knowledge and skills to implement a 12week program that assists parents and families in enhancing their capacity to promote healthy relationships. Such basic concepts as attitudes, learning, self-worth, relationships, love, and interaction and communication will be addressed. **Location:** NAFFA headquarters, Mesa, Arizona

### INTERNATIONAL EXPERT GROUP MEETING: SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS: ARTICLES 21, 22(1), 23 AND 24 OF THE UNITED NATIONS DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES JANUARY 15-17

The first international expert group meeting on indigenous people's sexual health and reproductive rights organized by the U.N. will address such subjects as intercultural approaches; maternal health and family planning; sexuality, culture, taboos and education; sexually transmitted infections; gender equality, discrimination and violence; and harmful traditional practices. The results will be reported to the Perma-

own inferiority and dissatisfaction with themselves, and that they have to put somebody else down to fell better about their identity.

> — Glenn Krasner Bronx, NY

I remember reading somewhere that the words "tribe" and "squaw" aren't even Native American—that we get them **PROTESTERS FORCED FROM RIO'S INDIGENOUS COMPLEX** *http://bit.ly/1dXdSjG* 

**FRAUD ALERT ISSUED FOR COBELL SETTLEMENT** *http://bit.ly/1a4krCh* 

nent Forum on Indigenous Issues at its 13th session in May.

**Location:** United Nations Headquarters, New York, New York

### 21ST STABILIZING INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES SYMPOSIUM

JANUARY 15-19

The University of Hawaii at Hilo will host this year's gathering. Visits to language immersion programs from the preschool to the doctoral levels will be central, as will post-visitation discussion groups. Such challenges as government testing, curriculum development and parental involvement will receive special attention. **Location:** Hilo Hawaiian Hotel, Hilo, Hawaii

### LANGUAGE & HISTORY

SYMPOSIUM JANUARY 17-18

nu-wu-ung upaikavi ("The people will talk") is sponsored by the Nevada Department of Education, the Moapa Band of Paiute Tribe, the University of Nevada Las Vegas and the Clark County School District. **Location:** University of Nevada, Las Vegas

from one of the Russian languages. And even there, "squaw" is a derogatory term. When women sit around and gossip, they are called squaws, because they sound like crows (also where we get "old crows", to describe older gossipy women), going "squaw squaw". As for Dick Cheney, I think Dan Rowan, a philosopher of sorts, said it best: "Say goodnight, Dick."

— Brian Gwinn

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



### Poarch Band Creek's Wind Creek Casino and Indian Burial Grounds

### TOP NEWS ALERTS

From IndianCountryTodayMediaNetwork.com

#### OBAMA SIGNS NATIVE VETERANS MEMORIAL BILL

On the day after Christmas, President Obama signed into law the Native American Veterans' Memorial Amendment Acts of 2013, authorizing the National Museum of the American Indian to begin raising funding for and commencing work on a memorial for Native veterans. The House and Senate passed the bill without a single dissent on December 11 and December 20, respectively. The memorial will be built on the museum's property on the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

#### CHEROKEE NATION DISPERSES RARE SEEDS

The Cherokee Nation is giving seeds from its limited supply of seed bank inventory to tribal citizens interested in growing traditional Cherokee crops. The Nation keeps an inventory of seeds from rare strains of corn, beans, squash, gourds, Trail of Tears beads and tobacco, traditionally used for Cherokee customs and not generally available in stores. Citizens are limited to two varieties, which may be obtained either in person or by emailing Mark Dunham at markdunham@cherokee.org or Pat Gwin at pgwin@cherokee.org.

#### STILLAGUAMISH DONATE \$300K TO FOOD BANKS

The Washington State-based Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians made \$100,000 cash donations to three area food banks to help those less fortunate over the holidays. The \$300,000 total was evenly distributed among the Stanwood/Camano Food Bank, Arlington Community Food Bank and Northwest Harvest. "It is beyond comprehension that anyone would have a heart this big, to donate this kind of money," said Rick Bently, executive director of Stanwood/ Camano Food Bank Services. "This is absolutely amazing."

#### CHARLIE HILL WALKS ON

Charlie Hill, the pioneering Oneida/Mohawk/Cree comedian who was an inspiration for other Native comics, walked on December 30 after battling lymphoma. Stepping into the spotlight in 1977 on The Richard Pryor Show, he became the first American Indian to appear on both The Tonight Show with Johnny Carson and The Merv Griffin Show. Among many other accomplishments, Hill made multiple appearances on Jay Leno's Tonight Show, wrote for the TV series Roseanne and starred in the Emmy-nominated documentary On and Off the Res' with Charlie Hill.

#### 'EDUCATIONAL' INDIAN VIDEO IS BLASTED

A video recently posted to YouTube that depicts northern Florida's Baker County High School History Club supposedly sharing Native American culture with preschoolers is being widely denounced as disrespectful. The video shows white girls dressed in fringed dresses in front of a teepee who whoop when white boys wearing fake headdresses and "war paint" return. The preschoolers are also taught a "traditional dance" that looks something like the chicken dance and includes music with lyrics like "gobble gobble gobble jump." Among the posted comments are "shameful" and "disgusting."

# UPCOMING POW WOWS

### 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 unmcnia@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 powwo@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



The Spokane Indians Class A baseball team will now sport this Salish-language logo on the front of its uniforms.

### THE BIG PICTURE