



# Indian Country

THIS WEEK FROM

## TODAY

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

### *A Letter from the Publisher*

*Shekóli.* In recent months, *This Week From Indian Country Today* has featured good news about salmon restoration and dam removal projects in the northwest. Unfortunately, this week's edition carries a troubling report about the state of the Pacific Northwest waters by award-winning environmental reporter and long-time ICTMN reporter Terri Hansen. The story covers the swirling confluence of environmental, business and political issues in the state of Washington and the citizens of 29 Indian nations affected by them.

Simply put, Puget Sound pollution levels are resulting in salmon and other fish with higher levels of life-threatening toxins than fish from other waters outside Washington. However, instead of the state taking steps to lower the levels of toxins, government agencies are recommending lower levels of fish consumption—and this, for a region that has some of highest preponderance of fish-consuming people in the United States. By minimizing the acceptable levels of fish by weight, Washington State is caving in to industrial concerns and lobbyists who feel more stringent environmental standards will drive their costs higher.

None of this sits well with the tribal nations. For Natives, salmon is not just food; salmon is life. "Washington uses one of the low-



est FCRs (fish consumption rates) in the nation to regulate pollution in our waters," Billy Frank Jr. told ICTMN. Frank should know—he is the chairman of the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission and an ardent activist who has led the fight for sustainable living since the "fish wars" decades ago. Frank would like to see Washington adopt standards that are at least equivalent to those of Oregon, and notes that the push to adopt proper official fish consumption rates and recommendations is looming as the most pressing public policy debate in the region.

Tribal leaders are organizing their efforts to produce modifications in the most effective way. Their agenda is yet another example of how the First Peoples of Turtle Island are galvanizing the spirit of change for the betterment of communities far beyond their own. Raising awareness and making the cause known is critical to rallying support. After all, our way of life demands it.

NA ki' wa,

Ray Halbritter

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### Political Lessons From Turtle Island

ICTMN contributor **Duane Champagne** notes how early European colonists learned volumes about politics when they alit on these shores:

What many early European observers admired about indigenous nations was their lack of rigid political hierarchies and consensual form of political process that sharply contrasted with the centralized absolutist states of Europe. Decentralized indigenous political processes, often based on kinship groups, became models for democratic alternatives that were not available in Europe before the 20th century. Rousseau, Marx, Engels and the French *philosophes* used the in-

digenous examples of political egalitarianism to critique the non-democratic and class-based hierarchies of European government.

“Noble savage” became an expression that focused on political freedom. In many, if not all, indigenous nations, the people had the right to express their points of view through traditional means of political discussion and decision-making. Indigenous people were seen as noble not because they controlled wealth and political power, but because each person had the right to political participation within the indigenous nation.

In Europe before the 20th century, most people did not have the right to vote, and most people who voted were

members of the aristocracy and were often considered nobles. So Indians were seen as “noble savages” because they upheld different rules of egalitarian and democratic process. Indigenous persons had political rights to express their views and have their views expressed in their village, band, clan, family, or nation, according to their own traditions of political and cultural community.

The cultural values of consensual political processes and individual respect for persons, social groups, and nations created not only individual and group forms of freedom, but also indigenous nations that continue to the present to insist on self-government and the freedom to make their own decisions. <http://bit.ly/Lj7MSO> 🌱

### Misplaced Budget Priorities

Professor and journalist **Mark Trahant** (Shoshone-Bannock) takes issue with Congress’s recently passed \$1.012 trillion spending bill, which affords only “modest relief from the sequester” and barely acknowledges Indian needs:

For Indian country the appropriations process is broken beyond repair; business as usual is no more. The federal programs that have served Indian country well are essentially continuing to shrink. The omnibus budget, for example, shows an increase of \$18 million for the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Eighteen million! Wow. In percentage terms that’s less than one percent. The Indian Health Service increase

is under 2 percent.

This trend will not change unless Congress changes. Radically. The idea driving austerity is bipartisan in nature. And even though the problem with federal spending has very little to do with annual appropriations, that’s where the action has been. We could zero out this side of the budget and there would still be a long-term spending problem.

But for Indian country there is opportunity in this budget. We must add as many Indian health dollars as possible to the entitlement category. To make that happen, there needs to be a much stronger campaign to educate American Indians and Alaska Natives about the disaster

that is appropriations—and show how and why the Affordable Care Act is the alternative. Signing people up for health insurance of any kind is Indian country’s patriotic act because it defies those who would cut us into oblivion.

In its budget justification to Congress, the Indian Health Service projected a modest increase in third-party billing, Medicare, Medicaid and private insurance. The total is just over a billion dollars. What if that number doubled? That’s a billion dollars that does not have to be appropriated by Congress. A billion dollars to actually invest in a healthier Indian country. <http://bit.ly/1dwi9W> 🌱

### Leave Enrollment up to Tribes

On December 13, the D.C. District Court ruled that the Bureau of Indian Affairs could decide on both the membership and governmental organization of the California Valley Miwok Tribe. This sets a dangerous precedent, says **Sherry Treppa**, chairperson for the Hobematolel Pomo of Upper Lake:

The consequences are not just limited to enrollment decisions. The court decision also requires the Bureau of Indian Affairs to eliminate the entire tribal government if it finds that the government was not formed with the consensus of all “potential” members. So now not only

does the federal government get to determine if “potential” tribal members are entitled to enrollment, but would also consider whether the tribal government structure is in the best interests of these “potential” members. The consequences of “potential” members determining the legitimacy of tribal governments calls into question all of the actions taken by all tribal governments no matter how long those governments have existed.

The court’s decision will have disastrous consequences far beyond California’s central valley and the small California Valley Miwok Tribe. As Native Americans, our sovereignty and right to establish the laws we live by is

what make Indian tribes distinctive. We must not stand by while a federal court unravels decades of progress toward “self” determination and needlessly destroys our inalienable right to sovereignty so carelessly in the name of “potential” tribal members.

Therefore, I urge all tribes to become involved (through the filing of a brief with the appeals court or otherwise) and have your voice heard in this matter that will impact your internal governance in a disastrous way. If history has taught us anything, it is that each of us (Tribes) are the only ones that we can count on to look out for our tribe’s best interest. <http://bit.ly/1dRa42a> 🌱

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## Judge Rules HUD Cannot Release \$3 Million to Chukchansi

The Department of Housing and Urban Development will continue to withhold \$3 million in funding from the Picayune Rancheria of the Chukchansi Indians of California for housing, rental and ownership assistance and building repairs, reported the FresnoBee.com.

A federal judge has ruled the agency does not have to release the money to the Chukchansi Indian Housing Authority until the Department of the Interior's Board of Indian Appeals determines the rightful leadership of the Chukchansi tribe.

For nearly two years, the tribal government has been divided into two factions now led by Nancy Ayala and Reggie Lewis. Ayala's faction went to court to obtain the money, but the presiding judge said he could not determine the tribe's internal affairs.

"Federal courts lack jurisdiction to decide intra-tribal disputes," Judge David Campbell wrote in the December 30, decision.

"It's unfortunate that a federal judge believed he didn't have the jurisdiction to rule in this case," David Leibowitz, spokesman for the Ayala faction, told the FresnoBee.com. "The agency's decision to withhold federal housing funds from our tribe is hurting our people, including seniors and children." <http://bit.ly/1m4N6ZG> 📱

## Indigenous Peoples' Higher Risk to Bird Flu Driven by Genetics, Historical Isolation

BY TERRI HANSEN

Studies of indigenous populations in Alaska and Australia by researchers have found that genetic differences is the driver that puts Indigenous Peoples at higher risk of severe complications from the new, severe strain of Avian influenza or bird flu called H7N9, now circulating in China and Taiwan.

The H7N9 virus has not been detected in people or birds in the U.S.

The researchers studied 31 populations from different continents, and included Alaska Natives based on 1919 data, study co-author Katherine Kedzierska, associate professor at the University of Melbourne's department of microbiology and immunology, told ICTMN.

The researchers tested cellular immunity, or pre-existing immunity, and found the prevalence of T-cell immunity depends on ethnicity and that Indigenous people, owing to their historical isolation lacked a key protein necessary to fight the virus. The researchers found that just 16 percent of the Indigenous populations in Alaska and Australia had a robust T-cell response, compared to 57 percent of non-Native populations.

"Genetics played a key role in new emerging influenza strains," said Kedzierska. "Indigenous people are

vulnerable to positive pneumonia and respiratory stress syndrome, and high mortality rates. We think it is caused by centuries of isolated populations. We know that Europeans have had influenza outbreaks for centuries so have more protective mechanisms, but if it's a novel strain, Indigenous populations are more sensitive." Kedzierska said this would be true for any influenza virus, or new virus to which we don't have antibodies.

A study released by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Indian Health Service in 2009 found that the death rate among Native peoples in the U.S. of complications from the H1N1 swine flu was four times that of the general population. The Indian Health Service attributed those high numbers at that time to obesity, diabetes, and overcrowded housing.

The researchers are at work to find ways to boost T-cell immunity in Indigenous communities in order to propose a vaccine that would provide some protections to Australian Indigenous populations. "It's really important to understand if we have any vaccine it needs to be tested to make sure that it works for everyone," Kedzierska said. "We need to make tailored vaccines." <http://bit.ly/1gEmkWS> 📱

## Federal Government Owes \$32M in Royalties to 30,000 Indians, Whereabouts Unknown

The federal government has been unable to locate some 30,000 Indian beneficiaries who are collectively owed about \$32 million of the \$3.4 billion Cobell trust fund settlement, reported *The New York Times*.

Despite public service announcements on TV and radio stations, notices that

have been plastered at reservation postal offices, public meetings held on tribal lands, Interior information booths at pow wows, tribal governments engaged in searching membership rolls and other efforts, some people have proved impossible to locate.

"This is money that should be rightfully paid to the landowners," said Ervin Chavez, a Navajo beneficiary and volunteer to track down other beneficiaries. "It is something that has been going on for many, many years."

All beneficiaries are owed at least \$800, though some are entitled to significantly

greater sums. A Cheyenne and Arapaho tribal member is owed about \$121,000, while a member of the Quechan Tribe is due more than \$81,000.

"Historically, there is no question that the government mismanaged these accounts and should have known where these people were," David Smith, an attorney who helped handle the settlement, told the *Times*.

Potential Indian beneficiaries should search for their name on the Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians website at [doi.gov/ost/wau/index.cfm](http://doi.gov/ost/wau/index.cfm). <http://bit.ly/1aks3QJ> 📱

## Tribes Receive \$2.2 Million in Historic Preservation Grants

BY GALE COUREY TOENSING

One hundred thirty-five tribes will share \$2.2 million in federal grants for historic preservation, distributed by the annual Tribal Historic Preservation Office fund, the National Park Service has announced.

"Tribal historic preservation offices are the fastest growing preservation partnerships within the national historic preservation program, showing the value that tribes place on preserving historic places and protecting tribal cultural traditions," National Park Service Director Jonathan Jarvis said. "These grants allow tribes to focus on what they are most concerned with protecting—Native language, oral history, plant and animal species important in traditions, sacred and historic places, and the establishment of tribal historic preservation offices."

The grants range from approximately \$13,000 to \$22,000. Tribes must submit applications for this part of their grant and then apply again for the final portion of the award when that amount has been determined.

The annual appropriations were established in 1992 when Congress amended the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. The amendment put Tribal Historic Preservation Officers on par with State Historic Preservation Officers, with respect to tribal land, including conducting Section 106 reviews of federal agency projects on tribal lands. Tribes can use the grants to fund projects such as nominations to the National Register of Historic Places, preservation education, architectural planning, community preservation plans, and bricks-and-mortar repair to buildings.

John Brown, the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer of the Narragansett Indian Tribe said the grant goes into his office's operating budget and is used to fund all programs.

Revenue for the Historic Preservation Fund comes from federal oil leases on the Outer Continental Shelf. The grants act as catalysts for private and other non-federal investment in historic preservation efforts nationwide. The National Park Service administers the fund and distributes annual matching grants to state and tribal historic preservation officers from money made available in Congressional appropriations.

<http://bit.ly/1hY7Zbz> 📱

## Chemical Spill Ruins Water Supply for Thousands of Natives

BY VINCENT SCHILLING

More than 4,000 Natives were among 300,000 people left without potable water following a January 9 chemical spill that rendered tap water undrinkable in several counties in West Virginia.

At risk were members of the Appalachian American Indians of West Virginia who live in all or parts of the counties of Kanawha, Boone, Cabell, Clay, Jackson, Lincoln, Logan, Putnam and Roane. Some 2,000 more indigenous people who belong to the 6,000-member Native American Indian Federation Inc. of Huntington, West Virginia, were also affected, said Chief David Cremeans.

The chemical in question was a clear, colorless foaming agent used in the coal industry known as 4-Methylcyclohexanol methanol, which seeped from a tank at Freedom Industries, a manufacturer of chemicals for the mining, steel and cement industries, according to CBS News. About 5,000 gallons of it escaped from a 40,000-gallon tank, state Department

of Environmental Protection spokesman Tom Aluisse said.

Immediately after the spill, the federal government and the state of West Virginia declared nine counties disaster areas, sparking a run on stores for bottled water. Shelves were stripped bare, and many West Virginians had no access to water. Residents who did not learn of the warnings in time and thus drank or bathed in the water suffered rashes and nausea. Others went to local with symptoms they said came from the water contamination.

Tension was palpable outside the contaminated area, with reports of price gouging and even fistfights. "Nobody could find water," said LaVerna Vickers, the tribal secretary of the Appalachian American Indians of West Virginia. "We stopped outside of a store and a truck had already come and had cleared it out. We also heard from our friends that people were charging large amounts of money for water—people were selling five-gallon water bottles for one hundred dollars."

<http://bit.ly/1b0SR5w> 📱

## Cherokee Nation Strengthens Tribal Child Custody Laws

The Cherokee Nation Tribal Council has passed a resolution that now gives biological parents who are deemed fit first preference in adoptive and foster care cases involving Cherokee children. A member of the child's extended family, other members of the Cherokee Nation or other Native American families would receive next priority in the placement of a child.

Cherokee officials invoked the infamous case of Dusten Brown, whose rights they say the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) should have protected when it came to raising his daughter, Veronica, who was instead placed with a non-Indian family in South Carolina. The child should have been able to remain in an Indian home with a biological parent, Cherokee officials said, rather than her present circumstances.

"Because of recent cases, there is a need to include a fit parent or biological parent when it comes to placement of Cherokee children," Tribal Council

Speaker Tina Glory-Jordan told the Tahlequah Daily Press. "We've come to a day where so many courts don't want to recognize ICWA. This law will make it easier, the next time our social workers go to court."

In the past five years, Cherokee Nation Indian Child Welfare has had court involvement with approximately 1,200 to 1,600 Cherokee children per year. Out of these cases, approximately a third are children needing placement in either an adoptive or foster home.

"Without a doubt our people, especially our youth, are the tribe's most valuable asset," said Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Bill John Baker. "This new Cherokee Nation law will give our tribal sovereign government and our hard-working ICWA staff an additional tool to protect our people and ensure Cherokee children have the opportunity to live in a loving and nurturing home that is culturally appropriate." <http://bit.ly/1dwiHer> 📱

## Daybreak Star Looks To Indiegogo

*Cultural center appeals on Web*

Facing a debt of \$280,000, the Daybreak Star Indian Cultural Center in Seattle, Washington has taken to the Internet for help. The nonprofit, which opened in 1977, has begun an Indiegogo campaign to raise \$125,000. "It's a really urgent situation," Jeff Smith, board chairman of the United Indians of All Tribes Foundation, which operates the facility, told KING 5 News. "Not having Daybreak Star, not having United Indians, would really negatively impact tens of thousands of people," said Lynette Jordan, Colville/Ojibwe, family services director at the center, in a video on the Indiegogo page. <http://bit.ly/1dNh5kx>

## Chenault Becomes Haskell President

*A lifetime at the university*

Venida S. Chenault has been named president of Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kansas. Chenault, a member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, had been vice president of academic affairs since December 2004. Chenault has been associated with Haskell for 21 years, beginning in 1991 as a faculty member teaching social work, American Indian studies and addiction. She was a student at Haskell in the fall of 1975 and spring of 1984 and later attended the University of Kansas, where she earned a bachelor's degree in social work in 1986, a master's in

social work in 1990 and a Ph.D. in philosophy in 2004. <http://bit.ly/1fyRYZn>

## Ancient Remains In Florida

*Body of woman found*

The discovery of the perfectly preserved body of a Native woman some 2,000 years old halted the construction of a new water main on December 18 in Davies, Florida. The woman was thought to be in her twenties or thirties. The woman most likely weaved baskets and smoked fish on an open fire; she may have also hunted and fished from a wooden canoe. Out of respect to local tribes, carbon dating was not used. Archaeologists dated the remains using artifacts surrounding the bones, including a tool made from deer bone. Construction at the site resumed January 9. The remains were reinterred at an undisclosed location donated by the local Miccosukee and Seminole Indian tribes, <http://bit.ly/1m1PHq8>

## Hoodie With Message Prevails

*First Nation student asks, 'Got Land?'*

After Christmas, when eighth-grade student Tenelle Star of the Star Blanket Cree Nation sported her new hooded sweatshirt bearing the query "Got Land?" on the front and "Thank an Indian" on the back to her school 56 miles from Regina, Saskatchewan, school officials told her she could not wear it. "It was offending other people," she told CBC News. But Star and various supporters invoked

the historic record, notably an 1874 treaty among the Cree and Saulteaux First Nations and the British Crown. Now, following discussions with school officials, she can now wear the hoodie, she is free to wear the sweatshirt again. "It supports our treaty and land rights," she said. "It's important." <http://bit.ly/1dwhKfc>

## Potential Exposure To Hepatitis, HIV

*Accident in procedure cited*

At least 21 members of the Fort McDermitt Paiute Shoshone Tribe may have been exposed to Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and HIV during a diabetes screening, tribal Chairman Tildon Smart told KOLOTV.com. "The individual that exposed everybody

to it, according to statements made by IHS [Indian Health Service], was directed not to administer the tests or anything like that and continued to do so anyway," Smart said. The official allegedly reused the same monitoring pen, which was not properly sterilized, to check members' blood glucose levels at the NuNu Diabetes Wellness Clinic through the Service. At press time, tribal members were tested for various diseases at Humboldt General Hospital in Winnemucca. <http://bit.ly/1dwy3IU>

## Golf Kudos For Turning Stone

*Three courses get honors*

The three golf courses of the Oneida Indian Nation's Turning Stone Casino Resort

### NEWLY CONSTRUCTED APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Rufus King Court Apartments is pleased to announce that applications are now being accepted for 46 affordable housing rental apartments now under construction at 148-19 90th Avenue in the Jamaica section of Queens. This building is being constructed through the Low Income Housing Credit Program (LIHC) and the NYS Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program (SILHC) of the New York State Homes and Community Renewal (HCR) and the Inclusionary Housing Program of New York City's Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD). The size, rent and targeted income distribution for the 46 apartments are as follows:

# Apts. Available	Apartment Size	Household Size*	Monthly Rent**	Total Annual Income Range*** Minimum - Maximum
1	Studio	1	\$659	\$24,515 - \$30,100
2	1 Bedroom	1 2	\$709	\$26,298 - \$30,100 \$26,298 - \$34,400
3	Studio	1	\$802	\$29,418 - \$36,120
12	1 Bedroom	1 2	\$863	\$31,578 - \$36,120 \$31,578 - \$41,280
23	2 Bedrooms	2 3 4	\$1,044	\$37,852 - \$41,280 \$37,852 - \$46,440 \$37,852 - \$51,540
5	3 Bedrooms	3 4 5 6	\$1,199	\$43,749 - \$46,440 \$43,749 - \$51,540 \$43,749 - \$55,680 \$43,749 - \$59,820

\* Subject to occupancy criteria

\*\* Includes gas for cooking

\*\*\* Income guidelines subject to change

Qualified Applicants will be required to meet income guidelines and additional selection criteria. Households may elect to submit an application by one of two methods: EITHER online OR by mail. To submit your application online now, please visit NYC Housing Connect at [www.nyc.gov/housingconnect](http://www.nyc.gov/housingconnect) and select "Apply for Housing." All online applications must be submitted by March 6, 2014. To request an application by mail, please mail a self-addressed envelope to: Rufus King Court Apartments, P.O. Box 390, Floral Park, New York 11002. All mailed applications must be returned by regular mail only (no priority, certified, registered, express, overnight or oversized mail will be accepted) to a post office box number that will be listed on the application and must be postmarked by March 6, 2014. Applications will be selected by lottery; applicants who submit more than one application will be disqualified. Disqualified applications will not be accepted. A general preference will be given to New York City residents. Eligible households that include persons with mobility impairments will receive preference for 5% of the units; eligible persons that include persons with visual and/or hearing impairments will receive preference for 2% of the units. Current and eligible residents of Queens Community Board 12 will receive preference for 50% of the units. Eligible City of New York Municipal Employees will receive a 5% preference of the units.

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in Verona, New York—the Atunyote, Kaluhyat and Shenendoah—have all been named among *Golfweek* magazine's Best Casino Courses of 2013. It is the seventh consecutive year they have been so honored. In addition, the Association of Golf Merchandisers selected the Shenendoah Golf Club as one of the nation's top golf shops and accorded it the 2014 AGM Platinum Award. All three winning courses will be recognized and feted on the main stage at the PGA Merchandise Show in Orland, Florida on January 22. <http://bit.ly/1CiNfm> 📧

## 'Scalp 'Em!' T-Shirt Surfaces

*Sold after Florida State victory*

A T-shirt bearing the words "Scalp 'Em!" was among the unauthorized fan merchandise that surfaced on the Internet after the Florida State University Seminoles' recent defeat of the Auburn University Tigers. Below the text is an arrow and tomahawk. Liz Maryanski, vice president for university relations, told Indian Country Today that FSU officials have begun measures for an "emergency cease and desist" of all sales of the offensive T-shirt. "We would never license that shirt," Maryanski said. "That term is extremely derogatory and it's offensive." Even if infringement were not an issue, she said, FSU would work diligently to see that the T-shirt is eliminated. <http://bit.ly/19slQ7a> 📧

# Tainting The Fish

Increased toxicity in Washington State waters threatens Native diet **BY TERRI HANSEN**

**Bottom Line:** *For Northwest tribes, salmon are not just a way of life; they are life itself. Now, chemical pollution in Puget Sound waterways is prompting government warnings against consumption—but not government action.*

The iconic Chinook salmon, for millennia a cornerstone of Pacific Northwest diet, spirituality, ceremony and even the tribes' economy, is fast becoming toxic in Washington State.

Rather than focus on cleaning up the waterways in which year-round salmon reside, Washington state agencies have issued fish-consumption advisories. The less fish consumed, at the lower limits, the higher concentration of contaminants is deemed acceptable.

But for many, salmon are not just a way of life; they are life. And, Northwest tribes say, the cavalier attitude toward their contamination not only risks health but also guts treaty rights and the very way that the land's original peoples have conducted their existence.

Studies of adult salmon indicate that Puget Sound Chinook salmon have higher concentrations of legacy contaminants, such as polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), than salmon from other parts of the Northwest. The state's solution is to limit consumption to one Puget Sound Chinook fillet a week, and two Puget Sound resident Chinook (blackmouth) fillets a month.

Tribal peoples in Western Washington who eat their usual intake of fish and seafood—indeed, the traditional foods they have eaten for millennia—must do so now at risk of disease as a result of the toxins that lurk in their waters. That is because people who eat fish more than once a month are not protected by Washington State water quality standards.

Fish, with their high levels of precious proteins and rich omega-3 fatty acids, are touted as improving health and extending life. But fish from pol-

luted waters can expose unborn babies, infants, children and adults to mercury, lead, arsenic, PCBs and other toxins that can compromise immune function, cause cancer and adversely affect reproduction, development and endocrine

The less fish consumed by residents, said Frank, the more pollutants can be dumped into waterways. But the higher the fish consumption rate, the cleaner Washington waterways would need to be. Establishing a higher consumption



*Health advisories have been issued against contaminated fish that have traditionally been a mainstay of Northwestern tribes' diet, culture and spirituality. But is that really enough?*

functions.

Washington State's Department of Health recommends that residents eat no more than two fish fillets a week, in concert with very strict selection, preparation and cooking criteria, to avoid toxicity. By contrast, the Washington State's Department of Ecology has determined a fish consumption rate (FCR) of an eight-ounce fish fillet a month, or 6.5 grams a day.

"Washington uses one of the lowest FCRs in the nation to regulate pollution in our waters," said Billy Frank Jr., (Nisqually), chairman of the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission.

rate would compel polluters to reduce the amount of new contaminants they dump into the water, keeping salmon and other seafood clean.

Studies reveal that Washingtonians are among the highest fish-consuming populations in the nation. That's not surprising, given that 29 federally recognized tribal nations exist within a state bound by the Pacific Ocean, the Columbia River and the Salish Sea, with the state itself wrapped around Puget Sound and interlaced with numerous rivers.

"State government admits that the current rate does not protect most Washing-

ton citizens from toxics in our waters that can cause illness or death,” said Frank. Washington’s rate should be at least as protective as Oregon’s rate of 175 grams per day, equivalent to about 24 eight-ounce fillets per month, Frank said.

The Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission’s (CRITFC) 1994 fish consumption survey found that the average Columbia River tribal member consumed 58.7 grams of fish per day, and also that they typically ate the whole fish. The survey prompted Oregon to revise its FCR in 1994, which the state updated in 2011 in line with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recommendations. But industry in Washington, led by Boeing, says that Oregon’s standard is impossible.

Frank said the effort to adopt a more accurate FCR is one of the biggest public policy battles in the country, pitting human health against the economy. “Industry leaders such as Boeing are digging in their heels to delay or kill rule-making on a more accurate rate because they say it will increase their cost of doing business,” he said.

“Tribal leaders were very disappointed when [Washington] failed to adopt fish consumption standards in 2012,” Ann Seiter, the FCR coordinator for the NWIFC, said in reference to InvestigateWest’s five-part series on the issue in 2012.

InvestigateWest’s series describes how former Gov. Christine Gregoire was torn among acting for the tribes, powerful supporters who wanted stricter water pollution rules, and her supporters in the aerospace industry, like Boeing, which was against tightening FCR rules, in 2011–2012. The state Department of Ecology stopped work on changes to water pollution rules in June 2012 with a delay to at least 2014, after which Gregoire would no longer be governor, the team reported.

“The tale of how Boeing and its allies beat back ... Ecology’s attempt to change a fish consumption rate that pretty much everyone involved acknowledges is too

low provides a fascinating look at how the levers of power are pulled in Olympia,” InvestigateWest said.

The tribes are upset with the continuing delays. “They’ve taken their concerns to the EPA regarding their Trust responsibilities, as well as their obligations under the Clean Water Act,” Seiter said.

Under the federal Clean Water Act, river water should be clean enough so that people can eat the fish. Environ-

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*Rather than focus  
on cleaning up the  
waterways in which  
year-round salmon  
reside, Washington State  
agencies have issued fish-  
consumption advisories.*

---

ment and fisheries organizations sued the EPA in October 2013 for noncompliance under the Act for allegedly failing to protect Washingtonians from toxic pollution entering Puget Sound, the Columbia River, the Spokane River and other waterways.

In a letter to Ecology last June, current Gov. Jay Inslee announced that he would organize an informal group of advisers from local governments, Indian tribes and businesses, according to InvestigateWest. Inslee’s letter to Ecology Director Maia Bellon, released last June 7, called for the agency to help educate Inslee’s advisory group, “including real-world scenarios illustrating how new criteria would be applied and how new implementation and compliance tools would work in the permitting context,” it was reported. Ecology officials had already said the “implementation and

compliance tools” could include giving businesses up to 40 years to cut pollution levels to the amount that presumably would be required once accurate fish-consumption rates are in place.


Tribal leaders responded by taking their concerns to Inslee, Seiter said.

In December, China banned shellfish from the West Coast, citing, among other factors, high levels of inorganic arsenic in geoduck clams harvested by the Puyallup Tribe in the Redondo area of Puget Sound, according to Earthfix.opb.org. The ban underscored the direct negative economic impact of pollution on tribes.

“The tribes are not only interested in protecting all the species of fish they eat, but they’re also concerned about protecting their economic interests,” said Seiter.

Washington business associations, cities and counties together hired an engineering firm to prepare a report, released last December 4, that evaluated technologies potentially capable of meeting Ecology’s effluent discharge limits for revised human health water quality criteria for arsenic, benzo(a)pyrene (BAP), mercury, and PCBs. The report coincided with the public rollout and comment period for Ecology’s proposed rule changes to the state’s water quality standards in early 2014, including human health criteria involving the FCR.

“Currently there are no known facilities that treat to the [health water quality criteria] and anticipated effluent limits that are under consideration,” the report stated. It also reported limitations in proven technologies capable of compliance with the revised health water quality criteria.

One tribal official who spoke on condition of anonymity said tribal leaders are sticking close to these issues. “As we discussed this ongoing environmental catastrophe, we decided we wouldn’t go to jail anymore like we did in the fish wars,” the leader told ICTMN. “But we are ready to go to war [to] protect the water.” <http://bit.ly/KRvJQr> 

# The Colville Turnaround

From near-bankruptcy to prosperity **BY LYNN ARMITAGE**

**Bottom Line:** *The business example of the Colville Tribal Federal Corp. holds valuable lessons for similarly situated tribes.*

The tribal business for the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation in North Central Washington—the Colville Tribal Federal Corp., or CTFC—recently won the 2013 William D. Bradford Minority Business of the Year Award. It is the granddaddy of seven awards given annually by the University of Washington's Foster School of Business, recognizing a company “that has demonstrated success in areas of revenue, size, superior management practices and commitment to the community.”

That recognition has been well earned over several years.

CTFC generated \$86 million in revenue in 2013, up from \$49 million in 2010, according to tribal member Joe Pakootas, the tribe's 25th CEO in 29 years. CTFC did this by cutting costs, eliminating wasteful spending and most significantly, restructuring the business. Formerly the Colville Tribal Enterprise Corp., it was reorganized as a federally chartered corporation under the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934.

Pakootas explained the economic advantages: “When we do business within the boundaries of the reservation on trust property, we are exempt from federal and state taxes.”

Pakootas hasn't rested on his laurels. He and his management team have been busy controlling expenses, diversifying CTFC's business portfolio and investing in profitable ventures—including two smoke shops, two convenience stores (which generate one-quarter of total revenues) and another casino (the tribe now runs three). The effort has paid off handsomely, once again.

“The very first year we were in operation, our gross revenues were about \$49 million from all of our businesses,” Pakootas said. “This year, our gross revenues

were at \$86 million, so we almost doubled that in two to three years. And our projections for this next year are about \$120 million to \$140 million in gross revenues.”

“What is most impressive to me is how the tribe and the enterprise leadership have been able to transform their operations following the economic collapse of 2007-2008,” said Michael Verchot, one of the judges and director of the Consulting and Business Development Center at the university's business school. “They also received high marks for their com-

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*Not only did  
Colville Corp.  
recover from  
the financial  
collapse of 2008,  
it employs many  
tribal members.*

---

munity impact by employing many tribal members.”

But to get to that point, many employees had to be laid off during the reorganization. That was the most difficult part of the job, said Pakootas. “It was heart-wrenching to let so many people go—85 percent were tribal members—but it was necessary to improve the business.” Initially, there was some backlash from the tribe. “But after a while, they understood the reason behind it,” said Pakootas. “Basically, it was the future health of the tribe that we were looking at and the future of our children and grandchildren.”

“Joe has provided invaluable leadership

and vision in this transformation and has built a solid and unified vision for CTFC's future,” said Verchot.

Currently, CTFC employs about 500 people in 13 different businesses that include gaming (the biggest revenue generator), recreation and tourism, retail, construction and wood products—12 of which are profitable. The 13th, a small electrical company, will close this spring.

However, more business development is in the works. “We are looking at developing our own fuel distribution” because, Pakootas said, CTFC pays a hefty cost right now to have fuel delivered, and there is a lot of money to be saved by doing it themselves.

While the 56-year-old CEO has much to be proud of in his four years as head of CTFC, he is quick to share credit with his Board of Directors and managers. “We are all Native American, and that makes a real difference because there's more understanding of our tribe's cultures and traditions. In the past, many of our policies have been put together by non-Indians.”

As much as Pakootas enjoys working for his tribe, very soon he could be heading down a different path entirely. “I haven't made a formal announcement yet, but I have filed—and I am a certified candidate—for Congress for the 5th Congressional District here in Washington.” Running for Congress, he said, will allow him to be a voice for the Native American community and middle-class America, as well—segments of the country that he says face the same difficult issues: poverty, unemployment and poor health care.

Depending upon how the election goes, Pakootas said he may or may not continue with his duties as CEO. “I would like to stay here until some of these operations are going that we are working on right now,” he said. “I want to make sure that we continue to grow and continue to diversify.” <http://bit.ly/1aoZMZh> 📱

# Six For Indian Country

A new year and renewed presidential nominations **BY ROB CAPRICCIOSO**

**Bottom Line:** *In early January, President Obama resubmitted to the Senate several political nominees who are of special interest to Indian country. The president has previously submitted all of the below nominees, but because they were not confirmed by the end of 2013, he had to resubmit them for consideration in 2014.*

**Brad Carson:** This Oklahoma politician and Indian law expert has been renominated to become Army undersecretary after being confirmed as general counsel for the Army in December 2011 and having served successfully in that position since that time. A Cherokee Nation citizen, Carson previously worked as chief executive officer for his tribe's business division and served on its board. He was awarded the Bronze Star after his service in the Navy and Army during the recent Iraq war. He is widely considered non-controversial, and tribal affairs watchers expect his nomination to pass the Senate unanimously sometime soon.

**Michael Connor:** Nominated as deputy secretary of the Department of the Interior last July, Connor has received strong tribal support to replace David Hayes, who retired from the position in 2013 after tribal officials raised concerns about his role in some Indian-focused dealings, especially those involving the ongoing *Carcieri* land-into-trust legislative fix battle. Throughout his federal career, Connor has been focused on energy issues. He has also strongly supported tribal water rights issues. He is not an enrolled tribal citizen, but he does have roots with the Taos Pueblo; his maternal grandmother was an original member of Taos Pueblo's water rights task force. His initial nomination passed affirmatively out of the Energy Committee in


October, and he was scheduled for a new mark-up hearing on January 16.

**Keith Harper:** The Kilpatrick Stockton lawyer who served as co-counsel during the \$3.4 billion *Cobell* settlement, made it far enough along in the confirmation process to become a State Department United Nations ambassador focused on human rights in 2013, having been voted affirmatively out of the Foreign Relations Committee late in the year. Senate Republicans, however, raised objections that forced Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid to delay consideration of the Cherokee Nation citizen's nomination. Some Indian affairs sources speculated Obama might choose to nominate a safer candidate this year, but the White House has apparently dug in its heels in favor of Harper, who has served on the president's transition team, worked in his administration, and was a major campaign finance bundler for Obama's presidential campaigns.

**Diane Humetewa:** This Hopi citizen was nominated by the president last September to serve on the federal bench for the U.S. District Court for Arizona. She has received strong backing from Republican Sen. John McCain of her home state, as she previously did when she was a U.S. attorney during the George W. Bush administration. Given this support, she is expected to be confirmed once considered by the Senate. Indian country has long been pushing for Indian-focused nominees to the federal bench. If Humetewa is confirmed, she would be the only American Indian to serve on the federal bench and only the third Native on the federal bench in history.

**Vince Logan:** This Osage citizen was nominated in September 2012 to become special trustee in the Office of

Special Trustee for American Indians at the Department of the Interior. He finally received a hearing before the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs in December 2013, and his nomination was voted on affirmatively soon after. But the full Senate did not confirm him before the end of the year, so now a new hearing will need to occur. At the same time, many Indian country and federal officials are questioning whether an Office of the Special Trustee is really necessary, and legislation has recently been introduced that would scrap the position. This raises the question of whether the office will still exist by the time Logan is confirmed.

**Yvette Roubideaux:** She served as Director of the Indian Health Service during the first four years of the Obama administration. But she has now been reduced to acting capacity because Democrats have held up her renomination to the position, having heard concerns from tribal leaders about her leadership. Questions about transparency, management style, and her decisions involving sequestration, budgets, contract support costs and other Native health programs have been major causes of concern for tribal leaders, who have widely noted their ire to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs. Committee members have requested and received clarification from Roubideaux on some of these areas. But the information she provided was not enough to move her nomination forward in 2013. White House officials and her boss, Department of Health and Human Services Director Kathleen Sebelius, have made clear to Indian officials that they are standing by the Rosebud Sioux citizen in 2014. Tribal leaders, however, are widely pushing for a new nominee. <http://bit.ly/1b5RWAS> 



*Eighth-grade student Tenelle Starr won the right to wear her "Got Land? Thank an Indian" hooded sweatshirt despite objections to her message.*



*Venida S. Chenault, Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, became president of Haskell Indian Nations University on January 12.*



*A worker shows the location in Davie, Florida, where the body of a 2,000-year-old woman thought to be a Tequesta Indian was found.*



*The Atunyote golf course at the Turning Stone Casino Resort, chosen by Golfweek magazine as among its Best Casino Courses of 2013.*

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### SHAKESPEARE SENIOR APARTMENTS

1454 Shakespeare Avenue, Bronx, New York 10452

**For Rent - Reopening the Waiting List -  
78 One-Bedroom Apartments**

Shakespeare Senior Apartments is pleased to announce that requests for applications are now being accepted for 78 one-bedroom apartments which include 4 units designed for individuals with disabilities as vacant apartments become available. These apartments are located at 1454 Shakespeare Avenue in the Highbridge Section of the Bronx. It is anticipated, beginning on March 18, 2014, these apartments will be available for rent to persons with limited income and 62 years of age or older at the time of initial occupancy. **Applicants must be 62 years of age or older and must have incomes less than 50% of the median income adjusted for family size.** Qualifications will be based on HUD Section 8 Federal guidelines. All apartments are Project-based Section 8 subsidized. Tenants will pay approximately 30% of their income toward rent. Approximate income eligibility guidelines are:

Number of Persons	Maximum Gross Annual Income
One Person	\$29,400 **
Two Persons	\$33,600 **

\*\* Income guidelines may be updated by HUD at time of lease-up.

Applications may be requested in person or by writing to: Shakespeare Senior Apartments c/o Highbridge Community Development Corporation, 1465 Nelson Avenue, Suite A, Bronx, NY 10452

Applications may be also requested by calling 718-579-8721 or downloaded from our website at [www.hcdcrny.com](http://www.hcdcrny.com)

Completed applications are to be sent only by regular mail to a Post Office Box indicated on the application. All applications must be received by March 17, 2014.

This project is financed by US Department of Housing and Urban Development.



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# Headlines from the Web

## FEDERAL JUDGE HEARS MASHPEE TRIBE'S ELECTION DISPUTE

<http://bit.ly/1asZfm1>

## WHERE IS THE AUDIT? ASKS FORMER LIARD FIRST NATION CHIEF

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

## PROJECT AIMS TO REVIVE DEER ON RESERVATION LAND

<http://bit.ly/1hvY9e9>

## RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL DOCUMENTS MUST BE RELEASED, JUDGE RULES

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

## TIIS TSOH SIKAAD CHAPTER WANTS TO HEAR NAVAJO ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OPINION

<http://bit.ly/Lb5chd>

## YAKAMAS WANT TO BAN POT ON 12 MILLION ACRES OF CEDED LAND

<http://bit.ly/1asZy3t>

## Upcoming Events

### NATIVE AMERICAN HUMAN RESOURCES CONFERENCE

JANUARY 27-28

The fourth annual conference will offer a series of panels, round-table discussions and two tracks geared specifically toward Insurance Options and Recruitment and Retention Strategies. Top experts will be on hand to discuss such human resources topics as labor and employment law, managing enterprises of all sizes, insurance and benefits, financial planning for employees, and the benefits of technology.

**Location:** Pechanga Casino Resort, Temecula, California

### TRIBAL COURT TRIAL ADVOCACY TRAINING PROGRAM

JANUARY 27-30

The emphasis will be on adult sexual assault and include a half-day roundtable

discussion on the newly reauthorized Violence Against Women Act. Through lecture and practical exercises, the course will provide classroom instruction, as well as breakout sessions on Trial Preparation, Opening Statements, Direct Examination, Exhibits and Evidentiary Foundations, Cross Examination, Impeachment, Closing Arguments, Opposing Strategies, and Sentencing Considerations.

**Location:** Sheraton Uptown Albuquerque, Albuquerque, New Mexico

### NATIONAL NATIVE AMERICAN 8(A) CONFERENCE JANUARY 28-30

The second annual conference will be devoted to federal programs that assist tribal communities with economic development initiatives and will cover the procedures and benefits of an 8(a) tribally owned business. Topics covered

include the fundamentals about what projects or ventures qualify for federal funding, explanations of how to obtain federal grants or loans, and the steps involved in initiating an 8(a) business.

**Location:** Morongo Casino Resort and Spa, Cabazon, California

### NATIVE AMERICAN GAMING INVESTIGATIVE TECHNIQUES

JANUARY 28-30

Regulators will gain skills they can use immediately to conduct effective due diligence investigations on gaming suppliers, non-gaming vendors, and key employees. Proven methods will allow investigators to efficiently complete their work from the office and obtain the information needed to protect tribal gaming operations.

**Location:** UNLV International Gaming Institute, Las Vegas, Nevada

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Re "Crow & Lummi, Dirty Coal & Clean Fishing" (January 15):

A coal ship crashed through a pier a year ago in British Columbia. Luckily, it only spilled a little coal. But at Cherry Point, Washington, it could crash through one of the oil refinery piers on either side of the proposed coal

terminal and spill oil that would easily foul the San Juan Islands and Birch Bay beaches. Both tourism and fishing would go kaput.

— Jay Taber

Re the passing of Lexie Wakan LaMere at the age of only 21 (January 7):

My sympathies go to Lexie's parents, Frank and Cynthia, and to anyone who was touched by this wonderful young lady. It is always sad when the elderly walk on. It is always tragic when the young walk on.

— Michael Madrid  
Las Cruces, New Mexico

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



## TOP NEWS ALERTS

From IndianCountryTodayMediaNetwork.com

### 'STOP RACISM' AT FASHION WEEK

At Men's Fashion Week in Milan, Belgian designer Walter Van Beirendonck sent his models down the runway wearing a statement that was seen as a welcome rebuke to the industry's habit of appropriating Native culture: a feathered headdress topped by an arrangement that some observers feel is meant to be a raised middle finger and the printed message STOP RACISM. "We applaud Van Beirendonck for taking a stand—in this industry, that takes guts," wrote Alyssa Vingan at Fashionista.

### LAC DU FLAMBEAU CONSTITUTION WON'T CHANGE

An amendment to the constitution of the Lac du Flambeau

Band of Lake Superior Chippewa failed to pass in a referendum on January 15. The amendment, to article 8 of the constitution, would have removed the existing federal government process to amend the document and replaced it with a tribal process. Of the 112 tribal members who completed Secretarial Election Notice Packets, 72 voted against the amendment and only 40 voted for it.

### TESTER PUSHES INDIAN LANGUAGE BILL

Sen. Jon Tester (D-Montana) has introduced legislation that would amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to provide increased federal financial support to Native American language programs at American Indian-focused schools. "The

Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 includes unique policy barriers to schools taught through Native American languages and a lack of adequate funding to support such opportunities," the legislation reads. In response, Tester's bill would establish a grant program to support schools using Native American languages as their primary language of instruction.

### CONJOINED WHALES OFF BAJA

Fisherman found two conjoined gray whales off the Baja Peninsula in California on January 5. The rare calves, who apparently died shortly after being born, were linked at the waist, with two full heads and tail fins, said marine biologist Benito Bermudez, a scientist with the National Natural

Protected Areas Commission. Bermudez also said that scientists were collecting skin, muscle and baleen samples for study. The gray whales were found inside the Ojo de Liebre lagoon near the town of Guerrero Negro.

### 'STATE OF INDIAN NATIONS' APPROACHES

Brian Cladoosby, the new president of the National Congress of American Indians, will deliver his first State of Indian Nations address on January 30 from the Knight Studios at the Newseum in Washington, D.C. The speech will also be webcast at [www.livestream.com/ncai](http://www.livestream.com/ncai). Cladoosby, the chairman of the Swinomish Tribe of Washington, was elected to a two-year term at the Congress's annual convention in October.

## UPCOMING POW WOWS

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:rez@coxosceola.com)

[CoxOsceola.com](http://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](mailto:dchosajr@boisforte-nsn.gov)

[BoisForte.com](http://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](mailto:denvermarchpowwow@comcast.net)

[DenverMarchPowWow.org](http://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](mailto:emccord@tyonek.com)

[TebughnaFoundation.com](http://TebughnaFoundation.com)

### Anadagisi

April 05

University of Tennessee-Knoxville Campus

Knoxville, Tennessee

Contact: Tiffany Donner, Savannah Hicks

931-302-3699, 828-734-5727

[tdonner@utk.edu](mailto:tdonner@utk.edu), [shicks17@utk.edu](mailto:shicks17@utk.edu)

[Facebook.com/groups/80588568624](https://www.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](mailto:ummcnia@morris.umn.edu)

[studentorgs.morris.UMN.edu/cnial/powwow.htm](http://studentorgs.morris.UMN.edu/cnial/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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:info@nationalpowwow.com)

[NationalPowWow.com](http://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](mailto:pacoeagle1@ncalgonquians.com)

[www.NCAIgonquians.com](http://www.NCAIgonquians.com)

### Manito Ahbee Festival

September 13 - 14

MTS Centre

345 Graham Ave

Winnipeg, Manitoba

Contact: Candice Hart

204-956-1849

[powwow@manitoahbee.com](mailto:powwow@manitoahbee.com)

[ManitoAhbee.com](http://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](mailto:kauaipowwow@gmail.com)

[KauaiPowWow.com](http://KauaiPowWow.com)

### Bacone College Fall Pow Wow 2014

October 25

Muskogee Civic Center

Muskogee, Oklahoma

Contact: Wil Brown

918-687-3299

[brownw@bacone.edu](mailto:brownw@bacone.edu)



*Shortly after being born, two conjoined gray whale calves were found dead on a beach in the Ojo de Liebre lagoon, near the town of Guerrero Negro in the Baja Peninsula, Mexico on January 5. Scientists collected skin, muscle and baleen samples from the rare, possibly unique, calves for study.*

CONAN/AP IMAGES

## THE BIG PICTURE