



Indian Country

THIS WEEK FROM

TODAY

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

A Letter from the Publisher

Shekóli. A new farm bill that recently passed the Senate in a 68-32 vote contains about \$8 billion in cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program during the next 10 years from current spending levels. While this is less than the \$40 billion in proposed cuts pushed by House Republicans, the drop in food stamps funding is grim news for many areas in Indian country. In fact, the National Congress of American Indians reports that 20 percent of Alaska Native and Indian households received food stamps. In 2008, 800,000 individual Indians and Alaska Natives received them, according to federal statistics.

As readers will learn from this week's newsletter, tribal nation leaders had a glimpse of the potential impact of these cuts (the farm bill is expected to be approved and signed by President Obama) last year during the sequester, when the break in federal funding disrupted tribal and personal budgets alike. Now, however, Native leaders and communities must again take a long view in resolving one of the most fundamental questions on earth: how to properly produce and manage resources so their people are well fed.

During the sequester, administrators of Food Distribution Programs on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) told ICTMN that participa-



tion rose at nearly every one of their sites. About 275 tribes participate in FDPIR, which oversees and manages the distribution of Department of Agriculture foods to tribal nations, which then pass the food on to low-income households. Better yet, a feasibility study within this same food bill opens the door to more tribal management of federal food programs. In addition, the bill also provides authorization for a demonstration project to incorporate traditional and local foods from Native producers to FDPIR outlets. These measures are seen by tribal activists as critical early steps in helping Indian farmers and ranchers direct their produce to markets sorely in need of a sustainable supply of healthy foods, managed by tribal authorities with a priority on Indian country agriculture. In the face of cuts from afar, we must all do what we can to build on current opportunities to take back control and put it in the hands of the communities with the most at stake.

Na ki' wa,

Ray Halbritter

Table of *Contents*



2	COMMENTARY	12	WEEK IN PHOTOS
4	NEWS	13	TRADEWINDS CLASSIFIEDS
8	A COAL CONFLICT AMONG THE NAVAJO	14	WEB, EVENTS, LETTERS
10	ARE YOU NATIVE AMERICAN?	16	CARTOON, NEWS ALERTS
11	NEW CUTS, NEW CONCERNS	17	UPCOMING POW WOVES
		18	THE BIG PICTURE

A Buy Back Program That's Not Working

*The goal of the Cobell Land Buy Back Program is to reduce the number of highly fractional interests through individually owned Indian land conveyances to tribes. But **Jay Daniels**, a member of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, calls it "very flawed":*

The Land Buy Back Program was approved in November 2011. As of today, no highly fractionated interest has been acquired and the shelf life of the usage of the funds is allocated for only 10 years from the November 24, 2011 approval date of the *Cobell* settlement.

Recently, the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) announced that offers were issued

to acquire interest on the Pine Ridge and Makah reservations. How did they determine land values pursuant to fair market value (FMV), or other determinations as required? How can they determine FMV that quickly? They most likely conducted a market analysis that doesn't value property that should be based on improvements individually on each tract such as utilities and access. Rather, market analysis values most properties at the same value whether there are improvements or not.

There are several other reservations that have higher fractionated interests, and those tribes have been bypassed. This means that when the BIA does start

acquiring interest on those reservations, they will have less time to work on the acquisition of those interests. Who was the genius who put together this plan?

If this program can be salvaged, BIA needs to place folks in positions who have worked for years in the land acquisition program to make the process faster and smoother. That's not going to happen, though, because they are too far into the process and their friends are entrenched in those jobs. These folks didn't understand the full process without input from the field. It's a backroom deal where the good old boys, or women, are calling the shots. <http://bit.ly/1k3M8Aq> ☞

A Nation of the Invisible

Dale Schlundt, who teaches at Palo Alto College and Our Lady of the Lake University, wonders why public images of Natives are so firmly, and unfortunately, rooted in the past:

When one says "American Indian," what comes to mind? Is it the fierce-looking warrior on horseback or perhaps the individual in war paint holding a repeating rifle, ever ready for battle? We have so many political and societal issues being discussed regarding 21st century American citizens. Yet it is truly rare to hear any issues relating to present-day American Indians—present day being the key

phrase. Isn't it unfortunate that a people who were forced to accept a European-based society are today left to be their own advocates in the U.S., typically having little voice at all? If asked to picture a person of indigenous ancestry, I would argue a much more realistic depiction would be one living a modern American life, much like you and me. But many also continue to see the negative effects of the past that have yet to be corrected.

The phrase "talk is cheap" did not originate because it was a false statement. Real advocacy, as well as action, is needed for the status quo to see a positive change

in favor of the various American Indian heritages.

I always begin my first day of the semester teaching U.S. history classes for college freshman with a picture of candidate Barack Obama visiting the Crow Tribal Reservation. I ask them why this is significant. Typically they answer correctly, even if not realizing the significance of the larger context: We don't see politicians giving American Indian groups a voice in American politics. Do Indians come to mind when picturing the American electorate? <http://bit.ly/1ixgCI5> ☞

The Real Stakes in Obamacare

Mark Trahant, a member of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, notes the literally life-and-death issues for tribes when it comes to states not subscribing to President Obama's healthcare plan:

As Obamacare was drafted, the primary funding vehicle was the expansion of Medicaid to buy insurance for people who are currently uninsured. According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, that's one in three American Indians and Alaska Natives. The federal government made this a good deal for the states by paying all of the cost for the first three years and nearly all of the cost after that. Yet half

the states have said "no."

Now a recent study in the journal *Health Affairs* says that the failure of Medicaid expansion could result in premature deaths. The authors, Sam Dickman, David Himmelstein, Danny McCormick, and Steffie Woolhandler, charted the number of uninsured who would miss out on treatment and estimated a range of potential early deaths—some 7,000 to 17,000 across the country. Many of the "no" states have large American Indian and Alaska Native populations. Roughly half the Indian health system is in states without Medicaid expansion.

"We predict that many low-income women will forego recommended breast and cervical cancer screening; diabetics will forego medications, and all low-income adults will face a greater likelihood of depression, catastrophic medical expenses, and death," the authors wrote. "Disparities in access to care based on state of residence will increase. Because the federal government will pay 100 percent of increased costs associated with Medicaid expansion for the first three years (and 90 percent thereafter), opt-out states are also turning down billions of dollars of potential revenue, which might strengthen their local economy." <http://bit.ly/1cZlgNZ> ☞

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Business Incubator to Boost Entrepreneurship on Pine Ridge

BY CHRISTINA ROSE

Over the last 30 years, the Lakota Funds, a community development financial institution, has supported more than 500 businesses on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. Now the outfit is venturing into online certificate programs through the newly formed Building Native Business Industry Institute and expects to create 60 new businesses on Pine Ridge over the next three years.

"In the first year, we are working with several partners to develop the curriculum," said Kadem Fischer, project coordinator, adding that the first online programs will benefit future and present business owners in retail sales, arts, and construction industries.

Classes are expected to begin sometime between March and June. "The expectation is that over three years, a projected 625 people will complete the Building Native Business Industry Institute classes and 120 will apply their training in a business setting," said Heidi Cuny, a principal at Cuny Communications.

Keeping the courses culturally appropriate is a key element of the programming, said Sandy Burns of Project Solutions in Rapid City, South Dakota, who has worked with Lakota Funds in the past. The federally funded group specializes in creating customized, culturally appropriate business programs taught by a Native instructor. "We do a lot with the tribes," Burns said. "We use case studies from other tribal businesses, so they are things people in training might go through."

Once the program is completed, Fischer said, "An email is sent to us, and we will know how many attended, what the test scores were, and what they gained from it. Our success coaches will email them and then put them on a course to help them do what they set out to do." <http://bit.ly/LNoOIX> ☞

Hoop Valley Tribe Declares Drought Emergency as California Goes Dry

The Hoopa Valley Tribe has declared a drought emergency as thousands of Californians face threatened drinking water supplies from the worst dry spell in decades. The Trinity River, which flows through the heart of Hoopa territory, is lower than in the past 50 years of recordkeeping.

"We're setting a new record, and it's not a good one," said fisheries hydrologist Robert Franklin in an emergency meeting with department leaders from the tribe on January 27, the *Two Rivers Tribune* reported. He added that for the time of year, "the flows are the lowest anyone alive has seen."

With Trinity Lake only half full, authorities are worried about temperature increases that could promote bacteria growth. This could hurt migrating fish and pose problems for both drinking and recreational use, said Ted Oldenburg of the tribe's Environmental Protection Agency.

The Hoopa declaration came soon after Governor Jerry Brown declared a drought emergency for California. "We are on track for having the worst drought in 500 years," B. Lynn Ingram, a professor of earth and planetary sciences at the University of California at Berkeley, told *The New York Times*.

"We are talking historical drought conditions, no supplies of water in many parts of the state," Tim Quinn, executive director of the Association of California Water Agencies, told the *Times*. "My industry's job is to try to make sure that these kind of things never happen. And they are happening."

The Hoopa are formulating a drought mitigation plan that would plan out water use for three to five years, the *Tribune* reported. Measures include storing water from the mountains that is currently not being tapped, beefing up fire prevention initiatives and shoring up backup water systems. <http://bit.ly/1bs5jPq> ☞

Snoqualmie Tribe Refinancing \$310M in Casino Debt

The Snoqualmie Indian Tribe, based in the Puget Sound region of Washington State, has finalized a refinancing transaction with the closing of a new five-year \$310 million credit facility that consists of a Revolving Credit Facility and a Term Loan A Facility. Proceeds from the new credit facility will be used to refinance all of the existing debt at the Tribe's Snoqualmie Casino.

Benefits to the tribe from the transaction include lower interest rates, increased cash distributions to the tribal government for use in providing greater levels of governmental services and benefits to tribal members, and a more flexible financial covenant and debt repayment schedule. The new transaction

also includes an accordion feature for additional borrowing during the credit facility term, should the Tribe decide to pursue capital improvements or expansion at the casino.

"We wanted to refinance in the most responsible manner possible to ensure both the best interest rates and to reduce our debt," said Carolyn Lubenau, Snoqualmie Tribal Council chairwoman. "This transaction allowed us to secure a financing that met all of our goals in seeking a refinancing."

Bank of America led a syndicate of national and regional banks in completing the transaction, including KeyBank, CIT, Capital One, PNC Bank, US Bank, Comerica, BBVA Compass, Columbia

Bank and One West Bank. The credit facility was well received with commitments well in excess of the amount needed for the refinancing.

Kilpatrick Townsend, an international law firm that is committed to serving the needs of Tribal governments and their communities, provided legal counsel for the Tribe. Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton LLP served as lenders' legal counsel.

Sovereign Finance, LLC, a 100 percent Native American-owned firm that provides financial and investment advisory services exclusively for Native American governments, acted as the tribe's financial advisor. <http://bit.ly/1eobspj> ☞



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Violence and Stress are Killing Native Youth, Official Says

Native juveniles are exposed to violent crime rates up to 10 times the national average, and one in three Native girls will be raped in their lifetimes. In Alaska, sexual assault rates are significantly higher—among some communities it's 100 percent, according to the National Indian Law and Order Commission—and the police response rate can take days, if law enforcement comes at all.

So wrote Troy A. Eid, a former U.S. attorney for Colorado and chairman of the Indian Law and Order Commission, in an op-ed for *The Denver Post* about how extreme violence and PTSD is costing "us an entire generation of Native American and Alaska Natives, the fastest-growing group of young people in the United States."

"The commission has concluded that the federal government is overwhelmingly to blame for this tragedy," Eid continued. The U.S. needs to "repeal outmoded laws and policies that keep tribes from protecting their citizens, especially their youth, and to let tribes make and enforce their own laws to protect all U.S. citizens on Indian lands," he said.

It is no wonder, Eid said, that Native youth are killing themselves at record numbers compared to other ethnic and racial groups. As a result of extreme violence and suicide, life expectancies on some Indian reservations are the lowest in the Western Hemisphere. In areas of Indian country where the federal government gives tribal police and courts more autonomy, violent crime rates are dwindling, and youth and women are getting more support.

On February 12, Eid was scheduled to testify before the U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs with the Indian Law and Order Commission's report "A Roadmap for Making Native America Safer." "The tragedy in Indian country will remain invisible only if the rest of us refuse to see it," Eid wrote. <http://bit.ly/1lxfrTR> 

State of Emergency on Standing Rock Sioux Reservation

The Standing Rock Sioux have declared a state of emergency over a lack of propane gas for heating during the coldest of winter weather. A national shortage has made supplies scarce and nearly impossible to afford, NBC News affiliate KFYY-TV reported. On the reservation, up to 90 percent of residents rely on propane for heating.


"They're already on a fixed income, so they have to make a choice. Do we need heat or do we need food?" Tribal Chairman Dave Archambault asked KFYY.

Tribal members are reluctant to lean on already strapped and overcrowded family members, so the tribe has set up shelters in Wakpala, South Dakota and Fort Yates, North Dakota. The American Red Cross has been on hand as well, supplying emergency meals to the shelters, while its Black Hills Area Chapter has provided cots and blankets.

As recently as last month, Archam-

bault told KFYY-TV, \$500 would have bought enough propane for more than a month of heating. But in current frigid temperatures that amount is only lasting two or three weeks, he said.

Some relief is in sight, as the Department of Health and Human Services on January 30 released \$439 million for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program nationwide, \$3.4 million of which goes to North Dakota. American Indian tribes are slated to get \$817,000 of that, the Associated Press reported. This comes on top of the initial funding of \$2.9 billion nationwide allocated in November, the AP said.

"Our Native American brothers and sisters, as well as families all across North Dakota, are feeling the pain of two sharp swords—a particularly brutal winter and sky-high propane prices," said Sen. Heidi Heitkamp (D-North Dakota). <http://bit.ly/1n7EphO> 

Navajo Nation Council Approves Junk Food Tax to Fight Obesity


BY ALYSA LANDRY

The Navajo Nation Council has approved a 2 percent increase in sales tax for junk food sold on the 27,000-square-mile reservation, becoming the first tribe in the country to install such a premium.

The council approved the bill, known as the Healthy Diné Nation Act, by 12-7 on January 30, the final day of its regular winter session. The bill increases the sales tax to 7 percent on sweetened beverages and snacks low in essential nutrients and high in salt, fat and sugar, including chips, candy, cookies and pastries. The bill also allocates revenue collected from the tax hike to a special fund to develop wellness centers, parks, basketball courts, trails, swimming pools, picnic grounds and health education classes.

Bill sponsor Danny Simpson, who represents eight chapters in the East-

ern Navajo Agency, said the tax increase will help promote healthy living and bring awareness to the diabetes epidemic on the reservation. "Each one of us here has a relative that's diabetic, and we face that fact every single day," he said. An estimated 10 percent of the Navajo population, or 24,600 people, has diabetes, said David Foley, an epidemiologist for the Navajo Nation Division of Health.

"This is the only [junk food tax] in the country, so the national significance of this cannot be underplayed," said Crystal Echo Hawk, executive director of the Notah Begay III Foundation, a nonprofit organization that combats obesity and diabetes among Natives. "Bigger cities have been trying to get something like this passed for years, and the Navajo Nation is the first to get it done." <http://bit.ly/1bfTMiO> 

'Climate Hubs' In Indian Country

Among Obama's executive actions

Two of the seven regional "climate hubs" designated on February 5 by the Agriculture Department, designed to act as information centers to help farmers and rural communities deal with extreme weather, are within Indian country. The Southern Plains hub is at the Grazinglands Research Lab's Agricultural Research Service, in El Reno, Oklahoma, is in the heart of Cheyenne-Arapaho territory, while the Pacific Northwest hub is at the Pacific Northwest Research Station of the U.S. Forest Service in Corvallis, Oregon, home to numerous tribes. The hubs are among the "executive actions" that President Obama has pledged to take in lieu of congressional cooperation. <http://bit.ly/1drdisv> 📱

Anaya Nominated For Nobel

A peace prize for U.N. Rapporteur?

James Anaya, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize, the Norwegian newspaper NRK reported on February 1. "The world's Indigenous Peoples are in a particularly vulnerable position," said his nominator, Torgeir Knag Fylkesnes, a member of Norway's parliament. "Their livelihoods are threatened by climate change and an ever increasing exploitation of natural resources." Anaya's work in bringing attention to these issues qualifies him for the prize, Fylkesnes stated. Anaya

has toured both Canada and the United States and has released detailed reports on the conditions under which the Indigenous Peoples of both nations live. <http://bit.ly/1fIsFlj> 📱

New Program At Navajo Tech

Ninth bachelor's degree unveiled

Navajo Technical University has added its ninth baccalaureate degree—a B.S. in Early Childhood Multicultural Education—following approval from the Institutions Action Council of the Higher Learning Commission. The program began in 2001 as a 3 credit hour, entry-level introductory course, which eventually developed into a certificate program and associate's degree. Currently, there are 118 students enrolled in the program. "I'm so thrilled for the degree," said NTU Early Childhood Multicultural Education instructor Della Begay, who also helped developed the curriculum for the new program. "It's what everybody's been waiting for." <http://bit.ly/1xAW0q> 📱

Goodell Defends The 'R' Word

Digs in heels before Super Bowl

Following the State of the NFL address on January 31, NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell defended the use of "Redskins" as the name of the Washington, D.C. NFL franchise. "The vast majority of Americans in general and Native Americans in particular support the franchise keeping the nickname," he said at a pre-Super Bowl press conference, adding that the team

"has presented the name in a way that has honored Native Americans. Ray Halbritter, CEO and Representative of the Oneida Indian Nation, responded that it was "deeply troubling" that Goodell would "insist that the dictionary-defined R-word racial slur against Native Americans is somehow a sign of honor." <http://bit.ly/1gEnfuD> 📱

Committee Again Backs Harper

Vote is along party lines

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee on February 4 again split along party lines, in a 10-8 vote, to approve the renomination of Keith Harper of the Cherokee Nation as U.S. ambassador to the United Nations Human Rights Committee. Last year, Sen. John McCain (R-Arizona) took the lead in questioning Harper's human rights record involving Indian country; Harper was co-counsel during the \$3.4 billion *Cobell* settlement and McCain questioned several of his leadership decisions involving that case and other tribal trust settlements. The Obama administration has strongly supported Harper, who was a major campaign finance bundler for the president's campaigns. <http://bit.ly/1lBtgug> 📱

Three Tribes Gain Power Under VAWA

Have jurisdiction over non-Indians

The Pascua Yaqui Tribe of Arizona, the Tulalip Tribes of Washington, and the Umatilla Tribes of Oregon will be the first tribes in the nation to prosecute anyone who commits a crime of domes-

tic violence on their lands, under jurisdiction granted by a Department of Justice pilot project authorized by the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act (VAWA) of 2013. Although the provisions authorizing this jurisdiction take effect generally in March 2015, the law also gives the Attorney General discretion to grant a tribe's request to exercise it earlier, through a voluntary pilot project. Associate Attorney General Tony West said that "the old jurisdictional scheme failed to adequately protect the public—particularly native women—with too many crimes going unprosecuted and unpunished amidst escalating violence in Indian Country." <http://bit.ly/1gQQNW5> 📱

A 'No' To Anti-Fracking Protest

Resistance to a court order

The Lubicon Lake Nation of Alberta is appealing a court order that prohibits the indigenous community from interfering with fracking operations on unceded territory. In late November, the Nation began blockading a road northeast of Peace River that leads to a fracking site operated by the Calgary-based oil and gas giant Penn West Petroleum Ltd. When Penn West requested a seven-day order against the blockade, an Alberta court handed down an additional restriction of six months in early January. Vowing to fight on, Dwight Gladue, councilor of the Nation, said, "First and foremost, one of the things [Penn West] has to do first is have a meaningful dialogue with Chief and Council." <http://bit.ly/1azd5bP> 📱



Navajo Mine is located southwest of Farmington, New Mexico on the Navajo Nation.

A Coal Conflict Among the Navajo

Fuel revenues and health concerns are now at odds **BY ALYSA LANDRY**

Bottom Line: *Is the Navajo Mine a viable option? A growing opposition doesn't think so.*

Citing human and environmental health concerns and an uncertain future for fossil fuels, a growing group of

Navajo citizens is calling on the Interior Department to reverse the tribe's recent purchase of Navajo Mine.

The 24-member Navajo Nation Council in December approved the \$85 million purchase in a move proponents hope solidifies the tribe's role in energy

development. The decades-old mine located south of Farmington, New Mexico, contains coal reserves to last for the next 100 years.

But opponents claim that costs to health should outweigh economic benefits.

"Coal is a dirty business and it's already impacting negatively on our health," said Duane "Chili" Yazzie, president of the Shiprock Chapter, the largest Navajo community in Northwest New Mexico. "The coal market itself is declining, so the overall trend is away from fossil fuel. The Environmental Protection Agency seems like they're going to get more and more stringent, so why do we want to buy into a dying industry?"

Yazzie, with support from his chapter, is threatening legal action against the Navajo Nation Council in order to halt the purchase. Besides his concerns about the environment and health, Yazzie believes council members acted in secret, violating citizens' rights to weigh in on the matter.

"There has been no deliberate effort to present the idea of a mine purchase to the people at any time," he said. "Our right to free, prior and informed consent is violated."

The purchase of the mine was a lengthy process that began years ago when Southern California Edison, the largest interest owner at the nearby Four Corners Power Plant, announced its intent to move toward cleaner energy. Four Corners Power Plant is the sole purchaser of coal from Navajo Mine.

As the purchase of the mine was coming together in December, the Arizona Public Service Company (APS) finalized a deal to buy out Southern California Edison's interests in the plant. APS, which now has 63 percent ownership of the power plant, then permanently closed three of the five units as part of its plan to bring the plant into compliance with federal clean air standards.

The purchase deal, between the recently established Navajo Transitional Energy Company and the mine's former owner, BHP Billiton, allows production to continue at the mine beyond 2016, when BHP's current lease expires. The mine produces about 8 million tons of coal every year and brings in \$41 million annually.

Proponents of the purchase say the acquisition is a major step in taking control of the tribe's natural resources.

"Rather than sitting on the sidelines, we now have a say in the energy industry in terms of how that reserve of coal is being used," said LoRenzo Bates, chairman of the Navajo Nation Council's Budget and Finance Committee. "This say goes beyond the coal industry and allows us a voice in alternative forms of energy. Coal can have other uses, and this makes us a player in the industry."

Since the mine and the power plant first began operating in the 1960s, the tribe has accumulated lease payments, royalties and taxes. The purchase of the mine allows those payments to continue, and it saves jobs for Navajo people, Bates said. The mine employs about 800 people.

"We have the power to maintain jobs at

'Coal is a dirty business. The overall trend is away from fossil fuel. We do we want to buy into a dying industry?'

the mine and power plant and maintain revenue going forward," Bates said. "It will have its challenges from opponents like environmentalists who are completely against the industry, but hopefully we'll move forward and work through this."

But not all tribal members are as optimistic about the future. Yazzie, who has long lobbied for more and better-paying jobs on the reservation, has petitioned the Interior Department for clarification on whether the purchase is final.

The unemployment rate on the Navajo Nation hovers near 50 percent, but Yazzie believes the purchase of the mine was shortsighted. "We're spending \$85 million to save 800 jobs," he said. "It doesn't equate."

Yazzie is pushing for drastic action in

the Navajo Nation Council, where investigations into fraudulent spending are ongoing. If he fails to get the purchase reversed within council chambers or with help from the Interior Department, he said, he is prepared to take the matter to court.


Yazzie is not alone among the Navajo in appealing for intervention from federal leaders. Two grassroots groups of environmental activists also are seeking support from Washington, D.C. to stop or reverse the purchase. One of them is Diné Citizens Against Ruining Our Environment (CARE), which wants to halt the purchase until an environmental impact statement is completed. The Interior Department's Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement is preparing that statement, with release expected sometime this spring.

Lori Goodman, treasurer for Diné CARE, fears the statement will reveal significant risks to the environment and to human health. Among those risks, she said, is the 100 million tons of coal ash created by the power plant and contamination of nearby water supplies.

"It might turn out that mining coal is not viable," she said. "Then there's a huge liability looming for the Navajo Nation. This could bankrupt us."

Another grassroots group that has taken stands against fossil fuels is Dooda Desert Rock, an organization that arose in response to the tribe's plans in 2003 to build a coal-fired power plant about 25 miles south of Farmington. The plant, Desert Rock, would have been the third on reservation land, but it failed to come to fruition.

Elouise Brown, president of Dooda, said she opposes the mine purchase for the same reasons she fought against Desert Rock. Brown recently lost her father to health problems linked to his work in uranium mines, and she believes a new generation of disease and death is coming for those who work in the mine.

"Health needs to be the main concern," she said. "Health of people, the environment and all living creatures." <http://bit.ly/1bulrwG> 

Are You Native American?

Ten lighthearted questions to ask yourself **BY VINCENT SCHILLING**

Bottom Line: *Don't try to deny it. These signature characteristics will have you laughing with the shock of recognition.*

Most of us have heard the famous Jeff Foxworthy "You Might Be a Redneck ..." jokes. But why should Foxworthy get to have all of the fun? We as Native Americans deserve the right to hear some stereotypical satire that also happens to reflect the truth. In this lighthearted vein, we look at ourselves with "10 Ways to Tell You Might Be Native American":

- *If you own a shirt with an eagle, a wolf or an Indian on it...you might be Native American.*

If you get up right now and walk to your closet, or look in the hamper or for some, just look in the mirror, you will see a shirt with an eagle, a wolf or an Indian on it. Heck, you might even own a shirt that has all three. Buffalos, hawks and deer also count.

- *If you own at least one piece of turquoise jewelry... You might be a Native American.*

You might have a small pair of earrings or a straight out arm cuff with a six inch oval of turquoise, but no matter how big or small your collection, if you have that beautiful stone in your house or on your person . . . well, you know.

- *If you have ever posted, plus I'd, retweeted or liked a fry bread meme on social media... You might be Native American.*

You've done it haven't you? You noticed a funny meme with "fry bread" on it and you couldn't help yourself? In the midst of your LOL-ing, you re-shared it. It's okay I've done it too. There's no shame.

- *If you've used the terms "Rez," "snag," "cuz" or "teepee creep" recently... You might be a Native American.*

We might think the rest of society has a small clue as to what these terms mean,



Turquoise jewelry, no matter what the form, could be a giveaway.

but seriously? No one has the smallest clue. It's alright cuz, we're down like that. See you on the Rez.

- *If you've been late and used "Indian time" as an excuse . . . you might be Native American.*

Whether it's your job or a pow wow or you are standing around with friends, (or they are standing there without you) or there is any situation with someone "late to the party," when they or you show up... no excuses are made, no reasons given... just the phrase "Indian time."

- *If your pet has no registration or never been to the vet... You might be Native American.*

Okay, this doesn't go for everyone. But it is a good possibility for a rez puppy... that gets to go wherever it wants.

- *If you have an email address with wolf, hawk, eagle, bear, NDN, NDNGirl, N8V or other related blurbs in it... You might be Native American.*

Well, this one is pretty self-explanatory. The same goes for social media handles.

- *If you have random feathers, sticks, rocks or sage bundles just lying around your house... You might be Native American.*

Didn't think we knew about this one, did you? Well, the jig is up.

- *If you have at least one Native American painting in your house... You might be Native American.*

This painting is generally what we get mad about if other people assume we are all about the Native guy on a horse sitting on a hill with a sunset in the background. Oh by the way, I'm not just talking about a painting on the wall. I'm also talking about the one you've been meaning to hang up for the past year.

- *If you've laughed at any of these or said to yourself, "I gotta share this!"... You might be Native American.*

Gotcha, didn't I? <http://bit.ly/MvbKCl> ☞

New Cuts, New Concerns

Weighing the impact of fewer food stamps **BY ROB CAPRICCIOSO**

Bottom line: *It is not clear how the recently passed farm bill and food-stamp cuts will affect Indian Country. But the worries have already started.*

On February 4, the Senate passed a farm bill by a vote of 68-32 that calls for \$8 billion in cuts to the SNAP food-stamp program over the next decade. The vote followed a 251-166 vote on the House version on January 29.

Indian food and nutrition specialists are now officially worried.

According to federal statistics, SNAP in 2008 served an average of 540,000 low-income people who identified as American Indian/Alaska Native alone and 260,000 who identified as American Indian/Alaska Native and White per month. The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) says that 20 percent of American Indian/Alaska Native households receive food stamps.

Tod Robertson, president of the National Association of Food Distribution Programs on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), said that the reduced federal funding resulting from the October government shutdown, combined with new federal rules affecting FDPIR that went into effect around the same time, led to an increase in participation at nearly every tribal FDPIR site.

FDPIR is a federal program that provides Department of Agriculture (USDA) foods through tribes to low-income Indian country-based households; it served approximately 80,000 individuals per month in fiscal year 2011, according to administrative data. Over 275 tribes currently participate in FDPIR. But there are 566 federally recognized tribes, so many tribal citizens don't have access.

"One tribe has already seen an additional 1,000-plus new participants," Robertson said. "The monthly participation levels are being closely monitored in comparison to past trends."

It is "extremely plausible," Robertson said, "that additional resources will

be needed" for FDPIR as a result of the SNAP cuts, which are expected to soon be signed into law by President Obama. Many tribal advocates hope the FDPIR program can pick up the slack for most Indian families, but whether there are enough resources for that to happen is unknown right now.

"We're going to see a ripple," said Janie Simms Hipp, director of the Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative at the University of Arkansas School of Law and the founder of the USDA's Office of Tribal Relations. "If you take the lesson of the shutdown as an example of what

'If you take the lesson of the shutdown as an example, we need to be prepared.'

could happen upon full implantation of cuts to SNAP, we [tribes and tribal citizens] really need to be prepared."

Tribal leaders with the Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes are also lamenting that the farm bill includes language inserted by Rep. Frank Lewis (R-Oklahoma) that continues to keep traditional tribal homelands away from the tribe. The tribe unsuccessfully called on Congress to remove the language, which was first inserted in 2002, once more in 2008, and now again in 2014.

There are a few new provisions in the farm bill that are cause for celebration in Indian country. One of these provisions requires a feasibility study from the Secretary of Agriculture on the tribal ad-

ministration of federal food assistance programs. "FDPIR is already managed by tribes [and] FDPIR has proven that tribes can effectively run these programs and in most if not all cases do so with greater attention to the needs on the ground of their people," Hipp said of the provision. "I'm all in favor of turning over these programs to be run by tribes for the benefit and service to their people."

The farm bill also creates a new demonstration project for the FDPIR to include traditional and locally grown foods by Native farmers, ranchers, and producers. "This shows that Congress is acknowledging that local, traditional foods continue to be important to our people," said Hipp, a member of the Chickasaw Nation.

For both provisions to be successful, Hipp said, the input of FDPIR tribal managers and other Indian food and agricultural experts will be important. "Such a study and demonstration project must be handled in a way and by entities that truly understand Indian country agriculture from farm to fork, and tribal governments must be involved as they have the authority to set policy within their jurisdictional borders that would form the ongoing cradle for local and traditional food production," she said.

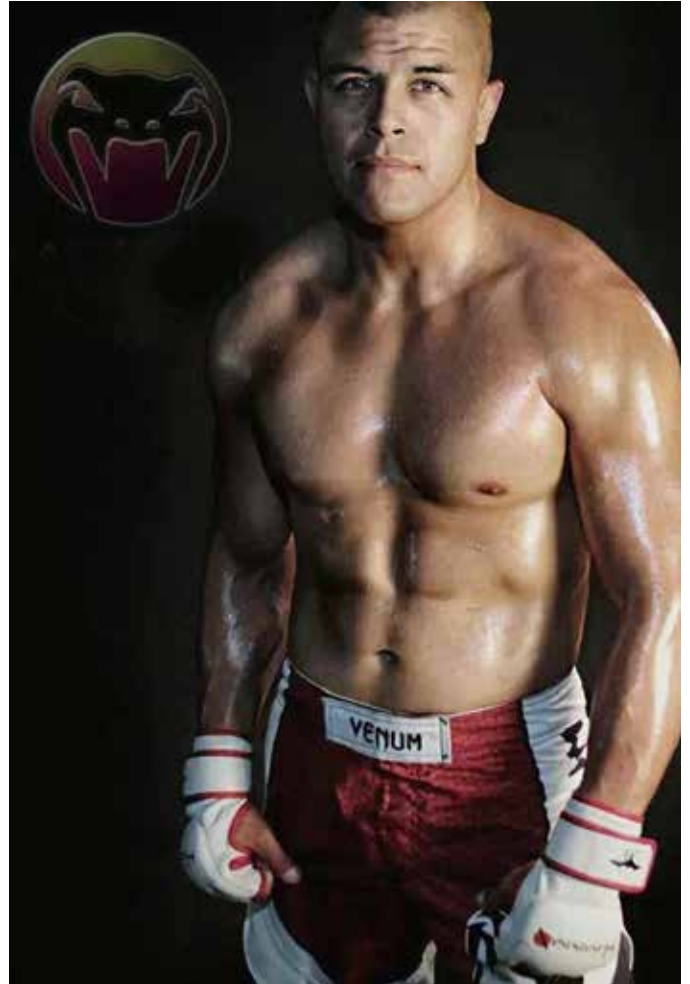
A third new provision of the farm bill related to Indian country allows for the use of traditional foods in public food services programs such as schools, elder care facilities, and hospitals and makes tribes explicitly eligible for Soil and Water Conservation Act Programs.

While the pro-Indian provisions in the final legislation are exciting to advocates like Hipp, the cuts are still tough to swallow. "I'm not excited about any cuts to hunger programs—we have a whole bunch of hungry people," she said. "But at the end of the day I'm also a student of agriculture policy, and farm bills have always been an exercise in compromise."

<http://bit.ly/1erZ0Oz> ☞



The Tule Riverbed, close to the Tule River Tribe, stands dry as a state of local emergency is declared in California.



Professional mixed martial arts fighter Bill Smallwood, Crow, also manages a pair of fighters based in Oklahoma.



Olympian Suzy "Chapstick" Chaffee (center) is part of the Native Nations Sports Ambassadors Program, teaching skiing skills to Natives.



"Acting saved my life," said Blackfeet actress Misty Upham, seen here on the set of August: Osage County with star Meryl Streep.

Request for Proposals

The Southern Ute Indian Housing Authority in Ignacio, CO is accepting proposals for the Fiscal Years 2014/2015 Financial Audit. The audit will include an audit of accounts and records of the Southern Ute Indian Housing Authority (SUIHA) for two 12 month periods ending September 30, 2015, in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and the auditing and reporting provisions of the applicable Housing and Urban Development Audit Guide for the Lower Income Housing Programs for use by Independent Public Accountants, the Single Audit Act of 1984 and the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996 and the provisions of OMB Circular A-133. Onsite visit must take place on or before November 10th of current audit year. The Final Audit must be completed and issued by November 24th of the current audit year.

SUIHA currently uses Aliba and HDS software. SUIHA has 109 Low Rental Units and 48 Mutual Help Units. The SUIHA receives an annual Indian Housing Block Grant of approximately 1.1 million.

Qualified firms shall be experienced in Public Housing Agency Audits, particularly in Indian Housing. We would like to negotiate a 2 year contract. Preference will be given to Indian Owned Business. Proposals must be submitted to the Housing Authority by February 28, 2014 at 3:00p.m.

For additional information, please contact:

Eric Spady, Executive Director
Southern Ute Indian Housing Authority
P.O. Box 447
Ignacio, CO 81137
E-Mail: espady@suiha.org



PUEBLO OF SANDIA LANDS DIRECTOR

The Pueblo of Sandia is seeking a candidate to manage all Tribal lands and general real estate matters including land leases, deeds and easements in coordination with federal agencies and legal counsel. This position works closely with respective departments relative to the development of maps, land status records, historical data, environmental and cultural projects. Manages and monitors housing renovations and new construction projects within reservation boundaries to ensure compliance with tribal, local, state and federal building codes. The Director is responsible for developing land, realty, housing policies and procedures for all Tribal property. Bachelor's Degree preferably in Business Administration, Public Administration or related field with four years experience in a position involving land acquisition and administration, natural resource management. Supervisory experience is required. Responsible experience may substitute, year for year, for required degree.

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CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER

Closes: March 14, 2014

The **Colville Confederated Tribes** is recruiting for a Chief Information Officer within the Information Technology Department.

- Master's Degree in Computer Information Technology, Management Information Systems, Computer Science or related Information Technology/Telecommunication field; AND thirty-six (3 yrs) work experience in applied network management (client-server, Microsoft, Exchange Server, and IBM OS, CISCO), telecommunications management (Nortel, Meridian, BISC), PC Services Management (Help Desk Call Center), or proof of certification in Project Management Institute (PM) many substitute for 24 months of work experience; OR
- Bachelor's Degree in Computer Information Technology, Management Information Systems, Computer Science or related Information Technology/Telecommunication field; AND sixty months (6 yrs) work experience in applied network management (client-server, Microsoft, Exchange Server, and IBM OS, CISCO), telecommunications management (Nortel, Meridian, BISC), PC Services Management (Help Desk Call Center), or proof of certification in Project Management Institute (PM) many substitute for 24 months of work experience
- Previous work experience with an Indian Tribe, Indian Gaming, Tribal Economics Development Project, Tribal Grant Funded programs, Tribal Consortium, Organization or entity preferred

To apply or to get a complete list of requirements, please go to:

<http://www.colvilletribes.com/jobs.php>

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<http://on.rocne.ws/1eYtqmK>

U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE APPROVES COMPENSATION FOR SPOKANE TRIBE
<http://bit.ly/1e6Mfmx>

LAWMAKERS SUGGEST MORE GAMES AT SEMINOLE CASINOS
<http://bit.ly/1nXjr8x>

NATIVE AMERICAN GROUPS SEEK CHILD WELFARE PROBE
<http://wapo.st/1gQEw3O>

SNOQUALMIE TRIBE DONATING \$150,000 TO DAYBREAK STAR CENTER
<http://bit.ly/1eYtTVC>

Upcoming Events

NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN SYMPOSIUM AND POSTER COMPETITION FEBRUARY 12

The seventh annual NAI Symposium and Poster Competition provides an opportunity for students from kindergarten through 12th grade to become familiar with the challenges of college life and networking with college students, in the company of parents and guardians. The symposium will also connect the visiting students with NAI scholars, faculty, community leaders and others.

Location: University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland

TRAUMA INFORMED CARE TRAINING FEBRUARY 17-18

The Indian Country Child Trauma Center will be offering two two-day training sessions this year on trauma informed care; the second series will take place on October 6-7.

Location: Oklahoma University Health Sciences Center, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

CONDUCTING HOMELESS COUNTS ON NATIVE AMERICAN LANDS—A TOOLKIT FEBRUARY 19

It is often difficult to address homelessness on Native American lands, largely because of the challenge in quantifying the number of actual homeless individuals living there. While there is “literal” homelessness on Native American lands, many Native Americans also live in extremely crowded conditions that constitute another, less visible, form of homelessness. Sponsored by the Housing Assistance Council, this webinar will broach such topics as outreach, engagement, survey planning, survey implementation, partnering among researchers and intermediaries, and funding.

Registration: <http://bit.ly/1fLs02q>

NATIVE AMERICAN LEADERS FORUM FEBRUARY 19-21

“Five Factors of Successful Tribal Leadership” will offer participants a better understanding of the complex roles and

responsibilities that are unique to guiding tribes. The five factors are leading change, influencing commitment, resolving team conflict, successful decision making, and communicating strategy. This is the first part of a two-part leadership training program that is designed to be used as the foundation for a more intensive executive conference to be presented later this year.

Location: The Sheraton, New Orleans, Louisiana

INDIAN CHILD WELFARE & WELLNESS CONFERENCE FEBRUARY 19-21

The 13th annual conference, “Celebrating and Honoring Our Journey,” is sponsored by the Native American Training Institute, whose mission is to empower individuals, families and the community to create a safe and healthy environment so that children and families can achieve their highest potential.

Location: Best Western Seven Seas, Mandan, North Dakota

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Winona LaDuke’s “The Power of ‘Thank You’ and ‘I’m Sorry’” (Feb. 1) was a very good article.

Unfortunately, the spirit of the U.S. populace seems very far from being able to have even something as simple as a National Sorry Day such as Australia has on May 26. First, people must acknowledge what they did was wrong

before they have any hope of making changes. Expressing regrets is not the same as an apology at all.

Why make such a distinction? Well, apologizing is directed at other people or persons, and is only meaningful if it is accompanied by progress to change and redress the wrongs done. On the other hand, expressing regret is entirely

internal and intrinsically narcissistic.

There is no price that can be paid to repair the crimes of genocide that have been willfully performed by settlers, English, Spanish, Pilgrims, etc., often under the guise of religion. That does not mean that no price should not be paid to address the crimes committed.

— Name and address withheld

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

The Nez Perce Tribe Police Department is recruiting for: LATERAL POLICE OFFICER (Two positions). This is an important position in the Police Department which requires current certification in law enforcement officer training. This position patrols assigned area of responsibility, answers complaint calls and assists in investigating crimes and disturbances interviews witnesses, gathers evidence, interrogates suspects and makes arrests, among other duties. (Please see Lateral Police Officer Class Description, which may be obtained from the Nez Perce Tribal Police Department, for a full description of duties). Requires, in addition to completed Peace Officers Standards and Training (POST), or Federal Law Enforcement Center (FLETC), or Indian Police Academy (IPA) training and certification, at least two (2) years of continuous law enforcement service as an active member of a federal, state, Tribal, county, municipal or local law enforcement agency or department or jail/corrections facility. Requires valid Idaho driver's license upon hire and ability to be insured under Tribal policy. Must successfully complete an honesty interview and polygraph, drug urinalysis, psychological and medical evaluation, and a complete background investigation Applicants must include provide proof of required certifications and detailed descriptions of prior law enforcement experience with applications, which also must include a cover letter, resume and completed Nez Perce Tribal Police Department application form. Police Department application forms are available at the receptionist's area in Nez Perce Tribal Police Department, or may be requested by email. Send email request to mariea@nezperce.org. Submit application packet to: Nez Perce Tribal Chief of Police, Tribal Police Department. P.O. Box 365, Lapwai, ID 83540, Application packets may also be submitted electronically to mariea@nezperce.org. Include on the envelope or email message line "Lateral Police Officer Application" Indian preference applies. INCOMPLETE APPLICATION PACKETS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.

Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians TANF

Invitation for BID DUE
February 21, 2014
RFP # 10240

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or email
Jswenson@TMDCI-nsn.gov

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TRIBAL NAME FOR NEW FISH SPECIES

A new species of fish recently identified in northern Idaho and northwestern Montana by federal forestry officials has been given the scientific designation *Cottus schitsu'umsh*, derived from "Schitsu'umsh," the traditional name of the Coeur d'Alene Tribe. The name was suggested by Coeur d'Alene elders after Michael Young of the U.S. Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research Station, which discovered the fish, contacted the tribe. Young thought it appropriate to name the fish "after the first peoples in that area," he said.

SPOKANE TRIBE CLOSER TO COMPENSATION

A Senate subcommittee has ap-

proved legislation that would establish a \$53 million trust fund for the Spokane Tribe of Washington, to compensate for land lost to the Grand Coulee Dam over 60 years ago. The dam, built in 1942, flooded 4,000 acres of tribal holdings. A compensation bill had been in congressional limbo for almost a decade; the current version was written by Senate Indian Affairs Committee Chairwoman Maria Cantwell (D-Washington). The bill now awaits a floor vote in the Senate.

SENECAS LOOK TO CASINO PROPERTY

The Seneca Nation of Indians in New York has identified a parcel of land in Monroe County of approximately 20 to 30 acres with the intention

of purchasing it as the site of a future casino. "When it is all said and done, they said the cost will be upward of \$200 million," said Henrietta Town Supervisor Jack Moore. The Senecas currently operate two off-reservation casinos.

OLDEST KLALLAM MEMBER WALKS ON

Hazel Sampson, the oldest member of the Klallam Tribes and its last native speaker, walked on February 4 at the age of 103. Born on May 26, 1910, Sampson learned Klallam first, and then English as a second language. Klallam is the language of not only the three U.S. Klallam tribes (the Lower Elwha, the Jamestown S'Klallam and the Port Gamble S'Klallam) but also of the

Beecher Bay Klallam of British Columbia. "She was the last one," said Jamie Valadez, a Lower Elwha Klallam tribe member. "[Her death] changes the dynamics of everything."

COMMITTEE PASSES NAVAJO GAMING PACT

A New Mexico state legislative committee has endorsed a proposed gaming pact between the state and the Navajo Nation that would accord the tribe five casinos. The Committee on Compacts voted 12-4 in favor of the measure on February 5 and has sent it on to the full legislature for approval. "We still expect some challenges as we move forward," said Navajo Nation Council Delegate Lorenzo Bates, "but by virtue of a strong vote today, it sends a message."

UPCOMING POW WOWS

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

Chemawa's Birthday Pow Wow

February 24
Chemawa Indian School
Salem, Oregon
Contact: Karen Serna
503-399-5721 x225
karen.serna@bie.edu
chemawa.BIE.edu

Red Mesa High School Class of 2014 Benefit-Contest Pow Wow

February 28 - March 01
Highway 160 Mile Post 448
Red Mesa, Arizona
Contact: Tina Warren-King
928-656-4190
twking@rmusd.net

21st Annual Indian Education Pow Wow

March 15
Siuslaw Middle School
Florence, Oregon
Contact: Lynn Anderson
541-997-5458
landerson@siuslaw.k12.or.us

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

Pow Wow at Rocky Top

March 29
University of Tennessee- Humanities Amphitheater
Knoxville, Tennessee
Contact: Savannah Hicks
828-734-5727
shicks17@utk.edu

27th Annual Carolina Indian Circle Pow Wow

March 29
UNC Chapel Hill Campus
Chapel Hill, North Carolina
Contact: Jessica Oxendine
919-843-4189
jloxendi@email.unc.edu
americanindiancenter.UNC.edu/powwow

Red River Intertribal Club Benefit Pow Wow

March 29
National Guard Armory
Wichita Falls, Texas
Contact: Jim Moore
950-782-7747
redriverintertribalclub@yahoo.com
RedRiverIntertribal.org

Miss, Junior Miss, and Little Miss Indian Oklahoma City Honor Dance

March 29
Shawnee Expo Center
Shawnee, Oklahoma
Contact: Shirley Wapskineh
405-632-5227
swapskineh@sbcglobal.net
MissIndianOKC.org

University of Nevada Reno Social Pow Wow

March 30
Joe Crowley Student Union
Reno, Nevada
Contact: Sandra Mitrovich
775-682-6499
smitrovich@unr.edu
UNR.edu/cultural-diversity/events



'Iqalutsiavak' ('Beautiful Fish'), by the legendary Inuk artist Kenojuak Ashevak, is among the offerings of 'ARTiculations in Print,' running at the Museum of Contemporary Native Arts in Santa Fe, New Mexico through July 31.

THE BIG PICTURE