



Indian Country

THIS WEEK FROM

TODAY

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

A Letter from the Publisher

Shekóli. There is a phrase repeated by Indians across all nations that effectively sums up what in western cultural thought would be called an environmental philosophy. The phrase is, "We must protect the water." Fortified by this simple yet profound insight, tribal activists have challenged industrial developments, most typically mining, by insisting on a mandate to either preserve the quality of our waters or cease operations. It has proven to be an effective strategy.

Two such efforts are featured in our newsletter this week. Native Alaskans have lauded the Environmental Protection Agency for hearing their concerns, and the concerns of many others, with its decision to prevent the Army Corp of Engineers from issuing a permit to allow the start of what would be the world's largest open pit mine in Bristol Bay, Alaska. Bristol Bay, as readers of this publication know, is the world's biggest sockeye spawning ground. It produces about half of all sockeye (37.5 million per year), supports all five types of Pacific salmon through the pristine quality of its water, and has a watershed region that comprises 31 Alaska Native communities. Untouched, the region is in and of itself already a major economic engine. Hundreds of millions of dollars are generated from its natural gifts, and its resources support 14,000 jobs. Organizations such as Nunamta Aulukestai (Caretakers of the Land) welcomed the far-sighted move by the EPA, and vow to remain vigilant in the protection of this amazing, vast region.



This week's article on the Keystone XL pipeline asks, "Can a Tipi Stop a Pipeline?" As the State Department seems to slowly move ahead with the development of the Keystone XL pipeline, which is planned to run north-south from the Canadian tar sands to the gulf of Mexico, leaders and members of the Great Sioux nation are challenging proposed construction through their territories and watersheds on the grounds that they have never been properly consulted, as is their sovereign right. Leaders of the group Moccasins on the Ground even prepared a video that shares the information that "Lakota spiritual elders have had visions about a 'black snake from the north.'" The pipeline will run over major underground aquifers, and tar sands oil is some of the dirtiest ever produced. A spill could wreak irreparable havoc on the waters of South Dakota.

The messages of Native leaders have inspired many people beyond their communities. It is encouraging to see the messages reach the halls of the U.S. government. May they prove inspiring there as well.

Na ki' wa,

Ray Halbritter

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A Stand For Sovereignty On Organic Grounds

Darla Antoine, an enrolled member of the Okanagan Indian Band in British Columbia, argues that fighting against genetically modified organisms (GMOs) constitutes a fight for cultural identity:

Many native Hawaiians are actively speaking out against the genetic modification of their food supply, stating that GMOs are sacrilegious to their indigenous culture. Miliani B. Strask, a native Hawaiian attorney wrote, “For Hawaii’s indigenous peoples, the concepts underlying genetic manipulation of life forms are offensive and contrary to the cultural values of aloha “āina [love for the land].”

Across the ocean in a vastly different climate, the Diné are in accord. In 2013 The Navajo Nation declared themselves to be a GMO and pesticide-free nation. Their reasoning in part? Corn is sacred. In the year 2000, only 25 percent of the corn growing in the United States was genetically modified. In 2013 that number was up to 90 percent. Biotech companies like Monsanto have even been allowed to patent their seeds. If their seeds blow into your field and begin to grow? You owe them money.

In their resolution against GMOs and pesticides, the Diné cited the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, specifically Article 31, which states, “Indigenous Peoples

have the right to maintain, control, protect, and develop their cultural heritage, traditional knowledge, and traditional cultural expressions, as well as the manifestations of their sciences, technologies, and cultures, including . . . seeds, medicines, knowledge of the properties of fauna and flora . . .”

Over 61 countries, covering 40 percent of the world’s population and all of the European Union already label genetically modified foods. And in 50 countries there are severe restrictions or outright bans of GMOs. Canada and the United States are not among any of these countries. This is one cause worth standing up for. <http://bit.ly/1fHbWAH> ☞

The Indians of House of Cards

Dina Gilio Whitaker (Colville), research associate at the Center for World Indigenous Studies, considers the problematic depictions of the Indian characters that are featured in the Netflix drama House of Cards:

In *House of Cards*, the Indians are portrayed in two ways: as both ruthless business people who use their sovereignty claims to evade responsibility for their part in dirty dealings, as well as underprivileged people ever victimized by those more powerful, even their own kind. Both are familiar tropes in Hollywood’s Indian representations: the greedy money-hungry Indian and the impover-

ished victim. Nothing about them is neutral or inconsequential. It is a reflection of a certain reality in America. It’s not so much that certain stereotypes continue to be predictably deployed (although there is that); it’s more that Indians can always be counted on to be controversial.

Indians are controversial in a multitude of ways. To the collective American conscience, Indians—especially today’s modern Indians—are a living reminder of the country’s troubled history. It’s a history that betrays the narrative of America as the beacon of democracy and foremost purveyor of human rights in the world. Indians are the skeletons in America’s closet, the ultimate symbol of a tainted past that says something else about the land of free-

dom and justice that it claims to be.

This history gradually makes more sense to Americans who increasingly find themselves faced with the troubling knowledge of a government that routinely engages in or supports unjust wars, illegally spies on its own citizens and international allies, and falls far short of providing a social safety net comparable to those of other wealthy industrialized states.

Those who are paying attention are rightly outraged. *House of Cards* seizes on this outrage by confirming what many people already believe to be true—that something in their country has gone very, very wrong. The Indians in the show simply helps drive the point home. <http://bit.ly/1co1WvO> ☞

Indian Education: New Questions, Old Problems

Certified Washington State teachers Jared Koepp and Jason Medina question why outmoded curricula and methods are still being applied to Indian education:

In our experience, a tribe’s passion for education is indicative of its experience with education. But why, with the increased wealth and sovereignty of our tribes, do we still expect our students to assimilate and succeed in a European-style education when we no longer have to? For 100 years education has been something that has been done to us. It is little wonder so many of us struggle to understand how modern education

works and how to apply it. We need to remember education is about empowerment. It’s time we earn our power back.

More of our tribal leaders must commit to education reform with meaningful action. We must break our old habits of accepting mediocrity in our education programs and apathy and indecision from our tribal leaders. We must stop filling our bellies with that most unpalatable government commodity: European-style education. As opportunities and resources for our tribes have increased, so too has our responsibility for our academic achievement gap.

Every day throughout Indian Country, Native educators advocate for our chil-

dren. The stiffest resistance they encounter is often their own governments. They understand that education is not a business investment that can be deferred without consequence. They are passionate because each year we content ourselves with mediocrity is another generation of students we lose to a life of low-paying jobs or unemployment, increased chances of alcohol, drug abuse, and domestic violence creating another generation of parents who will not value education. Whether on the front lines as an educator or a parent, we all grasp the problems in education. It’s time we start asking the most important question in education: “Why?” <http://bit.ly/1jMkEwT> ☞

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\$687 Million Drought Relief Bill for California

Recent rainstorms notwithstanding, California Gov. Jerry Brown signed into law a \$687 million drought-relief bill on March 1. "Legislators across the aisle have now voted to help hard-pressed communities that face water shortages," said Brown. "This legislation marks a crucial step—but Californians must continue to take every action possible to conserve water."

The \$687.4 million bill passed overwhelmingly in both the state senate and the assembly. The money will go toward housing and food for workers who are experiencing direct impacts from the water shortage, bond funds that will finance projects enabling local communities to capture and manage water more efficiently, and procurement of emergency drinking water for communities whose supply is dwindling.

Brown had declared a drought emergency in January as the state acknowledged its driest period in recorded history. The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation had also announced on February 21 that water levels were too low for it to release irrigation waters to farmers, households and businesses that rely on the flow, the Associated Press reported.

Although a large part of the state got much-needed precipitation via a winter storm on February 27 and 28, it was not enough to make up for years without water.

"We need to see more," said Assembly Speaker John A. Pérez. "That's why every Californian needs to continue to conserve water, and there's more work to do on storage, water quality improvement and environmental protections. If we don't act now, the problems we face will only get worse."

The Hoopa Tribe is among the communities that are suffering the effects of too little water, though it was not immediately clear how much of the aid would go to tribes specifically. <http://bit.ly/1gKyFZ2> ☞

Washburn Faces 'Hard' Questions on Disenrollment

Responding to a recent Associated Press article about the "disenrollment epidemic" that is sweeping through Indian country, the Interior Department's Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs Kevin Washburn acknowledged that issues surrounding tribal leadership and membership disputes "are the hardest questions I face."

"I think the question is, should tribes always be sovereign and self-governing?" Washburn said in an interview with Indian Country Today Media Network. "Or are there times when the United States should trample over their sovereignty and self-governance for some other purpose—the principle of justice or equity or something like that?"

Among other cases, as the AP article noted, there are disenrollment conflicts with the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde, the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan and the Nooksack Indian Tribe. Although a 1978 Supreme Court decision says that tribal governments have sole

authority to determine membership, both tribal members targeted for disenrollment and the tribal governments that attempt to disenroll them often turn to the Bureau of Indian Affairs for help in resolving conflicts. And Washburn admits that resolution is very difficult.

"One can make a solid argument that the United States never has any business trampling on tribal sovereignty and self-governance, but that's not satisfying to everyone because we all see occasionally a tribe doing something that well-thinking people outside the tribe disagree with," he said. "These are just agonizing decisions and I'm not convinced that the United States is better at making these decisions on average than tribes are at making them themselves."

He added, "There are other forums for deciding tribal disputes that might better serve tribes than the United States. A lot of what we see are human rights violations, at least arguably so, and the United States is not the only entity that has an interest in policing human rights violations." <http://bit.ly/OWFn74> ☞

Fall Chinook Salmon Spawn in Record Numbers in Snake River

Fall Chinook salmon not only returned in droves to spawn in the Snake River Basin, but also created a record number of redds, or nests, that bodes well for the future. It was the highest number of wild fish to return since the Ice Harbor Dam was built in 1960, the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC) announced on February 25.

"The multi-agency run reconstruction of fish returning to Lower Granite Dam revealed 21,000 wild fall Chinook returned to the Snake River in 2013, accounting for 37.5 percent of the total

Snake River fall Chinook return of 56,000 fish," the CRITFC said. "Over 6,300 redds were created in the Snake River and its tributaries between Lower Granite and Hells Canyon dams. The increase in Snake River returns and the increased distribution in redds were aided by tribal programs that supplement existing Snake River fall Chinook populations."

Fall Chinook numbers were already surpassing expectations in the Columbia River, with more than a million returning, the CRITFC noted back in September 2013. Moreover, fall 2014 is looking to surpass even that record, with a potential 1.6 million returning, the *Lewiston Tribune* reported on February 21.

Now, Northwest tribes are again jubilant at yet another "return of the king," as Chinook are known. The Snake River return records are being attributed to the success of an innovative hatchery program that intermingles hatchery fish with wild. It was a controversial notion when it was first implemented, but subsequent studies have indicated that the interbreeding does not harm either population.

"The Nez Perce Tribe's Snake River recovery program has resulted in fall chinook returns that the region can truly celebrate," said CRITFC Chairman and Nez Perce Tribe Executive Committee member Joel Moffett. <http://bit.ly/1mQiaZh> ☞

Historic Truce in Century-Long Water War Balances Needs of Klamath Tribes, Farmers

The century-long water war between the Klamath Tribes and the farmers and ranchers upstream could be drawing to an end, as negotiations were completed on March 5 for a deal to allocate water in drought-stricken southern Oregon and northern California.

Last year the Klamath were forced to use their newly decreed water rights, which the state had ruled date back to "time immemorial," to cut off irrigation to upper Klamath Basin cattle ranches in order to save tribal hatcheries. Since then the worsening drought in California, which has prompted both an emergency declaration and state legislation, has been lending urgency to the situation.

A hallmark of the agreement is a water use program to increase stream flows and add 30,000 acre feet each year to the Upper Klamath Lake in a plan that maintains stability for agricultural operations in the Upper Klamath Basin, the tribe said in a media release. A second major aspect is a riparian program to restore and maintain riverbank habitats, thereby sustaining fisheries. The agreement also includes an economic development fund for the Klamath Tribes, and four public sites where tribal members can harvest fish as allowed under treaty.

The Klamath Tribal Council voted to support the Proposed Upper Klamath Basin Comprehensive Agreement, which would become part of legislation already before the state senate. That legislation includes the removal of four dams on the Klamath River, the recovery of the Mazama Forest, 90,000 acres of lands that were once part of the Klamath Tribes Reservation, limited water use in the Lower Basin, plan for water management during severe droughts, and "significant funding" for habitat restoration and monitoring programs in tribal fisheries, the tribe said.

The parties involved have 30 days to sign off on the agreement. The Klamath Tribes will hold four community meetings before taking a vote. <http://bit.ly/1mZmlf5> 

First Nations Exult as Ottawa Rejects Taseko's Prosperity Mine

First Nations across Canada are lauding the federal government's final rejection of a mining proposal that would have destroyed major portions of Tsilhqot'in sacred lands and caused considerable environmental damage.


"We are celebrating this decision to reject once again this terrible project, which threatened our pristine waters, fish and aboriginal rights," said Chief Joe Alphonse, tribal chair for the Tsilhqot'in National Government.

The battle had been waged since 1995, when Taseko Mines Ltd.'s initial proposal to mine gold and copper in the ecologically sensitive area of British Columbia was first rejected. A second proposal was rejected in 2010, also for environmental reasons. The main objection was that the plan called for destroying sacred Fish Lake and turning it into a tailings pond. Nearby Little Fish Lake would not have fared much better.

Taseko resubmitted its plan in 2011, calling it the New Prosperity Mine and in-

cluding measures to preserve Fish Lake. The mine would have inhabited the Fish Creek watershed, which includes the two Fish lakes and drains into the Taseko River, according to Mining Weekly. First Nations groups solidly backed the Tsilhqot'in in their opposition.

"The Minister of the Environment has concluded that the New Prosperity Mine project is likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects that cannot be mitigated," Canada's Environment Ministry, headed by Leona Aglukkaq, said of the most recent rejection. "The Governor in Council has determined that those effects are not justified in the circumstances; therefore, the project may not proceed."

In a statement, Taseko said it will submit a new application and proposal: "The company fundamentally disagrees with the decision the federal government has made and believes they based their decision on a panel report which contains serious flaws. New Prosperity can be built to a high standard of environmental integrity, including the full protection of Fish Lake." <http://bit.ly/P1aEpK> 


Kennedy Management Goes Independent, Favoring Tribes

Kennedy Management Company recently announced its official transitioning from Kennedy Wendel to a 100 percent Native American-owned and -operated consulting firm that specializes in planning, design and management of community and gaming projects of all sizes.

Starting in May 2007, Kennedy Management partnered with Wendel Companies, an architecture and engineering firm with a focus on sustainability. The two companies combined forces to deliver comprehensive design, engineering and construction management services to tribes across the country. Under the Kennedy Wendel partnership, Adam Kennedy, president of Kennedy Management, managed and led major project and construction management initiatives throughout Indian country.

Most recently Kennedy Management introduced and worked with the Nez Perce Tribe in Idaho to create a new busi-

ness enterprise called Nez Perce Construction Management Group, providing an economic opportunity for the Tribe and its members. In this role, Kennedy Management led the Nez Perce through a development program to plan, design and construct a new convenience store. The store, Camas Express, became the first test project utilizing the new economic enterprise and opened at the end of 2013 in Winchester, Idaho.

Kennedy Management is also currently focused on a unique training and mentoring program for American Indian and Alaska Native tribes. The program identifies and creates specifically targeted educational training opportunities before, during and after building construction projects are undertaken. "The goal is to employ as many tribal members as possible on any given project," said Adam Kennedy. "We want to help our people be successful with sustainable life-building skills and meaningful work experience." <http://bit.ly/1fHlrm> 

Fitch Upgrades Cherokee Credit Rating

Continues to show strong financial operations

The Cherokee Nation's credit rating has been upgraded to "BBB" from "BBB-" by Fitch Ratings Inc., one of the top three global rating agencies, for continuing to show strong financial operations. Currently, the Cherokee Nation maintains a \$586.6 million operating budget and a \$98.9 million capital outlay budget. More than 60 percent of operating revenue comes from federal sources. Each year the Nation is required to have an independent rating analyst review its financial statements, spending trends, debt and future outlook after the tribe issued tax exempt bonds in 2006 to construct Three Rivers Health Center in Muskogee, Nowata Health Center and Redbird Smith annex in Sallisaw. This is the Nation's first rating upgrade. <http://bit.ly/OTErQM>

NCAI Figure Gets Nod From Obama

Will serve on advisory council

Sherry Salway Black, the National Congress of American Indians' director of the Partnership for Tribal Governance, has been appointed to the President's Advisory Council on Financial Capability for Young Americans. The council exists "to promote financial capability among young Americans and encourage building the financial capability of young people at an early stage in schools, families, communities, and the workplace and through

use of technology." Black, a member of the Oglala Lakota Nation, is the former senior vice president of First Nations Development Institute, a Native-led nonprofit organization that works to improve the economic condition of Native Americans through promoting business development and financial education. <http://bit.ly/NNXhrg>

Grants For 13 In Twin Cities Area

For empowerment and strengthening

The Tiwahe Foundation has awarded 13 grants to Native American individuals in the Twin Cities seven-county metro area through its American Indian Family Empowerment Program Fund. The program awards \$70,000-\$80,000 annually to American Indian individuals and families seeking financial resources to achieve their goals, shape their future and make positive contributions to their community through three priority areas: economic self-sufficiency, education and cultural connections. Grants range from \$500 to \$2,500—enough to make a significant impact on grantees and the community and contributing to the self-determination of individuals. Since its inception, the American Indian Family Empowerment Program Fund has made nearly 600 grants totaling more than \$1 million to grantees. <http://bit.ly/1ndaBT0>

Wampum Returner Walks On

At the time, an atypical gesture

Martin Sullivan, who as director of the New York State

Museum in Albany saw to the return of 12 sacred wampum belts to the Onondaga Indian Nation before being legally required to do so, passed on at age 70 on February 25. Sullivan effected the return of the belts on October 21, 1989, more than a year before the Native Graves Protection and Repatriation Act was enacted on November 16, 1990. "There is increasing recognition that in addition to our primary duty of preserving and interpreting objects," Sullivan told *The New York Times*, "we also have a related duty to help preserve and nurture the cultures from which those objects come." <http://bit.ly/1casIY1>

Grant By Nomlaki To Local Police

Will assist with mapping technology

A grant of \$14,780 by the Paskenta Band of Nomlaki Indians to fund mapping technology for the Corning Police Department in Northern California will improve emergency responses and allow law enforcement authorities to not only identify a caller's location but also more efficiently map driving routes for faster dispatch to the scene of a crime. The grant is distributed through the tribe's Promise Neighborhood Project. "This innovation, which will integrate with the department's existing software, promises to increase responsiveness to crime, maximize policing resources and assist in the analysis of trends in criminal behavior," said Corning city council member and former police chief Tony Cardenas. <http://bit.ly/P54RPK>

Larger Health Center For Cherokee

Will double size of Stilwell site

The Cherokee Nation is adding 28,000 square feet to its Wilma P. Mankiller Health Center. Tribal officials broke ground on February 28 on the project, which nearly doubles the size of the Stilwell, Oklahoma facility. It was announced last spring that the tribe would take \$100 million of its casino profits and invest it in infrastructure that vastly expands the tribe's health care system. The tribe opened the Mankiller Health Center in 1995; the existing 36,000-square-foot facility employs nearly 150 people and serviced more than 134,000 patient visits in 2012. The projected cost of the new construction is \$9 million and is expected to take a year. <http://bit.ly/1cxi0G7>

Halbritter Supports And Scores NFL

Reaction to use of 'N-word'

In a recent op-ed for the HuffingtonPost, Ray Halbritter, CEO and representative of the Oneida Indian Nation, wrote that the National Football League is "endorsing a laudable principle" by instituting a penalty against players who use the "N-word" on the field. But he questioned why that principle is not being applied to the use of the name of the Redskins, the Washington, D.C. NFL franchise. "In simultaneously saying nothing about one of its own teams' continued promotion of a racial slur, the NFL is also acknowledging that it is willing to tolerate the very bigotry it claims to oppose," Halbritter wrote. <http://bit.ly/1fbmja1>

Victory on Bristol Bay

'An extraordinary and unique resource' will be preserved

Bottom line: *It's a win for Alaska Native groups as the government says yes to salmon fishing and no to an open pit mine.*

Alaska Native groups, environmentalists and fishermen are lauding a decision by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to scrap a mining proposal that would replace the world's biggest sockeye salmon spawning grounds in Bristol Bay, in southwest Alaska, with the world's largest open pit mine, pending further study.

"Extensive scientific study has given us ample reason to believe that the Pebble Mine would likely have significant and irreversible negative impacts on the Bristol Bay watershed and its abundant salmon fisheries," EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy said in a statement on February 28. "It's why EPA is taking this step forward in our effort to ensure protection for the world's most productive salmon fishery from the risks it faces from what could be one of the largest open pit mines on earth. This process is not something the Agency does very often, but Bristol Bay is an extraordinary and unique resource."

Under the plan, the EPA would have allowed the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to issue a permit for the mine, which was proposed by the Canadian company Northern Dynasty Minerals Ltd.

The move came after the agency released its environmental assessment and after 360 scientists signed an open letter urging the EPA to turn down the proposal. At least 31 Alaska Native villages are located in the Bristol Bay watershed region as well, and many have opposed the project.

"Bristol Bay Native Corporation appreciates that EPA will identify appropriate options to protect Bristol Bay from the risks Pebble poses," said Jason Metrokin,

executive director of the Bristol Bay Native Corporation (BBNC). "While BBNC supports responsible development, including mining, the science has shown that the proposed Pebble mine presents unacceptable risks to Bristol Bay salmon, people and existing economies. BBNC shareholders and area residents overwhelmingly agree. We will continue to focus on ending the threat of the proposed Pebble mine and on creating other appropriate economic opportunities and jobs."

Nunamta Aulukestai, a consortium of Native Alaska groups and communities


wetlands." Besides the need to keep the wilderness unspoiled for its own sake, the ecosystem is an economic driver in and of itself, the EPA said, generating hundreds of millions of dollars and employing more than 14,000 people both full- and part-time.

"The region supports all five species of Pacific salmon found in North America: sockeye, coho, Chinook, chum, and pink," the EPA said. "In addition, it is home to more than 20 other fish species, 190 bird species, and more than 40 terrestrial mammal species, including bears, moose, and caribou."

Replacing all that with an open-pit copper and gold mine that would be a mile deep and 2.5 miles wide, the largest ever in North America, and requiring the construction of at least three earthen tailings dams up to 650 feet tall, would irreparably harm the ecosystem, the EPA found in its January assessment.

The EPA Regional Administrator for EPA Region 10, Dennis McLerran, has written a letter to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the State of Alaska and the Pebble Partnership invoking the Clean Water Act.

The mining company, however, said the EPA had overstepped its bounds.

"The EPA's actions today are an unprecedented federal action and reflect a major overreach onto an asset of the State of Alaska," said Tom Collier, CEO of the Pebble Limited Partnership, a subsidiary of Northern Dynasty. "There is a prescribed, science based process for evaluating projects such as Pebble and the EPA has initiated a step that turns this process on its head.... The steps taken by the EPA to date have gone well outside of its normal practice, have been biased throughout, and have been unduly influenced by environmental advocacy organizations." <http://bit.ly/1q0As2K> 

'The Pebble Mine would likely have significant and irreversible negative impacts on the Bristol Bay watershed,' said the EPA.

whose name means "Caretakers of the Land," concurred. "We are happy with the EPA's decision to take this crucial step," said the group's director, Kimberly Williams, according to the *Los Angeles Times*. "I and more than 30 other Alaskan leaders just came back from Washington to urge the EPA to do so. Now we're one big step closer to protecting our salmon, our resources and our people from the proposed Pebble mine."

The EPA pointed out that the ecosystem in the Bristol Bay region produces about half the world's wild sockeye salmon. Annual runs average 37.5 million fish, a yield that is mostly due to the "exceptional water quality in streams and

Reeling In Profits

From the Columbia River, a haul of options **BY LYNN ARMITAGE**

Bottom Line: *A 60-year-old Pacific Northwest fishing tradition takes a new twist with a small Oregon town's first fish market.*

Kim Brigham Campbell has been hooked on fish for as long as she can remember. Both her grandfather and father made their living off the bounty of the Columbia River, selling fresh salmon, sturgeon and other fish du jour right out of their ice-packed coolers, or “mobile” fish markets, you could say.

Now the 41-year-old member of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Reservation is continuing the family's 60-year fishing tradition as the owner and operator of the very first fish market in Cascade Locks, Oregon. It is called Brigham Fish Market, fittingly named after her well-known and respected clan.

“People have bought fish from us for years and saw me grow up as a child,” she said. “Now they are my buyers, and I take care of them.”

With an investment of about half a million dollars—“We cashed out our 401K, secured a \$300,000 loan and borrowed money from my parents”—Brigham Campbell and her husband, James Campbell, built a 2,000-square-foot building from the ground up, carving out a 500-square-foot retail space for customers and a 12-foot display case. The couple also invested in a vacuum sealer and commercial smoker that can hold up to 500 pounds of fish at once.

Nearly the entire catch at Brigham Fish Market comes from the bountiful Columbia River, although Brigham Campbell buys fish, such as halibut and cod, from a local restaurant supply house from time to time. Customers can get fresh fish in season—raw, smoked or canned. “We also sell smoked salmon dip and clam chowder,” said the hard-working entrepreneur, who continues to work on the side as a cosmetologist, a career she has enjoyed for nearly 20 years.

As is the case with many start-ups,

Brigham Campbell said, business has slowed down a little since a very robust—and memorable—opening a little more than a month ago in February. “I opened during a blizzard. We had a

her family and an army of volunteers. “I don’t feel like I did this on my own,” she said. “I can’t stress enough the support that I have. I have volunteers at night, and kids will come over after school to sweep



Kim Brigham Campbell and her husband, James, built their market from the ground up.

bad ice storm, but I needed to get my doors open, so we did it.” Despite the bad weather, the community came out in droves. “We had such great support; it was amazing! And we made about \$1,700 that day, which I thought was great for a small town.”

Unfortunately for this fishmonger, the number of fish available to sell commercially may not be as high as she would like this upcoming season—especially the “primo” spring salmon. “It doesn’t look like the run coming back from the ocean is going to be big enough.” Brigham Campbell said that tribes get first dibs on Columbia River’s fish for ceremonies and subsistence. Then whatever is left can be sold to the public. “If we do get some spring salmon [to sell commercially], it will be caught by me, my dad, sister, uncle and cousins.”

In fact, Brigham Campbell is quick to credit any success she has had so far to

and mop.”

To date, she doesn’t have anyone on the payroll—yet. “My husband, sister and I are running it. Until I can get this off the ground and start paying people, it’s all volunteers. And I am so grateful for that!”

So what has been the most difficult part of this new venture for Brigham Campbell? “Probably the finances. You feel like you have enough, but there always seems to be just one more bill to pay. ... We’re learning by trial and error. For instance, we estimated our permit fees to be about \$500. They ended up being \$10,000.”

Brigham Campbell said her prices are competitive with other fish options in town, but she is rethinking that. “I need to put more value on our native fish. If you put a higher value on that and it helps people prosper and make a better living for their families, then I’m all for it.” <http://bit.ly/1gUspOx> 🍷

Can A Tipi Stop a Pipeline?

South Dakota Tribes Stand Firm Against Keystone XL

Bottom Line: As a White House decision grows nearer on the contentious Keystone XL pipeline, tribes in the affected area are marshaling their forces for an all-out stand against the project.

From the Oglala Lakota Sioux on the Pine Ridge Reservation to the Rosebud Sioux and others, American Indians are standing firm against the Keystone XL pipeline, which would run through or skirt their territory if approved.

The Lakota Sioux have been pushing back against TransCanada, the conglomerate that wants to run the 1,700-mile-long pipeline from the oil sands of Alberta to the Gulf Coast of Mexico, for years. Last month the Rosebud Sioux passed a unanimous resolution against the project. And a group of American Indian tribal leaders opposing the pipeline have vowed to take a “last stand” and are working together, training opponents to put up passive resistance if it comes to that.

“We see what the tar sand oil mining is causing in Canada, we see what the oil drilling in the Dakotas is doing—as they gouge her [Mother Nature] and rape her and hurt her, we know it’s all the same ecosystem that we all need to live in,” Lakota activist and Pine Ridge resident Debra White Plume told Inter Press Service News Agency. “For us it’s a spiritual stand—it’s our relative, it hurts us.”

The Rosebud Sioux Tribe approved a resolution on February 25 to reject outright a document that the federal government wants the tribe’s leaders to sign saying that they have been adequately consulted according to the law.

“This Programmatic Agreement for the proposed Keystone XL Pipeline project has not met the standards of Section 106

of the National Historic Preservation Act, because the Rosebud Sioux Tribe has not been consulted,” said Council Representative Russell Eagle Bear. “Additionally, the Cultural Surveys that have been conducted already are inadequate and did not cover adequate on-the-ground coverage to verify known culturally sensitive sites and areas.”

Keystone XL would wend its way through the Great Sioux Nation, in-

Various tactics are being deployed, from tribal resolutions to mass protests and arrests.

cluding the lands of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe, making them the appropriate tribe to be consulted on land within Tripp, Gregory, Lyman, Todd, and Mellette Counties in South Dakota, a tribal statement said.


“This is a flawed document and it will not be accepted,” Rosebud Sioux Tribal Council President Cyril Scott said of the federal agreement they are being asked to sign. “It is our job as the Tribal Council to take action to protect the health and welfare of our people, and this resolution puts the federal government on notice.”

It is not the first time the government has been accused of fabricating consultation. The first draft of the envi-

ronmental assessment report, released a year ago, met with resistance from tribes over what they said were inaccuracies, shoddy research and incomplete consultation, among other objections. The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) has also come out against the conclusions in the draft environmental assessment.

The State Department is currently evaluating the final version of the environmental assessment report and accepting input from several federal agencies during a 90-day public comment period that began on January 31, when the report was issued. The State Department is also studying the consultants on the report as more and more revelations about their ties to TransCanada come to light.

In the meantime, protests continue. Nearly 400 people, many of them students, were recently arrested when they chained themselves to the White House fence in protest of the pipeline. And the Native group Moccasins on the Ground has been conducting training sessions and recently hosted a conference in Rapid City, Help Save Mother Earth from the Keystone Pipeline, to teach civil disobedience tactics. They have also produced a video highlighting their arguments.

“As the process of public comment, hearings, and other aspects of an international application continue, each door is closing to protecting sacred water and our Human Right to Water,” said Debra White Plume, a Lakota activist with Moccasins on the Ground who lives on the Pine Ridge Reservation. “Soon the only door left open will be the door to direct action.” <http://bit.ly/1kWiN8K> 

Nooksack Disenrollment Opposed

‘We have not yet begun to fight,’ says spokesman **BY GALE COUREY TOENSING**

Bottom Line: *The legal wars are heating up in the current attempt to disenroll more than 300 members of the Nooksack Indian Tribe in Washington State.*

More than 270 of the “Nooksack 306”–Nooksack Indian Tribe citizens who are fighting disenrollment—are awaiting an appeals court ruling on a case involving their alleged unconstitutional removal from the tribal council.

The complainants, including council members Michelle Roberts and Rudy St. Germaine, filed their motion in the Nooksack Tribal Court of Appeals February 18. They are seeking an emergency review of a February 7 order by Nooksack Tribal Court Chief Judge Raquel Montoya-Lewis, denying an injunction to stop Council Chairman Robert Kelly and other defendants from removing Roberts and St. Germaine from the council and reinstate them to their elected positions. Montoya-Lewis said the council had the power to remove them and that the court did not have the power to deal with the political aspects of the events.

According to the court documents, Kelly called three emergency meetings over the Martin Luther King Jr. weekend, effectively blocked Roberts and St. Germaine from attending the meeting via teleconference and, at the last meeting, led the council in removing them from office for missing three meetings.

The motion to the Nooksack Tribal Court of Appeals asking for a review of Montoya-Lewis’s order is the latest action in a long series of legal moves that has taken place since February 2013. That was when the tribal council under Kelly’s direction passed Resolution 13-02: “Initiating Involuntary Disenrollment for Certain Descendants of

Annie James (George).” The common thread among the 306 members facing disenrollment is their mixed Filipino and American Indian heritage. Moreno Peralta, spokesman for the families, told Indian Country Today Media Network that the families believe they are being dispossessed of their Nooksack identity because of that ancestry.

Attorney Gabriel Galanda of the Seattle firm of Galanda Broadman, representing the Nooksack 306, has challenged a number of Montoya-Lewis’s rulings in support of the tribal council before the Nooksack Tribal Court of Appeals. The appeals court ordered a halt to the disenrollment process while the legal issues are under review, ruling tribal membership is not tied to a 1942 federal census, as the Kelly Faction has maintained since starting to disenroll the Nooksack 306 last February. More than a dozen members of the Nooksack 306, including Roberts, say that since the disenrollment effort began they have been fired from jobs with the tribe and others have been denied tribal housing assistance, even though they have not yet been removed from tribal membership rolls.

Kelly did not respond to a request for comment.

In an open letter to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs Kevin Washburn, posted on Indian Country Today Media Network February 25, Roberts implored the federal officials to intervene in the Nooksack disenrollment conflict. She called disenrollment “a creature of the federal government,” created in the 1930s, when the U.S. began ‘reorganizing’ tribes and the Interior Department began “foisting boilerplate constitutions on tribes” that included disenrollment provisions. “Our traditions do not ... Disenrollment

is therefore your business,” she told the federal officials.


Interior Department spokeswoman Nedra Darling said the department cannot comment on pending litigation.

Moreno Peralta, the Nooksack spokesman, said the Nooksack 306 group is prepared to take the disenrollment conflict into the international arena, but must first exhaust all available legal venues here.

“As clichéd as it sounds, we have not yet begun to fight,” Peralta said. “We still have two lawsuits pending before the Nooksack tribal court judge and three appeals before the Nooksack appeals court. We are hopeful that the Nooksack appellate judges will strike down the entire disenrollment.”

If that does not happen, the Nooksack 306 will move ahead with a pending federal court lawsuit against Interior officials regarding an allegedly unlawful federal disenrollment election that took place last summer. “That case could take us to the highest courts in the land,” Peralta said.

The group is also considering another federal lawsuit against the Kelly faction, alleging a violation of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act for depriving the Nooksack 306 of Christmas per capita payments. “The Nooksack judge refused to hold the Kelly faction in contempt of her own order but a federal court judge might not be so kind to them given how egregiously they have violated federal gaming laws,” Peralta said. The Nooksack 306 are also awaiting the results of a National Indian Gaming Commission investigation into the matter.

“If all of those domestic legal efforts fail, our lawyers are already poised to pursue our claims internationally for violation of various human rights laws,” Peralta said. <http://bit.ly/1fCxfDr> 



Patrice Yazzie, Navajo, who has been a barrel racer since age 10, now competes in four rodeo circuits.



The axolotl, known as the "Mexican walking fish," has been rediscovered in its habitat in the southern outskirts of Mexico City.



The Bristol Bay watershed, the legendary sockeye salmon spawning ground, will not become the world's largest open pit mine.



The 'Nooksack 306' are stepping up their efforts against disenrollment with multiple legal actions.

MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELOR POSITION

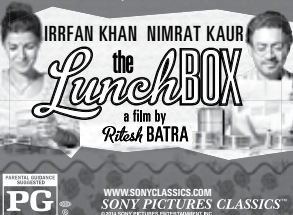
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—Kenneth Turan, LOS ANGELES TIMES



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—Mahto Smith (center) summer 2013 participant from South Dakota

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<http://bit.ly/MOA9YX>

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**NEZ PERCE TRIBE INVESTIGATES
APPARENT WASTING OF BISON**
<http://bit.ly/1caEbqD>

Upcoming Events

2014 MYAAMIKI CONFERENCE

MARCH 15

"Together We Grow and Change," the sixth biennial Myaamiaki Conference, supports the work of the Myaamia Center, which advances the research needs of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma with a focus on Myaamia language, culture and history.

Location: Miami University, Oxford, Ohio

AMERICAN INDIAN HIGHER EDUCATION CONSORTIUM

CONFERENCE MARCH 15-18

"Tribal Colleges: Counting Coups with Educational Development" will not only feature such workshops as "Building a Health Career: Journey into Medicine" and "True Stories of Pathways Through Education: Connecting Native American Studies Degrees to Careers" but also offer such activities as a t-shirt exchange, poetry slam, and, for students, an assort-

ment of competitions.

Location: Holiday Inn Grand and Billings Hotel, Billings, Montana

CALIFORNIA CONFERENCE ON AMERICAN INDIAN

EDUCATION MARCH 16-18

"Education Now—Idle Now More" is the theme of the 37th annual conference, which presents an opportunity to share traditional and academic teaching and learning. The keynote speaker, Marty Meeden, is a member of the California Teachers Association (CTA) Board and chair of the CTA Early Ethnic Identification Minority Development Program.

Location: Hyatt Vineyard Creek Hotel & Spa, Santa Rosa, California

NATIVE WOMEN & MEN'S WELLNESS CONFERENCE MARCH 16-19

The 14th annual conference is sponsored by the University of Oklahoma, which will provide two continuing education

units or 20 contact hours to any participants seeking continuing education. Among the many sessions are "Healing Lateral Violence in First Nations Communities," "Taking Care and Coping with Cancer in Our Families," "Addressing Historical Inequities: Environmental Justice for Native Americans," and "Sexual Health Through Symbolism."

Location: Town and Country Hotel, San Diego, California

NATIONAL RESERVATION ECONOMIC SUMMIT MARCH 17-20

The 28th annual RES summit, devoted to American Indian Enterprise development, will feature respected tribal leaders, state, and local elected officials and top CEOs, networking, teaming opportunities, business development sessions, American Indian procurement opportunities and much more.

Location: Mandalay Bay Resort & Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The allegations of verbal abuse being made against Keith Harper, President Obama's nominee as United Nations ambassador for human rights, are very troubling (article, February 28).

The further along this nomination goes, the more alarmed I become. If someone does not exercise control of his tongue and his temperament, the less I can support him. If the people

making these accusations against Harper are sincere, then I would encourage them to go forward and testify with proof against him.

I encourage each and every individual to pray to the Creator and allow Him to point in the direction of someone who is deserving of the honor of representing our many peoples and brethren around Turtle Island.

If it is true that Harper has a foul mouth and behaves shamefully towards others, then he most certainly does not deserve his appointment. A quick tongue followed by lack of self-control is a combination that leads to disgraceful and shameful results over time, I find.

— Two Bears Growling
Kalispell, Montana

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Domestic Violence Against Women Program Director

Domestic Violence Outreach Advocate

Domestic Violence Victims of Crime Advocate

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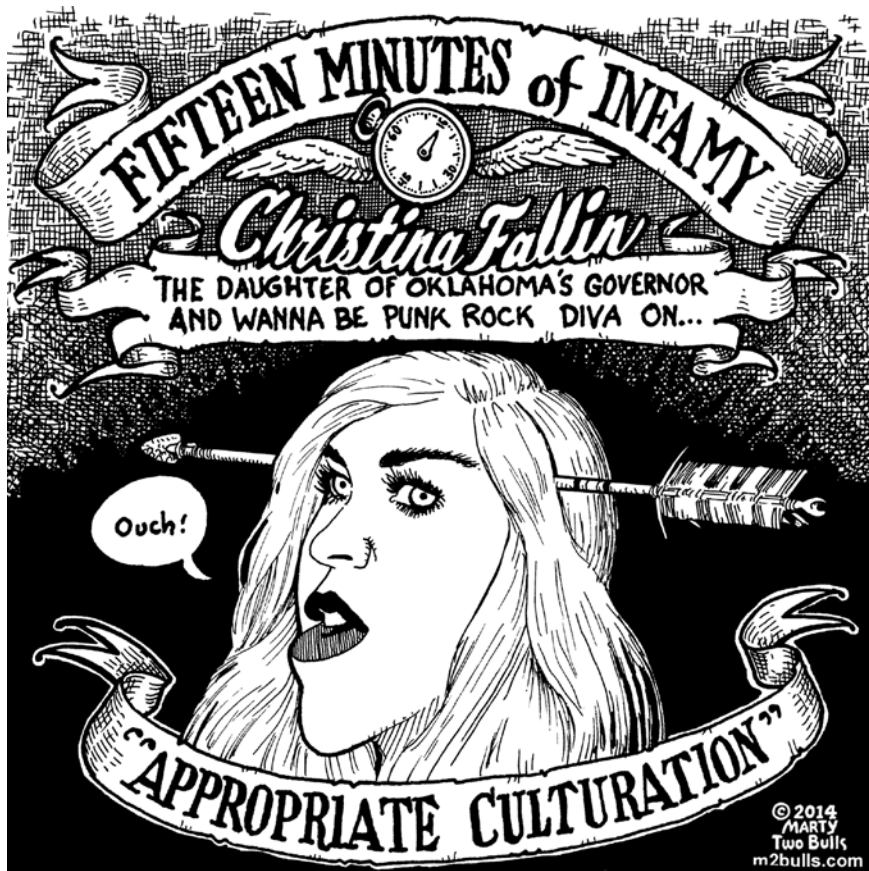
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SEMINOLES AND FLORIDA DISCUSS GAMING

Gov. Rick Scott of Florida has begun negotiating a new Class III gaming compact with the Seminole Tribe. Parts of the original compact, signed and ratified in 2010, and which guaranteed regional exclusivity in exchange for a share of gaming revenues, will expire next year. Scott declined to offer details of the discussions. "I'm not going to talk about what we're going to do in the middle of the negotiation," he told the *Miami Herald*.

CHEROKEE NATION EARNS AEROSPACE ACCREDITATION

Cherokee Nation Industries (CNI), the manufacturing and distribution division of Cherokee Nation Businesses, has received accreditation for its electronics cable and harness assemblies from Nadcap,

the most comprehensive quality control accreditation for special processes within the aerospace industry. The global accreditation program is administered through the Performance Review Institute and recognizes CNI for its commitment to quality by satisfying customer requirements and industry specifications.

NEW HEALTH FACILITIES FOR POARCH CREEKS

The Poarch Band of Creek Indians has opened two new health care facilities. The 68,430-square-foot Buford L. Rolin Health Clinic, named after the current tribal chairman, will provide health services to tribal members and employees. The Lavan Martin Assisted Living Facility, named after the late tribal leader, will offer long-term care and housing for senior citi-

zens. "I am so proud to be able to walk through these doors today," said Rolin at the ribbon-cutting ceremony on March 3.

GOVERNOR DELAYS ON MENOMINEE CASINO

Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker hopes to delay a decision on a proposal by the Menominee Nation to build an \$800 million Hard Rock casino complex in Kenosha by asking the Bureau of Indian Affairs to extend the current deadline from August 23 to February 19, 2015. The new deadline would occur well after the fall gubernatorial election and allow consultants hired by the governor to complete an independent assessment of the impact of the project. "Given the scope of what [the consultants] are trying to accomplish," Walker said, "it makes sense to ask for an extension."

UNITED FRONT AGAINST LEGALIZED POT

The Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, representing 57 Native American Tribes in the Pacific Northwest, have formally announced their opposition to legalizing marijuana for recreational use. The group's formal resolution calls for working with the anti-legalization organization Smart Approaches to Marijuana, which is led by former congressman Patrick Kennedy and federal drug policy advisor Kevin Sabet. "Marijuana legalization will have a devastating impact on our communities and we want none of it," said Simon Lee Sampson of the Yakama Nation. The Affiliated Tribes represent tribal governments in Montana, Oregon, Idaho, Alaska, California and Washington.

UPCOMING POW WOWS

21st Annual Indian Education Pow Wow

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

14th Annual Nisqually Wellbriety Pow Wow

March 21 - 23
Nisqually Youth and Community Center 1937 Lashi St.
Northeast
Olympia, WA
Nisqually-NSN.gov

40th Annual Denver March Pow Wow

March 21 - 23
Denver Coliseum 4600 Humboldt St.
Denver, CO
303-934-8045
denvermarchpowwow@comcast.net
DenverMarchPowWow.org

Coeur d'Alene Casino Anniversary Pow Wow

March 22
Coeur d'Alene Casino Event Center 7914 South Nukwalqw
Worley, ID
800-523-2464
ymatt@cdacasinom.com
CDACasino.com

40th Northland College Spring Pow Wow

March 22
Kendrigan Gym
1411 Ellis Ave.
Ashland, WI
715-682-1344
kwerchouski@northland.edu
Northland.edu

25th Central Michigan University Celebrating Life Contest Pow Wow

March 22 - 23
Central Michigan University Event Center-McGuirk Arena
Bovee UC 110
Mount Pleasant, MI
989-774-2508

nap@cmich.eu
CMich.edu/powwow

10th Annual American Indian Disability Summit

March 27 - 28
Phoenix Airport Marriott
Phoenix, AZ
602-264-6768 x 2206
igeorge@phxindcenter.org
AmericanIndianDisabilitySummit.wordpress.com

Brigham Young University Cedartree Memorial Competition Pow Wow

March 28 - 29
Wilkinson Student Center Ballroom
Provo, UT
801-422-3065
cedartree_powwow@byu.edu or
multicultural@byu.edu
multicultural.BYU.edu/content/byu-cedartree-memorial-competition-pow-wow

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

March 28 - 30
Savannas Recreation Center
1400 East Midway Road
Fort Pierce, FL
722-464-7855
douglas@douglas.rogers.name
FIHA.info

4th Annual Ida'ina Gathering

March 28 - 30
Dena'ina Civic & Convention Center
600 W. Seventh Ave.
Anchorage, AK
907-646-3115
emccord@tyonek.com
www.tebughnafoundation.com

Miss Junior Miss & Little Miss Indian Oklahoma City Honor Dance

March 29
Shawnee Expo Center
1700 West Independence
Shawnee, OK
405-632-5227
swapskineh@sbcglobal.net
MissIndianOKC.org

Red River Intertribal Club Benefit Pow Wow

March 29
National Guard Armory 3701 Armory Road
Wichita Falls, TX
950-782-7747
redriverintertribalclub@yahoo.com
RedRiverIntertribal.org

11th Annual Westwood High School Social Pow Wow

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

17th Annual South Central Foundation Gathering

March 29
Dena'ina Civic Convention Center 555 West 5th St.
Anchorage, AK
907-729-4953
scfmediarelations@scf.cc
SouthCentralFoundation.com

27th Annual Carolina Indian Circle Pow Wow

March 29
UNC Chapel Hill Campus
Chapel Hill, NC
919-843-4189
jloxendi@email.unc.edu
americanindiancenter.UNC.edu/powwow

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

3/29/14
East Carolina University
Greenville, NC
252-328-5390
hunta@ecu.edu
Facebook.com/events/776551479039997

6th Annual Augsburg College's Traditional Pow Wow

3/29/14
Si Melby Gymnasium
715 23rd Ave. South

Minneapolis, MN
612-330-1144
simonj@augsborg.edu
Facebook.com/AISAPage

26th Natchez Pow Wow

March 29 - 30
Grand Village of Natchez Indians, 400 Jefferson Davis Blvd.
Natchez, MS
601-442-0200
cborum@hotmail.com
NatchezPowWow.com

42nd Annual University of South Dakota Wacipi

March 29 - 30
Dakota Dome
North Dakota St.
Vermillion, SD
605-677-5331
tiospaye@usd.edu or student-services@usd.edu
sites.USD.edu/tiospaye

27th Annual Mole Lake's Youth TRAILS Pow Wow

March 29 - 30
Mole Lake Casino Lodge 3084 Highway 55
Crandon, WI
715-478-7519 or 715-622-0212 or 715-478-7616
tvz33@yahoo.com
Facebook.com/events/1455147438041465?_ft_

University of Redlands Pow Wow

March 29 - 30
University of Redlands
1200 E. Colton Ave.
Redlands, CA
909-748-8878
nora_pulskamp@redlands.edu
Facebook.com/events/1410831759159460

University of Nevada Reno Social Pow Wow

March 30
Joe Crowley Student Union
1664 North Virginia St.
Reno, NV
775-682-6499
smitrovich@unr.edu
UNR.edu/cultural-diversity/events



AP IMAGES

California continues to struggle with a historic drought, prompting Gov. Jerry Brown to declare a state of emergency. Here, a warning buoy sits on the dry, cracked bed of Lake Mendocino near Ukiah, where, despite recent rains, the reservoir remains only about 37 percent full.

THE BIG PICTURE