



Indian Country

THIS WEEK FROM
TODAY THE PREMIER E-NEWSLETTER SERVING THE NATIONS, CELEBRATING THE PEOPLE

A Letter from the Publisher

Shekóli. With great fanfare and pageantry, members of the federal government arrived in Window Rock to sign a settlement with the Navajo Nation for \$554 million. The settlement is the result of the nation's lawsuit for federal mismanagement of funds as it related to the leasing, licensing, resource extraction and use of 14 million acres of Navajo land since 1946. It is the largest settlement awarded to an individual Indian nation and, to paraphrase President Ben Shelly, is a small step toward self-sufficiency and one step away from the paternalistic oversight of the U.S. government. The settlement is the latest in an impressive run of agreements forged by the Obama administration. This White House has made significant policy commitments to resolve lawsuits that have dragged on for years between its nation and ours.

As ICTMN's featured article this week relates, Interior Secretary Sally Jewel and Kevin Washburn, head of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, joined other officials and Navajo Nation representatives such as President Shelly and Lorenzo Bates, speaker *pro tem* of the Navajo Nation Council, to sign the agreement under a brilliant blue sky. Looking forward, the most pressing questions concern how the money will be used to benefit the nation's infrastructure and people now and in the future. It is not hard to imagine the complexity of the logistics and details of such an agreement. It is also worth thinking about why the need for these types of settlements exists.



"Many of us don't understand...the legal principles we live with today," said Navajo Attorney General Harrison Tsosie, referring to the issues around the land held-in-trust doctrine. "This settlement is not an end to a problem. It's a recognition and a beginning of a dialogue about that problem. This is a beginning, not an end." Most people recognize there are some things government does well, and others poorly. The management of Native land and resources does not work when it is the hands of others. Recent history is full of far too many examples of poor and detrimental use, poor accounting, and poor distribution of funds.

Our path of self-determination, first endorsed in the modern era by Republican President Richard Nixon, continues to gain bipartisan traction. This country's executive branch has clearly embraced its responsibility toward us. Many members of the legislative branch have as well. It is now time for the judiciary branch to follow their lead.

Na kir wa,

Ray Halbritter

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A Happy New Year—And a Reminder

As the Karuk celebrate their tribal new year, Operations Director of the Northern California Indian Development Council André Cramblit extends greetings, along with a rejoinder.

Yav Pa Irihiv is “Happy New Year” in the Karuk language. Our new year is at the dark of the moon in September to coincide with our Pikyavish, or World Renewal ceremonies. Our Tribe, like many, has a lunar calendar with 13 months.

The New Year comes to Natives with many challenges. It is sad that we are

still fighting the same fights—mascots, headdresses and long hair.

We must still fight the social problems and diseases that plague our communities confronted by poverty and a loss of connection to our tribal cultures. We need to reconnect with the traditions, rituals and language that make us who we are. We need to pass all of this on to our children.

We must keep alert to the efforts to reduce Tribal Sovereignty. Cases like that of Baby Veronica remind us that we have to be diligent in protecting Native rights. We must hold the federal government responsible for upholding the treaty, trust and moral responsibili-

ties to all Native Nations.

We must keep working to stimulate economies on reservations and Native communities that face massive unemployment, low educational achievement levels and little personal growth opportunities. And we must hold the federal government to its treaty, trust and moral obligations to American Indians, Alaskan Natives and Native Hawaiians. Billions are going overseas or economic aid; we need to look at the problems in our own country first. But none of that is new, seems like we have been battling those problems for over 500 years.

Yav Pa Irahiv. Make it a better world. <http://bit.ly/1sRxAcF> 

Beyond Borders: The Benefits of Collaboration


Land Commissioner for the State of New Mexico Ray Powell administers millions of acres of State Trust Lands, part of them formerly tribal lands. He stresses cooperation in working with tribes prior to their use:

One of my first acts at the beginning of my term was to withdraw the State Land Office from ongoing litigation with several pueblos and sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Pueblos of Laguna, Acoma, Zuni and the Hopi Tribe regarding the process of consultation on proposed activities on State Trust Lands that are located within the bound-

aries of the Mount Taylor Traditional cultural landscape. The MOU resolved previous litigation that involved the former Land Commissioner’s legal attempts to thwart consultation with the sovereign tribes regarding sacred sites on Mount Taylor.

I continue to work to exchange lands that are important to tribal communities, most recently with the Pueblo of Cochiti and the Navajo Nation. We have also partnered with the Tesuque Pueblo Seed Bank and Research Laboratory on a demonstration garden at the Land Office building in Santa Fe to provide opportunities for local citizens to learn about the important work being done at the Tesuque Pueblo Seed Bank.

Protecting cultural resources and ensuring appropriate access to sacred sites on State Trust Lands is also a priority as we make leasing decisions about the use of State Trust Land. One example is our efforts to ensure that archeological artifacts from Pueblo Blanco—a 600-year-old late prehistoric ancestral pueblo occupied from 1400 to 1680 by Tanoan-speaking people that is located on State Trust Land in the Galisteo basin—are cared for and accessible to pueblo descendants.

The bottom line is that collaboration and consultation is not only important to Native American communities but also essential and beneficial to the Land Office’s efforts to fulfill our mission. <http://bit.ly/1vAeXJf> 

Building Hope by Building Schools

Despite his frustration, John Whirlwind Horse, president of the Dakota Area Consortium of Treaty Schools, is hopeful that there will soon be improvements in Indian education:


The Stimulus Act of 2009 contained authority for Indian tribes to issue \$400 million in tax credit allocation for 2009 and 2010. While no tribe took advantage of the program, The Dakota Area Consortium of Treaty Schools is reliably informed by congressional offices that this \$400 million remains available for use. One thing the Stimulus Act bond pro-

gram did not include was an escrow account to be used by the issuing tribes to repay principal once the bonds are issued.

I am frustrated and saddened by the lack of progress Congress is making on any number of Indian country priorities. With the \$400 million in tax credit authority still on the books, all that is left to do is establish the escrow account. I believe the time is right for Congress and the Administration to make this a priority in the next Congress, which starts in January 2015.

When she testified before the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs in May 2013, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said that the state of Indian education—student perfor-

mance as well as the condition of Bureau of Indian Education facilities—is “an embarrassment to you and to us.” After becoming chairman of that committee in February 2014, Sen. Jon Tester wrote that “education is the foundation for sound life choices that increase economic security and helps us climb the ladder of success.”

These statements by the secretary and the chairman demonstrate that we have friends in high places, as they say. That, together with the bipartisan, bicameral support Indian issues traditionally have enjoyed, makes me believe success and hope for new schools for Indian kids are just around the corner. <http://bit.ly/1rMgmLx> 

U.S. Geological Survey Addresses Tribal Engagement Policy and Climate Change

A newly released U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Tribal Engagement Strategy report aims to address both tribal concerns about the environment and tap Native expertise to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

“Collaboration between federal Climate Science Centers [CSCs], partner agencies and tribes is vital for minimizing and adapting to potential harmful effects of climate change on human society and surrounding ecosystems,” the USGS said on September 25 in releasing the 36-page report, “Tribal Engagement Strategy of the South Central Climate Science Center, 2014.”

“All eight of our Climate Science Centers are working closely with tribal nations to develop the practical science they need,” said Anne Castle, Assistant Secretary for Water and Science of the Interior Department, which administers the Geological Survey. “We are looking forward to the addition of five new BIA [Bureau of Indian Affairs] tribal liaison positions within the CSC network to help bring climate science results directly to tribal governments.”

“It is our intent to share climate change mitigation and adaptation information with tribes and to receive feedback from tribal members regarding how ecosystems and cultural resources can be maintained as climate changes,” said Kim Winton, USGS scientist and director of the South Central Climate Science Center.

The report targets the issues affecting the 68 tribes that are based in the south-central United States, highlighting programs and initiatives, and fostering communication between the USGS and American Indians in the region.

“Through two-way communication of interests, knowledge and concern about climate change and related issues, the needs of tribes in the south-central United States will be better served, and interpretation of the effects of climate change in this region will be strengthened,” Winton said. <http://bit.ly/1uxzUpq> 🌐

Tribal Judicial Systems Receive \$87 Million in Justice Grants

Some 169 grants, totaling more than \$87 million to enhance law enforcement practices and sustain crime prevention and intervention efforts in nine purpose areas, were recently announced by the Department of Justice.

The grants to American Indian tribes, Alaska Native villages, tribal consortia and tribal designees will focus on public safety and community policing; justice systems planning; alcohol and substance abuse; corrections and correctional alternatives; violence against women; juvenile justice; and tribal youth programs. The announcement was made during the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI) Annual Convention on the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

The grants have been extended to 22 of the 57 northwest tribal governments from Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Northern California, Southeast Alaska, and Western Montana that are represented by ATNI.

“This work covers every area of public safety in Indian country, from supporting children and youth to protecting and serving Native women to the hiring of tribal police officers to strengthening tribal criminal and juvenile justice systems,” said Assistant Attorney General Karol V. Mason of the Office of Justice Programs. One area where the funds will fill a major need will be Alaska, where ICTMN has reported there are “grossly inadequate state-controlled law enforcement and judicial systems.”

All grants were made through the Department of Justice’s Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation (CTAS), a single application for tribal-specific grant programs. CTAS was developed through the Office of Community Oriented Policing, Office of Justice Programs, and Office on Violence Against Women. The first round of consolidated grants was administered in September 2010, with more than 1,100 grants totaling more than \$530 million being disbursed since then. <http://bit.ly/1rIjfbk> 🌐

Fallout From 2011 Las Conchas Fire Still Being Felt

A September 30 visit by Deputy Secretary of the Interior Michael Connor on September 30 to New Mexico tribal lands pointed up the devastation that remains three years after the Las Conchas fire that destroyed more than 156,000 acres in the Santa Clara Pueblo. Residents are still feeling the fallout not only from the fire but from subsequent deluges that stripped off burned-out topsoil in the absence of the torched trees.

“The scarring and watershed damage that we see here in the Santa Clara Pueblo underscores the need for added

attention and resources toward lands and watersheds that have been affected by fires and flooding,” Connor said.

The Las Conchas fire scorched 156,593 acres in northern New Mexico starting on June 26, 2011. Of this acreage, 16,587 acres belonged to the Santa Clara Pueblo.

While it was most infamous for nearly reaching the Alamo, the fire also burned lands belonging to Ohkay Owinghe, San Ildefonso, Pojoaque Jemez, Cochiti and Kewa, plus lands in the National Forest System.

In the two ensuing summers, floods devastated the hamlet during the rainy season, causing the Pueblo to declare a state of emergency in 2012 and 2013.

Connor’s tour included a survey of four dam structures in the main channel of Santa Clara Canyon that had been inundated by so much fast-flowing water that they burst, contributing to the flooding and damage for the past three seasons.

“In the first full year after the fire, significant flooding occurred during the summer monsoon season with estimated flows from 5,000 to 9,000 cubic feet per second, overwhelming the individual dam spillway capacity,” the Interior Department said. “This, coupled with the reduced reservoir capacity, resulted in embankment overtopping and dam stability degradation.” <http://bit.ly/10nlvPP> 🌐



JOB OPPORTUNITY BULLETIN

Equal Opportunity Employer

POSITION TITLE: UTTC COLLEGE PRESIDENT

REPORTS TO: UTTC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CLOSING DATE: UNTIL FILLED

STATUS: FULL-TIME EXEMPT

SUMMARY:

The UTTC board of directors will select and approve a UTTC president who will be a visionary and proven Native American education leader focused on organizing and managing institutional resources to carry out the 21st century mission of United Tribes Technical College in a professional and culturally-relevant manner.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS:

Under the direction of the UTTC board of directors, the effective UTTC president will provide professional commitment and exemplary leadership toward....

1. Protecting the assets of the institution – people, land, facilities and resources.
 2. Ensuring the integrity of how the college does business, in particularly in the classroom and in all managerial and business functions.
 3. Seeking, organizing, managing and evaluating those human, physical and financial resources essential toward accomplishing the mission, goals and strategic plans of the college.
 4. Actively attending to and sustaining institutional accreditation status, program certifications, unqualified audits and professional staff credentials.
 5. Exercising effective management and communication skills for the engagement of institutional stakeholders (i.e., board members, executive management, program directors, staff and students) in achieving common goals and purposes, and in planning for the future.
 6. Establishing and utilizing partnerships and networks within private and public sectors to promote common educational, research and public service objectives.
 7. Representing the general needs, interests, successes and accomplishments of Tribal colleges and universities, Tribally-controlled educational institutions, and Native American communities
- Competencies: The effective UTTC president will understand and demonstrate strong competencies in the following areas:
1. Visionary Tribal Leadership – understanding of the governmental status, issues, needs and interests of federally-recognized Indian Nations, reservation-based and off-reservation Native populations, and Native families; will have demonstrated leadership roles at state, regional and national levels to proactively address Native American issues.
 2. Tribally-controlled Education – understanding of the history of Native American education, Tribally-controlled education models, Tribal colleges and universities, and the place of Tribal education institutions in contemporary education cultures; will have demonstrated a high level of commitment and advocacy for Native American issues.
 3. Learning Assessment – understanding the psychology of learning among contemporary Native American students, and the most effective methodologies of teaching and learning assessment among traditional and non-traditional Native American college students; familiarity with learning assessment methodologies for postsecondary academic programs and short-term workforce training; understanding the place of institutional metrics that show evidence of academic progress and achievement of workforce training objectives.
 4. Workforce Development – understanding the development, planning, administration and evaluation of effective workforce training programs; familiarity with contemporary workforce trends and training resource opportunities.
 5. Student Services Support – understanding of Tribal postsecondary processes from student recruiting and admissions to career guidance, retention, completion and placement; familiarity with other student services including housing, cafeteria, intercollegiate athletics, transportation, student health, campus safety and security, etc.
 6. Elementary Education – familiarity with the general funding support and operation of a K-8th grade elementary school.
 7. 1994 Land Grant Programs: familiarity with the history, program opportunities, funding and impacts related to Tribal college land grant programs.
 8. Organizational Leadership & Management – understanding about intercollegiate management structures, committees, work groups and staffing; familiarity with personnel policies and procedures; ability to work positively with the Human Resources Office.
 9. Communications Skills – understanding about communications skills: writing and speaking clearly and informatively, ability to make formal and informal presentations, ethical and appropriate use of technology and social media for communications purposes; understanding about maintaining and exercising confidentiality; demonstrating effective interpersonal skills to facilitate constructive and collegial human relationships.
 10. Business Acumen – understanding about the timing and implications of business-related decisions; experience with budgeting processes and audits.
 11. Problem-solving – ability to identify problems and challenges, and to use various methodologies to address these in a timely manner.
 12. Data Analyses – understanding the value of data collection and analyses for decision-making purposes; familiarity with IPEDS, AIMS/AKIS, etc.
 13. Facilities Management – familiarity with the development, planning, construction and maintenance of institutional facilities.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE →

14. Strategic Planning – understanding about short-term and long-term strategic planning.
15. Research: understanding about the role and place of institutional research in seeking answers to questions relevant to the education of Native Americans; familiarity with research methodologies and the role of IRBs.
16. Marketing/Public Relations – understanding about the importance of institutional image, branding, marketing, public relations, social media, and recruiting.
17. Technology - familiarity with technology applications related to general administration, business management, communications, information sharing, and school safety.
18. Ethics – understanding about the value of exercising ethical behavior in professional roles; being able to maintain personnel confidentiality (including FERPA); commitment toward protecting institutional assets; representing the college with integrity.
19. Respect for Diversity – understanding about human, intercollegiate and corporate diversity.
20. Conflict Management – understanding about how to mediate conflicts toward constructive resolution.

SUPERVISION:

Supervises: Legal, Human Resources Director, all Vice-Presidents, Development Director, Office of Public Information, Administration staff, WIA Director, Institutional Research, Director, DeMaND Director, BIA Law Enforcement Initiative, Baccalaureate Degree development, Institutional Training, USDA Land Grant Director, Cultural Arts-Interpretive Center, WIA Director, EDA University Center/FEMA, ND/SD NABDC Director, TTAP Director, Tribal College Financial and Empowerment Initiative; and special event programs such as Commencement, annual Pow-wow, annual Tribal Leaders Summit, etc.

WORKING CONDITIONS:

Office setting with 90% of the time sitting, keyboarding, and on the phone.

QUALIFICATIONS:

The ideal UTTC presidential candidate will possess the following:

1. Doctorate credential required in education, educational leadership, adult education, higher education administration or related fields from an accredited institution of higher education.
2. At least 7 years of successful experience in higher education with the experience preferred working in an executive management position of a Tribal college or university.
3. Experience and participation in working directly with institutional self-studies and education accreditation processes including those related to the NCA-Higher Learning Commission, state accreditation entities and professional certification organizations.
4. Extensive grant and contract management experience with private and public sectors including state, regional and national foundations, governmental programs at the Tribal, state, and federal levels, etc.
5. Proven experience with oversight of large financial budgets in excess of \$30.0 million.
6. Proven administrative experience managing a large employee base of 350 staff or more.

7. Active working experience with governmental agencies including the U.S. Department of Education (DoE), DoI/Bureau of Indian Education (BIE), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), U.S. Department of Labor, National Science Foundation (NSF), Economic Development Administration, (EDA), N.D. Indian Affairs Commission (NDIAC), N.D. University System (NDUS), etc.
8. Demonstrated leadership roles in networking with professional organizations related to education including the American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC), American Indian College Fund (AICF), National Indian Education Association (NIEA), National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), First Americans Land-grant Consortium (FALCON), N.D. Association of Tribal Colleges (NDATC), etc.
9. Formal experience with research projects, methodologies and interpretive studies.
10. Exemplary writing skills as evidenced by articles and publications authored by the candidate.
11. Working knowledge and practice with various technology systems and applications including word processing, financial management spreadsheets, student data records, social media, etc.

PREFERENCES:

Preference will be given to bona fide American Indian applicants in accordance with UTTC policies and Federal Indian regulations for such preference.

If selected for the position, the applicant is subject to a complete background investigation with a favorable determination.

UNITED TRIBES TECHNICAL COLLEGE DOES NOT DISCRIMINATE ON THE BASIS OF RACE, COLOR, NATIONAL ORIGIN, SEX, RELIGIOUS PREFERENCE, AGE, HANDICAP, MARITAL STATUS, POLITICAL PREFERENCE, OR MEMBERSHIP OR NON-MEMBERSHIP IN AN EMPLOYEE ORGANIZATION, EXCEPT AS ALLOWED BY THE INDIAN PREFERENCE PROVISION OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964, AS AMENDED.

PERSONS OF INDIAN ANCESTRY WHO ARE AT LEAST 1/4 DEGREE AND WISH TO CLAIM INDIAN PREFERENCE SHOULD SUBMIT A COPY OF THEIR TRIBAL ENROLLMENT CERTIFICATE INDICATING THEIR DEGREE OF INDIAN BLOOD AND AGENCY ENROLLED.

APPLICATION PROCESS:

Interested individual should submit the following application materials to the UTTC Human Resource Director.

- Cover letter
- Current Resume
- Completed UTTC Application - call for a copy, or you can download a copy from www.uttcc.edu.
- Reference letters or names, addresses and daytime phone numbers of three individuals familiar with your preparation /experience
- Unofficial copies of transcripts (Official copies required if hired)

HUMAN RESOURCE OFFICE
UNITED TRIBES TECHNICAL COLLEGE
3315 UNIVERSITY DRIVE
BISMARCK, ND 58504

Tribes Receive \$11.3 Million in Federal Grants to Combat Chronic Disease

Twenty-two tribes and indigenous organizations in 15 states will receive a total of \$11.3 million in grants from the Centers for Disease Control to combat chronic diseases commonly plaguing Indian country, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced on September 25.

The largest recipient will be the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, which received \$1.1 million, HHS said. The smallest award, of \$120,000, will be accorded to the Santa Ana Pueblo.

The award is part of a series of overall grants that will total about \$212 million, awarded to all of the 50 states and to the District of Columbia “to support programs aimed at preventing chronic diseases such as heart disease, stroke and diabetes,” according to HHS. “This new initiative aims to prevent heart disease, diabetes, stroke, and associated risk factors in American Indian tribes and Alaska Native villages through a holistic approach to population health and wellness.”

The grantees will work within their communities using culturally appropriate measures to reduce exposure and use of commercial tobacco, improve nutrition and exercise, support breastfeeding, boost health literacy and strengthen team-based care by linking community resources with clinical services, HHS said. Half the awards are going directly to tribes, while the other half will be used to support tribal organizations that provide services, training, assistance and leadership in various areas to tribes and villages. The program is financed by the Prevention and Public Health Fund of the Affordable Care Act.

Among the other tribal grantees were the InterTribal Council of Arizona, Inc., which received \$850,000; the California Rural Indian Health Board, Inc., whose grant was \$788,972; United Indian Health Services, Inc., in California, with \$650,000; and the Nez Perce Tribe in Idaho, which has been awarded the sum of \$200,000.

<http://bit.ly/ZgISvt> 🌐

Native Protest Over California Water Policies

Native American Day in California on September 26 was marked by a “Water Is Sacred” protest organized by the California State Tribal Liaisons at the Capitol, with speeches by tribal leaders and cultural demonstrations by various tribal dance groups.

Activists, community members and leaders representing tribes throughout the state marched from the Tower Bridge down to the Capitol chanting, “Water is sacred! Not for sale!” and waving signs that read “We Are Not Defeated!” and “My Ancestors Taught Me Water Is Sacred.”

California is in the midst of a historic drought. Water allotment is an especially sensitive issue among tribes that are trying to protect fisheries, watersheds and ecological systems that are integral to their cultures and economies.

Many California tribal officials and representatives have criticized the consultation policies of various state agencies in this regard. They are especially concerned about the growth of fracking. Gov. Jerry Brown’s backing of a proposal to build two giant underground tunnels to export water from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, and investigations into increasing water storage proposals with dam projects that would damage cultural resources.

Gov. Brown did not attend the march. Anecita Agustinez, Tribal Advisor for the California Department of Water Resources, said he was overbooked. But she said, “To have an event on the Capitol steps with the theme of ‘Water Is Sacred’ really helps people understand our tribal view that water is life, and every drop needs to be valued.”

“It was a beautiful march done in a peaceful way,” said Rhonda Pope of the Buena Vista Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians, one of the sponsors. “This is one of many things our tribe does to bring unity to the Native community.” <http://bit.ly/1wR6Hnh> 🌐

New Educational Emphasis on Natives Arouses Ire

BY TANYA H. LEE

The new Advanced Placement (AP) examination in U.S. history for high school students has raised an outcry among numerous conservative organizations and individuals, in part because of its revised treatment of Native Americans.

The recently development “Curriculum Framework,” as designated by the College Board, which publishes the AP exam, states that students should be able to “analyze the effects that migration, disease, and warfare had on the American Indian population after contact with Europeans.”

The Framework further states that students should understand that “the English

eventually sought to establish colonies based on agriculture, sending relatively large numbers of men and women to acquire land and populate their settlements, while having relatively hostile relationships with American Indians.” Further, students should understand that “continuing contact with Europeans increased the flow of trade goods and diseases into and out of Native communities, stimulating cultural and demographic changes.”

In response, the Republican National Committee has passed a resolution asking for a congressional investigation into the exam. “The Framework presents a biased and inaccurate view of many important events in American history, including the motivations and actions of 17th-19th-

century settlers,” the NRC said.

Other political groups oppose the recommendations. “The new Framework continues its theme of oppression and conflict by reinterpreting Manifest Destiny,” the organizations American Principles in Action and Concerned Women for America told the College Board.

At least two members of the Texas School Board of Education have also criticized the Framework. However, an independent review by scholars recruited by the Texas Freedom Network found that a number of textbooks the board is currently considering for review “suffer from a general lack of attention to the experiences of Native American peoples and cultures.” <http://bit.ly/1qAlsVV> 🌐

Lakota Elder Gets His Day In Court

Charges of abuse while hospitalized

Three years ago, Vern R. Traversie was a heart-bypass patient at Rapid City Regional Hospital in South Dakota. The legally blind Lakota elder said that a nurse assaulted and battered him, yelling racial epithets. He also reported a series of deep, scattered wounds on his abdomen including marks resembling “K K K.” Traversie sued the hospital but state authorities declined to prosecute. But on September 20, a U.S. District Court judge largely rejected a motion for summary judgment by the defendants, clearing the way for a trial in the U.S. District Court of South Dakota, Western Division. “I’ve been praying for this,” Traversie said. <http://bit.ly/1xKoDTM> ☞

Erdrich Slams ‘Redskins’ Name

Ojibwe author expresses opposition

Louise Erdrich, Ojibwe, who won the 2013 National Book Award for her novel *The Roundhouse*, has publicly opposed the use of “Redskins” as the name of the Washington, D.C. National Football League franchise. “It’s heart-breaking and sickening,” she said. “It’s more than a stereotype, it’s an insult, and they don’t have to perpetuate it,” she added. “By doing it, they’re beginning to look more and more backward and their regard is going to fall. They could do so much in terms of leadership and in terms of gaining respect for doing the right thing by simply changing their logo.”

Erdrich’s remarks were delivered in New York City, where she was receiving the Saul Bellow Award for Achievement in American Fiction from PEN America. <http://bit.ly/1vuuOrz> ☞

Pine Ridge Group Is \$100,000 Finalist

Competitor in Buckminster Fuller Challenge

The Thunder Valley Community Development Corporation, which is developing properties on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, is one of six finalists that is poised to win \$100,000 in the Buckminster Fuller Institute Challenge. The corporation has put forward its Thunder Valley Regenerative Community Plan, which will include 31 houses and as many as 60 rental units on 34 acres of the Pine Ridge reservation. The homes, being built with sustainable features, will incorporate Lakota culture. There will be a large common living area and systems to filter and reuse water, as well as solar panels on roofs, the source of most the homes’ energy. The reservation requires close to 4,000 homes, said Thunder Valley Executive Director Nick Tilsen. <http://bit.ly/1pGoDem> ☞

Rex Lee Jim Is Nearly Killed

Spider bite fells senior Navajo official

Navajo Nation Vice President was nearly killed by a spider bite whose toxic effects revealed that he had undiagnosed diabetes. On August 28 Jim noticed an infection on his lower leg and was treated for the bite

of a brown recluse spider. But the venom spread rapidly and threatened his vital organs. He was in the University of New Mexico Hospital for nearly four weeks and endured several operations to remove dead tissue, ligaments and muscle; at one point, he was asked for his consent to amputate his leg should it become necessary. But his diabetes was diagnosed, and he is expected to be up to full strength within several months. <http://bit.ly/1BDhO3X> ☞

Recruitment of Native Language Instructors

‘Youth want to learn basic introductions’

The Urban Native Education Alliance (UNEA) is recruiting language instructors in

Apache, Chippewa, Lakota, Lushootseed, and Tlingit. “Our youth want to learn basic introductions, blessing/prayer and simple greeting,” UNEA Chairwoman Sarah Sense-Wilson, Oglala Lakota, wrote in a letter to the community. “This is an amazing opportunity for our youth to connect on a deeper level with their culture through language.” The UNEA provides social, cultural and educational support services to Native youth and families; it programs include the Seattle Clear Sky Native Youth Council and Native Youth Conference, the Clear Sky Warriors Basketball Program, the Native Pride Basketball Camp, the Native Winter Film Festival, and the Rites of Passage Graduation Ceremony. <http://bit.ly/1rJM2RD> ☞

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Wrapping Up Keepseagle

Focus on remaining 50 percent of a \$760 million settlement **BY LEE ALLEN**

Bottom Line: *Half of the historic Keepseagle agricultural and ranching settlement has been paid out. A national coalition has begun its efforts to deliver the other half.*

When the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Native American farmers and ranchers settled a discrimination lawsuit in 2011, \$760 million in litigated damages became available. Four thousand Native Americans who said they were denied equal access to credit in the USDA's Farm Loan Program applied for recompense. Half of the settlement money has been distributed.

Now, the Native American Farm, Ranch, and Food Fund (NAFRFF), a national coalition of nonprofit organizations, has joined with Native agricultural efforts to facilitate the distribution of the remaining \$380 million.

"The Native American Farm, Ranch, and Food Fund seeks to provide one-time and ongoing grants supporting Native American farmers, ranchers, and food systems," said Terrol Johnson, the president and chief executive officer of Arizona's Tohono O'odham Community Action (TOCA), one of the organizations that is helping coordinate the proposal. "NAFRFF would ensure we have thriving farming, ranching, and food systems by supporting economic development, nurturing our cultures, and promoting community health."

The initiative would do more than that, said Tristan Reader, TOCA's Special Projects Director. "This is a revolutionary concept, the first time there's been an opportunity for Native communities to really influence food systems and farming and ranching issues for generations to come," Reader said. "This isn't a small amount of

money nor is it a short-term fix. This has the potential to build sustainable food systems in Native communities."

NAFRFF hopes to use settlement funds to establish three separate programs. The first, devoted to ongoing grant making and advocacy operations, would receive \$155 million. The second, geared toward endowment grants, would be allocated \$125 million. And a third, focused on capital grants, would receive \$100 million.

As proposed, 10 percent of the total amount available would be available for distribution within six months of final approval of the plan, which was due to be presented to the courts at the end of September. "The remainder would be placed in a trust to be distributed within 20 years, all the while accruing compound interest," said Reader.

"There's been a growing movement around farming and ranching and food issues in Indian country for the last 20 years and a network has built up," Reader added. "When suggestions were requested on how to disseminate the \$380 million, rather than it becoming a money grab where different people with different agendas centering on narrowly focused individual communities competed, we thought it more productive


to come together with a common vision and a common goal that would benefit generations to come.

"This isn't a group of people who came together because there was money available," Reader said. "This is a group that has been working together across tribal communities over the last two decades, developing relationships, and sharing what works and what doesn't."

Joining TOCA are endorsers like Winona LaDuke of the White Earth Land Recovery Program, the Taos Community Economic Development Corporation, the Cheyenne River Youth Project, the Native Foodways magazine, and hundreds of individual indigenous farmers, ranchers, fishermen, chefs, food producers, and foragers.

"You can't be a sovereign nation if you're one hundred percent food dependent on outsiders for your nutrition," Reader said. "Economically it makes sense too. Between 40 and 60 million dollars a year is spent in the Tohono O'odham community alone for food, but less than five percent of that currently goes to tribal food producers, so there's a tremendous opportunity for sustainable agricultural economic development from within. Imagine if the O'odham community could capture 10 percent of those millions, \$6 million a year in locally generated economic activity.

"Then take that to a national scale and you're talking something like close to \$400 million a year spent on food by federally recognized tribes. That's a huge economic sector that doesn't rely on gaming or grant funding, but a kind of economic activity that Native people would have in their own control, resources that didn't leave the community. What if you were able to capture that?"

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



Native farmers are joining to distribute the Keepseagle balance.

Can Deschene Talk The Talk?

Would-be tribal leader criticized for lack of Navajo fluency **BY ALYSA LANDRY**

Bottom Line: *Chris Deschene, who may end up leading the Navajo Nation, has not mastered his people's language—and that is causing problems all around.*

In the Navajo language, there are 70 different verbs used to describe the activity of eating. Leave out one high tone or glottal stop, and the entire meaning of the word changes.

The verb-based, highly descriptive Navajo language is one of the most difficult to learn, especially for native English speakers, and it may be the deciding factor in the Navajo Nation's upcoming presidential election.

Chris Deschene, one of 17 candidates vying for the title of the tribe's top executive, earned 19 percent of the votes in the Nation's August 26 primary election. He came in second to Joe Shirley Jr., the tribe's only two-term president. The two will face off during the November 4 general election.

Yet Deschene, who won voters' support with a resume that includes graduation from the U.S. Naval Academy, service in the Marines and a law degree, is missing a crucial skill. The 43-year-old does not speak fluent Navajo—a requirement for presidential candidates.

When individuals sign up to run for president—and pay a \$1,500 fee—they attest to being fluent in the language. Those documents are taken at face value, largely because the Nation does not have an official definition of “fluency.”

Deschene, who encountered some difficulty with the language while on the campaign trail, has claimed fluency is a matter of opinion and that he is working to master the language. “I’ve made a commitment to the language, and I’ve stated a number of times that my personal goal is to be completely fluent by the end of my first term,” he said.

By contrast Shirley, 66, is fluent and did much of his campaigning in Navajo.

Following the primary election, several Navajo citizens and former presidential candidates filed grievances against Deschene, saying he lied about his qualifications and that his name should not appear on the November ballot. The tribe's Office of Hearings and Appeals dismissed the challenges, saying they were untimely and lacked standing. But petitioners appealed the decision to the tribe's Supreme Court.

The court on September 26 found that fluency is a “reasonable requirement” for the president and remanded the decision back to Hearings and Appeals. That body has yet to issue a final decision. Meanwhile, the Navajo Board of Election Supervisors voted to move forward with the election as planned—with Deschene and Shirley contending for president.

The offices of president and vice president are the only two positions requiring candidates to be fluent in English and Navajo. The qualification does not apply to positions in the tribe's legislative or judicial branches.

LoRenzo Bates, speaker *pro tem* of the Navajo Nation Council, is not fluent, but he understands the logic behind the law. “As president, you need to be able to communicate with the people regarding the Navajo Nation,” he said. “If you're in the heart of Navajo, it's going to be very difficult to communicate without knowing the language.”

Bates, who also is the chairman of the Council's Budget and Finance Committee, said English is just as important as Navajo. As with many tribes, leaders need to demonstrate versatility in language to meet demands of tribal members and outside governments.

“Outside of the Navajo Nation, all the

business done at state and federal levels is conducted in English,” he said. “There are certain words in English that don't translate at all into Navajo—words like ‘investment’ or ‘portfolio.’ To be an effective leader, you really need to know both languages.”

The language issue is indicative of a larger concern on the Navajo Nation, said Manley Begay Jr., professor of applied indigenous studies at Northern Arizona University.

“Really, the Navajo Nation is at a crossroads right now,” he said. “Our culture is changing and we have questions about adherence to a fundamental law that is on the books.”

On one hand, Begay faults the election process for failing to disqualify Deschene. On the other hand, Begay acknowledges the changing demographics of the tribe and language usage that is on the decline. About 169,000 people spoke Navajo in 2010, down from 178,000 in 2000, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

“In this case, the rules are not being enforced,” said Begay, who favors a president who speaks fluent Navajo. “But we have a young candidate who is charismatic and has a lot of energy and who has the younger group following him.”

The question of fluency is proving to be divisive on the 27,000-square-mile reservation where the Navajo language is most commonly spoken among the elders, but where the largest population is 25 and younger. Yet Begay believes there is more at stake than syntax.

“The Navajo culture demands a particular kind of relationship between leaders and the people,” he said. “If you don't understand the language, it's tremendously hard to understand the culture. If you don't understand the language, you'll lose much of what makes Navajo, Navajo.”

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

Historic Navajo Settlement

Half-billion-dollar accord reached with Interior Department
over mismanaged funds **BY ALYSA LANDRY**

Bottom Line: *It is the largest government settlement with a single tribe in history—and its benefits have only begun to be imagined.*

The largest award that the federal government has ever granted to an American Indian tribe was finalized on September 26 when the Navajo Nation settled with the Interior Department for \$554 million, resolving a longstanding dispute over alleged mismanagement of trust resources stretching back more than half a century.

Officials from the Interior Department joined tribal leaders in the Window Rock, Arizona, capital of the Navajo Nation for a signing ceremony on September 28. The ceremony ended a legal conflict that has spanned the last eight years and colored the tribe's relationship with the federal government.

"The \$554 million represents more than the end of a legal battle," said Navajo President Ben Shelly. "This marks a turning point in our relationship with the federal government. We are taking one small forward step toward self-sufficiency, one step away from dependency on the federal government."

During the ceremony, held under blue skies against a backdrop of the sandstone Window Rock formation, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell called the settlement a landmark agreement that helps address a painful history full of broken promises.

"This is a time for calm winds, a time to look forward and work together," she said. "We are starting a new chapter in Indian relationships that I am very proud of ... because what we really want to do is empower Native communities, empower Navajo communities."

The suit, filed in 2006, claimed that the government had failed to invest tribal resources in a way that would maximize profits. The federal government oversees 14 million acres of land held by the Navajo Nation and leases out parcels for

coal and oil extraction, timber harvesting, farming, housing and other purposes stemming from an agreement forged by treaty in 1868. The tribe, which claims that mismanagement dates to 1946, originally sought \$900 million in damages.

The case was precipitated by the 1823 Supreme Court ruling in *Johnson vs. M'Intosh*, which defined the Doctrine of Discovery or the loss of tribes' "absolute title to land," Navajo Attorney General

'This settlement is not an end to the problem. It's a recognition and a beginning of a dialogue.'

Harrison Tsosie said.

"Many of us don't understand that these are the legal principles we live with today," he said. "This settlement is not an end to a problem. It's a recognition and a beginning of a dialogue about that problem. This is a beginning, not an end. There are many Indian tribes in the United States that are in the same predicament we were—having to sue the federal government."

"As sovereign nations, we reached a settlement and resolved issues in order to move forward in our relationship," said LoRenzo Bates, speaker *pro tem* of the Navajo Nation Council and chairman of the council's Budget and Finance Committee. "This is a historic agreement, and one between the Navajo Nation and the United States that signifies an opportunity


for our Navajo people."

At 27,000 square miles and extending into parts of three western states, the Navajo Nation is the largest reservation in the country. Its population tops 300,000, but much of the reservation is plagued with poverty, unemployment and lack of infrastructure. Among its most dire needs are roads, housing, renewable energy and infrastructure—including even the simplest modern conveniences like electricity and running water.

Bates wants to see the settlement money invested in a way that benefits future generations. "It will be a true exercise in our nation's sovereignty as to how we determine the use of these funds," he said. "It is my belief that our nation's leadership will see to it that it benefits all of our people for the years to come."

Reaching a settlement opens the door to resolving additional grievances, said Sam Hirsch, acting assistant attorney general for the Justice Department's division of Environmental and Natural Resources. Calling the government's trust responsibility a "sacred vow to be upheld," Hirsch said the settlement helps bring to an end a "cycle of distrust, disenfranchisement and disappointment."

"We recognize that the journey we are on together constitutes a future, a fortune and fate that we all share, and leads us toward a new day in the government-to-government relationship between the United States and the Navajo Nation," he said. "This settlement will provide substantial tangible benefits to the Navajo Nation and its members. These benefits include monetary relief, as well as commitments by the United States government to improve the way in which it carries out the trust relationship with the Navajo Nation."

The Navajo Nation's settlement is one of many reached in recent months between some 80 tribes and the Interior Department, resulting in redress totaling \$2.61 billion. <http://bit.ly/1BsaS9E> 

'Harvest The Hope' In Nebraska

Voices raised in song for environmental consciousness BY DOUG MEIGS

Bottom Line: *Moccasins and cowboy boots crowded a Midwest cornfield to see Willie Nelson and Neil Young sing out against the Keystone XL pipeline.*

The sold-out September 27 "Harvest the Hope" concert in a cornfield north of Neligh, Nebraska raised both money and awareness for a coalition of indigenous and environmentalist groups fighting TransCanada's proposed Keystone XL oil pipeline. Highlighting the event were Willie Nelson and Neil Young.

"As caretakers of our land, family farmers know best what's good for it," Nelson said onstage. "We stand with these family farmers fighting for their land, livelihood and community." Nelson performed a 45-minute set that sampled musical hits across his lengthy career, from "Whiskey River" to "Roll Me Up and Smoke Me When I Die."

Young entered the stage to play one song alongside Nelson. Their rendition of the Woody Guthrie folk classic "This Land is Your Land" featured modified lyrics that referenced Nebraska's fragile Sandhills ecosystem and opposition to TransCanada's pipeline.

"The Keystone XL pipeline is a large step in the wrong direction for the health of Earth," said Young. "America must lead the world again and stop the Keystone."

Young sprinkled political commentary throughout his 90-minute set, which included "Heart of Gold," "Pocahontas," and a new version of his Keystone XL protest anthem, "Who's Gonna Stand Up?"

More than 7,000 ticketholders attended the concert. All proceeds from the concert benefited Bold Nebraska, the Indigenous Environmental Network, and the Cowboy

& Indian Alliance. The farm/concert venue sits on the proposed Keystone XL pipeline route, which snakes from Alberta's tar sands to refineries in Texas. The owner of the farm, Art Tanderup, is one of roughly 100 Nebraska landowners who are refusing

the presidents of the Rosebud and Oglala Sioux Tribes. He urged concertgoers to visit shieldthepeople.org to help pressure the government to reject TransCanada's permit renewal.


"The permit for the Keystone XL pipeline in South Dakota has run out," said Garriott. "They are trying to renew it, and we are going to fight them every step of the way."

"I am a combat veteran of Vietnam, but today I am a Lakota warrior," announced Bryan Brewer, President of the Oglala Lakota Nation. "In 1876, the Oglala and other bands went to Montana to destroy a snake up there," he said referring to Custer's defeat at the Battle of the Little Bighorn. "This time we're going north again. We're going to go up north to the Cheyenne River country and we're going to stop it there."

Earlier in the day, before the concert officially began, Scott and Brewer joined a delegation of tribal leaders to present Nelson and Young with painted buffalo robes. In the private ceremony beside a tipi, adjacent to the Tanderup farmhouse, Nelson and Young received the painted hides and other gifts. They shook hands with a crowd of elders and tribal leaders and then proceeded to a barnyard press conference.

"We're honoring [Willie Nelson and Neil Young] because they are helping us to maintain our clean water and clean land," said Aldo Seoane (Sicangu Oyate Lakota) of the Cowboy & Indian Alliance.

"We're here for the farmers and the ranchers, and the cowboys and the Indians, and we've always have been," Nelson said before the concert.

"Whatever we're fighting about here, we're really just a skirmish on the ground, around a disaster that is waiting to happen," Young added. <http://bit.ly/1sNrMRm> 



Willie Nelson and Neil Young raised their voices in protest.

to sign easements with TransCanada.

Although the pipeline's southern leg came online in January, the northern Canada-Nebraska portion hangs in limbo. The Nebraska Supreme Court is reviewing the legality of the route, and President Obama must approve the international pipeline before it can be realized.

Nelson and Young, longtime Farm Aid concert collaborators, joined a host of musicians, activists and tribal leaders. Lakota, Nakota, Dakota, and Ponca speakers appeared prominently in the festivities with drum songs, prayers and speeches.

Native rapper Frank Wain (Sicangu Oyate Lakota) warmed up the crowd before Nelson and Young took the stage. Casey Camp-Horinek of the Ponca explained how the land was sacred, located on the path of the 1877 Ponca Trail of Tears. Wizipan Garriott Little Elk (Sicangu Oyate Lakota) of the Cowboy & Indian Alliance introduced

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Executive Director Position Available

Under the guidance and direction of the Board of Directors, the Executive Director is a full time position with the responsibility of overseeing the day-to-day operations of the organization, implementing policies and procedures approved by the Board of Directors, executing NCUIH's strategic plan and operating strategies, representing NCUIH and its membership at meetings, and developing, nurturing and expanding critical partnerships with national and regional partners. The Executive Director advocates on behalf of its membership, comprised of the urban Indian Health Programs located across the nation. The Executive Director is the internal and external voice of NCUIH and its membership in relation to media, Congress, and Indian Country. This position is also responsible for the management of its grants and contracts and for ensuring the reporting requirements by funding agencies such as the Department of Health and Human Services /Indian Health Service (DHHS/IHS) are met. This position is required to build the necessary partnerships with national Indian organizations, federal agencies, state governments, Indian communities, tribal leadership, and congressional representatives to address the needs of its membership and to expand and enhance NCUIH's services. Experience and knowledge of the current national political issues impacting the health needs of urban Indian Health Programs is highly preferred especially with regards to the Affordable Care Act and the Indian Health Care Improvement Act. Bachelors or advanced degree in business management and/or public health from accredited university with a minimum of five years of management experience within a tribal or other nonprofit organization. Preferred experience working in a member organization.

Closing Date: November 1, 2014 at 5pm MST.

All interested applicants should submit their resumes and cover letters and any inquiries to ncuihd.search@fnch.org

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www.north-slope.org. EOE.



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Desert Cahuilla
Indians TANF**

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OCTOBER 16, 2014 – 3:00pm
RFP # 10252**

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Improvement Project**

www.torresmartinez.org
or email
Jswenson@TMDCI-nsn.gov

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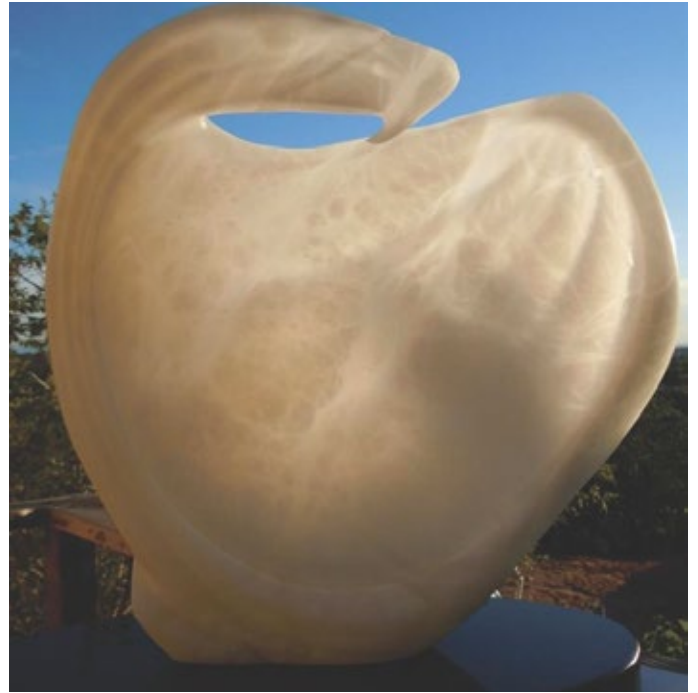
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Board is recruiting for a Chief
Law Enforcement Agent for the
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Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly, seen here with Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, celebrated a record \$554 million federal settlement.



"Eagle Moving Through the Clouds" is one of many sculptures by Presley LaFountain, who is currently in residence at the Turtle Mountain Chipewewa Reservation in North Dakota.



The 2014 Tule River Powwow concluded with a proposal of marriage by Johnny Nieto, Tule River Yokut, to Yendi Jaurez.



Indigenous canoes visited Seattle's Waterfront Park for the 22nd annual Salmon Homecoming celebration on September 22.

Headlines from the Web

SEMINOLE TRIBE IN DEAL TO ACQUIRE SOUTH FLORIDA BANK

<http://bit.ly/Z1qVIQ>

THREE CHARGED WITH MURDER IN STABBING ON WIND RIVER INDIAN RESERVATION

<http://bit.ly/YQ2k02>

AS WILD HORSES OVERRUN THE WEST, RANCHERS FEAR LAND WILL BE GOBBLED UP

<http://nyti.ms/1xDMcxz>

MOHEGANS BUY TWO MORE WOOD PELLET PLANTS

<http://bit.ly/1BAI92E>

LOCAL TRIBAL MEMBERS MISSING OUT ON COBELL CHECKS

<http://bit.ly/1yzJ4En>

CONNECTICUT PRESSES BIA TO SCRAP INDIAN RECOGNITION PROPOSAL

<http://bit.ly/YQ43ST>

Upcoming Events

INTERNATIONAL INDIGENOUS THERAPEUTIC JURISPRUDENCE + CONFERENCE OCTOBER 9-10

“Healing Courts, Healing Plans, Healing Our People” will focus on the elders, culture and spirituality that constitute diverse Indigenous Court models in Canada, the U.S., Australia and New Zealand. Guest speakers will include Maori Judge Heemi Taumaunu, First Nations Court Judge Marion Buller-Bennett, and Hualapai Judge Joseph Flies-Away. Sponsored by First Nations House of Learning and the Musqueam Indian Band.

Location: University of British Columbia, Vancouver

CALIFORNIA INDIAN CONFERENCE OCTOBER 9-11

The California Indian Conference 2014 provides a unique collaborative environment for indigenous peoples, community leaders, scholars and practitioners to engage in discussion and academic exchange in an interactive setting regarding important topics for diverse California Indian

Nations. The three themes of the 29th conference are “California Indian Indigenous Continuance,” “Struggle for the Land and for Life,” and “Preparing for Native California’s Future.” More than three dozen panels and sessions, devoted to such topics as “Soul Wounds: The Trauma of History and Solution in Reclaiming Indigenous Voice,” “Learn or Die: A Decade of Serrano Language Revitalization,” and “Responding to the Higher Education Crisis for Indians in California” are scheduled.

Location: California State University at San Bernardino

CARLISLE JOURNEYS OCTOBER 10-11
“American Indians in Show Business” will be the theme of the ongoing “Carlisle Journeys” conference devoted to the Carlisle Indian Industrial School in Pennsylvania. This is the first conference in which the Cumberland Historical Society is collaborating with the University of East Anglia in Norwich, England; the hope is to hold the conference every two years to focus on the far-reaching influence that the Carlisle

Indian Industrial School school has had on Native peoples and society as a whole. The conference will feature seven different speakers, including biographers of Indian School students who achieved prominence in film and the theatre.

Location: Cumberland Historical Society, Cumberland, Pennsylvania

NIEA CONVENTION & TRADE SHOW OCTOBER 15-18

Partnering with the National Congress of American Indians, the National Indian Education Association is stepping up its efforts to call for immediate Native language immersion legislation—specifically, Senate Bills S. 1948 and S. 2299. “Building Education Through Generations” will spotlight such expert-driven presidential sessions as “Celebrating Native Languages as Resources to Academic Success,” “Building Strong Foundations in Early Learning,” and “Common Core: Improving Student Outcomes Through Cultural Pedagogy.”

Location: Anchorage Convention Centers, Anchorage, Alaska

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

As world leaders gathered at the recent United Nations Climate Summit, the absence of Prime Minister Stephen Harper of Canada was especially galling. His Conservative government has failed to advance strong environmental policy. That includes a failure to provide transparent oversight, tougher penalties and a price on carbon pollution.

Climate change is a global problem that requires a global solution. We

need determined leadership to make progress. But that cannot happen if our Prime Minister can’t even be bothered to show up.

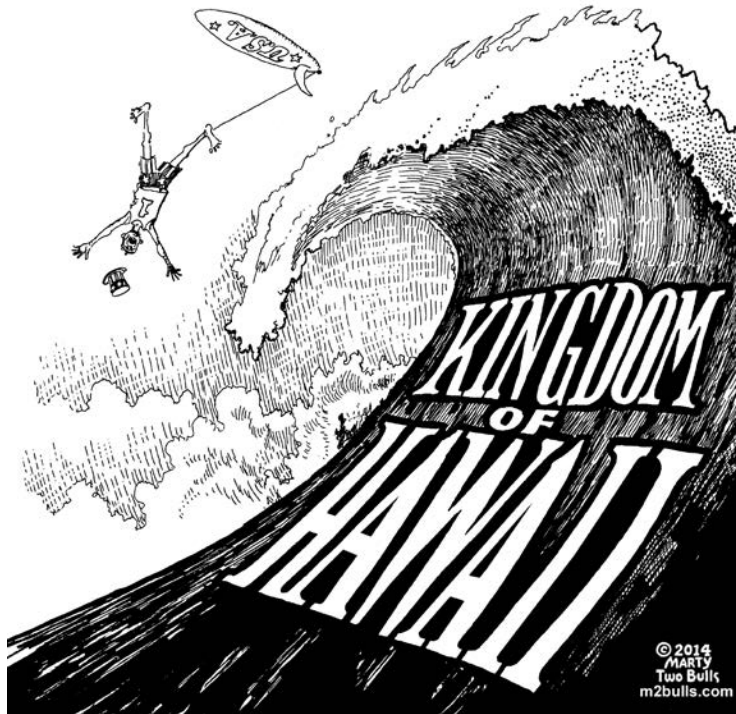
As well, if Canada does not demonstrate to the world that we as a country are serious about greenhouse gas emissions, we will find it harder and harder to export our resources to global markets. That is why Liberals are committed to responsible resource development,

while promoting clean energy and reducing carbon emissions.

As Prime Minister, Mr. Harper continues to get the big things wrong. After nearly a decade in power he has failed to take any meaningful action on Canada’s greenhouse gas emissions. His legacy will leave our children with an environment that is ever more threatened.

—John McKay, MP
Liberal Party of Canada

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



TOP NEWS ALERTS

From IndianCountryTodayMediaNetwork.com

SETBACK FOR TRIBES IN ONLINE LENDING CASE

Indian tribes who have been trying to stop New York State officials from cracking down on their online lending businesses were dealt a setback on October 1 when a federal appeals court denied their request. The suit began last year when New York authorities attempted to regulate the businesses; the Otoe Missouri Tribe of Oklahoma and the Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians of Michigan sued, arguing that their out-of-state sovereign status shielded them from such regulation. Last week's ruling upholds a federal district court decision from last year.

SOTOMAYOR ADDRESSES INDIAN ISSUES

Associate Supreme Court

Justice Sonia Sotomayor visited Oklahoma University Law School on September 21, to be greeted by a law student in Choctaw and share some of the challenges she faced when dealing with Indian law issues. "I think there is a popular image that Native Americans are rich because of gambling," Sotomayor said. "I think it only takes a little bit of travel and exposure to know that it's not the entire Indian nation that does gaming, that there is massive poverty among many, many tribes."

SENECA MEMBER RUNS FOR MAYOR

Michael R. "Smitty" Smith, Seneca, is running for mayor of Salamanca, New York, thus creating a three-way race with incumbent Carmen Veccharella and challenger Ronald

Ball. The most notable aspect of Smith's nine-point platform, reported *The Salamanca Press*, is that he would propose to the Senecas to "match the roughly one-third of properties paying taxes in the city." In return, Smith would institute "a hiring quota in all city departments to include up to 30 percent."

NEW HEADQUARTERS FOR PONCA TRIBE

The Ponca Tribe has opened its new headquarters along Nebraska Highway 12 in Niobrara, Nebraska; the 9,000 square-foot-structure is more than twice the size of the old facility, which had been used for 20 years and which began to be razed on September 29. The new headquarters will feature a drive-up lane for access, house offices for staff and a storm shelter, the Associated Press

reported; the Ponca hosted an open house to celebrate the opening on October 4.

ANOTHER \$1 MILLION FOR COBELL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Interior Department transferred an additional \$1 million to the Cobell Education Scholarship Fund, bringing the total transferred in 2014 to more than \$4.5 million. The Scholarship Fund was authorized by the historic Cobell Settlement and is backed in part by the Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations (Buy-Back Program); it provides financial assistance through scholarships to American Indian and Alaska Native students wishing to pursue post-secondary education and training. The fund is administered by the American Indian College Fund in Denver, Colorado.

UPCOMING POW WOWS

CHEROKEE INDIAN FAIR

10/7/14—10/12/14
Cherokee Indian Fairgrounds
Cherokee, NC
800-438-1601

travel@nc-chokeee.com
VisitCherokeeEvents.com/event/44521-chokeee-indian-fair

LAKOTA DAKOTA NAKOTA LANGUAGE SUMMIT

10/10/14—10/12/14
Rushmore Plaza Holiday
505 North 5th Street
Rapid City, SD
605-867-5193

info@tuswecatiospaye.org
Tuswecatiospaye.org

SAN MANUEL POW WOW

10/10/14—10/12/14
California State University, San Bernardino

5500 University Parkway
San Bernardino, CA
909-425-3450
SanManuel-NSN.gov

BERKELEY INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY POW WOW AND INDIAN MARKET

10/11/14
Martin Luther King, Jr. Civic Center Park
2151 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way
Berkeley, CA
510-595-5520

info@ipdpowwow.org
IPDPowWow.org

10TH ANNUAL WOLF CREEK HABITAT'S FALL NATIVE AMERICAN GATHERING

10/11/14—10/12/14
Wolf Creek Habitat
14099 Wolf Creek Road
Brookville, IN

Kathy Baudendistel
513-312-9143
wolfcreekhabitat@msn.com
WolfCreekHabitat.org

RAPPAHANNOCK POW WOW

10/11/14
5036 Indian Neck Road, Route 623
Indian Neck, VA
804-769-0260 or 804-769-4205

info@rappahannocktribe.org
RappahannockTribe.org

OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY FALL CONTEST POW WOW

10/11/14
Payne County Expo Center
4518 Expo Center East
Stillwater, OK
405-744-0401

Twauna.williams@okstate.edu
okstate.edu/nasa/

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Jeweler Kenneth Johnson (Muscogee/Seminole) recently presented Associate Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor with a custom-made silver coin and pearl necklace featuring coins from her birth year.

THE BIG PICTURE