



Indian Country

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

A Letter from the Publisher

Shekóli. Congratulations are in order for Michael Bearcub and Jordan Leskinen, the first hunters to legally land bighorn sheep on the Colville Reservation in more than 100 years. Each of the men won a coveted license to harvest one ram on tribal lands in the clearest sign to date that bighorn sheep have returned to a place from which they once disappeared a century ago. It is a development about which we can all feel proud.



For Michael Bearcub, the hunting license afforded him an opportunity to track the sheep in a traditional manner. It was a six-day endeavor, culminating with him hauling the ram uphill to his truck. "I gave a lot of it away for people to try," he said, borrowing from the tradition of a hunter giving away his first deer. Jordan Leskinen filed the tag on behalf of his grandmother, as part of the need to provide elders with subsistence foods.

In this week's feature, "Bighorn Hunt on Colville Reservation Revives Ancient Cultural Tradition," Eric Krausz, the multi-nation reservation's head of the bighorn program, says, "Big horn sheep are back on the historical range. What's special is, there are twelve tribes that were placed here on the Colville reservation, and most of those tribes' history have bighorn sheep as part of their lifestyle." Tribal wildlife managers believe that as settlers encroached on territories in the northwest their domestic goats and sheep passed diseases to their cousins in the wild, effectively wiping them out and closing a chapter on a particular way of life for Indians. The sheep were an important source of meat, and their horns sheep provided materials for bows, ladles, and utensils. Their hides were turned into clothing. These days, two herds roam the land. One was established in 2009 with some sheep imported from Yakama, where they are plentiful, which were then augmented with additional ewes.

It is in the nature of things for us to observe the cycle of the seasons, and the cycle of life. As the citizens of Colville have cared for the land, nurturing big game back to its rightful place, so the land cares for them. Winter is on the horizon, and for Natives in the pages of ICTMN, it is a time for renewing of traditions and preparing for the long months ahead.

Na kîr wa,

Ray Halbritter

Table of *Contents*



2 COMMENTARY

3 NEWS

6 HUNTING THE BIGHORN AGAIN

7 THE CHIEFS REACH OUT

8 TRIBE CLAIMS LABOR AUTHORITY

9 BATTLE ON THE MOUNTAIN

10 CLASSIFIEDS

11 WEEK IN PHOTOS

12 CLASSIFIEDS

13 WEB, EVENTS, LETTERS

14 CARTOON, ALERTS

15 UPCOMING POW WOVES

16 BIG PICTURE

Internet Access as Indian Country Game Changer

Bryan V. Brewer, *president of the Oglala Sioux Tribe, stresses the educational need for Native access to the Internet:*

According to a recently released report by the Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums, tribal libraries lag behind other public libraries in terms of their ability to offer access to the Internet, technology training, and computer workstations. At least 40 percent of tribal libraries in the study sample did not have a broadband Internet connection.

If service is not provided, the community must forego critical educational support services that have become standard in other communities across the country. I have personally witnessed a classroom of students huddled in a gravel parking lot outside a library in order to utilize its Internet connection.

When funding and reliable Internet connectivity is available, the promise of digital learning is exceptional. While many schools across the country have witnessed successes in the classroom by utilizing personal tablets and digital chalkboards, tribal communities are still fighting to get basic high-speed

connectivity simply to keep our students in the classroom where they can learn uninterrupted.

In today's information-age economy, our students must have access to the tools that prepare them for success in school and after graduation—tools that include reliable, high speed Internet. I am exhausted by continually calling for equal access to educational resources, but I will not give up until our students are provided the tools they deserve to succeed. We must make sure that all students—not just those in more populated, urban areas—are prepared for the future. <http://bit.ly/15dYVvl> ☞

One Cheer for Tribal Tax Reform

The widespread approval of the recently passed Tribal General Welfare Exclusion Act (TGWEA), which prohibits certain actions by the Internal Revenue Service, eludes Dina Gilio-Whitaker (Colville):

Some term the legislation “a big tax break” for tribes. When I think of the concept of a tax break, I think of people or entities who are beholden to the IRS for what might be considered legitimate taxation (like individual income tax or corporate taxes), but who have been given some kind of loophole or advantage to legally avoid paying

those taxes.

However, the IRS was demanding taxes from revenues received from Indian trust lands and resources, which was unethical—if not illegal—to begin with. The TGWEA was passed, in other words, to make the IRS stop doing something it shouldn't have been doing to begin with. How can this be considered “a big tax break,” as though the IRS, the federal government and Congress are doing Indian people some kind of favor?

The bill had virtually no opposition, and a long line of co-sponsors signed on throughout the process. Why? Because everybody knew how egregious the IRS's actions were. Backing the

TGWEA was pretty much a no-brainer for any halfway-informed member of Congress. In one fell swoop, Congress could be perceived as both bipartisan (who doesn't hate the IRS, whether Democrat or Republican?), and pro-Indian—without it costing anybody any votes. There was nothing about the bill that was even remotely controversial.

The IRS might be fended off for now, but the bigger problems remain. The TGWEA does virtually nothing to change the taxation disparities in Indian country, which will in turn continue to perpetuate conditions of poverty for all but a handful of tribal communities. <http://bit.ly/1raNf0R> ☞

Accentuating Positives on The Rez

Harold Monteau, *a Chippewa Cree attorney, suggests a positive alternative to the decadence that has lately gripped reservations:*

What is it about the way we are raising our children? Why does the choice of intimidation and violence seem to be the first choice and not the last choice? For sure we know the “bad” that our children see, hear and learn on the reservation. But what aren't we teaching them about the good?

Our focus should be on the community and what it teaches its children by example and by instruction. Every reservation has its bad stuff that is very visible. But we also have an undercurrent of good that runs under the surface. It needs to run on top.

Is there any good in our communities? Of course there is, but we are not exposing our children to it. What do we teach them about themselves in the context of their Native culture, religion, language and standards? Why do they, in their path of adulthood, choose to pick up the negative things?

A “community” curriculum can be developed to teach kids—and adults, for that matter—functional life skills and values they may have missed. Such things as respect for each other. Such things as character, compassion, citizenship, social responsibility, social skills, standards of behavior, standing up against wrongdoing, a work ethic and inclusion, rather than exclusion. We have much diversity of culture and language in the context of our individual tribes. But we also have core “values” that are pretty much the same across the board.

It's never too late to change lives, especially our own. <http://bit.ly/15iZQea> ☞

Navajo Presidential Election Will Not Take Place Until 2015

Wait until 2015: That is the latest message from the Navajo Election Administration (NEA) to the Navajo Nation in regard to the scheduled election of its president. The turmoil that has surrounded the elections for the leadership of the largest federally recognized tribe in the country is too complicated to clear up by the original postponed date of December 23, NEA Director Edison Wanueka told *The Navajo Times*.

The decision to postpone the election until next year came on November 18, the deadline day for ballots to be printed. But the day came and went without any printed ballots because of uncertainty about the addition of candidate Russell Begaye to the line-up of candidates.

Begaye was one of the original 17 candidates in the primary election, which was held in August. He finished third, after former Navajo Nation President Joe Shirley Jr. and leading contender Chris Deschene. But following controversy surrounding Deschene's lack of fluency in the Navajo language, Begaye—a career businessman and one-term Tribal Council delegate—found himself back on the ballot.

The uncertainty surrounding Begaye's candidacy stems from a 162-page motion to disqualify him because of his involvement as a stakeholder with the Navajo Nation Oil and Gas Company. The grievance was filed on October 31, the same day the Navajo Supreme Court ruled to permanently disqualify Deschene and postpone the election.

The Navajo Nation's Office of Hearings and Appeals was scheduled to provide a decision on November 17 but deferred until the following day, reported *The Navajo Times*. No date has been set as yet for the special 2015 election. <http://bit.ly/1C2OQjD> 📄

San Manuel Band Joins Three Parties in Push for Online Poker

The San Manuel Band of Mission Indians has reportedly signed on to an existing business agreement with three parties to operate a licensed online poker site in California. The parties are the Morongo Band of Mission Indians, California's three largest card clubs (the Commerce Club, the Hawaiian Gardens Casino, and the Bicycle Casino) and the Amaya Gaming Group.

On November 11, the San Manuel Band announced it would join the coalition to not only operate the poker site in California but also to work to advocate for laws that soften California's tough online gaming regulations.

PokerNews.com reported that almost three months ago, one of the two online poker bills introduced by Assemblyman Reggie Jones-Sawyer to legalize online poker was shelved by State Sen. Lou Correa because the parties could not come to an agreement on the bill's language. *The Los Angeles Times* reported that Jones-Sawyer's second bill was pending, as it had not moved through the committee process and no hearing date has been set.

"San Manuel is a strong, forward thinking operator and is a great partner to join our coalition in advocating for the development of an open and well regulated iPoker market in California," said Guy Templer, group business development director of PokerStars.

At least 750,000 to one million players in California would participate in Internet poker if it were legal, *Capitol Weekly* projected. If legalized, it would "generate more than \$260 million annually and nearly \$400 million annually within a decade," the paper said.

In the U.S., online poker is legal in only three states: Nevada, Delaware and New Jersey. <http://bit.ly/1vxXdzY> 📄

Popular Indian Mortgage Program Now Costs More

BY MARK FOGARTY

New recipients of the popular Section 184 home mortgage loan for Native Americans will see an increase in the "points" they pay at closing. The rate will increase from 1 percent to 1.5 percent. And many existing 184 borrowers will have to pay a .15 percent yearly premium, tacking an average of \$22 extra per month on their payment for a program-average \$175,000 mortgage.

In *The Federal Register*, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) said that the increase

was necessary because of its increasing success in making mortgages to American Indians and Alaska Natives (tribes and their housing entities are also eligible for 184s).

"Over the last five years, the Section 184 program has doubled the number of loans and eligible families being assisted by the program," the agency said. "For HUD to continue to meet the increasing demand for participation in this program, HUD is exercising its new statutory authority to implement an annual premium to the borrower."

"Without an annual premium, an appropriation of \$8 million for Fiscal

Year (FY) 2015 would support only about \$318 million in new loan guarantee commitments, less than half of the amount the program guaranteed in 2013," the agency added.

The agency acknowledged the extra burden placed on Indian borrowers by this increase. "To reduce some of the hardship accompanying the annual premium," it stated, "HUD provides that payment of the annual premium can be made through monthly payments, to spread out the cost for borrowers, or annual and lump sum payments, to keep a borrower's monthly payments lower."

<http://bit.ly/1y61k4L> 📄

Energy Department and Indian Enterprise Join in Partnership

The National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Energy to join in the department's Minorities in Energy (MIE) Initiative.

The National Center will now be included in the MIE's Industry Partner Engagement Network. In that capacity, the Center will work to strengthen and expand innovation in energy-specific economic development and workforce development/STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) education.

The Memorandum of Understanding requires both groups to participate in each other's conferences, workshops and other events. The memorandum was announced as the Energy Department hosted its recent "Minorities in Energy: Year One" event, which brought together MIE ambassadors and high-ranking representatives from the Obama administration and the private sector to examine the progress of the first year of the MIE Initiative.

"Big things are happening at the National Center, and it all means business for Indian Country," said Gary Davis, president and CEO of the National Center. "The National Center is very excited. Our economic future will be powered by the investments made in the energy sector, and I am very pleased that the Department of Energy recognizes the importance of minorities, and in particular, the Native American community, in creating innovative public and private partnerships. I look forward to a long and mutually beneficial relationship."

Davis spoke last week to employees of Comcast as part of its Employee Enrichment Series during Native American Heritage Month. The session was streamed live to all Comcast and NBCUniversal employees. <http://bit.ly/1vCs5PP> 📺

Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians Opens Health Center

Health promotion, diagnosis and care in a culturally appropriate setting are the most prominent features of the new health center opened by the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians.

The center will serve not only Pokagon citizens but also "thousands of Native Americans," the band said on November 21. The structure is a 35,000-square-foot building complete with a medical clinic, dental suite, pharmacy, traditional healing area and behavioral health services. "The completion of the Pokagon Health Center is a historic milestone for the Pokagon Band as we are now able to deliver high quality healthcare services to our citizens," said Pokagon Chairman John P. Warren. "The opening of this state-of-the-art facility represents years of hard work and perseverance."

The space has room for three doctors to work, with separate exam rooms for each; the dental suite has space for two dentists. In addition, "the physical therapy area has a therapy pool that has room for six people at a time and will also have resistance machines allowing people to swim against the current," the Pokagon Band said. An exercise area includes fitness machines, restrooms, lockers and showers.

The center includes an extensive behavioral health sciences services arm, which counsels people dealing with mental health and substance abuse issues. The environment is culturally sensitive and includes attention to Native American spirituality. The building is qualified for being certified as environmentally friendly and energy-efficient and is made with colors and materials that reflect the Pokagon culture. Moreover, some of those involved in building the facility were Pokagon citizens serving under the tribe's apprenticeship program. <http://bit.ly/1BYo5wL> 📺

American Indian Hall of Fame Finds a New Home

BY RODNEY HARWOOD

The American Indian Athletic Hall of Fame is moving its Hall of Heroes into the Loretto Building in Kansas City, Missouri. Plans to move the plaques and memorabilia of 106 legendary Native athletes from their current location at Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kansas are in progress. The move is expected to happen in early part of 2015.

The Hall of Fame has been on display at Haskell for 34 years. Through a partnership with the American Indian

Center of the Great Plains, the facility has an opportunity to move one step closer to its own building, American Indian Athletic Hall of Fame president Carol Green said.

"We've had a hard time raising money, but now we have a chance to do some things we've planned for years," Green told ICTMN. "I love Haskell dearly. All my relatives went there. I taught there. But they didn't have the room we needed to put up all our plaques or expand. We have some ideas on raising money, and eventually, we want to have our own building."

"I've always thought we needed to

start looking at building our own Hall of Fame, one that shows the prestige of what Native Americans have done in the world of sports," said American Indian Center of the Great Plains President John Learned. "I thought [the Hall of Fame board] just needs a hand up. We have the ability to help raise money and the ability to donate money to help them move forward with the project."

The Hall of Fame will have five offices in the Loretto Building, which opened in 1903 and served as a Catholic academy for girls until the mid-1980s. <http://bit.ly/1tpMUr3> 📺

Guilty Verdict In Choctaw Corruption Case

*Former executive
director convicted on
six counts*

It took a jury only five hours to convict the former executive director of the Choctaw Nation's construction administration on six federal charges in Oklahoma Eastern District Court on November 20. Jason Brett Merida was found guilty on two counts of tax fraud, two counts of theft, and one count each of conspiracy to commit bribery and conspiracy to commit money laundering. Merida was acquitted of an additional charge of conspiracy to commit money laundering. There is no word on whether he is planning to appeal; sentencing is pending. <http://bit.ly/1HD97ws>

Bakken Is Saturated With Oil Spills

*New York Times
publishes investigation*

The New York Times has published a major two-part investigation into the scope of the spills of both briny wastewater and fracked oil from the notorious Bakken shale formation in North Dakota. "In recent years, as the boom really exploded, the number of reported spills, leaks, fires and blowouts has soared, with an increase in spillage that outpaces the increase in oil production," the Times reported last month. The Three Affiliated Tribes (the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nation) are directly affected by the problem, as many of the spills have either been

on reservation land or have threatened tribal water. <http://bit.ly/1FqGQHq>

Call To Change Name Of Squaw Island Park

*Protest against
Buffalo, New York*

A petition being coordinated by Change.org is calling to change the name of Squaw Island Park in the city of Buffalo, New York. "It is embarrassing and reprehensible that the Queen City, the City of Good Neighbors, Buffalo, NY, would continue to use such an antiquated, racist and sexist term to describe one of her beautiful parks," the petition reads. "The term 'squaw' is a disparaging and offensive racial slur," the petition continues. The petition, posted to Change.org on November 9, already has more than 200 signatures; the goal is 266. "The name Squaw Island is racist and sexist," said one of the signers, Maria Daxenbichler. <http://bit.ly/1tnj1IO>

Lacrosse Partnership With Ho-Chunk Gaming

*Minnesota Swarm
receives sponsor*

The National Lacrosse League's Minnesota Swarm team has announced a three-year partnership with Ho-Chunk Gaming Wisconsin that will make the Wisconsin-based casino chain a sponsor of the team. As part of the partnership, Swarm's home playing field will now be referred to as Ho-Chunk Nation Field at Xcel Energy Center, and Ho-Chunk Gaming Wisconsin will re-

ceive exclusive field naming rights during Swarm home games. The Ho-Chunk Gaming Wisconsin logo will also be placed on the Swarm's home and away jerseys. Ho-Chunk Gaming will also be the presenting sponsor of the Swarm's annual Native American Heritage Night on February 6, 2015, when the team faces the Rochester Knighthawks. <http://bit.ly/1HCLzb5>

Brazilian Reparations To Be Addressed

*Report indicates
widespread abuse*

Reparations for indigenous Brazilians will be discussed during an upcoming meeting with President Dilma Rousseff in connection with recently released data concerning atrocities by Brazilian dictators over the decades. The data, conveyed in a report by the National Truth Commission (NTC), details the killing, imprisonment and torture of indigenous citizens by Brazilian armed forces during the era of military dictatorships between 1964 and 1985. The NTC report states that the total number of indigenous persons killed is 20 times higher than the first estimates made by militant leftists who were targeted by the military. The NTC said it would seek approval from President Rousseff for reparations and environmental repair. <http://bit.ly/1uZ06sk>

Snyder Can Sue Over Trademark Loss

*Battle over 'Redskins'
name continues*

A federal judge ruled on November 25 that the Washington Redskins NFL franchise has the right to sue five Native American plaintiffs over the cancellation of the team's trademarks. In June, the five plaintiffs won a case against the team when the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office cancelled six of its seven trademarks after concluding the R-word is "disparaging to Native Americans." Team owner Dan Snyder then sued the plaintiffs in an attempt to overturn the decision. Judge Gerald B. Lee of the U.S. District Court in Alexandria, Virginia denied the motion to dismiss the case. <http://bit.ly/1vYb1UP>

Mille Lacs Band Buys Hotel

*Part of diversified
economic strategy*

Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures has purchased the 236-room Embassy Suites Oklahoma City hotel, located at 1815 South Meridian, in Oklahoma City. The purchase represents a strategic expansion into a growing market for the company. Located six miles from downtown Oklahoma City, the recently renovated hotel boasts an atrium, of almost 10,000 square feet of meeting space, a business center, fitness room, indoor heated pool and gift shop. The acquisition is part of a 2013 directive issued by Melanie Benjamin, chief executive of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, to diversify the Band's corporate holdings and strengthen the tribal economy. <http://bit.ly/1vUZ2YE>

Hunting The Bighorn Again

A cherished cultural tradition is revived **BY JACK MCNEEL**

Bottom Line: *Though once enshrined, the hunting of bighorn sheep on the Colville Indian Reservation has not legally taken place for more than a century—until now.*

Reviving an ancient cultural tradition, two hunters recently became the first on the Colville Indian Reservation to legally take a bighorn sheep from tribal lands in over 100 years. It was a small but significant start in resurrecting a long-lost cultural activity.

Bighorns were released on the reservation in 2009. It was a small start, but since then the herd has increased to the point where it was determined that removing two rams would not affect the repopulation progress.

From more than 1,500 applicants, Michael Bearcub and Jordan Leskinen won the right to each take one of the sheep. Leskinen filled the tag of his grandmother, as permitted by tribal regulations to allow elders equal subsistence opportunities.

“Bighorn sheep are back on the historical range,” said Eric Krausz, who heads up the reservation’s bighorn program. “What’s special is, there are twelve tribes that were placed here on the Colville reservation, and most of those tribes’ history is that bighorn sheep were part of their lifestyle.”

Bighorns hold much historical significance, said tribal member and Wildlife Program Manager Richard Whitney. Though they were supremely important to tribal culture for hundreds of years, the animals all but disappeared as settlers came in.

“It was most likely the arrival of domestic livestock brought in by settlers that caused bighorns to disappear,” Whitney said. “Domestic sheep and goats carry diseases that bighorns get. Basically the bighorns were extirpated from our area, probably winking out in the 1800s.”

Bighorns had been important for

subsistence for more than just their meat, Whitney said, with their horns being used to make hunting bows, utensil-like spoons and hides for clothing. “Every part of the animal was used,” Whitney said.

Two herds exist within the reservation. The hunt was limited to the Hellgate herd, which began in 2009 when bighorns were brought in from outside. “We worked with the state of Washington on all our translocations,” Whitney said.

Some of those sheep came from the Yakama Reservation, which has a large enough herd to allow some to be relocated to the Colville Reservation. That population was top-heavy with rams, so reproduction was very limited. Krausz said that genetic work was done on other herds to determine where these sheep came from, and they were tested for some diseases.

“That’s when we began augmenting that population and added 18 ewes,” Krausz

said. “We now have upwards of 50 in that area.”


Bearcub incorporated both cultural integrity and respect for the animal and the hunt into his killing of a bighorn ram. Bighorns are often seen from boats on Lake Roosevelt, and hunting from a boat would likely have been easier. But that was not Bearcub’s goal. “I wanted an actual hunt and wanted to earn a ram,” he said.

It took six days of hunting, working from roads on top while the sheep were lower down. Then, after downing a sheep, Bearcub had to pack it back uphill to his rig. His father accompanied him daily. One day Bearcub brought along his whole family, including his newborn son “His first hunt,” Bearcub said. “I’m glad he was part of it too.”

It was Bearcub’s first and last killing of a ram on the reservation. According to the permit parameters, a hunter may take down only one bighorn in his lifetime.

Bighorn populations are increasing, which bodes well for future hunts. With 170 animals observed in the Hellgate herd last winter, “it could be over 200 now,” Krausz said. “I’d like to see us get to where we can allow a good annual harvest and have that population functioning as a source for other areas on the reservation where we can think about trying to transplant bighorn sheep.”

More habitat exists that could support bighorns within the reservation. However, a greater concern at the moment is the presence of domestic animals.

“When you manage bighorn sheep you can’t allow them to intermingle with domestic sheep or goats,” Whitney said. “One of our big goals in the wildlife department is to restore native populations of species. It makes me happy we can restore those populations and they can become part of our subsistence culture again.” <http://bit.ly/1zfrAsE> 



Jordan Leskinen with his bighorn ram trophy

The Chiefs Reach Out

In Kansas City, tribes and the NFL come together **BY RODNEY HARWOOD**

Bottom Line: *While the Washington Redskins continue to dig in against a name change, the Kansas City Chiefs are talking with local tribes about assuring sensitivity and respect.*

The Kansas City Chiefs have done something no other franchise in the National Football League has done. They have given local tribes a level playing field.

Aware of their controversial name and some of their game day rituals, the Chiefs are now soliciting Natives about their traditions, culture and ceremonies to understand their importance. The team has formed a partnership with the American Indian Center of the Great Plains, with whom they now meet on a regular basis.

The effort contrasts with the example of the Washington Redskins, which despite intense Native pressure continues to resist changes to its name and logo.

“What we’re doing is starting a new chapter,” John Learned, Cheyenne/Arapaho tribes of Oklahoma and president of the American Indian Center, told ICTMN. “This is our community. I live here and the things they [the Chiefs] value as an organization, we as Native people value. Honor, community, tradition are the same values we as Native people have always talked about. We can’t change history, but we can move forward. And the Chiefs have been very receptive to our input.”

Chiefs president Mark Donovan reciprocated, praising the American Indian Center for its “unwavering support in helping us understand ways in which we could honor, educate and create awareness of American Indian culture for our fans.”

Donovan and Bill Chapin, the Chiefs’ vice president of business operations, are soliciting tribal representatives for their opinions to get a better sense of their concerns before they become national issues. The Native leaders include Richard Lanoue (Lakota), Ernie Stevens III (Oneida tribe of Wisconsin), Gary Johnson

(Choctaw Nation), Elwood Otto (Otoe/Missouria tribe of Oklahoma) and Gena Timberman (Choctaw Nation). Cheyenne/Arapaho spiritual leader Moses Starr, Jr. from Concho, Oklahoma, is also active in the outreach.

Learned acknowledged that battles would have to be fought selectively. Getting 75,000 fans to stop the “chop and the chant” ritual—which resembles the “tomahawk” maneuver among devotees of the Atlanta Braves—will not cease anytime soon.

‘We can’t change history, but we can move forward. And the Chiefs have been very receptive to our input.’

But the Center and the Chiefs have talked at length about the headdresses worn by non-Indians in the stands. Once the elders informed Chiefs executives of the history of the headdresses—how each feather has meaning, representing an act of bravery or honor—it became clear to the administrators that to see a fan waving a plastic tomahawk and wearing a headdress was regarded as insulting.

“Bill [Chapin] and Mark Donovan both said, ‘We’re more sensitive now to this stuff than we have been in the past because of what we’re learning from your group,’” said Learned. “They told us they don’t have control over what CBS or FOX airs

[during broadcasts], but they can make suggestions. They can control preseason broadcasts and they have told their camera people to not show any of those guys in headdresses and makeup because all they’re really doing is trying to get on TV.”

The educational process has carried over to the drum used by the Chiefs at home games. It is not a sacred drum or a special instrument imbued with a spirit of its own. Rather, it is a prop used to stir up the crowd’s emotions; it was retrieved following the renovation of Arrowhead Stadium four years ago.

After discussions with the tribal leaders, the Chiefs modified the drum-beating ritual during their Native American Heritage ceremony on November 2. Representatives from the Native community offered tobacco and blessed the drum. Moses Starr, Jr., who blessed the four directions inside the stadium, delivered the drum mallet to Chiefs Hall of Famer Priest Holmes, who had the honor of beating the drum for the game against New York Jets.

The ceremony also included the We-Ta-Se, American Legion 410 Honor Color Guard, Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, which presented the colors, and Tabitha Fair, an Oklahoma native of the Chickasaw Nation, along with the Chickasaw Nation Youth Choir, sang the National Anthem. As a sign of respect, they sang an honor song in recognition of Kansas City Mayor H. Roe Bartle, the namesake of the Chiefs.

Another idea being discussed is to honor members of the American Indian Athletic Hall of Fame during the November 30 game against the Denver Broncos.

“We’ll probably do another Play 60 with one of the reservations out here,” Learned said. “We had 50 Native kids at the one we with Haskell earlier this month. I have talked with Tyler Bray (Potawatomi-Citizen Band) about working with our organization. I think it’s going to work out.”

<http://bit.ly/1wZ1x6F> 

Tribe Claims Labor Authority

Saginaw Chippewa case could affect all of Indian Country **BY GALE COUREY TOENSING**

Bottom Line: *The National Labor Relations Act was framed as federal law almost 80 years ago. Now its administrators are clashing with a Michigan tribe in a crucial casino conflict.*

In a battle that pits tribal sovereignty against federal labor law, the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe is challenging a claim of the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) that it has jurisdiction over the tribe's employees at Soaring Eagle Casino and Resort in Mount Pleasant, Michigan. It is a case that could have vast repercussions for the gaming industry in Indian Country.

On October 27, the NLRB ordered the Saginaw Chippewa to rehire an employee who had been fired for union organizing. The federal agency also ordered that the employee, Susan Lewis, be given four years of back pay. It further ordered that the tribe post notices in the workplace stating that it had violated federal labor law and that employees had the right to unionize.

The NLRB claims jurisdiction over Saginaw Chippewa employees because it asserts, among other issues, that the tribe is engaged in interstate commerce. But the tribe does not acknowledge the board's authority and refuses to abide by the order. For that reason, the tribe has filed an appeal in the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals, Frank Cloutier, its spokesman and an enrolled member, told Indian Country Today Media Network.

The position of the Saginaw Chippewa, shared by many tribes throughout the country, is that the federal law that allows for union organizing—the 1935 National Labor Relations Act (NLRA)—does not apply to federally recognized Indian tribes or their gaming facilities.

“The tribe's position rests on two legal principles,” Cloutier said. “One, that the federal law does not apply to state gov-

ernments and Indian tribes are not mentioned at all in the law; and two, that the application of the federal law to the tribe would violate the tribe's rights under its treaties of 1855 and 1864.”

This will be the second time the 6th Circuit Court will hear an appeal in the case. But it is the first time it will rule on it.

The case began in 2010 when the tribe fired Susan Lewis under a tribal law that prohibits employees from soliciting union support among workers at its

solicitation rule prohibiting employees from soliciting other employees during non-work time to support the union or any other labor organization, and distributing union literature or campaign paraphernalia during non-work time in non-work areas.”

On the same day that the NLRB decided against the tribe, it conducted a vote to unionize Soaring Eagle's security employees into the International Union, Security, Police and Fire Professionals of America. Of the 159 eligible voters, 129 people voted, but only 16 voted to join the union, Cloutier said.

Counting the October 27 NLRB vote, there have been five attempts to unionize the casino employees, Cloutier said. On December 21, 2007, the housekeeping staff at Soaring Eagle voted 192-88 against unionization. Almost all of the eligible voters in the full-and part-time housekeeping staff participated in the vote, which was organized by the Teamsters Union Local 486.

Ed Morin, the Teamsters' business agent, promised to continue the effort to unionize. “They waxed us pretty good [but] we're not walking away from it,” Morin told the local newspaper *The Morning Sun*.

Cloutier said that the tribe is all-in on the case. “At the end of the day, the better of two evils is probably to build your [tribal labor] ordinances and work well together,” he said.

“However, to this point,” he added, “I can tell you that our leadership have dug their heels in and said the NLRB just simply does not have jurisdiction. More than 75 years of precedent is being ignored, plus the fact that we've been involved in ‘interstate commerce’ for hundreds of years, and the fact [that] it's a violation of our treaties. Those treaties were here before the NLRB and certainly supersede the NLRB.” <http://bit.ly/1y0rerG> ☞

*‘Our leadership
have dug their
heels in and said
the NLRB just
simply does not
have jurisdiction.’*

casino in central Michigan. Lewis challenged her dismissal before the NLRB. The NLRB ruled against the tribe in April 2013 and ordered the casino to reinstate her. The tribe refused, arguing that the NLRB lacked jurisdiction over the casino because it is owned by a sovereign government.

In its October 27 order, when the NLRB told the Saginaw Chippewa to rehire Lewis with back pay, it also told the tribe to post and distribute notices to employees stating that it had violated federal labor laws and would, among other steps, “revise or rescind our no-

Battle On The Mountain

In British Columbia, environmental protests and arrests

Bottom Line: *A proposed pipeline extension has united many First Nations in a common cause.*

It began as a trickle of protesters camped out on Burnaby Mountain in mid-September. That trickle has grown to more than 1,000. And since late November, more than 60 have been arrested and charged with civil disobedience.

At the heart of the conflict is the attempt of the energy giant Kinder Morgan to seek a \$5.4 billion pipeline expansion that would stretch from the Alberta oil sands to Burnaby. The matter is currently under federal review. Nonetheless, the company has gone ahead with geotechnical work on the mountain, the planned route of the pipeline.

The project entails increasing the pipeline's capacity and adding 614 miles of new pipeline to its existing 120 miles. The goal is to pull even more oil out of the Alberta oil sands. Many tribes on both sides

of the U.S.-Canada border oppose the effort—not just because of the threat it poses to pristine Native territory but also because of the larger impact on climate.

Support for the protesters is streaming in from First Nations. Among the most recent affirmations is one from the Heiltsuk Nation in Bella Bella, British Columbia, which declared “unwavering support for the keepers of the sacred fire on Burnaby Mountain.”

“Our relatives from the Salish Sea are demonstrating the courage and conviction of our ancestors,” said Heiltsuk Chief Councilor Marilyn Slett on November 25. “We applaud them and we applaud those allies standing with them, and send an

unequivocal message that Heiltsuk stand shoulder to shoulder with all those who are fulfilling their duty to the land.”

“Our peoples have always been keepers of the lands and waters,” added Heiltsuk hereditary chief Harvey Humchitt. “Now we are called to be defenders as well as keepers. The land defenders on Burnaby Mountain are upholding ancestral law first and foremost, and we support them wholeheartedly.”

Other opponents include the Tsleil

began on October 29, according to a timeline on Rabble.ca, in three locations on the mountain, inside a conservation area. The work involves erecting and drilling rigs into six-inch test holes but also entails chopping down trees, Rabble.ca said. Protesters have blocked work at one of the testing sites and access to another.

On November 14, a British Columbia court gave Kinder Morgan the right to override local regulations and continue its work, with an injunction issued on November 17 by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP). This brought hundreds of protesters onto the mountain.

“It is infuriating and beyond frustrating that we are faced with this provocative and heavy-handed approach by the RCMP when at this time the City of Burnaby's court proceedings have not even been completed,” said UBCIC President and Grand Chief Stewart Phillip. “Kinder Morgan is despoiling the Burnaby

Mountain Conservation Area to brazenly push ahead with their proposed expanded pipeline in the face of massive opposition.”

Among the 60 people who have been arrested in the protests are Campo Suzuki, grandson of the renowned environmentalist David Suzuki, and Lynne Quarmby, a professor and molecular biologist from Simon Fraser University.

“Canadians deserve a government that will address climate change,” said Quarmby after her arrest. “The fact that people are not allowed to talk about climate change in the pipeline hearings is evidence that the process is broken and corrupt.” <http://bit.ly/1rm6jz0>



The protesters on Burnaby Mountain now number more than 1,000.

Waututh Nation, which filed suit against Kinder Morgan on May 2. “The government is unable to look out for the lands and the waters,” said Ruben George of Tsleil-Waututh Nation, speaking to protesters on November 17, according to the *Vancouver Observer*. “So we as the Tsleil Waututh people—we will look out for you!”

Northwest Salish Coast tribes from Washington State have opposed the pipeline expansion from the beginning as well and have continued to rally in support of the protesters. The Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs (UBCIC) has also spoken out against the pipeline.

Kinder Morgan's current testing work

BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF MONTANA**In re: The Roman Catholic Bishop of Helena, Montana, a Montana Religious Corporation Sole (Diocese of Helena)****Case No. 14-60074****NOTICE OF DEBTOR'S MOTION TO APPROVE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT, RELEASES AND POLICY BUYBACKS WITH AMERICAN HOME, CATHOLIC MUTUAL, FIREMAN'S FUND, MONTANA INSURANCE GUARANTY ASSOCIATION, ONEBEACON, AND TRAVELERS (COLLECTIVELY "THE SETTling INSURERS"), INCLUDING THE SALE OF INSURANCE POLICIES FREE AND CLEAR OF LIENS, CLAIMS, ENCUMBRANCES, AND OTHER INTERESTS; AND NOTICE OF HEARING**

NOTICE IS GIVEN that the debtor Roman Catholic Bishop of Helena, Montana, ("Debtor"), has filed in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Montana, a motion for approval of a Settlement Agreement with Settling Insurers which includes the sale by the Debtor of all insurance policies allegedly issued by the Settling Insurers back to the Settling Insurers free and clear of liens, claims, encumbrances, and other interests (the "Motion")

The Motion seeks, among other things, an order of the Court, pursuant to 11 U.S.C. §§ 105(a) and 363 and FRBP 6004 and 9019, approving a settlement, release, and compromise of all claims as more fully described in the Settlement Agreement. If the Motion is approved, the Debtor will sell, and Settling Insurers will purchase, the insurance policies described more particularly in the Settlement Agreement, free and clear of all liens, claims, encumbrances, and other interest for the aggregate amount of \$10,901,500 as follows: (a) \$487,500 by American Home; (b) \$3,800,000 by Catholic Mutual; (c) \$4,000,000 by Fireman's Fund; (d) \$500,000 by MIGA; (e) \$114,000 by OneBeacon; and (f) \$2,000,000 by Travelers, to be paid to a trust to be established under a plan of reorganization as to the Debtor in which all Tort Claims (as specifically defined in the Settlement Agreement) will be channeled as the sole and exclusive source of payment of any such claims against the Debtor or Settling Insurers. The Settlement Agreement is conditioned on Confirmation of a Plan of Reorganization incorporating its terms.

IN ADDITION, THE MOTION SEEKS A RULING THAT SETTling INSURERS ARE ENTITLED TO THE BENEFIT OF AN INJUNCTION, PERMANENTLY BARRING ALL CLAIMS BY ANY PERSON OR ENTITY AGAINST SETTling INSURERS AND CERTAIN RELATED ENTITIES (THE "INSURANCE PARTIES," AS SPECIFICALLY DEFINED IN THE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT) RELATING TO (A) POLICES ISSUED OR ALLEGEDLY ISSUED TO THE DEBTOR OR (B) "TORT CLAIMS" (AS SPECIFICALLY DEFINED IN THE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT, WHICH INCLUDES CLAIMS RELATED TO SEXUAL OR CORPORAL ABUSE), AS PART OF THE DEBTOR'S CONTEMPLATED PLAN OF REORGANIZATION, THE CONFIRMATION OF WHICH IS A CONDITION OF THE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT. IF YOU HAVE A CLAIM AGAINST THE DEBTOR AS TO WHICH INSURANCE COVERAGE IS OR MAY BE AVAILABLE, YOUR RIGHTS MAY BE AFFECTED.

If you object to any aspect of the Motion or the sale of the insurance policies, you must: (1) file with the Clerk of the Court at U.S. Bankruptcy Court, District of Montana, Room 263, 400 North Main Street, Butte, MT 59701, a written response stating the specific facts upon which the objection is based, and (2) serve a copy thereof on Bruce Anderson, counsel to the Debtor, at Elsaesser Jarzabek Anderson Elliott & Macdonald, Chtd., 320 East Neider Avenue, Suite 102, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815, no later than December 31, 2014, and (3) attend the hearing on January 14, 2015 at 9:00 a.m., at the Russell E. Smith Federal Bldg., 201 East Broadway Street, Courtroom 200A, Missoula, MT 59802. If no objections are filed the Debtor may seek entry of an order approving the Motion without further notice or hearing. A copy of the Motion (Docket No. 332) and Notice of Hearing (Docket No. 338) can be obtained through the PACER system on the Court's Website at <https://ecf.mtb.uscourts.gov> or by contacting Bruce Anderson, Elsaesser Jarzabek Anderson Elliott & Macdonald, Chtd., 320 East Neider Avenue, Suite 102, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815.



Tom Rogers, who designed the reverse of the 2016 Native American \$1 coin, was recently featured in the Klamath Falls (OR) Herald and News.



The Native American occupation of Alcatraz Island, which lasted nearly two years, began 45 years ago last month.



President Obama presented the Presidential Medal of Freedom to American Indian rights activist Suzan Harjo on November 24.



The American Indian Athletic Hall of Fame will now be located in the Loretto Building in Kansas City, Missouri.

Starting on November 26, 2014
Beaveridge Housing Company
 located at 1965 Allan Avenue
 Yorktown Heights, NY 10598

a 167 unit building including 17 units designated for the disabled, will open its waiting list for rental to eligible households with limited income.

Qualifications will be based on Section 8 Federal guidelines.

Interested persons may obtain an application in person between 11 am & 3 pm or, by writing to:

JMI Management Company
 277 Northern Blvd.
 Great Neck, NY 11021

Please do not submit more than one (1) application per family

If more than one (1) application is received, it will be dropped to the bottom of the list.

If you have a disability & need assistance with the application process, please contact **Carmela Siragusa at 516-487-0050.**

Completed applications must be sent by first class **mail only** to the address stated on the application and must be received **by December 26, 2014.**



Big Valley Band of Pomo Indians JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

BIG VALLEY BAND OF POMO INDIANS is seeking a Housing Director

Location: Lakeport, CA – Big Valley Rancheria
 Position Posted: November 5, 2014
 Closing Date: Open until filled

The Big Valley Housing Department is a Community Based Development Organization that provides housing services to tribal members. Applicant must be familiar with HUD, NAHASDA, BIA HIP and other funding sources for housing services. Responsible for overseeing daily operation of Housing Department staff and housing development. Reports directly to Tribal Administrator.

A minimum of 3 years' experience in directing or coordinating an active Native American or Public Housing Department operation is required. A Bachelor's degree in Public Housing or Administration is preferred. Native American preference for qualified applicants. Salary – DOE.

Applicant must also have strong oral and written communication skills and be able to demonstrate high proficiency in Word, Excel, PowerPoint, grant management and operational budgets.

Interested candidates please submit Resume, References, Cover Letter and Salary Requirements to:

Ben G. Ray III, Tribal Administrator
 2726 Mission Rancheria Rd.
 Lakeport, CA 95453
 (707) 263-3924 ext. 104
 bray@big-valley.net

For additional information on this open position please EMAIL ONLY.

2726 Mission Rancheria Road • Lakeport, CA. 95453 • Phone: (707) 263-3924 • Fax: (707) 263 -3977



Big Valley Band of Pomo Indians JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

BIG VALLEY BAND OF POMO INDIANS is seeking a Social Services Director

Location: Lakeport, CA – Big Valley Rancheria
 Position Posted: November 6, 2014
 Closing Date: Open until filled

The Big Valley Band of Pomo Indians is a multi-faceted Social Services provider to tribal members. Applicant must be familiar with ICWA, OVV, DOJ, SAMHSA and other related funding sources for social services. Responsible for overseeing daily operation of Social Services Department staff. Reports directly to Tribal Administrator.

A minimum of 3 years' experience in directing or coordinating an active Native American or Public Social Services Department operation is required. A Bachelor's or Master's degree in Social Services is preferred. Native American preference for qualified applicants. Salary – DOE.

Applicant must also have strong oral and written communication skills and be able to demonstrate high proficiency in Word, Excel, PowerPoint, grant management and operational budgets.

Interested candidates please submit Resume, References, Cover Letter and Salary Requirements to:

Ben G. Ray III, Tribal Administrator
 2726 Mission Rancheria Rd.
 Lakeport, CA 95453
 (707) 263-3924 ext. 104
 bray@big-valley.net

For additional information on this open position please EMAIL ONLY.

2726 Mission Rancheria Road • Lakeport, CA. 95453 • Phone: (707) 263-3924 • Fax: (707) 263 -3977

Chief Tribal Officer-Tribe

**Carl T Curtis Health
Education Center**

- CEO
- Dietary Supervisor
- Health Planner
- Administrative Officer
- Sacred Child MH Therapists
- Patient Care Tech-Dialysis
- RN Dialysis
- RN Nursing Home
- Billing Manager
- Medical Coder

Omaha Tribe of Nebraska
 PO Box 368
 Macy, NE 68039
 P:402-837-5391
 F:402-837-4394

clecount@omahatribe.com

Not a
Subscriber?

Get your own
 This Week From Indian Country Today
eNewsletter!



SUBSCRIBE NOW

Headlines from the Web

TRIBES LOOK TO RENEW GAMING COMPACTS

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

FOUR DEAD IN MURDER-SUICIDE ON SOUTH DAKOTA NATIVE AMERICAN RESERVATION

<http://bit.ly/1HG5be9>

NY COURT: SENECA GOLF COURSE NOT IMMUNE FROM SUIT

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

MILLE LACS TRIBE BUYS HOTEL IN OKLAHOMA CITY

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

AN OIL BOOM IS RAVAGING AN INDIAN RESERVATION IN NORTH DAKOTA

<http://bit.ly/1vO7J6U>

TRIBAL APPEALS COURT UPHOLDS 2013 ELECTION

<http://gfttrib.com/1ydgvtT>

Upcoming Events

TRIBAL FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT SYMPOSIUM DECEMBER 8-9

This second annual symposium, sponsored by Native Nation Events, will be devoted to the future of tribal economics. Tribal chief financial officers and other leaders will learn about the state of the economy, long-term and short-term investments, building a financial constitution, portfolio diversification, alternative investment options and more. Among the discussions and panels will be "Keeping Monetary Policy Relevant," "Tribal Trust Funds" and a casino executive roundtable.

Location: Riviera Palm Springs, Palm Springs, California

INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL OF NEVADA ANNUAL CONVENTION DECEMBER 8-11

"Making a Difference For Nevada Tribes" is the theme of the 49th annual convention, which will focus on such

general issues as early childcare, Indian child welfare and workplace safety. Specific panels will include "The Rhythm of Motivational Interviewing," "Adventure, Scholarships and Community Service," "Re-Authorization of the Violence Against Women Act of 2013," "Tribal Traditional Knowledge Preservation" and "Managing Your Federal Awards."

Location: John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, Nevada

OKLAHOMA COUNCIL FOR INDIAN EDUCATION CONFERENCE DECEMBER 9-10

"Starting With Me: Education, Culture and Languages," the theme of the 35th annual conference, will emphasize current national trends in Indian education and offer hands-on and professional development workshops devoted to language programs, cultural programs and academics. Elections to the board of directors, recognition of national award recipients and a silent auction will be among the additional offerings.

Location: DoubleTree Downtown, Tulsa, Oklahoma

NATIONAL INDIGENOUS ELDER JUSTICE INITIATIVE

PRE-CONFERENCE DECEMBER 10

The topics of this pre-conference, devoted to "Elder Abuse in Indian Country" include model tribal codes development for elder abuse, organizing elder protection teams and family preservation issues. A live stream webcast is also available.

Location: National Weather Center, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma

JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME DECEMBER 11-13

This 14th National Indian Nations Conference will emphasize the theme of "Generational Voices Uniting for Safety, Justice, and Healing." Among the conference goals are honoring and listening to victim/survivor voices; promoting traditional values; working in harmony; and supporting and educating tribal leaders. The event is coordinated by the Tribal Law and Policy Institute, under a grant from the Office of Victims of Crimes (OVC), Office of Justice Programs, within the U.S. Department of Justice.

Location: Agua Caliente Reservation, California

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Re Harold Monteau's commentary "Homicide, Suicide, Violence Abuse and Neglect on the Rez" (11/24):

There should be an Elder Mentoring Program for our youth. They could learn valuable lessons about our culture, tradition, society and ways so that they can understand what being an Indian is. They could go out with fishermen, go hunting, and learn from those who are

willing to mentor.

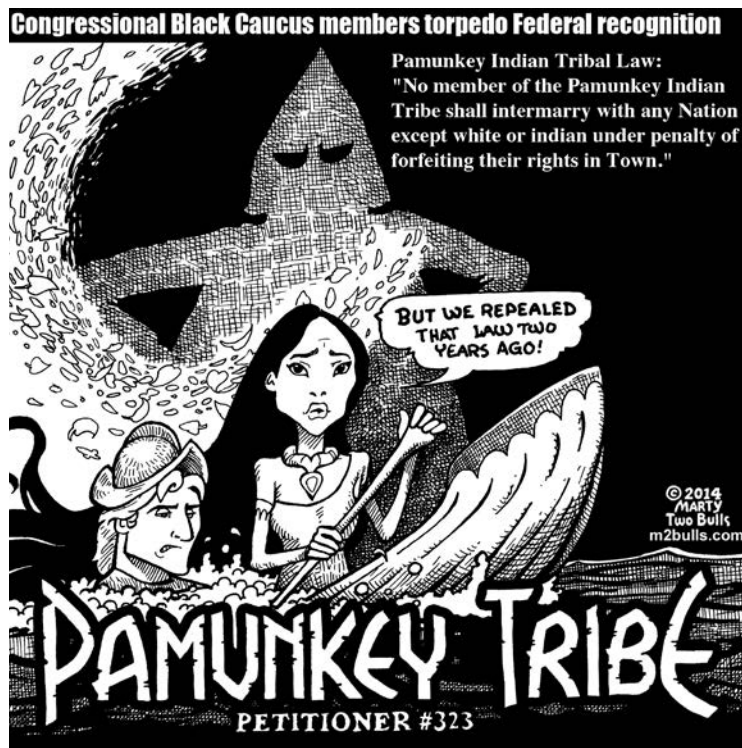
We have many good people in our communities. But it sometimes takes something to wake them up and make them realize that they have the power and ability to effect change. Our youth today mimic the outside-world culture of gangs. There are even Native American gangs calling themselves "Native Gangster Blood"—which is just a way

of saying that they are Bloods and are against the Crips. It is mindless mimicry.

Our youth hunger for more—more than they get from homes that may be broken and parents who may be broken also. I would challenge the Elders to do something.

—Ken Bear Chief
Toppenish, Washington

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

POOR TRIBAL COLLEGE GRADUATION RATES

Despite receiving more than \$100 million annually in federal funding, the country's more than three dozen accredited and non-accredited tribal colleges graduate only 20 percent of their enrolled four-year students in even six years, according to a recent study by the nonprofit independent news site The Hechinger Report. That rate is one-third of the national average and half the rate of Native students at non-tribal schools, according to the Report.

CASINO EXPANSION TO DEBUT

The first phase of the expansion of the current \$30 million Wyandotte Casino in Oklahoma will open to the public on December 5. The expansion,

"Club 60 West," will feature a billiard area, a shuffleboard venue, a bowling alley and private party rooms. The second phase of the expansion, to be completed in February, will offer a VIP lounge, a new high slot area and a gift shop. "Our goal was to innovate, not duplicate," Wyandotte Nation Casino General Manager Gary Johnson told the *Neosho Daily News*.

EDITORIAL FOCUS ON SAND CREEK

The *New York Times* spotlighted the 150th anniversary of the Sand Creek Massacre of November 29, 1864 whereat federal troops killed nearly 200 Cheyenne and Arapaho women, children and older men, with an op-ed column written by Ned Blackhawk, the coordinator of the Yale Group

for the Study of Native Americans. "While the government has made efforts to recognize individual atrocities," Blackhawk wrote, "it has a long way to go toward recognizing how deeply the decades-long campaign of eradication ran."

A CHRISTMAS CAROL IN NAVAJO

Talibah Begay has recorded the classic Christmas carol "Santa Claus Is Coming to Town" in Navajo and posted her rendition on Facebook on November 18. Her version has garnered much positive reaction and even a marriage proposal. Other Christmas songs that have been translated into Native languages include "Jingle Bells" in Woodland Cree by Laura Burnouf, "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing" in Ojibwe by the Pine Family and "Silent

Night" in Arapaho by Grammy winner Jana Mashonee.

BINGO INITIATIVE SPURS CALIFORNIA LAWSUIT

The Santa Ysabel Band of Diegueno Mission Indians is fighting a lawsuit filed by the state of California to halt its online bingo efforts. In November, California Attorney General Kamala Harris filed suit against the Band, claiming that it was offering a "facsimile of bingo" to people not on tribal land, thereby violating its compact with the state. "The suit is intent on obstructing the rights and economic vitality afforded to federally recognized Indian tribes under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act," responded Cruz Bustamante, a spokesman for Santa Ysabel Interactive.

UPCOMING POW WOW

16TH ANNUAL AICRC POWWOW

12/6/14-12/7/14

AICRC

Laney College Gymnasium

900 Fallon St.

Oakland, CA

510-208-1870 x 305



A grass dancer walks around the circle at the 19th Annual 2014 Chumash Inter-Tribal Pow Wow on October 4 in Santa Barbara County.

DIEGO JAMES ROBLES



KIMBERLIE ACOSTA/ NATIVE AMERICAN MUSIC AWARDS, INC

Tha Tribe was one of many acts that performed at the Native American Music Awards in Salamanca, New York on November 14.

THE BIG PICTURE