



# Indian Country THIS WEEK FROM

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

## *A Letter from the Publisher*

*Shekóli.* When Kevin K. Washburn, Assistant Secretary — Indian Affairs sat with the editorial board of Indian Country Today Media Network last fall, he told us that President Obama’s trip to the Standing Rock Sioux Nation earlier in the year had intensified the President’s interest in Indian country. The President’s recent budget proposal for fiscal year 2016 supports that assertion with a 12-percent increase over 2015 for Interior’s spending on Indian Affairs and Indian Education programs.

A critical change, aside from the much-needed increase in spending, is the transfer of federally-funded tribal contract support costs from discretionary to mandatory lines in the budget. This technical budgetary maneuvering has major real-world implications. As described in this week’s feature article on contract support cost payments, Indian nations spend millions of dollars on health-related and social programs for their citizens each year. By treaty rights and by law, the federal government is obligated to pay the nations for providing these essential services. However, during times of budgetary conflict or during the sequester of 2013, tribal nations have not been reimbursed and have been forced to sue for reparations. Even worse, less wealthy nations that



did not have the means to pay for services upfront were forced to cut spending with deleterious results.

The new budget calls for a guaranteed commitment of funds for the next three years. The Obama budget is now before Republican-controlled Congress. At this point Native health experts are uncertain as to whether the new proposal will pass muster. Of course, the reality is that all federal funding of the United States government’s fiscal responsibility towards its treaty obligations and contracts with our nations should be mandatory. The current proposal is a small but significant step in that direction. During the weeks ahead,

ICTMN will monitor the negotiations to see if in fact Washington is finally ready to start making good on its legally-bound agreements.

*Na kiir wa,*

Ray Halbritter

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### Expanding Christian Empire and Father Junipero Serra

*Steve Newcomb digs deeper into the possibility of priest Junipero Serra becoming a Catholic Saint.*

Quite a number of articles of late have asked whether it's a good idea for Pope Francis to declare Franciscan priest Junipero Serra to be a Catholic saint. Most of the discussion has remained narrowly focused on Serra personally. Discussion of the overall system of Spanish Catholic imperialism that Serra represented and worked to advance has been avoided, particularly by the Catholic Church.

The Catholic Church prefers that people think of Serra as an agent of religious

“evangelism,” and not as an agent of dehumanizing religious imperialism. No doubt the Catholic Church Serra does not want Serra to be thought of as an agent of what Pope Alexander VI called “the Christian empire” and “dominations.”

Archbishop Gomez of Los Angeles recently published an article in which he claimed that “Padre Serra’s canonization will be a beautiful day” for the United States.” He continued: “It will be a day to remember that our state [California] and our country [the United States]—and all the nations of the Americas—are born from the Christian mission and built on Christian foundations.” Archbishop Gomez is not being forthright about a key fact:

What he is referencing is a “foundation” of Catholic and Christian imperialism and what Pope Alexander VI called in the Latin language “imperia et dominationes.”

The dominion (right of domination) claimed by the Spanish Empire, based on the grant of the papal bulls, passed to the Mexican Empire when it won its independence from Spain, and passed from Mexico to the American Empire by the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. The imperial right of domination is deemed to pass from one empire to the next by the rules of political succession, and this is the context of Pope Francis’s decision to declare Junipero Serra to be a saint of the Roman Catholic religious empire. <http://bit.ly/1vuY08> ☞

### Unpacking the Republican Clown Car

*Steve Russell and Cousin Ray discuss the Republican clown car leading up to U.S. coronations.*

I have too much self-preservation instinct to crash the Iowa Freedom Summit convened by Citizens United (the organization that lends its name to the SCOTUS decision that upholds the right of corporate people to spend unlimited political money) and funded by the Koch Brothers. So, I weaseled out by sending my Republican cousin Ray Sixkiller.

Cousin Ray has been really down for the last two election cycles because they had the same losing dynamic. In 2008, the Republican Primary clown car disgorged every not-McCain until McCain was driven so far to the right he could never get

out of the ditch for the general election.

The 2012 cycle repeated the same for the not-Romneys. The former Massachusetts Governor was particularly subjected to humiliation because every other candidate led in polls at one time or another and some of them were objectively not fit to carry Romney’s briefcase.

“Look at the quality of the candidates who skipped the Kochfest,” Ray crowed. “Jeb Bush, Mitt Romney, Bobby Jindal, Rand Paul, and Marco Rubio. There’s five serious guys who didn’t step into the herding chute for the clown car.” He referred to the history of radical right Iowans braving blizzards to hand caucus victories to candidates unpalatable to ordinary conservatives, let alone the great middle that swings U.S. elections.

Ray is of the opinion that a robust

Republican debate in the primaries can avoid a Hillary Clinton coronation. I think he may be right, but I’m skeptical that the Republicans can keep the debate on the rails.

Americans fought a revolution to end coronations in North America and royalty is still a powerful negative meme. Ray is right that even if the Republican field were just limited to the five major candidates who had the good sense to skip the Iowa Freedom Summit, it could no longer be dismissed as “the clown car.”

Sec. Clinton’s best bet is if she gets at least one serious Democratic Primary opponent who can do more than play Washington General to her Harlem Globetrotter. Funny things happen on the way to U.S. coronations. <http://bit.ly/1vuY08> ☞

### Spiritual Unity Can Save Sacred Apache Land From Mining

*The fight around mining in Oak Flat is a spiritual battle according to Michael Paul Hill.*

For several years I have been attending the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in New York City. And during those years I have come to learn and understand how corporations and governments behave toward Indigenous Peoples when it comes to our homelands. While statements to governments were made at the Permanent Forum on behalf of Apaches regarding

Oak Flat, Agent Orange contamination, genocide, militarization of our aboriginal Apache lands, and many human and cultural rights abuses, it appears the U.S. government was not listening.

The San Carlos Apache Tribe has also participated in the UNPFII, and in 2011 adopted the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples that contains protections for indigenous spiritual and cultural rights. Since I had a spiritual experience at Oak Flat, I feel obligated to do what I can to defend this holy and sacred place. It is my personal duty to help stop Resolution Copper Company from mining and de-

stroying Oak Flat.

Oak Flat is holy and sacred not only because of spiritual and cultural traditions, but because it nourishes the Nnee with foods and herbal medicines that are only found there. Certain places contain spiritual and cultural sustenance where healing and nourishment is provided for our whole being. This is true for all peoples worldwide. Our bodies are made perfect for the environment we come from, and our Apache homelands have sustained and nourished our people for generations. Resolution Copper Company will destroy this. <http://bit.ly/18RHB1c> ☞

## Keene: Nike Gets It Right; Collaborates With O'odham Designer BY DR. ADRIENNE KEENE

A couple of weeks ago, photos surfaced on sneaker blogs showing Nike's new Superbowl shoe collection, a set of shoes featuring "desert colors" and, most strikingly, an O'odham "man in the maze" design positioned prominently on the tongue of the shoe. None of the blogs had any additional information, and I couldn't find a press release from the company, so I held my breath and readied an angry open letter in my mind. I tweeted out looking for info, but no one had any leads. I started to wonder if it was a photoshop mock up, and not an actual shoe that would be in stores.

But, to my surprise and delight, it looks like Nike actually did it right. The shoes are not an unfortunate appropriation, instead they are the awesome result of a collaboration between Nike and Salt River tribal member Dwayne Manuel. The press release states of the designs and collaboration:

"To honor the location of this year's big game, Nike enlisted the talents of O'odham tribe member Dwayne Manuel, MFA, who specializes in drawing and graffiti art and resides in the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian community in southern Arizona. Manuel's design for Nike Sportswear's new Desert Journey collection interprets two traditional symbols, the war shield and the whirlwind, which together reflect Manuel's heritage and illustrate the modern competitor's long, battle-filled journey to reach the final destination."

They go on to describe the inspiration behind the designs, and the traditional meanings behind each design choice, including the The Man of the Maze:

"The Man of the Maze, a traditional design not created by Manuel, but one he agrees is a meaningful symbol to stand alongside his work, is also incorporated on a few of the styles in the collection. The Maze signifies the path of life, and how each turn represents the impact of everything that happens, with the Sun in the center and a figure representing the O'odham people." <http://bit.ly/1AwIzvt> 🌀

## Bronson Koenig on Native Mascots: 'People Think It's Ok to Make Fun of Us'

University of Wisconsin point guard Bronson Koenig, who recently stepped into the starting role, is getting press for his steady guidance of the team—and now, his statements regarding Native American mascots.

Koenig, Ho-Chunk, told Jeff Potrykus of the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel that he is "disappointed" that Native mascots are still in use. "I feel like ... with the mascots and all that stuff I think people think it's OK to make fun of us," he said. "I feel sometimes like we are lowest of the low, among the minorities. ... And when a Native American kid sees that growing up and sees the disrespect, it lowers their self-esteem and puts them in a lower place in society. It's just not a good feeling."

Koenig's views reflect what studies have shown. A 2013 report from the National Congress of American Indians stated that "when exposed to these [Native mascot] images, the self-esteem of Native youth is harmfully impacted, their self-confidence erodes, and their sense of identity is severely damaged. Specifically, these stereotypes affect how Native youth view the world and their place in society, while also affecting how society views Native peoples."

Koenig specifically addressed the controversy over the Washington Redskins. "Is our skin red?" he asked. "Would it be OK for the Kansas City Negroes or the Blackskins? That's not OK at all." Koenig has little patience for the argument, relentlessly advanced by the team's fans and owner, that the name "honors" Native Americans. "It's honoring them? It's not racist?" he asked. "How are you going to say that when you're not a Native American?"

On the court, Koenig has been a more-than-able replacement for Traevon Jackson, who went out with an ankle injury in Wisconsin's loss to Rutgers on January 11. In the five games since, the Badgers haven't lost, and have improved from #7 to #5 in the national rankings. <http://bit.ly/1AwIzvt> 🌀

## 'We Just Want to Be Treated Equal': AIM Protests Racism at Civic Center BY SIMON MOYA-SMITH

The American Indian Movement held a peaceful protest outside the Rushmore Plaza Civic Center in Rapid City, South Dakota, on February 4 to raise awareness of several racially motivated incidents that have occurred there recently.

On January 24, a group of 57 Native American students were harassed at the civic center when unnamed suspects poured beer on them and told the students to "go back to the reservation."

Activist Cody Hall told Tessa Thomas of Rapid City Fox News affiliate KEVN

that they were there to bring attention to the incident and to encourage equality.

"We just want to be treated equal," he said. "We come here; we have people that live here; we're in it with society here. We're not asking for any better treatment or less treatment. It's just we need to be seen equal, and we're not."

Several weeks after the incident with the students, a Native American woman said she, too, was the victim of a racially motivated attack at the civic center.

Kristen Hunter said she and several friends were at the civic center on February 2 to watch a bull riding competition when someone threw a beer at her from behind. The beer also struck sev-

eral Lakota elders sitting near Hunter.

Hunter had been filming a rider at the time of the attack and posted the video to her Facebook wall. Police probed the incident, but have not been able to name any suspects.

Rushmore Plaza Civic Center Executive Director Craig Baltzer told Tom Griffith of the Rapid City Journal there are theories the person who threw the beer at Hunter was a copy-cat – someone who is aware of the ongoing investigation regarding the beer hurled at the Native American students last month.

Baltzer said he has added more security at the civic center on weekends due to the recent increase of harassments.

<http://bit.ly/16I29IH> 🌀

## Beloved Native American Is Victim of Hit-And-Run

BY SIMON MOYA-SMITH

Police want to know who struck a Denver-based Native American man with their car and then left him in the street wounded and vulnerable.

Isaac Wak Wak, 71, who is of the Colville Tribe of Washington, was leaving the Denver Western Stock Show late on January 25 when he became the victim of a hit-and-run. The driver hit the brakes for a moment after striking Wak Wak and then fled, according to witnesses.

“We heard the screech, the thunk and then McKala [said], ‘Call 911,’” witness Karen Nickle told Kent Erdahl of Denver Fox News affiliate KDVR. McKala is Nickle’s daughter.

“When I did get into the street I could see the car,” Nickle said. “And then you heard it switch gears and it left.”

The mother and daughter were the first on the scene and stayed with Wak Wak as he lay in the street. They directed traffic away from him until first responders arrived.

Wak Wak’s sister, Diane Yankton, invited the pair to meet the man they likely saved at his hospital bed. She referred to the pair as “little angels.”

“If it wasn’t for them he could have gotten injured even more,” Yankton told KDVR. “They’re like little angels, you know, when they walked into the hospital room I just said, ‘You two are the ones who actually took care of him. You saved him, you protected him from other cars running into him because he was just laying there in the dark.’”

More than a week later, police have still been unable to identify the driver.

Wak Wak, who suffered broken arms and legs and a broken pelvis, said from his hospital bed he cannot understand how someone could hit a person with their car and then drive off. <http://bit.ly/1v2gwNo> 📱

## 40 Years in, Manitoba Apologizes to First Nations for Hydropower Dam Flooding

It took more than 40 years, but finally on January 20 the premier of Manitoba apologized to Pimicikamak Cree Nation for flooding its lands for the Jenpeg hydroelectric dam.

Known as Cross Lake First Nation, the band had protested Manitoba’s periodic flooding of its lands with a six-week occupation last year starting on October 16, 2014, CBC News reported. The system inundates 25 square miles of the Pimicikamak’s traditional lands, damaging valuable habitat, the band said in a press release quoted by CBC News. And on January 20 the province finally acknowledged the damage on a trip to the fly-in-only community located 326 miles north of Winnipeg.

“The effects are more than just those on land and water and on plants and animals,” Premier Greg Selinger said, according to the Canadian Press. “We recognize that hydro development can affect the cultural identities of aboriginal peoples because of the close relationship of aboriginal peoples to the land and resources.”

The October protest ended when the province and Manitoba Hydro, the dam operator, agreed to negotiate revenue sharing, plan for environmental cleanup and help supplement the First Nation’s own electricity bills, which can reach \$600 per month in the coldest time of year, the Canadian Press said. (The hydro station does not provide electricity to the First Nation.) That is also when the province agreed to deliver the formal apology.

“Looking back at what has happened, and on the effects on aboriginal communities in Manitoba, I wish now on behalf of the Government of Manitoba to express my sincere apology to aboriginal peoples affected by hydro development,” said Selinger at a ceremony attended by 200 people from Cross Lake.

While the apology was welcomed, Cross Lake Chief Catherine Merrick said that more was needed.

“The apology does not fix the past. It does not even fix the present,” Merrick said, according to the Canadian Press. <http://bit.ly/1D2FT8g> 📱

## North Dakota Natives Win Eagle Feather Fight for Graduating Students

After conversations with the Native American Parent Committee, a more than 20-year-old policy at Grand Forks Public Schools is changing and Native American students will be allowed to wear eagle feathers on their graduation tassels.

“We are in unanimous consensus that our district’s high schools will allow Native American students, who have earned the eagle feather honor, to wear their eagle feather attached to their cap’s tassel during high school graduation ceremonies,” says a letter to the committee from Dr. Larry P. Nybladh,

superintendent of schools.

The social media world was happy about the change in policy as well. Leah Thaldorf @leahjoy0523 said: “Thank you GF public schools for being willing to learn about why eagle feathers are sacred and a cultural right #LetTheFeathersFly.”

Others were proud of the Natives who stood up and made it happen. Dani @xodanix3 said: “#LetTheFeathersFly is another example of Natives making things happen. When you stand up for what you believe, you can make change.”

In his letter, Nybladh even commented about the learning process. “The input received during the Native American Parent Committee meeting on January 14, 2015, regarding the sacred his-

tory, symbolism, and origin of the eagle feather is useful. In a follow-up meeting with my administrative staff who were in attendance at the meeting, I understand the meeting was an opportunity for constructive and meaningful dialogue.”

Before the decision was even made Tracy Jentz, Grand Forks Public Schools Communications Coordinator, told ICT-MN that the “administration has a greater understanding of the eagle feather” after meeting with the committee. She said the meeting was “very informative” and that the parent committee provided information “about the significance and history of the eagle feather” that administrators had not been aware of before.

<http://bit.ly/1vuSuEv> 📱



### Tribal Members Drive Away With First License Plates

*Tribal license plates have arrived*

Citizens of the Chickasaw Nation can now drive away with a piece of history on or above their bumpers.

Last year, the Nation signed a compact with Oklahoma state to sell its first tribal license plates. And on Monday, tribal members stood in line to buy them.

Elder Pauline Brown, 84, told The Ada News that she was “proud” to purchase one of the first license plates in her county. “It shows how far we have advanced [as a tribe]. Now, wherever we travel, it tells others what tribe we are. We are very proud of our tribe,” Brown said. <http://bit.ly/1D2Fbrp>

### Traverse City Natives Get Recognition

*No Columbus Day here*

Traverse City, Michigan has never officially recognized Columbus Day, according to Interlochen Public Radio, but now the city will celebrate Indigenous Peoples Day.

The day will be celebrated on the second Monday in October, the same day as Columbus Day, a federal holiday. The purpose of this celebration will be to celebrate all Native Americans in the Traverse City area. City Commissioner Jim Carruthers told IPR that showing appreciation for the city’s Native American history is overdue. “We’re always talking about what the white man has done around here but I’ve always scratched my head about why we ... don’t have some sort of significant historical monu-

ment that represents Native American history ... the people that were here first,” he said. <http://bit.ly/16I4Bic>

### Mount Polley Breach Report Faults Tailings Pond Design Flaws

*4 billion gallons of waste*

A recent report has received First Nations reactions for its findings that design flaws had led to a tailings pond breach at Mount Polley mine last August that sent four billion gallons of mining waste gushing into British Columbia salmon habitat.

A three-person panel convened by the B.C. government two weeks after the disaster “concluded that evidence indicates the dominant contribution to the failure resides in the design,” the experts said in a statement on January 30.

The experts said the design did not take into account the instability of sediment layers underneath the retaining wall, a failure likened to a “loaded gun,” according to CBC News. The breach occurred when the embankment foundation failed in a layer of glacial sediment, the panel said in its statement. Making the slope of the embankment too steep was like “pulling the trigger” in causing the August 4 breach, CBC News reported. Moreover, the volume of water was not an issue when it came to the dam break, though it did influence the amount that flowed into the waterways, the report said. <http://bit.ly/1KvFegb>

### Indian Housing Projects Get \$5 Million in 2014

BY MARK FOGARTY



# No Health Insurance?

“1 in 6 young adults are real ill, not just colds and flu but the real deal.”

Getting insured is easy.

Contact your local Indian health program, visit [www.healthcare.gov/tribal](http://www.healthcare.gov/tribal), or call 1-800-318-2596 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. (TTY: 1-855-889-4325)



Listen to the full song: <http://go.cms.gov/itslikethat>



U.S. Department of the Interior  
Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations

## LAND CONSOLIDATION EFFORTS UNDERWAY

The Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations, created to implement part of the **Cobell Settlement**, is offering fair market value to landowners for voluntarily restoring fractional land interests to tribes, which helps ensure that Indian lands **stay in trust**.

- Many landowners have already been paid.
- The Program has successfully concluded transactions worth more than \$330 million, restoring the equivalent of nearly 541,000 acres of land to tribal governments.
- All sales are voluntary, but landowners will only have 45 days to accept

**Landowners are encouraged to contact the U.S. Department of the Interior to learn about eligibility and to ensure that their contact information is up to date.**

**Please call the Trust Beneficiary Call Center Today:**

**1-888-678-6836**

More information is available from your local Fiduciary Trust Officer, or on the web: [www.doi.gov/buybackprogram](http://www.doi.gov/buybackprogram)

### *A dozen projects benefit*

About a dozen American Indian housing projects have received funding of more than \$5 million from the Federal Home Loan Bank System in 2014. The money is slated to help build or rehab more than 300 units of housing.

The funding is from the Affordable Housing Program of the 12 district banks of the FHLBS. The district banks are required to spend at least 10 percent of their profits on affordable housing. Each district bank makes its awards separately. Each development must be sponsored by one of the district bank's members (which are typically banks, credit unions, or savings institutions). <http://bit.ly/1EJ0tL9> ☞

### **Racism Sucks, Says Winnipeg Football**

### **Coach With T-shirt Campaign**

*Racism needs to be sacked. Now.*

That's the message North Winnipeg Nomads' head football coach Jeffrey Bannon wants to send after Winnipeg was named Canada's most racist city toward Aboriginals in a recent issue of Maclean's magazine.

"Our standpoint is that racism sucks and we won't tolerate it," Bannon told CTV News. He designed a t-shirt and hoodie, one in his team's colors, green and yellow, and another that's black and white to help combat racism. The t-shirts are on sale on the team's website with the choice of two captions, 'Racism Sucks' and 'Keep Calm and Stop Racism.' <http://bit.ly/1KvHi7G> ☞

### **One Million Sold — Platinum Certified**

*A musical icon*

R. Carlos Nakai, the most commercially-successful Native American flutist of all time, hit a milestone recently when his album Canyon Trilogy sold its millionth copy, thus earning Platinum certification from the Recording Industry Association of America. According to Nakai's label, Canyon Records, Nakai is the first American Indian artist to achieve a platinum certification playing Native American music.

To mark the occasion, Canyon Records has released Canyon Trilogy Deluxe Platinum Edition, which contains the original Canyon Trilogy material plus five previously-unreleased tracks. <http://bit.ly/1zSBLa2> ☞

### **Two Tribal Nations Sign Land Buy-Back Agreements**

*Total nears 20 nations*

The Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe and the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation recently signed agreements with the U.S. Department of the Interior as part of the Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations according to Interior Deputy Secretary Michael Connor.

This is the latest step in the Interior's work to reduce land fractionation and strengthen tribal sovereignty across Indian country. The Buy-Back Program through Interior has reached cooperative agreements with nearly 20 sovereign tribal nations. <http://bit.ly/1yNSsiK> ☞

# CSC Payments Might Be Moving

Obama Wants Tribal Contract Support Cost Payments Non-Discretionary

BY ROB CAPRRIOSO

**Bottom Line:** *If the GOP-controlled Congress can agree, federal funding for tribal contract support costs for three years starting in 2017 will be moved to “mandatory non-discretionary” within the federal budget.*

In a dramatic change of policy that is likely to be welcomed by tribes, the White House is seeking to turn the money tribes annually spend on federally mandated health and social services for tribal citizens into a temporary entitlement.

Under the plan, released February 2 as part of the president’s budget request to Congress, a large portion of federal funding for tribal contract support costs (CSC) for three years starting in 2017 will be moved from the “discretionary” to “mandatory non-discretionary” column within the federal budget.

If the idea passes muster with the GOP-controlled Congress, it will mean that the negative impacts of federal budgetary sequestration in recent years on tribes will no longer impact the tribal CSC bottom line, according to members of the Indian Health Service (IHS) CSC Workgroup. Group members believe that stabilizing this funding will better ensure continuity of essential programs and services to tribal citizens.

“On the national scale, the president’s proposal for [the Indian Health Service] alone would make CSC funding reoccurring and mandatory in the amount of \$800 million in the first year, \$900 million in year two and \$1 billion annually in year three,” said Aaron Payment, chairperson of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and a member of the IHS CSC Workgroup. The Bureau of Indian Affairs would see more modest mandatory CSC appropriations under the plan, but still vast increases over current levels.

Payment, who serves on the Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes and the National Congress of American Indians, added that this CSC funding would not be subject to cuts if tribes do not spend all their funds in a single fiscal cycle.

IHS Acting Director Yvette Roubideaux has told tribal leaders that the plan will not start earlier than 2017 in order to allow for tribal consultation and for the enactment of necessary congressional authorizing legislation.

For years, tribes have been forced to spend tens of millions of dollars on critical health and social services, despite federal law and legal court rulings that have said these costs are supposed to be paid by the federal government due to its constitutionally- and legally-mandated trust responsibility to tribal citizens.

Tribes that could afford to do so have ended up racking up millions of dollars in



*Obama budget proposes to turn tribal contract support cost payments into a temporary entitlement.*

debt that is supposed to be reimbursed by the federal government, but which has seldom happened. Tribes that could not afford to offer the services did not, and their citizens suffered for it.

In recent years, hundreds of tribes have sued the federal government for reimbursement of unpaid CSC. Legal settlements have been happening more frequently of late after some intense legal negotiations between tribes and the Obama administration throughout 2013-2014. Tens of millions of dollars have been reimbursed in recent months after the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs asked Roubideaux to negotiate in good faith.

A temporary solution to the federal government’s lack of CSC payments was passed by Congress last year after the White House and Congress agreed to pay

all CSC for tribes for the current fiscal year. Yet tribes soon found that this promise was a double-edged sword because the full payment of CSC meant that the funds for other services offered by the federal government to tribes, mainly from the Departments of Health and Human Services and the Interior, were cut as budgetary trade-off.

Before that latest quagmire, tribal leaders in 2012-13 had been battling with Obama administration officials, including Roubideaux and the Office of Management and Budget, who offered unpopular plans to dramatically cap CSC payments to tribes--no matter their need and despite Supreme Court rulings that called for full reimbursement. Congress members from both sides of the aisle called out the administration’s actions here, which led to the temporary solution of 2014 that ended up shortchanging other tribal programs in exchange for CSC reimbursement.

Lloyd Miller, a lawyer with Sonosky Chambers who has successfully represented many tribes that have sued the federal government to obtain CSC settlements, says tribal leaders have not let up in demanding that both tribal programming and CSC payments be honored.

“Last year’s reprogramming likely made people [both in the administration and in tribes] realize that the threat to ongoing operations by this mandatory funding obligation is not theoretical, but real, and must be taken seriously,” Miller said.

Geoffrey Strommer, an Indian affairs lawyer with Hobbs Straus, said it is unclear at this point whether the Republican Congress will sign off.

Miller is hopeful. “Adding any kind of mandatory funding is swimming uphill in Congress, especially in the face of budget hawks. But then again, this is a Congress that has given pretty bipartisan support for CSC funding,” he said.

A key factor will be how the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) scores the plan in determining how much it will cost the federal government. <http://bit.ly/1DJL4Iu>

[bit.ly/1DJL4Iu](http://bit.ly/1DJL4Iu)



# The Need for Commission on Native Youth

Sen. Heitkamp Discusses Her Bill, Gaining Traction, and Improving Life for Children **BY VINCENT SCHILLING**

**Bottom Line:** Sen. Heidi Heitkamp (D-ND) introduced a bill in 2014 co-sponsored with Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) that never made it through Senate, but the Commission on Native Youth Bill is picking up momentum in 2015.

U.S. Senators Heidi Heitkamp (D-ND) and Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), recently reintroduced their comprehensive bi-partisan plan to find solutions to the complex challenges facing Native American children throughout Indian country.

This legislation, which received unanimous support last year in the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs yet did not pass through the Senate would create a national Commission on Native Children to conduct an intensive study into issues facing Native youth – such as high rates of poverty, staggering unemployment, child abuse, domestic violence, crime, substance abuse, and few economic opportunities – and make recommendations on how to make sure Native children are better taken care of and given the opportunities to thrive.

In a conversation with ICTMN, Senator Heitkamp spoke about her bill which is already gaining traction in 2015 with 20 co-sponsors and support from Senator Byron Dorgan (ret.) the founder of the Center for Native American Youth in Washington D.C.

**You received unanimous support from the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs last year. It didn't go past the Senate but it has gained some new ground.** We are really excited to reintroduce it. One of the commitments I have made, as I pushed federal officials when I was the (North Dakota) State Attorney General to do more and better things for Indian children, I realized when I came here,



Sen. Heitkamp: "No. 1 - every child has value and worth in America."

this is now my job. I cannot give up until we see changes that we need so that Native children in Indian country have opportunities for education, housing and healthcare that every child in this country deserves and needs.

We know that these are children who frequently suffer from high poverty rates, high crime rates and a lot of despair. We think that there are new strategies that

we can deploy that offer new hope and we are very excited to get to work with a commission, but we need to get this commission bill passed.

**Your communications director Abigail McDonough told me how much you are willing to get out there and get your hands dirty, and that a lot of your Native American constituents know you.**



I have spent a lot of time in Indian country over the years, both as tax Commissioner - I did one of the first negotiations on a tax agreement with Standing Rock. When I was Attorney General, I worked with the U.S. attorney on what we needed to do as it related to domestic violence. I feel passionately with what happened in the Violence Against Women Act. I said I would not vote for any VAWA - as passionate as I am on that issue - unless it also protected Native American women.

These are long-standing concerns and issues and I think when we adopt a policy in our country and in our state then all of our kids do better.

One of the things that we are really trying to do is make this a national concern and a national issue. The president has been an ally on this and I know how passionately he feels coming to Standing Rock, having spent time with him and then watching as he did the Native American leader Summit and the impact talking to the kids at Standing Rock had on he and Michelle.

We have no better ally. This is a president who really gets it and we want to have his legacy be 'changes that actually result in improvement for Native American kids.'

**The president certainly has shown his support for Native American youth. Do you feel as though you have alliance with the president's intentions?**

Absolutely, he gathered together the relevant cabinet members to talk about Indian education. That is not good enough because you can build the best educational system, but if that young person lives in a home where there is violence or addiction or 13 people sleeping in a two-bedroom house, doesn't have enough food to eat, doesn't have health-care or hasn't had a good start because his or her mom did not have good prenatal care, the best school in the world can help but it certainly doesn't get to the root cause of the problem.

I think we are learning more and more about brain development, more and more about historic trauma and we are smarter about strategies that could be deployed that actually would lead to

hope and change. I am anxious to see those strategies deployed and discussed by the commission.

We have been doing some work that I started in the Indian affairs committee on historic trauma building on the Department of Justice report and we have been looking at this from the scientific basis. We all know that when bad things happen to us it has an effect on our future - but what we are finding out in terms of brain research is that it actually changes the chemical makeup and the ability for the brain to function. There are different kinds of strategies and therapies that can be deployed to treat trauma - if we identify that and recognize it - whether it is historic trauma including cultural changes, or whether it is one-on-one trauma - we are really learning that Native languages and building back pride in your heritage - all of those things are going to have a huge impact as well.

We don't know it all. For too often in Washington what we have done is we keep doing the same thing over and over again and thinking that we solved the problem. For people who say why should we do this? I would tell you, No. 1 - every child has value and worth in America. Beyond that, we signed a treaty and we said we will help you with healthcare, we will help you with education and we will help you with opportunity.

We have not always been a good partner with sovereign nations so we are really looking forward to also having a discussion about building on most treaty rights so that we make sure that we are living up to our obligations.

**You've called your bill a bipartisan bill. I've heard the term working from the middle regarding this bill can you explain?**

I think if we simply start finger wagging and talking about 'you didn't do this,' or 'you didn't do that,' and instead we start from the middle and identify this as a problem - we can say 'here is a problem, let's think of new solutions.' This isn't something that anyone in Congress should walk away from.

Interestingly enough, a lot of times


we get involved in things where you can argue with state governments but because of treaty obligations and because of the unique relationship the federal government has with tribal governments, i.e. many times being the major law enforcement agency - we have a unique responsibility.

I tell folks where we need federal law enforcement in North Dakota is on reservations. That's where they have major crime investigative responsibilities.

We've got to understand the importance of taking responsibility. This is what we are saying initially, 'let's take responsibility, but let's not do the same old thing that we have always done. Let's not go into the room and start pointing fingers, let's change things. I have seen - working in the middle - dramatic changes in public policy that have effect whether it is tobacco control policies that have reduced the rates of smoking dramatically in my lifetime, whether it is taking a look at the Violence Against Women Act that has dramatically reduced the instances of violence against women - where it has been effective because it has not been effective in Indian country, because Indian women have not been protected in the past - I have seen where coming together for a good cause can make a difference.

But it cannot start from a negative point; it has to start from a positive, hopeful, point if we want to get something done. That's what we believe the commission does - and the great thing is we have had a chance to name this commission for two great Indian education leaders, the Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children.

Alyce Spotted Bear was one of my favorite people in the whole wide world who had the wisdom beyond three years unfortunately we lost her way too early.

I'd like to believe because I know the spiritual nature of many Native people that this means something and that will give it a good start - having it named for two first Americans. <http://bit.ly/1AwDrHD> 

# Fighting for Oak Flats

Yavapai-Apache Chairman: 'Oak Flat Holy Sites are Central to Apache Spiritual Beliefs' BY GALE COUREY TOENSING

**Bottom Line:** *Yavapai Apache Nation chairman Thomas Beauty recently spoke about the sacredness of Oak Flats and his tribe's stance with the San Carlos Apache Tribe.*

The Yavapai Apache Nation opposes the Senate's giveaway of a parcel of public land in southeastern Arizona that includes Oak Flat, an Apache sacred site.

The sacred site is part of a 2,400-acre landscape with ancient petroglyphs that has nourished the Indigenous people of the area both spiritually and materially since time immemorial. The Senate voted to transfer the land to Resolution Copper, which plans to excavate a massive underground copper mine beneath the sacred site. Resolution is owned by Rio Tinto, an international mining giant that has been accused for years of human rights violations and environmental abuse. Last year, protesters and unions from around the world heavily criticized Rio Tinto over alleged lapses in safety leading to the deaths of 41 people and a string of claimed environmental abuses, *The Guardian* reported.

The land is part of San Carlos Apache Tribe's aboriginal territory. The Yavapai-Apache Nation stands with San Carlos in its efforts to protect Oak Flat, because the site is also sacred to the Yavapai-Apache Nation, Chairman Thomas Beauty told ICTMN.

"These places, like Oak Flat, are important to us religiously and their preservation and protection is critical for the survival of our culture, our people and our way of life," Beauty said. "The holy sites at Oak Flats are central to our Apache spiritual beliefs."

After years of trying to pass a bill to transfer the land through regular order – the process of debating, amending and voting on the bill in the Senate -- Senator John McCain (R-AZ) slipped the Southeast Arizona Land Exchange and Conservation Act of 2013 into the National

Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), the must-pass military spending bill. The Senate passed the NDAA on December 11 and President Obama signed off on it December 19. McCain's fellow Arizona legislator, Senator Jeff Flake (R-AZ), applauded its passage and assured the Indigenous people of the area they would still have access to the place their ancestors considered sacred for thousands of years – at least, for a while longer.

In exchange for the 2,400 acres Resolu-



*The Yavapai Apache Nation opposes the Senate's giveaway.*

tion Copper will give the federal government 5,000 acres of overgrazed grassland, burned out forests and dry riverbeds in various parcels of land scattered around the state. One parcel of 3,000 acres are in a flood plain and can't be mined, developed or inhabited.

The 2,400 acres are in the Tonto National Forest and were thought to be protected as public land, but the land will be transferred unless the opposition can pressure lawmakers to change the law.

In an email exchange with ICTMN, Chairman Beauty talked about the Yavapai Nation's relationship with the sacred Oak Flat and the Nation's solidarity with the San Carlos Apache Tribe in protecting it:

**What are your thoughts on the Senate land-swap, giving away 2,400 acres of public land, including the sacred Oak Flats?**

As a sovereign tribe, I share the same thoughts my late-grandpa and former

Chairman Theodore Smith Sr. and our former Chairman and Apache Culture Director Vincent Randall: You can't drink money, money won't save you when all resources are gone and depleted.

The Nation disagrees with the land-swap of 2,400 acres of public land that includes Apache sacred sites. In the United States, our constitution grants each and every one of us the freedom of religion. We speak about this freedom, yet the first people of the United States, the Native American population, are continuously denied the freedom of religion and the preservation of religious sites, such as Oak Flats. As Indian people, we hold many places as sacred and holy, and we are the stewards of the Earth, taking care of the environment just as the Creator gifted it to us, so we don't build churches and temples. However, these places, like Oak Flats, are important to us religiously and their preservation and protection is critical for the survival of our culture, our people and our way of life. The holy sites at Oak Flats are central to our Apache spiritual beliefs.

**San Carlos Apache Chairman Terry Rambler says he will continue to fight against the giveaway of the sacred land. Will you support his effort and if so, how will you do that?**

Chairman Rambler has reached out to Yavapai-Apache Nation and the Executive Office with an invitation to meet and discuss the next steps.

The Yavapai-Apache Nation will support Chairman Rambler and the San Carlos Apache Tribe in their efforts to protect Oak Flats.

As the Chairman of the Yavapai-Apache Nation, I feel it is my responsibility to my people, my elders and our future generations to always fight for the things that have been important to our people since time immemorial and to continue to fight for my people's future and the continued existence of our culture.

<http://bit.ly/1BY38MP> 📍

## Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort

Soaring Eagle Casino and Resort of Mt. Pleasant, MI is currently accepting applications for two Executive level positions: Comptroller and Director of Cage & Count.

For the full job description please see our website [www.soaringeaglecasino.com](http://www.soaringeaglecasino.com) or please contact Melissa Harnick at [mharnick@sagchip.org](mailto:mharnick@sagchip.org)

## Coeur d'Alene

Environmental Health Specialist for the Coeur d'Alene Tribe, Plummer, Idaho. B.S. degree in environmental health or environmental science or related field req. w/ min. 3 years professional experience. Open until filled. Salary DOE + benefits.

For complete application instructions and position description visit the Tribe's website at <http://www.cdatribe-nsn.gov/HR/HumanResources.aspx> or call 208/686-4068.

## INVITATION FOR STATEMENTS OF INTENT TO RESPOND TO BID

The Metlakatla Housing Authority (MHA) is planning a phased construction project to add six building lots for future construction of 20 multifamily rental housing units located in Metlakatla, Alaska. To fulfill Indian Preference Procurement Requirements under 24 C.F.R. § 1000.52(c)(1)(iii), MHA intends to limit the procurement to Alaska Natives or American Indians (AN/Al), AN/Al organizations or firms, and AN/Al-owned enterprises. By this Invitation, MHA solicits AN/Al Entities to submit Intents to Bid on a Request for Proposals.

Entities submitting Intents to Bid should be able to show that they qualify as AN/Al Entities, that they are appropriately licensed in Alaska to provide construction and related services, and that they will comply with Indian preference requirements for subcontractors, HUD regulations, and any applicable laws or rules. A successful intent to bid will show the AN/Al entity is able to perform the site development construction that will provide the roads, lots, and utilities necessary for future construction of 20 multifamily housing units. The site development project will require: blasting and dispose of approximately 16,000 cubic yards of muskeg and approximately 2,100 cubic yards of rock from blasting/trenching; installation of water and sewer lines; delivery of 41,000 cubic yards of material for fill in trenches, roads and building lots; construction of 800 linear feet of concrete roads; and, installation of 300 linear feet of culverts.

A preliminary scope of work to inform your intent to bid is available by contacting Gordon Severson at Michael L. Foster & Associates 13135 Old Glenn Highway, Suite 200, Eagle River, Alaska 99577, ph: (907) 696-6200, fax: (907) 696-6202, email: [ges@mfaalaska.com](mailto:ges@mfaalaska.com).

All Intents to Bid must be submitted to the Metlakatla Housing Authority, P.O. Box 59, Metlakatla, Alaska 99926, by February 26, 2015. Prospective bidders must submit an Intent to Bid in a sealed envelope clearly marked "Intent to Bid - Raven Loop Extension" or fax an Intent to Bid to the above listed number. Your Intent to Bid must include documentation satisfactory to show that you are an AN/Al Entity.

### ALASKA NATIVE AND AMERICAN INDIAN PREFERENCE

The work to be performed for this project is subject to Section 7(b) of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. § 450e) and 24 C.F.R. § 1000.52. MHA requires that to the greatest extent feasible: (i) preferences and opportunities for training and employment shall be given to Alaska Natives and American Indians and (ii) preferences in the award of contracts and subcontracts shall be given to Alaska Native / American Indian-owned economic enterprises. This Invitation to Bid is limited to Alaska Native and American Indian entities.

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*Desert Journey Air Trainer III PRM with Dwayne Michaels approved Oodham tribe maze design.*



*'We Just Want to Be Treated Equal.' AIM Protests Racism at Civic Center.*



*North Dakota Natives Win Eagle Feather Fight for Graduating Students.*



*Tribal Members Drive Away With First License Plates. Elder Pauline Brown, 84, who was a Chickasaw Nation Hall of Fame honoree in 2007, holds up one of the first license plates purchased by a tribal member.*

# Headlines from the Web

## CHINOOK NATION CHAIRMAN RAY GARDNER PASSES AWAY AT AGE 59

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

## FORT SILL APACHE LEADER PREDICTS FEDS WILL TOSS GAMING COMPACT THAT EXCLUDES TRIBE

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

## ST. MARKS RE-ELECTED CHAIR OF TRIBAL BUSINESS COUNCIL

<http://gfrtrib.com/1IbsNdF>

## SOME TRIBES SEE OPPORTUNITY IN MARIJUANA BUSINESS, OTHERS SEE DESTRUCTION

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

## HO-CHUNK PRESIDENT WON'T SEEK RE-ELECTION

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

## SUSANVILLE WOMAN BATTLES NAVAJO NATION OVER HUSBAND'S BODY

<http://bit.ly/1xtBC7d> 

## Upcoming Events

### INDIAN WATER 2015 FEBRUARY 12

Indian Water 2015 is a call to Indian country to help strategize a national water summit. This strategic session will consist of a facilitated dialog with tribal leaders on important opportunities, challenges and strategies which will be the building blocks for a National Tribal Water Summit.

**Location:** University of New Mexico's Science and Technology Park, 801 University Blvd. SE, Rotunda, Albuquerque, NM 87106

### NIEA CALL FOR ARTWORK FEBRUARY 13

The National Indian Education Association deadline for artists to submit work to be featured at the 46th Annual Convention in October fitting the theme "Building Education Nations through Traditional Foundations." With a focus on innovation, creativity, and culture within the theme.

**Contact:** Nancy Dewire at [ndewire@niea.org](mailto:ndewire@niea.org)

### TRIBAL GOVERNMENT E-COMMERCE CONFERENCE FEBRUARY 12-13

The Indian Legal Program at the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at Arizona State University will hold the inaugural conference to explore many issues surrounding the development of e-commerce in Indian country.

**Location:** Wild Horse Pass Hotel and

Casino, Gila River, Arizona

### EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN ADVISORY BOARD NOMINATIONS DUE FEBRUARY 20

Nominations are being sought for six individuals to serve on the Advisory Board for Exceptional Children through the Bureau of Indian Education.

**Location:** <http://bit.ly/1DJarms>

### NCAI EXECUTIVE COUNCIL WINTER SESSION FEBRUARY 23 - 26

The National Congress of American Indians will hold its 2015 Executive Council Winter Session in Washington, D.C. for tribal leaders of the 566 federally recognized tribes.

**Location:** Capital Hilton, 1001 16th St. NW, Washington, DC 20036

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

An Open Letter to Santa Barbara County Supervisor Peter Adam

Re: Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians  
Dear Supervisor Peter Adam,


I was disappointed to read your comments in a recent Lompoc Record article questioning the sovereign nation status of Native American tribes. It is unbelievable that such statements would be made in any context, but I am especially disappointed to see them come from an elected official. I appreciate and respect free speech and the freedoms that comes with being citizens of this great nation of ours, but publically espousing such misinformed views only serve to minimize the

very real and brutal history of repression that Native Americans have endured.

The ugly truth is that Native people were placed on reservations that look nothing like their original homelands. In regards to the Chumash Nation, I would remind you that their original land base spanned from Paso Robles to Malibu and inland to Bakersfield. But that is not the land they live on today. Instead, they were provided with 99 acres of land of which a large percentage was and remains a river bed.

As for the tribal sovereignty, I could not be more appalled by your statements. Long before European settlement changed

the landscape into what is now this great country of ours, tribes lived on their land as sovereign nations with unique and rich histories and customs. A long body of federal statutes and case law have recognized and upheld the sovereignty powers of Native American Nations.

As the chairman of the California Latino Legislative Caucus, I stand with the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians, and urge you to apologize for your hurtful remarks. 

*California Assemblymember Luis A. Alejo represents the 30th District (D-Watsonville) and is chair of the California Latino Legislative Caucus.*



## TOP NEWS ALERTS

From IndianCountryTodayMediaNetwork.com

### AG SECRETARY VILSACK VISITS CHOCTAW NATION ON 1-YEAR PROMISE ZONE ANNIVERSARY

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Thomas Vilsack toured the Choctaw Nation Food Distribution Center in Durant on January 29 as part of an overall progress report on the one-year anniversary of the tribe's designation as one of President Barack Obama's Promise Zones.

### WAS AMERICAN FOOTBALL INVENTED BECAUSE OF THE END OF THE INDIAN WARS?

Organized football in the U.S. was, in part, established when white men could no longer prove their virility by killing Native Americans, according to historians.

Sally Jenkins, author of *The Real All Americans* – a book about the origins of American football and the Carlisle Indian boarding school football team – said on Radiolab, an

investigative podcast, settlers who had fought in the Civil War traveled west to fight the Lakota, Apache, Cheyenne, and other Native American nations.

"Football is as old as the Celtic civilization. I mean, you can trace primal games of, you know, Danish invaders kicking skulls around the shores of England," she said.

### JUNEAU SCHOOLS SWAP OUT CONTROVERSIAL HISTORY BOOKS FOR NATIVES WHO ACTUALLY LIVED IT

Four books dealing with Native history that were supposed to be introduced during the spring semester have been taken off the elementary-school curriculum in Juneau in the wake of concerns about their accuracy and sensitivity.

The books, published by McGraw-Hill Education, were removed after a number of people in the community

said the volumes' fictional depiction of events such as boarding schools and the Trail of Tears did not do the tragedies justice, and in fact distorted them.

### STUDENT TURNS ENERGY INTO MONEY FOR JEMEZ PUEBLO


When Jemez Pueblo leaders in northwestern New Mexico wanted to weigh the benefits of building a renewable energy project, they joined a national program that pairs tribes with Native American college student researchers.

It was ideal timing for Northern Arizona University mechanical engineering graduate student Cherise John, who used the project for her thesis, which she will present this semester.

"The pueblo is looking to generate some sort of income, so part of what we did was create an economic analysis

for building a large-scale photovoltaic system," explained John, who worked on the project with students from New Mexico's Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute.

### NONPROFIT AIMS TO BOOST RESERVATION'S ECONOMY THROUGH ITS NATIVE ARTISTS' WORK

Over the next two years, Four Bands Community Fund, a community loan fund and nonprofit organization that primarily serves the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation in South Dakota, will implement a project to assist 100 Native Americans in building an art business by providing access to loan capital, equity injections, and professional development training. Participating artists and others will become the centerpiece of a cultural tourism marketing campaign designed to promote Cheyenne River as a destination. 



# How Did I Miss That?

*A Super Bowl Stalked by 'Deflategate' to Nude Hacks and Cousin Ray Already Missing SkyMall* BY STEVE RUSSELL

The “deflategate” saga stalked the NFL like a savage R\_\_\_\_\_n. “Deflategate” appeared to have beaten out “Ballghazi” and “airgate” for most common tag in the Google machine.

The always classy New York Post headlined a story about a New England Patriots locker room attendant disappearing from surveillance video to make a restroom visit with the footballs that later came up short of air, “Balls to the Stall.” The Post warned of “a tainted Supe” unless “the NFL finds its balls.”

\* \* \*

In other press conference news, People reported that Johnny Depp was a no-show at a presser in Tokyo for his new movie, *Mortdecai*. Asked to account for his absence, Depp claimed to have been attacked by a chupacabra.

\* \* \*

In other big business news, since the Mitt Romney campaign explained about “creative destruction,” we’re no longer shocked when a corporation or a venture capital outfit buys out a profitable business and shuts it down to re-deploy capital in a manner thought to be more profitable. That’s cold comfort to those who lose their jobs. The New York Times reported on one of these scenarios in a manner that reminded me the absent factory might also inconvenience consumers who are fond of the product.

ConAgra bought a little outfit in upstate New York called Red Wing and shut it down, costing Fredonia the 100 year old factory and over 400 jobs, but also causing the arch-conservative founder of National Review, William F. Buckley, to turn over in his grave. Buckley had,

during his life, endorsed Red Wing so strongly and publicly that the factory had awarded him a lifetime supply. The Times lamented that the circumstances of the factory closing caused “the head-on collision of this ardent free marketeer’s two great loves: capitalism and peanut butter.”

Buckley was buried with a jar of Red Wing in his casket. As his son Christopher put it, “no pharaoh went off to the next world better equipped.”

\* \* \*

The Wall Street Journal reported that SkyMall magazine has been chased into bankruptcy by legalization of electronic gadgets on airplanes. My cousin Ray Sixkiller was disconsolate. “Where else could I buy a cabinet that looks like King Tut’s sarcophagus for only \$949? What will it cost me to replace my Solafet Foot Tanner that I got for just \$229.99? And I’m still saving for that Seabreacher boat. \$85,000 doesn’t grow on trees in Oklahoma.” In response to my query, Ray explained that the Seabreacher looks like an orca and makes 55 mph on the water and 25 mph under the water.

\* \* \*

In other tech news, the drone war chickens appeared about to roost at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue when a drone crashed just outside the White House at three in the morning. Barack and Michelle Obama were on a state visit, but the First Daughters and their grandmother were home. The drone contained no explosives or biological weapons. This time. The perp turned out to be a government employee who called the Secret Service and confessed he had been “droning while intoxicated,” a de-

scription normally reserved for C-SPAN broadcasts of Congress.

\* \* \*

Danish journalist Emma Holten had a terrible experience with one of those nude photo hacks, and she responded in a manner that’s gone viral. The Guardian ran with the story and linked Holten’s video in its on line edition.

I’m not sure I agree with her response but I certainly agree with her analysis and I long ago quit judging victimized people as if they were the problem.

\* \* \*

Seth Davidowitz opined in The New York Times that people lie about sex. According to the General Social Survey, men over 18 claim to average doing the deed 63 times a year, using a condom 23 percent of the time. Women claim 55 times a year using a condom 16 percent of the time. So men claim to use 1.6 billion condoms a year but women claim only 1.1 billion. Fewer than 600 million condoms per year are sold.

\* \* \*

The Pentagon objected to remarks from Ambassador to Iraq Stuart Jones to Al Arabiya that 6,000 ISIS fighters have been killed by U.S. air strikes. Foreign Policy’s Kate Brannen reported that objection was “not necessarily because it was wrong, but because the military wants to avoid anything reminiscent of the famously inflated ‘body counts’ used during Vietnam.” She referred to the point when some wags added up all the body counts and arrived at a figure exceeding the number of Viet Cong that existed in the first place. <http://bit.ly/1xxszBE> ☞



*Baptiste Harris, 18, a Northern Cheyenne tribal member, takes a shot during the Lane Deer vs. Northern Cheyenne Tribal High School basketball game on Friday, Jan. 30, 2015.*

TOMMY ROBINSON

# THE BIG PICTURE