



Indian Country

THIS WEEK FROM

TODAY

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

A Letter from the Publisher

Shekóli. Indians and Alaska Natives make up 12 percent of the student population in Montana. Yet the state's teacher population is 98 percent white. In many states, these numbers would be a telltale sign that things were headed in the wrong direction for Natives in the school system. But public education in Montana has more than a few things going for it—namely, a stellar state school superintendent in Denise Juneau (Mandan and Hidatsa) and a statewide commitment to closing the achievement gap.

In this week's feature "Montana Steps Up for Native Students," *This Week From Indian Country Today* takes a close look at the initiatives adopted by the state and Indian nations to improve the learning experience of Native youth. The Indian Education for All program addresses the most glaring omissions in U.S. history courses (such as the idea that there was no history prior to 1492) by educating all students on the history and contemporary lives of Native nations in the area. As Superintendent Juneau relates, \$2 million of the state budget was earmarked in 2009 for the Nations to develop their own history and curriculum for the classroom. As for the teachers, Juneau says, "Once they caught the bug of Indian education and what it



meant and filled the gaps in their own knowledge, they were the ones who really moved IEFA forward."

Montana's director of Indian Education, Mandy Smoker Broaddus, says that the graduation rates for Native kids have crept up. There is no direct link to the IEFA program. But it makes sense that instructing children in the true history of their world would help strengthen their resolve to move forward. In fact, the curriculum nurtures every child by finally putting American history in context. When their turn comes to lead, we will all benefit. To that end, Montana's Office of Public Instruction is determined to share its materials (lessons, units, Common Core adaptations) with other school systems through its website.

Like well tended seeds in spring, these good ideas will surely grow and spread.

NA Ki wa,

Ray Halbritter

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Why Marijuana Is An Evil Weed

*Tribes are embracing the possibility of growing medical marijuana for profit. But **John Guenther** (Aleut), who has worked in inpatient adolescent treatment for Native American youth, child protection services and law enforcement, points out the dangers of cannabis:*

There are approximately 400 chemicals in marijuana that include the same toxins, irritants and carcinogens as cigarettes, according to the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA). The American Lung Association states that smoking marijuana causes a greater exposure to tar than smoking cigarettes.

Marijuana causes air pockets between the lungs, leading to respiratory concerns such as acute bronchitis. Marijuana also causes increased heart rate, which leads to heart disease. Marijuana also weakens your immune system. Marijuana has a chemical called delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol, which quickly passes to the blood stream and to the brain. Marijuana has been shown to actually shrink your brain, and studies show that marijuana smokers have a lower IQ than before they started getting high and suffer from memory loss as well as learning issues.

According to the Colorado Department of Health, pregnant women who smoke marijuana run a high risk of af-

fecting the unborn baby's brain development, as well as significantly reducing the child's birth weight.

The negative impacts of marijuana affect those on medical marijuana as well. This does not mean that there are not some positive impacts of medical marijuana use. But it has exploded beyond medical need. Many believe you can't become addicted, but the science shows otherwise. According to NIDA, marijuana is addictive, especially when you start to use it in your teens.

Marijuana is not a harmless herb. I have seen firsthand the destruction this drug causes. I urge tribes to take a stand against it. <http://bit.ly/1cLHBSi> ☞

The Problem With Maine

*Penobscot Tribal Elder **Donna Loring** cites a few of the more egregious examples of how Maine treats its tribes:*

When other minorities rally and complain, they get attention and usually manage to change things. Not so Indians in Maine. The state has failed to exterminate us by outright killing through biological warfare and burning villages. But it has never stopped trying.

Maine has kept the tribes in isolation from the rest of Indian country ever since

it became a state. It has done this by treating our tribal governments and us as though we do not exist. I always thought that once the true intent of this state's actions were shown, the good common people of Maine and the rest of the country would step in and stop it. It didn't happen.

It didn't happen when people threatened to shoot us during the negotiations over the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act because the state created so much fear around landowners losing their homes to Indians.

It didn't happen when we put a bill in the legislature to create the first Maine casino

back in 2003 and we were denied. Now there is a full-blown casino in Bangor, another in Oxford and most likely others on the way. The state stole our idea and made mega-bucks out of it.

It didn't happen recently when the tribes asked for a seat on the Maine Criminal Justice Academy Board of Trustees for the second time—and the state legislature's hearing committee voted against our inclusion again this year.

Being Indian in Maine is like living on an iceberg of racism. <http://bit.ly/1yNGw6t> ☞

Miss Indian World Say Goodbye

*Miss Indian World 2014-2015 **Taylor Christianna Thomas** (Shoshone-Bannock, Kicakpoo, Prairie Band Potawatomi) offers these thoughts upon relinquishing her title this past weekend:*

My year was filled with many amazing experiences. Idaho Rep. Michael K. Simpson recognized me in the *Congressional Record* of the 113th Congress, Second Session, on April 30. I met President Obama in January, at his speech in Boise, Idaho. After being picked out of the crowd, I had the opportunity to meet him, get a picture and have a brief conversation.

I spoke at the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) Youth Honoring luncheon, the National Indian Gaming Association (NIGA) conference, and the Northwest Intertribal Youth Conference (NIYC), where I had a session dedicated to Women's Leadership, and Youth Leadership. I also rode in a canoe for the first time while attending the Salmon Ceremony with the Tulalip people.

I rode horses in the Comanche Fair, the Shoshone-Bannock Festival, and the Pendleton Round Up parades. I enjoyed speaking at and attending conferences, powwows and gatherings in Idaho, Utah, California, Washington, Florida, Georgia, Montana, Oregon, Wyoming, Oklahoma,

Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico, Kansas, Alberta, and Saskatchewan.

One of the most valuable lessons I have learned throughout my reign is to always acknowledge everyone I meet, and to attend as many functions as possible, no matter the size, and to always do it with a smile. Going to powwows and other events gave me the chance to interact with large groups of people and lots of time for meeting people one-on-one.

We all breathe the same air, and drink the same water. Being humble is a powerful lesson I will continue to learn and practice. Being crowned Miss Indian World has been a dream come true. <http://bit.ly/1GtXQ3a> ☞

Russell Begaye Wins Navajo Election

BY ALYSA LANDRY

Russell Begaye easily won last week's presidential election on the Navajo Nation, defeating former president Joe Shirley, Jr. Begaye, a one-term tribal legislator, earned 25,745 votes, according to unofficial results. Shirley, who served back-to-back terms as the tribe's top elected leader from 2003 to 2011, won 15,439 votes.

About 30 percent of the Nation's 120,000 registered voters cast ballots in the April 21 election, which was delayed for five months and followed a lengthy legal battle over an election law that requires presidential candidates to speak fluent Navajo.

Moments after the tally, Begaye and vice president-elect Jonathan Nez addressed the uncertainty that has plagued the Nation since the primary election last August. Speaking to a crowd of voters gathered at the Navajo Sports Center in Window Rock, Arizona, Begaye promised to correct the election process. "We will fix the system," he said.

Begaye, who came in third during the August primary, found himself back in the race in October when the Navajo Supreme Court permanently disqualified one candidate and ordered the ballots reprinted. Nez, his running mate, was re-elected to the Navajo Nation Council in November, a post he must now vacate.

The election came despite repeated attempts by lower courts, the Navajo Nation Council and former presidential candidates to postpone the vote until after the people could weigh in by referendum on the question of fluency. That referendum vote is scheduled for June. <http://bit.ly/1OfzwGc>

National Park Service Would Facilitate Tribal Plant Removal

The National Park Service has proposed that members of federally recognized tribes be given greater latitude to gather and remove plants from U.S. national parks for traditional purposes.

"The agreements would facilitate continuation of tribal cultural traditions on traditionally associated lands that are now included within units of the National Park System without a significant adverse impact to park resources and values," stated a summary in last week's *Federal Register*.

"Some California tribes might seek permits to gather willow shoots for traditional use," reported the Associated Press, "while tribes near Big Bend National Park in Texas might want to gather mesquite berries that are used in ceremonial dress."

Tribes have long been allowed to partake of flora in national parks on an informal, case-by-case basis in cases where the parks have overtaken tribal lands. The new proposal would broaden tribal access, but gathering and removal would be governed by agreements between the National Park Service and the tribes. The procedures would also be subject to identification permits.

"I'm glad this has come about," Loretta Jackson-Kay, cultural director of the Hualapai Tribe in Arizona, told AP. "We've been having meetings about it over the past five years."

In drafting the proposal, the National Park Service contacted more than 120 tribes. <http://bit.ly/1E8x2D9>

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Tribe Starts Medical Marijuana Cultivation


BY LYNN ARMITAGE

Another California tribe has announced its venture into the medical marijuana business. The Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians in Thermal, about 32 miles southeast of Palm Springs, recently entered into a partnership with Red Crow, a Native-owned cannabis company that designs, builds, manages and finances marijuana growing facilities for medical purposes.

"We are an impoverished tribe with a small casino that is barely keeping its head above water," said Mary Belardo, executive assistant to the tribal chairwoman. "The whole concept has potential to be an economic boom for the tribe, if done properly."

While marijuana continues to be illegal at the federal level, 23 states—including California—have legalized it for medical use only, reports the Pew Research Center. According to statistics on the Red Crow website, California dominates the legal cannabis market with 1.3 billion in sales. The nearly 800-member Torres Martinez tribe is hoping to get a small piece of what is being touted as the fastest-growing industry in the United States.

Torres Martinez tribal members voted overwhelmingly (48 to 5) to move forward on the partnership with Red Crow. However, they still need tribal members to vote on the specific allocation of 47.2 acres of tribal land toward the growing and processing of organic medical cannabis. Red Crow said it will completely finance and manage the estimated \$12 million project. In exchange, the tribe will own 51 percent of what is produced and sold to licensed dispensaries.

The tribe will operate its cannabis business under the aegis of the Sovereignty Medical Tribal Corporation, an entity the tribe founded back in 2004 when it was considering another medical-related partnership with a pharmaceutical company. <http://bit.ly/1aOUeuc> 

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Montana Steps Up for Native Students

In history courses, a tribal narrative is affirmed BY TANYA H. LEE

Bottom Line: *Pre-colonization is a subject often ignored in classrooms. Not so in the Treasure State.*

In many classrooms, courses in U.S. history have little to say about events before the arrival of Europeans. By contrast, Montana has lately initiated efforts that speak directly to the history of its 12 American Indian tribes.

Administered by the state's Office of Public Instruction (OPI), these measures include specialized programs and the hiring of experts charged with helping teachers work on closing the achievement gap between Natives and whites. The state legislature also supports tribal colleges by providing funding for non-tribal students.

Among the programs currently in place is Indian Education for All (IEFA). All students in Montana public schools now learn about the history and contemporary lives of the tribes living in their state.

Teachers may pick and choose their materials. Among the dozens of resources created by the OPI are a high-school level study guide to the historical novel *Fool's Crow* by James Welch (Blackfeet/Gros Ventre) and a fourth-grade math unit based on Northern Cheyenne beading. The tribes alone have determined what narrative they would to tell—and how it would look.

"Some tribes created DVDs, some created textbook-like materials, some had a poster series that went along with a curriculum," said OPI State Superintendent Denise Juneau (Mandan and Hidatsa Tribes). "We took those products and created tribal history documents, curriculum and timelines that brought it all together."

Another initiative is Schools of Promise, a partnership among schools, communities and the OPI to improve Montana's consistently lowest achieving schools. The initiative serves the Fort Peck Indian Reservation, Northern Cheyenne Reservation and Crow Indian Reservation.

All new lessons and research created for IEFA must be approved by the Montana Advisory Council on Indian Education. Its members are appointed by the tribal governments and must be approved by the council members and their respective governments.

The OPI "supports educators on their journey to becoming more culturally proficient so they feel able to implement IEFA in their classrooms," said its director of Indian education, Mandy Smoker Broadus (Fort Peck Assiniboine & Sioux). The agency has two full-time specialists dedicated to helping teachers facilitate these programs by helping Native students. One specialist focuses on academics and provides workshops for teachers. The other concentrates on student issues, including leadership and wellness.

Eleven to 12 percent of Montana's public school students are American Indian or Alaska Native. However, 98 percent of the teaching force is white. But despite this racial disparity, professional development for teachers in IEFA topics has been effective.

"We took those teachers who were interested in working on this effort and trained them," Juneau said. "We needed to give them a lot of information that had been lacking in their own educational experience. Once they caught the bug of Indian education and what it meant and filled the gaps in their own knowledge, they were the ones who re-

ally moved IEFA forward."


Are the programs working?

"That's the million-dollar question," said Broadus. "We do know that our graduation rates for [American Indian] students have increased slowly over time. We have no way to tie that directly to IEFA. But I firmly believe that if students are in school environments where their history and culture and identity are respected, then that increases the likelihood of their staying in school and graduating."

Montana's commitment to educating its tribal members about their history does not end at the K-12 level. To support tribal colleges and increase opportunities for all Montanans, the state has for the past several years partially funded non-tribal students at tribal colleges. A bill to increase that funding has fought its way through the state legislature this year.

The current version of the bill—which funds students at a maximum of \$3,280 per student per year, an eight percent increase over the funding level for the past several years—will likely be approved shortly, said Laura John (Seneca/Blackfeet), a state-tribal policy analyst at the Montana Budget Policy Center.

"Our leaders need to have a truthful history of both our country and our state to really be able to lead," Broadus said. "I think about the type of leaders our kindergarteners and first graders are going to be when they graduate. They're going to be able to create policies that move our state together knowing that everybody in this state, no matter their background, really lends to the fabric of our community and that we all look out for each other."

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

Enriching Indian Charities

An online attempt at boosting generosity BY LYNN ARMITAGE

Bottom Line: *Americans are a giving people. But they don't give much to Native organizations. One organization is trying to change that.*

Individuals, corporations, foundations and bequests in this country gave an estimated \$335.17 billion to charities in 2013 alone. Not much of that money, however, was channeled to Native organizations.

"We know from studies by Native Americans in philanthropy that very little money in private philanthropy goes to Indian causes—less than three-tenths of one percent," First Nations Development Institute President and CEO Michael Roberts (Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska) told Indian Country Today Media Network.

But Roberts—whose Native-run organization in Colorado has helped strengthen more than 800 Native communities and economies with more than \$22.2 million in grants—has devised an innovative way to draw attention to Native causes.

With a \$306,000 grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, First Nations has launched a pilot program called NativeGiving.org, a website that spotlights small, grassroots Native organizations and projects in need of funding. The groups featured on the site come from First Nations' pool of previous and present grant recipients.

"The biggest issue is that no one knows these folks exist," said Roberts.

He calls the website a "one-stop shopping mall" for philanthropists who are looking for worthy Native charities to support. Donors simply choose a cause and donate on the site. One hundred percent of the tax-deductible donations goes to the designated groups.

"It is very much like crowd sourcing," Roberts told ICTMN.

NativeGiving.org was launched last De-

cember as a pilot program. To date, it has featured five Native organizations focused on Native youth, families and sustainable food systems.

One of the groups, the Zuni Youth Enrichment Project (ZYEP), in New Mexico, recently received \$500, the largest gift yet from a private donor. ZYEP plans to use the money to fund afterschool youth sports programs and a summer camp.



ZYEP is one of the philanthropic beneficiaries of the First Nations Development Institute.

"Our big dream is to have a multi-purpose field for our kids to play on. Right now, they play in the dirt," said Zowie Banteah-Yuselew, who coordinates the project's Developing Youth Mentoring Empowerment Self-Expression Achievement afterschool component.

The Zuni Youth Enrichment Project, Banteah-Yuselew said, has used a recent grant from First Nations to help fund a migration project. Through this project, 15 adolescents and chaperones retraced the migratory path of the Zuni tribe starting at the Grand Canyon, where the Zunis originated.

In addition to fundraising, First Nations also provides technical assistance to the

organizations it supports. "We get them ready to tell their stories and market who they are to a broader public," said Roberts. "We teach them how to thank donors appropriately and maintain a relationship with these donors over the long-term."

Being featured on NativeGiving.org has been a blessing, said Pauline Butler (Navajo), coordinator of community happiness for the STAR School in Flagstaff, Arizona, the first completely solar-powered school in the country.

"They are possibly one of the best things that has happened to us," said Butler. "They have put us on the map and given us a lot of exposure."

To date, The STAR School has received \$400 in donations. Butler said the school is hoping to garner enough support from donors to fund an arts program for their students, from preschool to eighth grade.

Butler appreciates the ongoing training her personnel receive from First Nations as part of the NativeGiving.org program. "They teach us how to ask for donations from large corporations, which we have never done before," she said. "We learned how to send out newsletters and thank donors ... it's been fun. It makes us more professional, bottom line."

"We strongly believe that Indian communities have the creativity and wherewithal to solve their own problems," said Roberts. "But sometimes they need some technical assistance and a little bit of capital to make those ideas a reality, and that's where First Nations comes in."

Traditionally, First Nations has raised money mostly through private foundations.

"But we recognize that individual donors make up a much larger part of the giving puzzle," said Roberts. Through NativeGiving.org, he believes, Nations can tap into some of that largesse for their most relevant causes.

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

Listening To The Peoples

Reaching out to indigenous constituents around the world BY TERRI HANSEN



Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, U.N. Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, is not only the first woman but the first Indigenous Person from a developing country to hold the position.

Editor's Note: When Victoria Tauli-Corpuz (Igorot) of the Philippines was appointed the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples last June, she became the first woman and the first Indigenous Person from a developing country to hold this three-year position. As such, she brings unique perspectives to the U.N.'s human rights mandate.

Her background in the field is extensive. In 1996, Tauli-Corpuz founded the nongovernmental organization Tebtebba, which has engaged with the U.N. on Indigenous Peoples rights, sustainable development, climate change and biodiversity. She was among those who lobbied for more than 20 years before the General Assembly finally adopted the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) in 2007. And she chaired the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues from 2005 to 2009.

Taui-Corpuz recently discussed her current position in an exclusive interview with Indian Country Today Media Network:

As the very first Indigenous woman in this unique role, what will be your mandate and priorities?

I am convinced that the empowerment of women is crucial to addressing discrimination, racism and violence. Indigenous women face discrimination based on both race and gender and are even less likely to hold title to their land than indigenous men. Evidence shows that securing land rights for indigenous women contributes to their livelihoods and the well being of their families, and even decreases levels of domestic violence.

In addition, I want to focus on ensuring that Indigenous Peoples' rights are recognized in the U.N. post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the global climate agreement that will be adopted this December in Paris. The SDGs will set the global development agenda for the next 15 years.

So it is vital that Indigenous Peoples are not left behind—especially given that they make up only five percent of the global population but account for 15 percent of the world's poorest people.

Former U.N. Special Rapporteur James Anaya spent much of his time on the ground. Rodolfo Stavenhagen, his predecessor, took more of an academic approach. How do you plan to do things? I have the utmost respect for both of my predecessors and the work they did to promote the rights of Indigenous Peoples. Both approaches are vital to establishing the mechanisms and safeguards that protect Indigenous Peoples' rights, such as the UNDRIP—as well as ensuring that new instruments, such as the post-2015 SDGs, do not fall below existing standards.

However, real progress cannot be measured unless we hear directly from the world's Indigenous Peoples. The ability to gauge whether or not these important instruments are actually being implemented requires that I listen to the voices of Indigenous Peoples when I visit their countries or have meetings with them elsewhere. I also have to verify reports of alleged human rights violations.

Do you make your own schedule, or will you inherit a schedule?

While I may follow up on visits made by Professor Anaya, I do not inherit his schedule. The Special Rapporteur visits countries after being invited by governments. My predecessors visited the U.S., Canada, Nordic countries, Australia, New Zealand and many countries in Latin America. There were very few Asian and African countries visited, so I am requesting invitations from several countries in these regions.

What was your biggest concern as chair of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues?

During my term, UNDRIP was finally adopted. The activities leading up to this groundbreaking adoption were definitely one of the biggest challenges facing the whole indigenous movement. It took years of campaigning before the U.N. even started to draft the Declaration in

1982. When formal negotiations began in 1995, the U.N. told Indigenous Peoples that we were not allowed to speak at the negotiations, only to observe.

We walked out, of course—because who could respect a declaration made without the participation of the people whose rights it's supposed to uphold? The member states realized that this threatened their credibility and invited us back as participants. So the drafting and negotiations continued with our active and equal participation.

What do you anticipate being the greatest challenge as Special Rapporteur?

I face challenges in monitoring and ensuring that Indigenous Peoples' rights, enshrined in the Declaration and ILO [International Labour Organization] Convention No. 169, are implemented in the countries where Indigenous Peoples live. There is still a low level of awareness on the part of many governments and the dominant society on Indigenous Peoples' issues, rights and demands. Many Indigenous Peoples have the view that there is also a lack of political will on the part of governments to respect, protect and fulfill Indigenous Peoples' individual and collective human rights.

Seven years after the adoption of UN-DRIP, what has improved for Indigenous Peoples?

There have been several gains. There are countries, like Bolivia and Ecuador, which passed laws on Indigenous Peoples' rights using all or most of the articles in the Declaration. There are courts, like the Supreme Court of Belize and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, which made favorable decisions on issues brought to them by Indigenous Peoples.

Most important of all, Indigenous Peoples in many countries are using the Declaration for awareness raising and campaigns. I daresay that Indigenous Peoples' movements in many countries and regions and even the global movement gained more strength after the adoption of the UNDRIP.

But there are still many who do not



"I believe in the saying that 'the personal is political and the political is personal,'" says Tauli Corpuz. "For me there is no dichotomy between my personal and my political life."

know their rights or are not able to stand up for those rights when they are abused. Many Indigenous Peoples are still victims of land grabbing by corporations and individuals, with the complicity of some state actors. The Declaration is a tool to fight these battles, and in some cases, these battles are being won.

Earlier this year, Ecopetrol dismantled its drilling site in the ancestral territory of the U'wa in Colombia after the U'wa's sustained protests. This is testament to their resolve and to what can be accomplished when public opinion is galvanized and international pressure brought to bear. This is one positive example, but the battle is long from over for many.

Despite considerable advances, various governments, corporations, paramilitary organizations and special interest groups continue to violate indigenous rights. How will you work to remedy this crisis?

There is no easy solution, but I am constantly amazed at the solutions and strategies that my fellow Indigenous Peoples put forth.

These battles are often won at the local levels. When I first became an activist in the 1970s, I got involved with the campaign against the Chico River

Hydroelectric Dam, which would have displaced 300,000 Kalinga and Bontoc people. We managed to stop the dam from being built and the World Bank had to cancel its funding for this project.

In southern Chile, the Mapuche people continue to make progress in reclaiming land colonized by Europeans in the late 19th century. Just last year they received a promise that 123,552.69 acres would be returned to them.

These local battles draw on international victories like the adoption of UN-DRIP. I am proud and thankful for this progress.

Does being so active in the international arena leave you much time for a personal life?

I am not just an activist for Indigenous Peoples but also for women. I believe in the saying that "the personal is political and the political is personal." For me there is no dichotomy between my personal and my professional life. Whatever I do in my work to promote the rights and development aspirations of Indigenous Peoples will also contribute to a better life for my family and my community.

It would be good if I had more time to spend with my family and I try to do this within the limitations I have. <http://bit.ly/1PjXxsV>

Behind A Water Fight

The battle of Coachella Valley is not over BY HEATHER STEINBERGER

Bottom Line: ICTMN recently reported on a water-rights victory for a California tribe. The background is complex enough to warrant another look.

For the last two years, California's Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians has been embroiled in a legal tug-of-war with agencies over whether the tribe has federally reserved rights to groundwater. Last month, a federal judge sided with the tribe, determining that U.S. government impliedly reserved groundwater—as well as surface water—for the Band when it created its southern California reservation.

During the legal proceedings, the tribe expressed dismay that the Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD, the Coachella Valley's largest water agency) and the Desert Water Agency (DWA, the water utility for the Palm Springs area) have been importing untreated water from the Colorado River to reduce aquifer overdraft.

Tribal Chairman Jeff L. Grubbe said this practice has significantly lowered the water quality in the valley. But the CVWD disagrees.

"We have tried to explain to the tribe on many occasions that Colorado River water is not of inferior quality to the groundwater," said CVWD spokesperson Heather Engel. "The quality of the two sources of water are different and complementary of each other.

"In some areas of the valley, the groundwater contains naturally occurring arsenic and chromium-6 above state water quality standards," she continued. "Colorado River water does not have these contaminants at a detectable level. Therefore it helps dilute the level where replenishment occurs."

Grubbe said this is an oversimplification. "It paints an unrealistically broad and rosy picture," he said. "The aquifer geology underlying the valley is complex. Dilution of naturally occurring contaminants may occur in some locations. However, it's a gross oversimplification to make it sound as if importing water is resolving, for in-

stance, the chromium-6 problem that is getting worse throughout the valley.

"If that were true," he added, "why would the water districts now be confronted with having to add water treatment capacity to deal with the chromium-6 problem all across the valley?"

Last fall, *The Desert Sun* reported that chromium-6 limits exceeded a safe limit recently adopted by the state, and that the CVWD was looking at options beyond importing Colorado River water. These included building treatment plants at all affected wells, installing reverse-osmosis filters in homes, and building treatment

A salinity level of 1,000 ppm in drinking water is considered acceptable by the state aesthetic standards."

But Grubbe said that districts have an obligation under California law to prepare a Groundwater Basin Salt and Nutrient Management Plan (SNMP), as mandated by the State of California's Recycled Water Policy, adopted in 2009. The policy encourages the use of recycled water from municipal wastewater sources.


"The concern is that recycled water, and other sources of water, contain salt and nutrients that must be managed to protect the water quality of the state's groundwater basins," Grubbe said. "The policy requires the development of SNMPs to evaluate current and future projects, and ensure that basins are managed with appropriate consideration of water quality."

In this case, the Agua Caliente have "criticized the districts' draft SNMP for over-reporting the ability of the aquifer to assimilate total dissolved solids and other nutrients," Grubbe said, "and thus under-reporting the total dissolved solids and other nutrient levels found there, especially in the upper valley underneath the Agua Caliente Reservation."

CVWD maintains that such concerns are misguided, noting that more than 30 million people drink water from the Colorado River.

"Those water agencies filter the water before delivery, but they do not perform treatment to reduce salinity levels," Engel said. "Groundwater percolation is a natural filtration process that's more cost effective than artificial treatment processes."

But Grubbe wondered how it would be possible to clean up all of the salts and other nutrients being deposited in the sands of the aquifer after decades of deposition.

"The troubling answer is that there is no way to clean them out of the aquifer once they are there," he said. "The aquifer's natural filtration process is not something you simply replace like an over-the-counter kitchen water filter that has been used for too long." <http://bit.ly/1HMSdw4> 

*Tribal chairman
Jeff Grubbe
called the official
explanations
'unrealistically
broad and rosy.'*

plants for well water together with new facilities to treat Colorado River water.

There is also an issue of salinity. The CVWD acknowledged that Colorado River water does have a higher level of salt than some areas of the Coachella Valley. Natural salinity in local groundwater ranges from 130 parts per million (ppm) to more than 2,000 ppm. The Colorado River water has a salinity level ranging from 550 to 750 ppm.

"There are no state or federal health standards for salinity in water," Engel said. "California water agencies are required to meet consumer acceptance standards for salinity based on aesthetics like taste.

Associate General Counsel

The Association of Village Council Presidents, a non profit organization in Bethel, AK is currently recruiting for an Associate General Counsel Attorney.



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- Employer paid Health Care for you
- Retirement Plan with employer contribution after 90 days of service

Summary: The Associate General Counsel, under the oversight of the General Counsel for AVCP, and working independently or in a team setting, provides direct legal representation and assistance to Tribal governments of the AVCP member villages on village initiatives, and in administrative proceedings and court cases. Additionally, the Associate General Counsel is the first point of contact for employment and contract agreements for AVCP

Contact AVCP's Human Resources Department at 800-478-3521 for an application, to submit your resume or more information.
Review our job description at www.avcp.org

Per Public Law 93-638 (Indian Self Determination & Education Assistance Act) qualified Alaskan Natives/ American Indians are given preference but candidates from all backgrounds are welcome to apply.

Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas Housing Authority Job Announcement

POSITION: Executive Director

SALARY: Negotiable

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Bachelor's Degree in Business Management and two (2) to four (4) years related experience and/or training; or equivalent combination of education and experience related to HUD and/or Indian Housing Authorities.

INDIAN PREFERENCE POLICY: Preference in filling vacancies given to qualified Indian candidates in accordance with the Indian Preference Act of 1934 (Title 25 USC Section 472). Verification must be submitted with the application to practical situations.

DRUG FREE WORKPLACE POLICY: The KHA Housing Director shall comply with this policy and consent to pre-employment drug screening.

Must pass a background check and have or obtain a valid Kansas D.L.

For more information or to see a complete list of Duties/Responsibilities, call **785-486-3638**.

To apply or mail resume, mail to:

Kickapoo Housing Authority
Attn: Board of Commissioners
888 112th Drive
Horton, KS 66439

The Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians seeks a Human Resources Director

Location: Arlington, Washington

Closing date: Open until filled

Salary: DOQ

Job Summary: Plan, direct and manage all Human Resources initiatives; recruitment, compensation, benefits, training and employee relations of the Stillaguamish Tribe. Ensure policies, procedures and HR programs are developed, consistently administered, aligned with organizational goals and are in compliance with professional standards, Tribal, State and Federal regulatory requirements and laws.

Experience working in a Tribal government is preferred, though significant HR experience in other government entities may substitute.

To apply: Contact Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians at #360-652-7362 ext. 241 or obtain and submit an application through our website.

Applicants must submit an application, cover letter, resume and references to the attention of Jimille Smith by either email (jimilles@stillaguamish.com)
Or physical address
3310 Smokey Point Drive Arlington, Washington 98223

Bishop Boardman Senior Apartments

Beginning on April 27, 2015 our 200-unit building at 1615 Eighth Avenue; Brooklyn, NY 11215 will be re-opening its waiting list to the elderly, where the head or spouse is 62 or older and non-elderly persons with disabilities with limited income.

Qualifications for the 200 units, which include 20 units for the mobility impaired, will be based on Section 8 guidelines. Interested persons may obtain an application by writing to:

Bishop Boardman Senior Apartments
c/o P.O.P. MANAGEMENT CORPORATION
191 Joralemon Street, 8th Floor
Brooklyn, New York 11201

Or in person at 1615 Eighth Avenue; Brooklyn, NY 11215; leave contact information. **All applications will be mailed.**

COMPLETED APPLICATIONS MUST BE SENT BY REGULAR MAIL TO THE POST OFFICE BOX INDICATED ON THE APPLICATION FORM.

APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED AT THE POST OFFICE NO LATER THAN **MAY 23, 2015.**





The art of David Bradley (Minnesota Chippewa-Anglo), including 'Lone Ranger and Tonto', is at Santa Fe's Museum of Indian Art and Culture.



Fawn Sharp was re-elected president of the Quinault Indian Nation on March 29.



Judith Kaur (Choctaw/Cherokee), medical director for the Mayo Clinic Hospice, is one of the nation's only two Native American oncologists.



Protesters marched at the Cleveland Indians' opening day at Progressive Field, objecting to the team's Chief Wahoo mascot.

DAVID BRADLEY; QUINULT INDIAN NATION; COURTESY MAYO CLINIC ARCHIVES; MARY ANETTE PEMBER

Headlines from the Web

FURTHER FUTURE FESTIVAL TO TAKE PLACE AT . . . A RESERVATION?

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

MIWOK TRIBE PICKS SMALLER EL DORADO SHOOTING RANGE AMID NEIGHBORS' CONCERN

<http://bit.ly/1K3leD0>

TRIBES HARNESS TRADITION TO TACKLE MODERN CRIMES

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

BRAZIL TO HOST FIRST INDIGENOUS PEOPLES WORLD GAMES

<http://bit.ly/1K8z5I7>

FEDERAL PLAN REVIEWING NATIVE AMERICAN SENTENCING

<http://on.wsj.com/1bq0jhW>

RIFT BETWEEN LA CONNER, SWINOMISH TRIBE 'COMES DOWN TO TAXES'

<http://bit.ly/1DeP0i9>

UPCOMING EVENTS

PASCUA YAQUI VAWA TRIAL ADVOCACY TRAINING MAY 5-7

This first trial advocacy training session devoted to the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) will focus on three tracks: prosecutor, defense attorney and judicial. The Association of Prosecuting Attorneys, the Center for Court Innovation and local judges will provide substantive trial training specific to VAWA prosecutions. This will include training on jurisdictional considerations, witness recantation and evidence considerations. Practical training skills and applications of learned skills will take place at the Pascua Yaqui Tribal Court.

Location: Casino del Sol Conference Center, Pascua Yaqui Reservation, Tucson, Arizona

INDIAN CHILD CUSTODY PROCEEDINGS HEARINGS MAY 5 AND MAY 7

These hearings will discuss a proposed

role that would add a new subpart to the Department of the Interior's regulations regarding the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA), with a view toward improving ICWA implementation by state courts and child welfare agencies. The proposed rule would incorporate many of the changes made to the recently revised guidelines into regulations, establishing the department's interpretation of the ICWA as a binding interpretation to ensure consistency in implementation of the act across all states.

Location: National Indian Programs Training Center, Albuquerque, New Mexico (May 5) and Mystic Lake Casino Hotel, Prior Lake, Minnesota (May 7)

NATIONAL INDIAN JUSTICE CENTER TRAINING MAY 6-8

The session is geared toward stewards of tribal sovereignty, including tribal government officials, tribal councils, tribal court personnel and tribal police officers. This training offers practical advice on protecting tribal sovereignty in light of recent opinions by the U.S. Supreme Court. It examines the status of sovereign

immunity, tribal civil and criminal jurisdiction, adjudicatory versus regulatory jurisdiction, and Indian gaming issues. Topics will include an overview of U.S. Indian law and policy, Indian land tenure, the federal-tribal trust doctrine, the Tribal Law & Order Act of 2001, tribal criminal jurisdiction and the Indian Civil Rights Act of 1968.

Location: Atlantis Casino Resort Spa, Reno, Nevada

MIDWEST NATIVE AMERICAN LEADERSHIP FORUM MAY 7-8

Presented by the Native Nation Events Leadership Solutions Group, the forum is designed to provide tribal leaders with insight, practical skills and best practice solutions that will assist them in their complex roles and responsibilities unique to their positions. Broadening networks, communicating with tribal council vision, resolving conflict, giving and receiving feedback, and improving decision-making ability will be among the subject areas discussed.

Location: Skirvin Hilton Hotel, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Re John Guenther's op-ed about the dangers of medical marijuana (April 19):

Marijuana is the least harmful of the addictive substances that youth are using, and it can be very beneficial for some adults. It is certainly preferable to cocaine, heroin, many prescription drugs, and glue/solvent/gas sniffing. Better to permit it for medical and recreational use by adults, so that its legal production can be

regulated to ensure it is not in a harmful form—and so that people can decide for themselves if it is beneficial or not in their own individual cases.

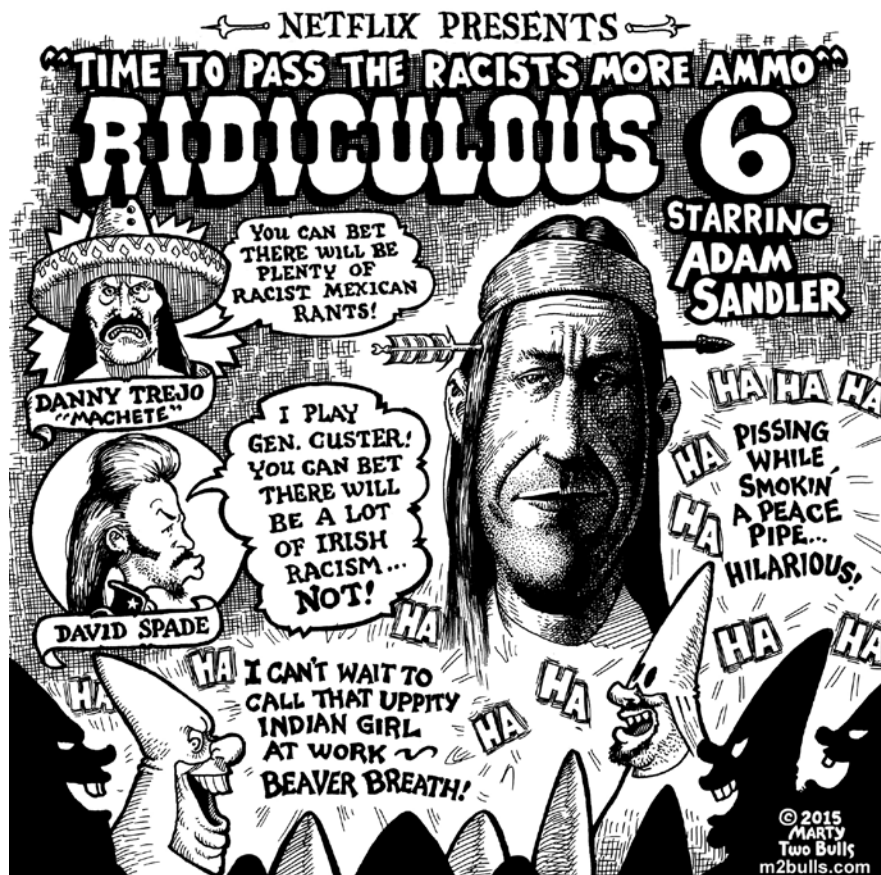
—Jim Poushinsky
Edwards, Ontario
Canada

Jim Guenther's opinion piece is a prime example of why the failed experiment of cannabis prohibition is being

rejected. The author uses hyperbole and half-truths.

I find it hypocritical that some tribal members have no problem having casinos, alcohol and tobacco and dangerous fireworks sales, but somehow get righteous when it come to growing a God-given plant.

—Justin Hale
Port Townsend, Washington



TOP NEWS ALERTS

From IndianCountryTodayMediaNetwork.com

MANDAN HISTORY WINS PULITZER

A history of the Mandan Tribe has won the Pulitzer Prize for History. *Encounters at the Heart of the World: A History of the Mandan People*, by Elizabeth A. Fenn, was accorded the prize last week; Pulitzer judges called it "an engrossing, original narrative." "I'm stunned, I'm delighted, I'm really, really honored and very humbled by this," said Fenn, an associate professor at the University of Colorado-Boulder.

NATIVES WALK OFF SET

Approximately one dozen Native actors and actresses and the cultural advisor of the new Adam Sandler film *The Ridiculous Six* walked off the set on April 22 after it became

clear that the satirical film's script repeatedly insulted Native culture. Reportedly, the script includes the use of such Native names as "Beaver's Breath" and "No Bra," a depiction of an Apache woman squatting and urinating while smoking a peace pipe, and the inappropriate positioning of feathers on a teepee.

CLINTON SEEKS NATIVE VOTES

Presidential hopeful Hillary Rodham Clinton's campaign website states that Native American supporters can join a "Native Americans for Hillary" group and sign up to host a "meeting or house party." They can also "join a local Native American event." Following registration, an automated

email is sent to supporters reading, "With your help, we will show that the Native American community across the country is Ready for Hillary!" Clinton has not indicated if she will stump at any of the country's 325 reservations along her campaign trail.

CHIPPEWA MAY HUNT DEER AT NIGHT

The Supreme Court last week ruled that Chippewa tribes in Wisconsin may hunt deer after daylight. In doing so, the high court upheld an appeals court decision that rejected an appeal from state officials who wanted to maintain a ruling that would prohibit the practice. The Chippewa have long sought rights to hunt for deer at night in areas of northern Wisconsin

that they ceded to the federal government in the 1800s. However, in 1991 a U.S. district court ruled against night hunts because of their inherent danger.

FOR CHEROKEE, BABY BISON

The Cherokee Tribe has welcomed the arrival of more than nine bison calves this month, born to mothers brought from the badlands of South Dakota—and fathers brought from Teddy Roosevelt National Park in North Dakota—to tribal land in Delaware County. The transfer was made possible by the Intertribal Buffalo Council, which takes surplus bison from national parks and places them with Native tribes. "We're all proud," said bison herdsman Chris Barnhart. "Everybody's happy."

How Did I Miss That?

Ties for charity, super-centenarians and hot chocolate with racists

BY STEVE RUSSELL

The *Wall Street Journal* stated that the Pentagon has been massaging its largest bunker-buster bomb just in case the nuclear deal with Iran falls apart. The claim is that the bomb “could destroy or disable Iran’s most heavily fortified nuclear facilities.” It was hard to see any reason for that leak except to push the myth that we could destroy Iran’s nuclear program cleanly.

My cousin Ray Sixkiller coined a descriptive term: “Bomboozle.”

The *New York Times* reported about the arraignment of Texas-born alleged Al Qaeda operative Mohanad Mahmoud Al Farekh in a New York federal court, using his capture in Pakistan to argue that targeted drone strikes are unnecessary because we really can catch these guys. Cousin Ray remembered President Obama’s campaign promise that he could walk and chew gum at the same time.

“If we put them on the kill list,” Ray asked, “do we quit looking for them?”

Ever wonder what the Republicans are always so angry about? This is from an advertisement sent to subscribers to *GOP Insider Brief*:

“Just a few months ago, governments and central banks from all over the world met at the G20 Summit to decide the fate of your savings account should the worlds [*sic*] banks [*sic*] crash. Their decision? Your savings account is up for grabs.

“What’s worse is they may have their eye on your retirement accounts next. That’s right, every dollar that you’ve worked so hard the past 30, 40 or 50 years to save, could be taken from you. It would be completely legal, and there would be nothing you could do about it.”

I admitted to my Republican Cousin Ray that I would be angry about that myself, but that I didn’t understand how I missed that G20 meeting. I try to follow financial news.

Ray grimaced and gave me the *digitus impudicus*.

The Kansas legislature has passed—and Republican Gov. Sam Brownback is expected to sign—a law that bans the use of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in, among other places, lingerie stores and cruise ships. Kansas TANF cards do not work outside Kansas.

“I can understand the government wanting to control where poor people buy their underwear,” Cousin Ray allowed, “but why are they trying to run Carnival and Royal Norwegian out of those luxury cruises between Potawatomi and Sac and Fox?”

What does *National Geographic* have in common with Stormfront, the Internet home of white supremacy? Not much—except that in this year of Stormfront’s 20th anniversary, *National Geographic* is celebrating the 20th anniversary of its Japanese language edition. The magazine is retelling a story about the Japanese explorer Naomi Uemura’s successful attempt to be the first human to get to the North Pole by himself.

“How about,” my cousin Ray Sixkiller asked, “we ship Stormfront to the North Pole and have a nice cup of hot chocolate with the Japanese guy?”

CNN reported that presidential wannabe Chris Christie “declined in March to donate a necktie to the Grafton County

Republican Committee charity tie auction. It’s a quirky tradition and perhaps only a small slight on Christie’s part, but the snub did not go unnoticed.”

Cousin Ray wondered what Gov. Christie pays for his ties if he can’t afford to donate one to charity?

All the New York newspapers carried the same story with varying tones of sensationalism. Laiana Barrientos of the Bronx was facing charges of filing a false instrument after public records showed she has been married 10 times in 11 years without a divorce. On the documents for each marriage, she claimed it was her first.

Authorities have not speculated on a motive, but the names of the grooms telegraph that Barrientos might have been playing the immigration laws. She married Mohamed Gerbril (1999), Ahmed Allam (2001), Habibur Rahman (2001), Davit Koridze (2002), Duran Goktepe (2002), Aliaksandr Paharelau (2002), Vakhtang Dzneldze (2002), Rashid Rajput (2002) Kakhabe Khorbalzdze (2002), and Salle Keita (2010).

“There is no truth to the rumor,” Cousin Ray said with a smirk, “that the American Family Council is taking up her defense because all the husbands were male.

“And those who are suggesting she move to Utah are just mean.”

The *Washington Post* noted a report claiming that at least 6.5 million active Social Security numbers belong to people over 112 years old. There were only 35 known living individuals of that age worldwide as of October 2013.

Cousin Ray pointed out that that’s a lot of money going in that ain’t ever coming out. <http://bit.ly/1yD5dlT> ☞

UPCOMING POW WOWS

EDMONDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE NATIVE AMERICAN STUDENT ASSOCIATION POW WOW

5/1/15—5/3/15
Sea View Gym
20000 68th Avenue West
Lynnwood
425-640-1562
tonya.drake@edcc.edu
EDCC.edu/powwow

9TH ANNUAL AMERICAN INDIAN HEALTH RESEARCH AND EDUCATION ALLIANCE POW WOW

5/1/15—5/2/15
Johnson County Community College, Gym
Fieldhouse
12345 College Boulevard
Overland Park, KS
AIHREA.org/htdocs/powwow.html

10TH ANNUAL LUMBEE TRIBE “DANCE OF THE SPRING MOON” SPRING POW WOW

5/1/15—5/3/15
Southeast Farmers Market
1027 US Highway 74 East
Lumberton, NC
LumbeeTribe.com

NATIVE AMERICAN STUDENT ASSOCIATION POW WOW AT KENT STATE UNIVERSITY

5/2/15
Kent State University Commons
225 Terrace Drive
Kent, OH
330-672-8543
[Facebook.com/nasa.kdu](https://www.facebook.com/nasa.kdu)

42D ANNUAL AIRO SPRING POW WOW

5/2/15
UWSP Berg Gymnasium
2050 Fourth Avenue
Stevens Point, WI
715-346-3576
agokee@uwsp.edu

AMERICAN INDIAN CANCER FOUNDATION POW WOW FOR HOPE

5/2/15

Base Camp
201 Bloomington Road
Minneapolis, MN
612-564-5060
powwow@aicaf.org
PowWowforHope.org

POWWOW FOR HOPE 2015

5/2/15—5/3/15
AICAF
201 Bloomington Rd.
Minneapolis, MN
612.314.4848
powwow@aicaf.org
PowwowforHope.org

TWO NATIONS POW WOW

5/2/15—5/3/15
Auburn Sportsmen Club
50 Elm Street
Auburn, MA
508-791-3770

RESTORING HARMONY POW WOW

5/2/15
Westside YMCA
5400 South Olympia Avenue
Tulsa, OK
918-382-2217 or 918-382-2205
gsrh@ihcrc.org
IHCRC.org

8TH ANNUAL SWATARA CREEK POW WOW

5/2/15—5/3/15
138 Park Drive
Middletown, PA
717-592-0502
swataracreekpowwow@yahoo.com

31ST ANNUAL CALIFORNIA INDIAN MARKET AND WORLD PEACE DANCE

5/2/15—5/3/15
The Alameda, Third Street
San Juan Bautista, CA
831-623-4771
peacevision96@yahoo.com
PeaceVision.net

30TH ANNUAL UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA-LOS ANGELES POW WOW

5/2/15—5/3/15
University of California Los Angeles North
Athletic Field
220 West Plaza
Los Angeles, CA

American Indian Student Association
310-206-8043
powwow@ucla.edu
UCLAPowwow.com

26TH ANNUAL UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA TRADITIONAL GRADUATION POW WOW

5/2/15
Investors Group Athletic Centre
75 Sidney Smith Street
R3T 2M6 Winnipeg
United States Minor Outlying Islands
204-474-8850
asc@umanitoba.ca

44TH ANNUAL ROGERS STATE UNIVERSITY GRADUATION HONOR POW WOW

5/2/15
1701 West Will Rogers Boulevard
Claremore, OK
918-343-7566
hfoley@rsu.edu

UNIVERSITY OF DENVER NEW BEGINNINGS POW WOW

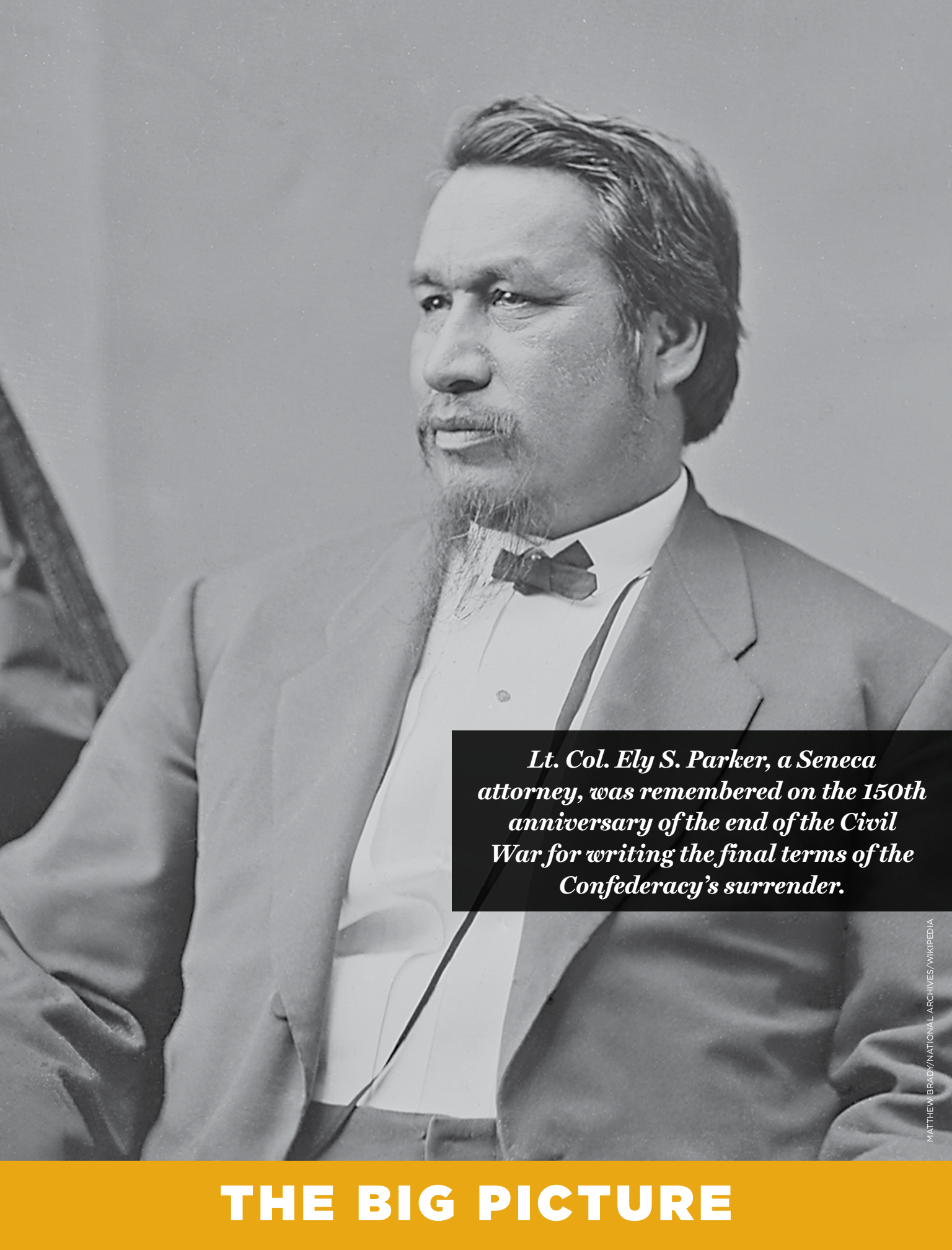
5/3/15
University of Denver, Driscoll Green
2055 East Evans Avenue
Denver, CO
720-935-6168
wiki.eagle@gmail.com
DU.edu/cme/programs-services/powwow.html

40TH ANNIVERSARY SAN FRANCISCO STATE ‘CELEBRATION OF NATIONS’ INTERCOLLEGIATE POW WOW

5/3/15
1600 Holloway Avenue
San Francisco, CA
415-338-1929
sfsuskins@gmail.com
[Facebook.com/sfsuskins](https://www.facebook.com/sfsuskins)

25TH ANNUAL HARVARD UNIVERSITY POW WOW

5/3/15
Radcliffe Yard at Harvard University
10 Garden Street
Cambridge, MA
617-495-4923
hunap@harvard.edu
hunap.Harvard.edu



Lt. Col. Ely S. Parker, a Seneca attorney, was remembered on the 150th anniversary of the end of the Civil War for writing the final terms of the Confederacy's surrender.

MATTHEW BRADY/NATIONAL ARCHIVES/WIKIPEDIA

THE BIG PICTURE