



# Indian Country THIS WEEK FROM

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

## A Letter from the Publisher

*Shekóli.* Time for a short quiz: What nation has a land area of 1,875 square miles (about the size of Luxembourg and Mauritius)? What nation comprises 55 governmental departments? What nation has government-owned enterprises employing workers in agriculture, media, cultural preservation, education, entertainment, utilities, and land and resource management?

The answer: The Yakama Nation, a signatory with the U.S. to the Treaty of 1855, lying north of the Columbia River in the Pacific Northwest. These are just a few of the facts in the introduction to this week's feature article "A Yakama Primer," which spotlights 10 things you should know about this unique community.

Throughout its history, *National Geographic* has supplied stories and pictures on the culture and history of American Indians to an audience that seemingly has an insatiable appetite for the subject. The Indian Country Today Media Network "10 Things You Should Know About..." series—of which the Yakama primer is representative—is showing signs of being as equally well received among readers. Unlike material that appears in mainstream media outlets, the first six installments (on the Samish, Cherokee and Couer d'Alene, among others)



offer the added benefit of informing readers about the contemporary life of the Nations and their citizens, as well as insights into unique cultural practices. Most important, the history of each Nation is presented from its own point of view—not through the lens of standard United States history. Needless to say, the results are fascinating.

Inside ICTMN's survey of Yakama, we learn some of what its people think make them strong. Artist Toma Villa cites the Nation's diversity; forestry supervisor Trudy Pinkham hails the land's beauty, and abundance in berries and fish; student Patricia Selam points out, "Our treaty still stands, with complete sovereignty." Every Nation on Turtle Island has a history as rich and striking as that of the nation whose government capital is in Washington, D.C. Now, thanks

to the growing strength of Indigenous-based communications, these histories are finally being heard as well.

*Ná k'í wa,*

Ray Halbritter

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### By Any Other Name Indeed

*Andre Cramblit, a Karuk tribal member from the Klamath and Salmon rivers in northwest California, reports on how Facebook recently suspended—and reinstated—a Native woman who dared use her real surname on the site:*

Apparently the maestros behind the scenes of your favorite online guilty pleasure-social media experience known as Facebook think that Native Americans could not possibly have such absurd surnames as Nighthorse, ManKiller or Crazy Horse. Take the case of Ms. Deloria Many Grey Horses. Facebook recently suspend-

ed her account for using a “fake name.”

It seems that Ms. Many Grey Horses had the audacity to start an online petition requesting that Biloxi High School in Mississippi stop using “Indian” as their mascot. Biloxi High supporters reported to Facebook that Ms. Many Grey Horses had a phony name associated with her account. So Facebook suspended it. After much back and forth, with sharing of personal documents verifying her identification, she was finally reinstated.

This issue did not go by without an outcry from the Native community. There was quickly a show of support for Ms. Many Grey Horses. Her cousin or-

ganized an event whereby people were requested to change their Facebook names to Mark Zuckerberg, in honor of Facebook’s co-creator. And I changed my profile to indicate my new identity and kinship to him.

The online protest made a bit of a media splash, and I think the people behind the curtain at Facebook must now take a look at their policy towards names. Natives make up less than one percent of the total U.S. populations. But we have feelings, too, and the right to our dignity and traditional names counts—as does that of every Washington, Cortez or Zuckerberg. <http://bit.ly/1EKtSBn> ☞

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### Fishing Co-Management Makes Sense

*In Alaska, tribes have been largely frozen out from discussions over fishing rights. Mark Trahant says the state would do well to embrace a new paradigm:*

On May 8, 28 tribes on the Kuskokwim River in Alaska created the Kuskokwim River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission. “The people of the Kuskokwim River are no longer satisfied with serving in an advisory role to state and fishery managers,” the new commission announced.

I am convinced that such co-management works. In Washington, Oregon and

Idaho there are salmon streams that would have gone extinct without a broader, more comprehensive management approach. Even small tribes hire people to work on habitat restoration or protecting baby salmon from predators. And creating natural resource jobs gives Native people a new purpose—working on the land to improve wildlife.

“I sat down for many hours with my uncle, the Late Joe Lomack, Traditional Chief,” said the new chairman of the commission, Mike William Sr. of Akiak. “We got very concerned on the reports about Chinook disappearing up north, then the Yukon River, and then our Kuskokwim

River. Now that we have established our Fish Commissions, both in the Yukon and Kuskowim Rivers, we have a structure in place to start to engage our involvement in meaningful ways to help manage our resources instead of always giving advice.”

Alaska should embrace this approach. For too many years, the state has spent significant resources litigating against a tribal say instead of listening. This is both expensive and ineffective. A meaningful role for tribes on wildlife issues has proved to be successful in Washington and other Northwest states. It’s time for Alaska to deliver this gift to America. <http://bit.ly/1Euxbxf> ☞

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### The Sovereignty of Everything and the Power of Nothing

*University of Minnesota professor David Wilkins (Lumbee) addresses the ruinous effects of the overuse of “sovereignty”:*

Political scientist Louis Henkin said that sovereignty is not anarchy, “resistance to cooperation,” or “immunity from law, immunity from scrutiny, immunity from justice.” Sovereignty does not mean that leaders are above the people. Sovereignty means leaders have a profound responsibility to the people.

A corrupted kind of sovereignty is now increasingly being used as a weapon

against Native people and as a shield by thieves, robbers, and charlatans. It has taken us hostage through the idea that criticism of abusive leadership is criticism of our own powers as nations. This twisted logic has paralyzed many of our responsible Native leaders.

In the history of Native nations in North America, no single individual or group of individuals would have been allowed to wield the kind of abusive and absolute control we increasingly see today. The clan and kinship system dictated accountable, not autocratic, behavior. In fact, many nations, such as the Cheyenne, have traditional protections to prevent political tyranny. Some

have forgotten these safeguards or have not considered how they might incorporate them into their modern governmental practices.

Our living, collective power, generated through nurturing of our traditions, has been misnamed and misdirected. We can no longer stand by, rendered helpless just because someone falsely plays the sovereignty card when we all know the game is rigged to disempower us all.

Let us reorient ourselves and focus not on how we can paste sovereignty onto some idea or use the term to justify civil and human rights violations. Let us reclaim our tribal sovereignty—our life force. <http://bit.ly/1H104Sq> ☞



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### Havasupai Tribe Fights to Stop Uranium Mining Near Grand Canyon

The Havasupai Tribe, along with several environmental groups, has appealed a court ruling that would allow construction of a long-contested uranium mine near the Grand Canyon to go forward.


The ruling was handed down last month on a case filed by the Havasupai and its allies in March 2013, which called for tribal consultation and a new environmental impact assessment. The Sierra Club, the Center for Biological Diversity and Grand Canyon Trust had joined the tribe in challenging a decision by the U.S. Forest Service to allow Energy Fuels Inc. to reopen the mine. The site is six miles from the South Rim of the Grand Canyon and only four miles from the Red Butte designated traditional cultural site.

About 200 tons of uranium would be extracted from the mine daily during its

three- to five-year lifespan, the *Phoenix New Times* reported.

There has been much concern about the potential effects of the mine on irreversible ground water damage, as well as the threat that the mine could pose to tribal sacred sites. In addition to the Havasupai Tribe, the land that the ore lies under includes sites sacred to the Hualapai, Kaibab Paiute, Zuni, Hopi and Navajo tribes.

“Canyon Mine threatens tribal cultural values, wildlife and endangered species, and has the potential to contaminate the aquifers and streams that sustain the Grand Canyon and Colorado River with toxic uranium-mining waste,” said the Center for Biological Diversity in a statement announcing the appeal.

But Energy Fuels spokesperson Curtis Moore said that the company is “extremely confident that there will be no impact on ground water.” <http://bit.ly/1cr266o> 

### Disgraced Tribal Chairwoman Loses Appeal as Special Election Fills Vacancy

BY SIMON MOYA-SMITH

Gari Pikyavit Lafferty, the chairwoman of the Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah, who was removed from office in April for receiving gifts from the Washington Redskins football team, has been replaced following a failed appeal and a special election.

At a hearing on March 31, Lafferty admitted to tribal charges of willful misconduct after she accepted an all-expenses-paid trip last September to Washington, D.C. to attend a game being played by the local NFL franchise, whose team name has become a flashpoint for many Natives. She was removed from office two days later, on April 2 and filed an unsuccessful appeal on April 29, just before Corrina Bow of the Kanosh Band won a special election to replace her. Bow was sworn in on May 4.

“The Tribal Council has a solemn obligation and duty to uphold and implement the Tribe’s laws, and, if they are violated, to take action in order to protect the sacred trust of the membership,” interim Chairwoman Jeanine Borchardt said.

“Removal of the tribal chairwoman based upon her violations of the Tribe’s Ethics Ordinance, its Standards of Conduct, and most importantly, its Constitution, ensures that those laws have meaning, and that elected tribal leaders will be held accountable for their actions,” she added.

“The Paiute Indian Tribe has gone through a period of negativity, so now we must clear the air; it is time for the Tribe to start healing,” Bow said. “There are no winners in a situation like this, but the Tribal Council can unite and move forward and refocus on what is important for our Tribe, for our people and our children.” <http://bit.ly/1A0O6eO> 📍

### First Nation Turns Down \$1 Billion Offer For Gas Rights On Ancestral Land

A First Nation in northern British Columbia has declined a \$1 billion (\$960 million U.S.) offer from a Malaysian company that had sought to build a liquefied natural gas terminal on ancestral land.

The Lax Kw’alaams Band said it is not averse to such development but simply did not want it on that particular spot because the risks are too great.

“The terminal is planned to be located in the traditional territory of the Lax Kw’alaams,” said Band Mayor Garry Reece. “This is not a money issue. This is environmental and cultural.”

The terminal, proposed by the Malaysian-owned petroleum company Petronas, would have been located at the headwaters of the Skeena River. But the Band cited threats to the watershed, including key salmon habitats, CBC News reported. The project would also be very

close to the adjacent underwater area of Flora Bank, “where an abundance of eel grass provides vital habitat to maturing salmon in the Skeena watershed,” CBC reported.

While the band’s rejection does not legally stop the project from continuing, leaders said the First Nation’s wishes should be respected. “Only Lax Kw’alaams have a valid claim to aboriginal title in the relevant area—their consent is required for this project to proceed,” Reece said.

The 3,600 Tsimshian First Nation band members were polled during the course of three meetings, each group turning down the money that would have been paid in exchange for their consent. This led the band council to vote no. The payment would have meant \$319,000 in Canadian currency (\$267,000 U.S.) to each member over 40 years, or \$7,975 Canadian (\$6,675 U.S.) annually. <http://bit.ly/1K70ey3> 📍



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# Amazon Dredging Is Halted

*Local population must be consulted, court rules* BY BARBARA FRASER

**Bottom Line:** *Indigenous rights—and river spirits—figure in a major waterway project in Peru.*

A Peruvian court has ruled that plans to dredge parts of the Amazon and its major tributaries must be suspended until indigenous communities along the rivers are consulted.

The proposed waterway, or “hydrovia,” is part of a South American plan to improve infrastructure connecting the region’s countries. It would involve dredging shallow places and snags of submerged tree trunks along the Amazon River and three Peruvian tributaries—the Marañón, Hualaga and Ucayali rivers. Officials call them “bad spots.”

But for the Kukama Kukamiria in the lower Marañón River valley, they are “good spots.” The river is the home of the boa that is said to have given birth to the first of their people. It is a gathering place for fish. It is the source of water for cooking, washing, drinking and bathing, as well as the main transit route through a region with almost no roads.

And spirits—including family members who drowned and whose bodies were never recovered—are said to live in its depths.

The \$64 million hydrovia project calls for a system entailing signals that would mark the channel to transmit information about water levels. The goal is to make the rivers navigable year-round to the port cities of Yurimaguas and Pucallpa, where freight from Brazil can connect with highways to the coast.

But the Superior Court of Loreto on April 27 ruled that indigenous consultation was necessary.

The ruling constitutes “the first case involving an (infrastructure) megaproject that has been won by an indigenous organization,” said Juan Carlos Ruiz, a lawyer at the non-profit Legal Defense Institute (Instituto de Defensa Legal, IDL). Ruiz filed the case on behalf of Acodecospat, an association of Kukama communities in the lower Marañón River valley.



*Amazonian dredging, like this one for gold, needs indigenous approval, says a Peruvian court.*

Although the Peruvian government had called for bids on the project, it suspended the process in February when only one of the eight companies that had expressed interest presented a bid. Some observers said the reluctance may have been due to a lower court ruling in Acodecospat’s favor and an appeal that was then pending before the higher court.

At a public hearing in February in Nauta, a port town on the Marañón River, officials from the Ministry of Transportation and Communications told community leaders that the government would not go ahead with the project until a consultation was held. A law requiring prior consultation of indigenous communities when a development project or government plan would affect their communal rights took effect in 2011. In arguing the case, Ruiz said indigenous organizations should be consulted on both the terms of reference for the project and on the environmental impact study.

The superior court ruling, however, leaves some unanswered questions about the consultation process. In its decision, the court said it lacked the authority to dictate when the consultation should occur.

While the appeal was under way, officials from the Ministry of Transportation and Communications and ProInversion, the government’s investment promotion

agency, met with leaders of indigenous organizations from the four affected watersheds to discuss the consultation process. That plan was scheduled to be announced on May 19, and the consultation is to be completed by August.

At the public hearing in February, Kukama leaders told government officials they were worried about the impact of dredging on fish and riverside fields where they grow corn, rice and bananas. In addition, they expressed concern about the safety of river travel, as the canoes generally used by local families can be swamped by the wake of large vessels. Several speakers also mentioned the impact of such traffic on the river spirits.

Another potential problem with the planned dredging is that little is known about sediment flows in the targeted rivers, said Jorge Abad, a Peruvian civil engineer at the University of Pittsburgh’s Center for Research and Education of the Amazonian Rainforest. Abad is leading the first effort to map the sediment flows in the four rivers that would be affected by the dredging.

Without basic data, he said, it is impossible to predict potential environmental impacts of the project: “First you have to understand the river, and I don’t think we’re at the point of understanding our rivers yet.” <http://bit.ly/1K8ld3q>

# In Washington, A Mandate For Native History

*Schools must instruct students in local heritage* BY RICHARD WALKER

**Bottom Line:** *Schools in Washington State used to be “encouraged” to teach the history and legacy of its many tribes. Now the law mandates that they do so.*

There are 29 federally recognized indigenous nations in Washington State. They have federal treaties, their own governments, jurisdictions, economies, and rights and responsibilities in their historical territories. The chances are, though, that most public-school students do not know much about that.

This is about to change.

On May 8, Gov. Jay Inslee signed into law a bill that requires state schools to educate students about the history and governance of the state’s indigenous nations. For the past 10 years, schools were only “encouraged” to do so.

The state’s Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction had worked with Native Nations to develop the curriculum, “Since Time Immemorial: Tribal Sovereignty in Washington State.” It was made available for free to school districts. But as late as December 2014, Democratic State Sen. John McCoy (Tulalip) estimated that only 30 percent of school districts in Washington State had chosen to use it. McCoy, a citizen of the Tulalip Tribes and the author of the bill, said that 10 years ago, he could not get support for mandatory instruction.

But times have changed and reception has warmed.

“This is a tremendous opportunity to learn about the tribal people of the Northwest,” said Michael Vendiola, program supervisor in the state Superintendent of Public Instruction’s Office of Native Education, and a citizen of the Swinom-

ish Tribe. “What that opportunity brings is the ability to build relationships and understand more of the true history of Washington State. For tribal communities, it will be empowering in the educational system to have their culture, government, and history presented in the classroom.”

Proponents say the new curriculum will give balance to history instruction, which has often ignored the state’s indigenous history. This is not just a problem in Washington State; a two-year study by Sarah Shear, associate professor of social studies education at Pennsylvania State University in Altoona, determined that most students in all 50 states graduate from high school without basic knowledge of contemporary Native challenges or cultures.

Students are taught “nothing about treaties, land rights, water rights, nothing about the fact that tribes are still fighting to be recognized and determine sovereignty,” Shear told ICTMN.

“Since Time Immemorial” is comprehensive yet flexible, designed so that teachers can begin where they are most comfortable in their ability to teach the subject. The website provides curriculum for elementary, middle and high school grades, resources, expected outcomes, and teacher-support documents and videos.

Some school districts may have hesitated to put forth the curriculum because they were wary of potential costs, McCoy said. However, the state Office of Financial Management analyzed the bill and found there would be no financial impact. “This [bill] requires districts to use the curriculum developed and made available free of charge by OSPI,” the agency reported.

In addition to the curriculum being made available free online, the state’s Office of Native Education provides free training. And at least two universities provide free training online.

The new curriculum had broad bipartisan support; it was approved 42-7 by the Republican-majority Senate and 76-22 by the Democratic-majority House. Of 16 cosponsors, five were Republicans, including Senate President Pro Tem Pam Roach.

Matt Remle (Lakota), Native American liaison at Marysville-Pilchuck High School near Tulalip, said that teachers in his district—which voluntarily adopted “Since Time Immemorial” in 2014—were “initially hesitant” about teaching the curriculum. “Not because they didn’t want to teach it,” he said, “but because they were afraid of getting something wrong.”

Their attitude has since changed, he said. “Now, I’m hearing from teachers about how easy and fun it is. They’re giving some anecdotal feedback—‘My students are more engaged, they are seeing themselves in the curriculum.’ That’s a good outcome.”

He added, “One teacher was talking about doing a unit on Celilo Falls, and some students had family from that area. They got excited about it. It prompted them to want to talk to their family about that history.”

Remle is now seeing Native students who are more engaged and teachers who are more confident in using the curriculum. “There’s a sense of pride too, that our district adopted this core curriculum before it [became mandatory]. The teachers are saying, ‘All right, we were able to get ahead of the curve.’” <http://bit.ly/1FiMYVC>

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

# A Yakama Primer

*'We still exist with hearts as strong as our ancestors.'* BY RICHARD WALKER



*Yakama people catching salmon using dipnets at Celilo Falls in the 1950s. They had fished there since time immemorial until 1957, when the falls and nearby settlements were submerged by the construction of The Dalles Dam.*

**Bottom Line:** *From higher education to dance, from hydropower to treaty rights, the Yakama people are vibrant and determined.*

At 1,875 square miles, it comes just behind Luxembourg and Mauritius in combined geographic size. Figure in its historical territory of 18,750 square miles and it's larger than Kuwait.

Its government-owned enterprises employ people in agriculture, communications and media, cultural preservation, education, entertainment, land and resource management, wildlife management and utilities. There are 55 government departments—among them business and economic development, education, environment, health and human services, law and justice, and natural resources.

This is the Yakama Nation of Washington State.

The federally recognized Yakama Nation is a signatory with the U.S. to the Treaty of 1855. That treaty made available 11.5 million acres for settlement but reserved 1.4 million acres. Trudy Pinkham, a supervisory forester with the Bureau of Indian Affairs (and Yakama herself) noted that the holdings include “ownership of Mount Adams as our western boundary, 600,000 acres of timber lands, 400,000 acres of rangelands, 200,000 acres of agriculture lands, and 200,000 acres of home sites, cities and towns.”

Comprising nearly 11,000 citizens, the Nation is governed by the 14-member Yakama Tribal Council. The committees of this active, hands-on government deal with issues related to budget and finance, culture, economic development, education and housing, grazing and timber, health and welfare, fish and wildlife, irrigation and roads, law and justice, recreation and youth activities, and veterans. Not to men-

tion radioactive hazards from the federal government's Hanford Nuclear Site.

The Yakama council is not afraid to take steps to protect the Nation's culture and public welfare. For example, it voted in 2000 to extend a ban on alcohol sales over the entire reservation, including land owned by non-Indians.

“It's a symbol that this is not the type of economy we want to see concentrated on the reservation,” Jack Fiander, then a member of the council, told the Associated Press. “It's sort of a symbol to the youth. We don't think it's cool anymore to use or abuse alcohol.”

And in 2013, after Washington State voters approved the recreational use of marijuana, the Yakama Nation made it clear that the sale and use of marijuana would not be allowed on the reservation.

ICTMN recently asked some Yakama people to share 10 characteristics that define their Nation. Here are their responses:

**Diversity:** As the Yakama Nation Museum & Cultural Center puts it, “The ancestors of today’s Yakamas were of different tribes and bands. Each was a distinct group led by a council of leaders, and each tribe or band spoke their own Native language, and were closely related to other Columbia Basin Plateau Tribes.”

The Yakama Nation was created by the Treaty of 1855. That treaty delineates which “confederated tribes and bands of Indians, occupying lands hereinafter bounded and described and lying in Washington Territory ... are to be considered as one nation, under the name ‘Yakama’”. They are the Palouse, Piquose, Yakama, Wenatchapam, Klinquit, Oche Chotes, Kow way saye ee, Sk’in-pah, Kah-miltpah, Klickitat, Wish ham, See ap Cat, Li ay was and Shyiks.

“A lot of Yakama people live different ways,” the Yakama artist Toma Villa observed. “To people who live in the valley, that’s Yakama to them. To people who live near the Columbia River, that’s Yakama to them.”

**Beauty:** Yakama country is a diverse land that has always provided for its people. The reservation and ceded territories include 12,280-foot Mount Adams, and the Yakima River, Medicine Valley, evergreen forests, meadows, Celilo Falls, Fort Simcoe, the Columbia River and rolling hills.

“We have always honored and respected Mother Nature,” the Yakama Nation Museum & Cultural Center has stated. “She gives us our huckleberries, roots, choke cherries, deer and salmon.”

Today, Yakama people engage in ceremonial, subsistence, and commercial fishing for salmon, steelhead, and sturgeon in the Columbia River and its tributaries within land ceded by the Nation to the United States. “Our people are strong in fishing, hunting and gathering of our traditional foods,” Trudy Pinkham said.

**Resilience:** “Our treaty still stands, with complete sovereignty,” said Patricia Selam, who is studying community development at University of Nevada, Las Vegas. “We will never back down in our stance to uphold and exercise our rights as a people.”



*Yakama leader Kamiakin (ca. 1800-1877) signed the 1855 treaty with the United States and was a leader during the Northwest’s Indian Wars of 1855-1858.*



Under the Treaty of 1855, the Nation reserved the right to fish, gather and hunt in its traditional areas. But defending those rights has been an ongoing process. David Sohapp Sr. (1925-1991), a World War II veteran who was imprisoned in his 60s for exercising his treaty fishing rights on the Columbia River, was a plaintiff in a federal court case that upheld fishing treaty rights. Those rights guaranteed treaty signatories “a fair and equitable share” of salmon runs and made them partners in the rulemaking process.

In this respect, another leading Yakama figure was Lavina Washines (1940-2011), who served as the Nation’s first chairwoman from 2006-2008. She helped protect a traditional fishing and salmon-drying location from development as a gated community. She also sought restoration of animal, plant, soil and water life that may have been damaged by radioactive waste at the Hanford reactor site.

Despite the settlement era, the boarding school era, the termination era and all of the economic, political and social challenges in between, “we flourished and prospered,” Patricia Selam said. “We still exist with hearts as strong as our ancestors.”

**Environmental Balance:** The Yakama Nation’s utility, Yakama Power, takes a cultural approach to generating electrical power. The message is, be respectful and take only what you need.

“We can choose wind, water, sun, biomass or geothermal to obtain our electricity,” the utility states. “We are dependent only on nature and not other energy providers.”

Yakama Power’s electricity generation uses water already flowing through the Wapato Irrigation Project’s irrigation canals to turn turbines. The system’s generators can produce enough electricity to power more than 4,000 homes. Other forms of electricity generation currently being studied include a woody biomass power plant, solar generation and wind. In addition, Yakama Power wants to make steam produced from the process available as a heat source for industry.

**Faith:** “We are religiously diverse,” Trudy Pinkham said. “Longhouse, Shakers, and



*The Yakama Nation is home to the independent and non-affiliated Heritage University.*

church-attending people. We respect all religions.” And, Selam added, “We are taught to respect all, no matter the differences. In time of conflict, either within ourselves or others, we are taught to forgive, pray and sing.”

**Sharing:** Valarie Calac, Yakama, makes cedar-root baskets and moccasins, wind-dries salmon, beads regalia items, and collects traditional food plants. But she doesn’t sell what she gathers or dries. If there is a need in the community, she contributes from her stores. “Indian foods are not to be sold, but can be bartered for,” she said. “I also teach when the need is there.”

**Culture:** The Yakama Nation Museum & Cultural Center, which opened in 1980, is one of the oldest Native American museums in the United States. It is part of the nation’s Cultural Center Campus, which includes a 12,000-square-foot exhibition hall, the Cultural Center Gift Shop, Heritage Restaurant, Heritage Theater, Yakama Nation Library, and Winter Lodge. The Cultural Center is open to the general public seven days a week. A recent exhibit of moccasins—“beaded, belled and turtle shelled”—incorporated poetry by Joseph Delgado, Chip Livingston and Shin Yu Pai. Annual events include the Native Artists Market in April, Treaty Day commemoration in June, and Native American Month in November.

**Learning:** The Yakama Nation is home to the independent and non-affiliated

Heritage University, founded in 1981 (and designed as a university in 2004) through the impetus of two Yakama Nation women. They envisioned a place of higher learning that could acquire and expand the outreach programs that Fort Wright College of Spokane offered in the Yakama Nation town of Toppenish and in the Colville Tribes town of Omak.

Today, Heritage University has two colleges that award 12 associate of arts degrees and 46 undergraduate and graduate degrees, as well as certificates in eight fields. Last fall, Heritage reported that 1,172 students were working toward undergraduate or graduate degrees. Of the undergraduates, 62 percent were of Mexican/Central American/South American ancestry, and 16 percent were Native American/Alaska Native.

**Identity:** “Our people love to dance, whether we are dancing on the floor of the longhouse or across the floor of the Shaker Church or on the open floors of the pow wows,” Pinkham said. “We love to dress up in our finest and show you what we are: Yakama people.”

**Tradition:** This is how Patricia Selam puts it: “Our customs and traditions are held sacred with the highest respect to those who carry the knowledge and pass the teachings on. We honor our first foods, change of seasons and lifetime milestones with traditional ceremony. We strive to live our traditional ways of life daily, so they do not die with our elders.”

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STANDING ROCK/FORT YATES COMMUNITY SCHOOL  
2015/2016 SCHOOL YEAR

### JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Standing Rock Community School and the Fort Yates Public School District #4 operate under a Joint Powers Agreement between the Fort Yates Public School District #4 and the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe. (Elementary K-5, Middle School 5-8, and High School 9-12).

#### STANDING ROCK COMMUNITY SCHOOL

##### Elementary:

Elementary Teachers (K-5)  
Social Worker  
Special Education Teacher  
School Counselor

##### Middle School:

Special Education Teacher

##### High School:

Math Teacher  
Science Teacher  
Librarian  
English Teacher  
Social Studies Teacher

#### FORT YATES PUBLIC SCHOOL DIST. #4

##### Elementary:

Elementary Teachers

##### Middle School:

Special Education Teacher

##### High School:

PE/Health Teacher (Female)  
Full-time Substitute Teacher  
Paraprofessionals  
ELL Coach  
Science Teacher  
Teacher Mentor

##### Other:

Business Manager

##### Other:

Paraprofessionals  
Business Manager  
Bus Driver  
Assistant Cook  
Gifted/Talented Coordinator  
Speech Pathologist

**Coaching:** Head Coaches and Assistants: Football, Volleyball, Cross Country, Girls & Boys Basketball, Wrestling, Track and Boys & Girls Golf.

**OPENING DATE:** May 8, 2015

**CLOSING DATE:** Until Filled

Request Applications at:  
Standing Rock/Fort Yates Community School  
9189 Hwy 24  
Fort Yates, North Dakota 58538  
Or call Katherine Bailey at 701-854-2142  
Email Address: Katherine.Bailey@k12.nd.us  
Visit our website: [www.fort-yates.k12.nd.us](http://www.fort-yates.k12.nd.us)

All persons selected for employment must submit to a background check and drug testing.

We are an equal opportunity employer.

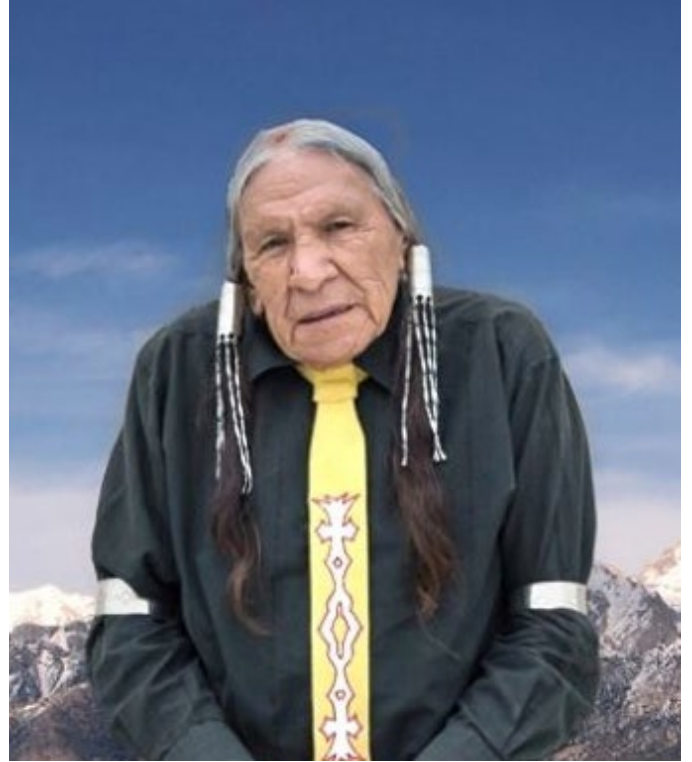
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*The Puget Sound Business Journal named Washington State Sen. John McCoy (Tulalip) one of the top 35 business leaders of the last 35 years.*



*"Anger gets you nowhere," said Saginaw Grant (Sac and Fox), cast in the controversial Adam Sandler film The Ridiculous Six, on Facebook.*



*A federal judge has dismissed a lawsuit that questioned the Quinault Indian Nation's sovereignty over its eponymous Washington State lake.*



*Buffy Sainte-Marie (Cree), 74, has released "Power in the Blood," her first album in seven years.*

WASHINGTON STATE SENATE DEMOCRATS; FACEBOOK/SAGINAW GRANT; TOM HARPEL/WIKIPEDIA; MATT BARNES/COURTESY OF THE ARTIST

# Headlines from the Web

## NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBE GIVEN OWNERSHIP OF FARM IN WAVERLY

<http://bit.ly/1F4tX6i>

## AMERICAN INDIANS WANT FEWER CHILDREN PUT IN FOSTER CARE

<http://strib.mn/1PEdCb6>

## WISCONSIN AND MICHIGAN POTAWATOMI TRIBES FORM JOINT VENTURE

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

## WATER CONFERENCE TO HAVE ARIZONA TRIBES' PERSPECTIVE

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

## COUNTY APPROVES FIRE SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH CHUMASH

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

## MAINE BILL WOULD GIVE TRIBAL COURTS JURISDICTION IN SOME DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CASES

<http://bit.ly/1F6MVcz>

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### TRIBAL INTERIOR BUDGET COUNCIL MEETING MAY 20-21

Conducted by the National Congress of American Indians.

**Location:** Washington Plaza Hotel, Washington, D.C.

### NATIVE AMERICAN FISH AND WILDLIFE SOCIETY NATIONAL CONFERENCE MAY 20-22

"Natives Without Borders: Bringing Our Next Generation Into the Future to Continue Our Traditional Ways of Life" is the theme of this year's conference. "Clandestine Meth Lab Awareness," "Introduction to Alaska Native Cultures, Law and History," "Climate Change/Adaptation—Utilizing Traditional Knowledge," "Government Agencies' Civil Regulatory Responsibilities," "Understanding Subsistence," "Making Friends to Conserve Our Natural Resources" and "Painting the National Habitat Mural" are among the topics. In addition, local tours of the Taku Glacier, dog sled routes and other venues will be offered.

**Location:** Centennial Hall, Juneau, Alaska

### TRIBAL GRANT WRITING WORKSHOP MAY 22

"Train the Trainer" will be conducted by the Association of American Indian Physicians.

**Location:** Oklahoma City Indian Clinic, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

### NATIVE WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP FORUM MAY 22

The 11th annual forum, conducted by the Native Action Network, will emphasize the organization's goals of enhancing the strength and integrity of the American Indian and Alaskan Native community through personal empowerment and civil participation, via workshops, breakout sessions and panels. The keynote speaker will be Suzan Shown Harjo.

**Location:** Great Wolf Lodge, Centralia, Washington

### SOVEREIGNTY, DEVELOPMENT AND HUMAN SECURITY MAY 28-29

This colloquium on U.S./Native American relations will be devoted to the uniquely treaty-based, government-to-government political and legal dynamic of mutual sovereignty between the U.S. and Indian nations. Emphasis will be placed on the challenges inherent in reconciling Native sovereignty with curbs imposed by the federal government. Recognized experts will present in-depth information and current perspectives on U.S.-tribal relations,

their evolving balance, and strategies for enhancing Native American human security. Selected topics are "Pathways for Enhancing Native American Education," "Improving Public Health in Native Communities," "Human Rights and Governmental Ethics," "Protecting Cultural Heritage and Traditions" and "Connecting Land, Water, People and Wildlife." Sponsors include the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the Northwest Indian Bar Association, the Center for Indigenous Research and Justice, and the Tribal Law and Policy Institute.

**Location:** University of Washington, Seattle, Washington

### 20TH NAVAJO STUDIES CONFERENCE MAY 28-30

The conference is devoted to supporting the Navajo future through the sharing of the knowledge and experiences of its people and communities. Individual and panel presentations, academic papers, films, poetry, stories, and interactive facilitated discussions will be among the features. Several pre-conference workshops will also be offered pertaining to Diné language revitalization efforts, teaching methods and related technology.

**Location:** Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, Arizona

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Re Stanley Heller's column "What Movies Best Depict Indians?" (May 8):

Show documentaries from PBS, tribal views and perspectives from YouTube videos, or have a group visit some of our reservations and schools to see our point of view. Since financially we cannot always come towns, maybe the gap can be bridged through video chats or learning sessions from our schools and cultural leaders in multiple Tribal Nations.

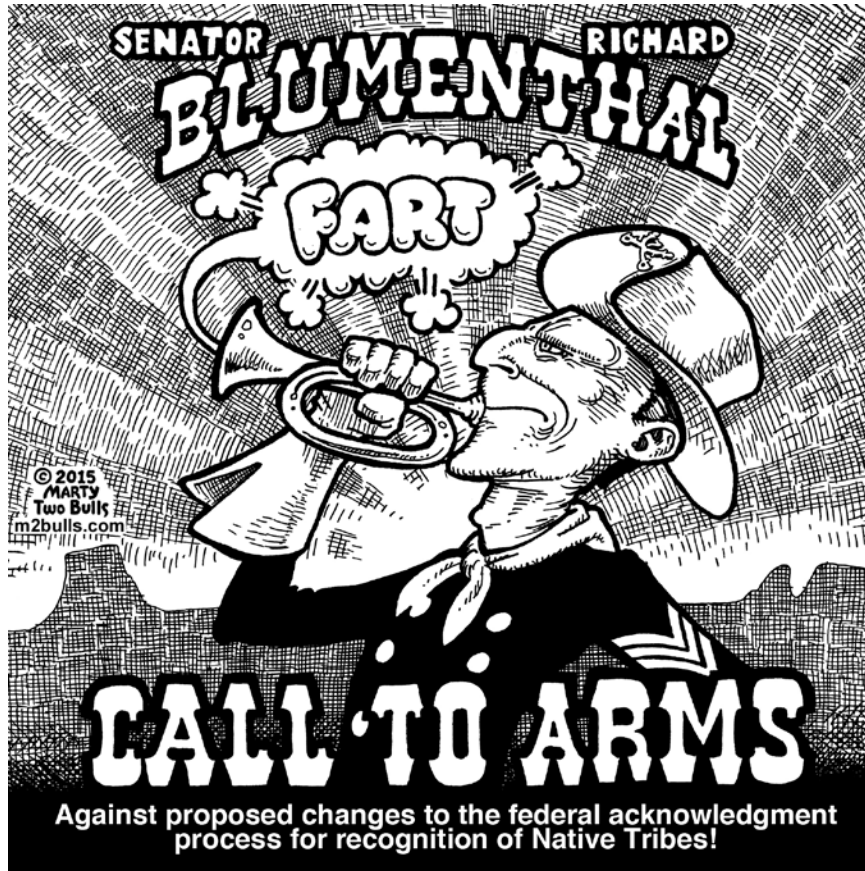
—Deborah Abeita  
Isleta, New Mexico

Re Amalia Rubin's column about disparaging Native images in the Adam Sandler film *The Ridiculous Six*, and how they reflect negatively on his and Rubin's Jewish heritage (May 1):

Thank you, Ms. Rubin, for holding one of your own accountable for his actions. Racism, whether spewed from

someone's mouth or in a film, can rarely be taken back. It will exist in the person who heard it and those who saw it. It is irreversible. Adam Sandler may not be able to undo his vile mistake. But we can educate others through our disgust and acknowledgement that what he did was wrong.

—Sonny Skyhawk  
Pasadena, California



## TOP NEWS ALERTS

From [IndianCountryTodayMediaNetwork.com](http://IndianCountryTodayMediaNetwork.com)

### NEW NAVAJO PRESIDENT SWORN IN

Russell Begaye was sworn in as president of the Navajo Nation on May 12 following months of electoral contention, focused largely on candidate Chris Deschene's refusal to fulfill tribal requirements that he was fluent in the Navajo language. In his inauguration speech, Begaye emphasized economic development and cultural preservation. "The road we will travel on is the road to sovereignty," he said. "We must self-determine, by the sweat of our own brow, a level of commitment to making meaningful differences. We are ready."

### MAN SENTENCED IN PIPE THEFT

James Short Bear of Chamberlain, South Dakota was sen-

tenced by a U.S. district judge to eight months in custody and was fined \$500 for stealing a ceremonial pipe from the Lower Brule Sioux Tribal administration building in Pierre. Several months after the theft in February 2014, Short Bear pawned the pipe, known as a *chanunpa*, claiming that he had made it himself. Short Bear, whose theft was recorded on video, pleaded guilty to larceny.

### MAINE LEGISLATORS REJECT FISHING PACT

By a 9-2 vote, a Maine legislative committee recommended on May 13 that the state reject a request from four tribes that they share management of commercial fish species with capital authorities. Rep. Matthew Dana (Passamaquoddy) had proposed

a memorandum of agreement prompted in part by a controversy last year over the tribal gathering of baby eels, known as elvers. But the Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources turned the bill down as unnecessary. "I don't see how this takes us anyplace," said Republican Representative Jeffrey K. Pierce.

### 'ETWOK' EDWARDSEN WALKS ON

Charles "Etwok" Edwardsen, who vigorously defended Iñupiat rights in Alaska, walked on May 8 at age 71. Edwardsen's activism, which was focused on land claims, developed over several decades, reaching its climax during the \$900 million Alaska oil lease sale in 1969; Edwardsen called the sale "the rape of Alaska Natives." Edwardsen

was "incredibly rude," recalled his biographer, Hugh Gallagher, "but always politically astute."

### DISPUTE OVER GRAND RONDE FLAG

The Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde and the school board of Willamina, Oregon are clashing over the proposed display of a tribal flag in the local high school gymnasium. Tribal leaders wish to display the flag to celebrate the approximately 25 percent of students of the school district who are Native American, the Associated Press reported. But one school board member called the measure "semi-divisive" and chairman Craig Johnson proposed that the tribe pay \$25,000 over five years for the display. A decision is expected late in June.

# UPCOMING POW WOWS

## **SOUTHERN UTE BEAR DANCE POW WOW**

5/22/15—5/25/15  
Sky Ute Fairgrounds  
200 East Highway 151  
Ignacio, CO  
970-563-0100 ext. 3624 or 970-779-8149  
[tvigil@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:tvigil@southernute-nsn.gov);  
[eredd@southernute-nsn.gov](mailto:eredd@southernute-nsn.gov)  
[SouthernUte-NSN.gov](http://SouthernUte-NSN.gov)

## **OROVILLE'S JIM PRESTON MEMORIAL POW WOW**

5/22/15—5/24/15  
Berry Creek Rancheria  
4020 Olive Highway  
Oroville, CA  
530-532-1611  
[orovillepowwow@gmail.com](mailto:orovillepowwow@gmail.com)

## **LEECH LAKE MEMORIAL POW WOW**

5/22/15—5/24/15  
Palace Casino Drive  
Cass Lake, MN  
218-760-3127  
[leahgale@hotmail.com](mailto:leahgale@hotmail.com)  
[LLOjibwe.com](http://LLOjibwe.com)

## **41ST ANNUAL DE-UN- DA-GA POW WOW**

5/22/15—5/24/15  
Custaloga Town Scout Reservation  
7 Boy Scout Lane  
Carlton, PA  
412-327-0372  
[hzo221@yahoo.com](mailto:hzo221@yahoo.com)

## **34TH ANNUAL UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA RIVERSIDE POW WOW**

5/22/15—5/23/15  
University of California, Riverside Sports  
Complex

1000 West Blaine Street  
Riverside, CA  
951-827-3850  
[joshuag@ucr.edu](mailto:joshuag@ucr.edu)  
[nasp.UCR.edu](http://nasp.UCR.edu)

## **14TH ANNUAL CHEROKEES OF ALABAMA SPRING INDIAN POW WOW**

5/22/15—5/24/15  
National Guard Armory  
Highway 69 West  
Arab, AL  
256-590-8109  
[mbreedlove39@gmail.com](mailto:mbreedlove39@gmail.com)  
[Facebook.com/CherokeesOfAlabama](https://Facebook.com/CherokeesOfAlabama)

## **SPIRIT OF THE CHILDREN É-MĀMAWOHKAMĀTOTAN INTERTRIBAL POW WOW**

5/23/15  
Heritage Park Secondary  
33700 Prentis Avenue  
V2V 6L4 Mission, B.C.  
United States Minor Outlying Islands  
É-māmawohkamātotan Committee  
[committee@e-mamawohkamatotan.ca](mailto:committee@e-mamawohkamatotan.ca)  
[Facebook.com/emamawohkamatotan.powwow](https://Facebook.com/emamawohkamatotan.powwow)

## **GISSIWAS CREEK POW WOW 2015**

5/23/15—5/24/15  
Gissiwass Creek Grounds  
13819 North 5th Avenue  
Marion, MI  
616-813-7639  
[terri.kogler@gmail.com](mailto:terri.kogler@gmail.com)  
[Facebook.com/events/345171515637856/?ref\\_dashboard\\_filter=upcoming](https://Facebook.com/events/345171515637856/?ref_dashboard_filter=upcoming)

## **SPRING PLANTING MOON POW WOW**

5/23/15—5/24/15  
Powers Farm

592 North Main Street  
Randolph, MA  
617-642-1683  
[mcnaa@aol.com](mailto:mcnaa@aol.com)  
[MCNAA.org](http://MCNAA.org)

## **AMERICAN INDIANIST SOCIETY POW WOW**

5/23/15—5/24/15  
Camp Marshall, 4H Campgrounds  
92 McCormick Road  
Spencer, MA  
508-254-2098

## **6TH ANNUAL NATIVE WOODLAND GATHERING**

5/23/15—5/24/15  
Hall-Fawcett Park  
4595 CR 153  
Zanesfield, OH  
937-441-1565  
[shawney@bright.net](mailto:shawney@bright.net)  
[loganhills.Homestead.com/gathering.html](http://loganhills.Homestead.com/gathering.html)

## **WOLF RUN FESTIVAL AND NATIVE AMERICAN POW WOW**

5/23/15—5/25/15  
Trout Run Village, off Route 15  
Trout Run, PA  
570-995-5177 or 570-928-9044

## **MEMORIAL DAY POW WOW**

5/25/15  
Mille Lacs Indian Museum  
43411 Oodena Drive  
Onamia, MN  
320-532-3632  
[bradley.sam@mnhs.org](mailto:bradley.sam@mnhs.org)  
[MNHS.org/millelacs](http://MNHS.org/millelacs)

# How Did I Miss That?

*Chuck Norris jokes, presidential clown cars and the highest paid “sportsman” in the world* BY STEVE RUSSELL

Famous jokester Chuck Norris, writing on the knee-slapper website WND, extended sarcastic congratulations to GOP Gov. Greg Abbott for mobilizing the Texas State Guard to keep an eye on the military training exercise called Jade Helm 15. He also applauded presidential hopeful Ted Cruz for writing to the Pentagon about the commonly known conspiracy to take over Texas and “asking the hard questions.”

My cousin Ray Sixkiller was not impressed.

“You know how they say in some men one testicle is bigger than the other?” he said. “Both of Chuck Norris’s testicles are bigger than the other. When the bogeyman goes to bed, he checks under it for Chuck Norris...”

Ray was still going on like that when I had to get back to work.

\* \* \*

The pot still simmers in Texas, where the *Dallas Morning News* reported that Eulless lawyer Todd Smith, who served 16 years as a Republican in the Texas Legislature, wrote a letter to the aforementioned Gov. Abbott about calling out the Texas State Guard to prevent the aforementioned Jade Helm 15 conspiracy to take over Texas by the U.S. military, the Department of Homeland Security, ISIS, and Wal-Mart.

Smith’s complaint is typical of Texans with three-digit IQs. Like them, Smith is “horrified that I have to choose between the possibility that my governor actually believes this stuff and the possibility that my governor doesn’t have the backbone to stand up to those who do.”

When I offered my Republican Cousin Ray the soapbox, he was silent for a long time. Finally he said, “So, Steve.... how many Texans do you think have three-digit IQs?”

\* \* \*

There are three more occupants in the presidential clown car, none of whom are consistently polling double digits. There is Carly Fiorina, my personal favorite because she ran the most creative political ad I’ve ever seen—the “demon sheep.”

There is Mike Huckabee, who apparently thinks that telling people not to join the U.S. military in wartime is presidential. Cousin Ray says it is—“if you are running for president of Code Pink.”

And there is Ben Carson, who says people enter prison straight and come out gay and that proves sexual orientation is a choice.

“At least,” Cousin Ray said helpfully, “he hates gay people so much that maybe he’d put fewer straight people in prison.”

\* \* \*

*Forbes* has dubbed Floyd Mayweather the highest paid “sportsman” in the world after Mayweather disposed of Manny Pacquiao in a unanimous decision. In a just world, more people would attend to Mayweather’s long record of using his golden fists on the faces of women. On the way to what may reach \$200 million payday when all the ancillary dollars are counted, Mayweather trained for Pacquiao with seven assaults on five women, according to Deadspin. Confronted on CNN, Mayweather pointed out there are “no pictures” showing his fists going to the face of females.

The very same day, Kentucky Derby winner American Pharoah got \$2 million. Where I come from, that ain’t hay. Cousin Ray said he figured that when Pharoah retires to stud, he will treat his mares better than Mayweather treated his ladies.

Then he launched into his usual boxing rant.

“It’s against the law to make dogs or chickens fight each other,” Cousin Ray reminded me. “Or to promote a bull fight.”

I’ve heard this often enough to provide the punch line that we pay money to watch human beings attempt to inflict permanent brain trauma with a “knockout.”

\* \* \*

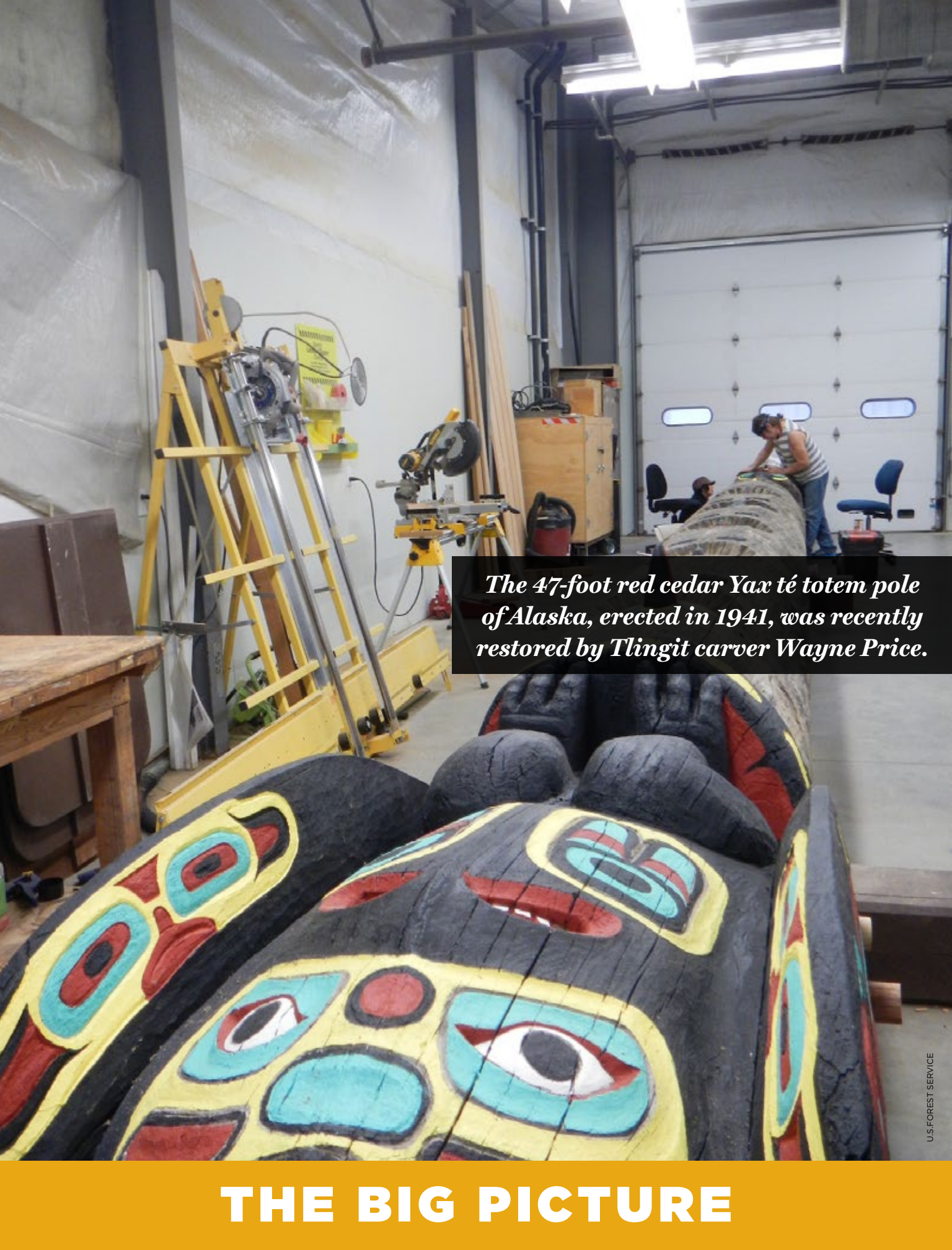
Billionaire hedge fund manager David Einhorn set off horse laughs across the financial news outlets when he attacked oil companies’ methods of exploiting shale deposits for being too expensive and then called out Pioneer Natural Resources as the “Mother Fracker.”

Cousin Ray was having none of it. “When hedge fund managers laugh,” he reminded me, “they are usually on their way to the bank with other people’s money.”

\* \* \*

The Center for Public Integrity produced—and Slate.com published—a report documenting another hidden cost of perpetual war in nations with ineffective governments. A tally of court records shows that 115 U.S. military personnel have been convicted of theft and bribery, costing the taxpayers \$52 million since 2005. As of February, there were 327 more active investigations involving at least 31 troops. The sums stolen appear huge unless compared to the sums spent in Iraq and Afghanistan, over \$1.5 trillion and counting.

“Nation building,” Cousin Ray deadpanned, “is expensive work.” <http://bit.ly/1luoms5> ☞



*The 47-foot red cedar Yax té totem pole of Alaska, erected in 1941, was recently restored by Tlingit carver Wayne Price.*

**THE BIG PICTURE**