



# Indian Country THIS WEEK FROM

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

## A Letter from the Publisher

*Shekóli.* Every diploma tells a story. When graduation season rolls around in Indian country, it is a time to gather with family and friends and acknowledge the major milestone represented by diplomas. The honor bestowed on matriculating students on graduation day is timeless, an honor born of hard work, diligence and education.

When the odds are stacked against Native student in the United States, whether because of challenges of poverty, distance, or the poor condition of schools, the parchments earned by underprivileged graduates represent hope that there is a path toward a brighter future. As the slogan often associated with the African-American community states, “A mind is a terrible thing to waste.” An active, informed mind, however, is an asset not only to an individual, but to every person he or she touches.

So, let us celebrate our many Indian youth graduating from high school this month. Let us applaud the young and sometimes not-so-young graduates of technical colleges, who are now certifiably skilled in a trade. Let us lend our support to the working and single parents who attended and matriculated from our excellent tribal colleges. Let us praise and advise our new bachelor’s degree holders, our master’s recipients and our Ph.D.’s and other doctors—some of whom lived great distances from home.



This issue contains quite a few education-related items. They include a report on the latest congressional hearing on the state of the Bureau of Indian Education, columnist Harlan McKosato’s commentary on the controversial banning of eagle feathers from graduation regalia in certain counties and states, contributing editor Gyasi Ross’s appreciation of accomplished graduates who return home to help their communities, and Crystal Echo-Hawk’s call for large philanthropic entities and donors to include some of Indian country’s worthy organizations for funding.

Which brings us full circle to the underfunded BIE, and the challenges it faces. A few bright spots? The hearings contained testimony asserting the increased involvement of tribal nations and the acknowledged successes of culturally sensitive curricula. If an active mind is an asset, an active mind informed by traditional Native values and knowledge is in a position to know no limits and help lead the world.

*Náki wa,*

Ray Halbritter

## Table of *Contents*



<b>2</b>	COMMENTARY	<b>13</b>	WEB, EVENTS, LETTER
<b>4</b>	NEWS	<b>14</b>	CARTOON, ALERTS
<b>7</b>	CONGRESS GRILLS BUREAU OF INDIAN EDUCATION	<b>15</b>	HOW DID I MISS THAT
<b>8</b>	NEW DAYS FOR RED INK	<b>16</b>	POW WOWS
<b>11</b>	CLASSIFIEDS	<b>17</b>	BIG PICTURE
<b>12</b>	WEEK IN PHOTOS		

### Philanthropy's Hidden Minority

*Crystal Echo Hawk (Pawnee) addresses why Natives are so infrequently the recipients of badly needed charitable efforts:*

A 2011 study published by Native Americans in Philanthropy and the Foundation Center found that giving to Native Americans accounts for only 0.03 percent of all foundation giving—this despite the fact that Native Americans consistently score the lowest on almost every social indicator in the country.

In my former but recent life as an executive director of the Notah Begay III Foundation (NB3F), a national Native nonprofit organization, I heard justifica-

tions like “The Native American population is too small” and “We’ve made grants to Native communities before and they haven’t gone well.” These program officers worried that the return on their investments was too small to warrant sizable grant making to Native communities. They gave examples of Native grantees lacking the capacity for financial management and difficulty in achieving stated deliverables.

At NB3F, my staff and I felt constant pressure to not make any missteps because that could mean potentially ruining it for other Native nonprofits seeking investments from grant makers. This very real pressure was often crushing as we sought to build programs to address

such issues as the epidemic of childhood obesity and type 2 diabetes facing Native children.

Change will only come when we first acknowledge the dearth of data about Native Americans, which makes this population nearly invisible in an increasingly data-driven philanthropic sector. We must then work to invest in data collection efforts led by and for Native peoples. This means acknowledging that Natives are unrepresented in philanthropy and foundation giving—and also inviting Native nonprofit, community and tribal leaders to the table as active participants in confronting the very real challenges in funding in Indian Country.

<http://bit.ly/1INHOC5> ☞

---

### A Feather in One's Graduation Cap

*Harlan McKosato (Sac and Fox) argues that Native graduates should be allowed to adorn their academic regalia with a certain sacred item:*

Every graduation season, the issue of wearing eagle feathers comes up among Native students and their schools. The argument against not being able to adorn mortarboards with this sacred symbol, which is synonymous with accomplishment and a rite of passage, goes something like this: “It’s against school policy!”

Schools around the country could take

a page from the Albuquerque Public Schools (APS) in changing that policy. Earlier this year, APS created the Office of Equity and Engagement. Together with the Indian Education Department, they decided to let Native students show their cultural roots, pride and identity not only by wearing eagle feathers on their caps, but by allowing them to wear their Native dress as they walk across the stage to receive their diplomas.

But that’s the exception rather than the rule. Story after story is coming out that Native students in Florida, New York, Oklahoma, Washington, California—all over the U.S.—are being denied their re-

quests to attach an eagle feather to their caps or gowns at graduation ceremonies.

“The Eagle Feather is not a decoration,” said Alan Fletcher, a legislator for the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma, “but a highly sacred instrument of prayer.”

What would happen if a Christian student wanted to hang a cross from his or her cap? What about a Jewish student displaying the Star of David? What is so wrong with that?

This is not an issue of “decorating” your graduation cap with anything you want. It’s an issue of religious freedom in the good ol’ USA. <http://bit.ly/1IM6GKp> ☞

---

### To Native Graduates: Please Come Home

*At this time of year, graduates are encouraged to make their mark in the wider world. But Gyasi Ross (Blackfeet Nation/Suquamish Territories) explains why it's good to stick around:*

Sure, jobs are sometimes hard to find at home. But you will find a job. Promise. Or create one—you’re that smart. There will also be those who will tell you, “Native people are the only race of people who tell their young ones they should come home after they graduate.” As if you

shouldn’t feel an innate desire to come home and serve.

But your generation is so wise that you understand that there is a very good reason why Native people are the only race in America that wants its young folks to come home. That’s because Native people are the only race on this continent that has a home to come home to that is right here! We do not have to cross oceans to breathe the same air as our ancestors did, or look far to drink the same water. We are the only race with sacred homelands that our ancestors worshipped, lived and died in for 20,000 years. And so coming home

actually means something to us.

Our homelands are sacred. And that’s why our ancestors gave up so much land to preserve the small precious pieces we still have.

You don’t have to come home tomorrow. Heck, you don’t even have to come home next year or in five years. Explore. Get established. Learn. Make some money! But understand that the pull and yearning that causes you to wonder what life would be like for you on the rez comes from someplace real.

Your homelands need you. You also need your homelands. <http://bit.ly/1Ae9f5c> ☞

## To Native American Farmers or Ranchers or the heir of one who was denied a USDA farm loan or loan servicing between 1981 and late 1999

Some funds paid in settlement of *Keepseagle v. Vilsack* remain unclaimed and will be distributed in accordance with a process established by the Court. The case claimed that USDA discriminated against Native Americans who applied for or tried to apply for farm loans or loan servicing. The Court seeks input from class members about how the remaining funds should be distributed. Of the \$680 million paid to settle the case, approximately \$380 million remains. The Settlement Agreement approved by the Court directs that unclaimed funds be given to non-profit organizations to serve Native American farmers and ranchers.

The deadline to file a claim has passed. **There is no new claims process.**

### Who is included?

The Class *includes* all Native American farmers and ranchers who:

- Farmed or ranched or attempted to do so between January 1, 1981 and November 24, 1999;
- Tried to get a farm loan or loan servicing from the USDA during that period; and
- Complained about discrimination to the USDA either on their own or through a representative during the time period.

The class *does not include* individuals who:

- Experienced discrimination only between January 1 and November 23 1997; or
- Complained of discrimination only between July 1 and November 23, 1997.

### Proposed use of the Funds

There are several competing options for how to distribute the funds.

*First*, Plaintiffs propose to modify the Settlement Agreement, subject to Court approval, to distribute the funds as follows:

- \$342 million distributed by a Trust, overseen by Native American leaders, to non-profit groups to

serve Native farmers & ranchers over a 20 year period.

- \$38 million be distributed quickly to non-profit organizations serving Native farmers & ranchers, identified by Class Counsel and approved by the Court.

The Trust would make grants to organizations providing business assistance, agricultural education, technical support, or advocacy services to Native American farmers and ranchers, including those seeking to become farmers or ranchers, to support and promote their continued engagement in agriculture. The USDA has agreed with this proposal.

*Second*, Marilyn Keepseagle proposes to distribute all remaining funds as additional damages paid to successful Track A claimants alone. The USDA opposes this proposal.

*Third*, other class members have asked to use the funds to pay claims that were initially denied or to permit new claims to be filed.

*Fourth*, the Choctaw Nation has argued that no changes should be made.

### How can I share my views?

If you want to tell the Court of your support of or opposition to any proposal for use of the remaining funds, you may submit written comments, postmarked no later than **June 15, 2015**, to:

Chambers of the Honorable Emmet G. Sullivan  
U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia  
333 Constitution Avenue N.W.  
Washington, DC 20001

The Court will hold a hearing on **June 29, 2015 at 9:00 AM EDT** in Courtroom 24A at the address above. If you want to speak to the Court in person, you may attend the hearing. Your written comments will be considered by the Court even if you do not attend the hearing.

**For more detailed information call 1-888-233-5506 or see  
[www.IndianFarmClass.com](http://www.IndianFarmClass.com)**

## Gillette Steps Down as White House Advisor on Native Affairs

Jodi Archambault Gillette, President Obama's special assistant for Native American affairs, left the White House on May 14 to become policy advisor at the Washington, D.C. law firm of Sonosky, Chambers, Sachse, Endreson & Perry, LLP.

Gillette, who is a citizen of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, joined Obama's Domestic Policy Council beginning in February 2009 to advise the president on issues affecting Indian country. At the White House and at several federal agencies, she was a key player in several Indian country milestones. She worked on the 2013 reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), to help restore tribal jurisdiction over non-Indians who commit domestic violence crimes against Native American women on tribal lands. On her watch as well, the White House hosted six White House Tribal Nations Conferences meeting with tribal leaders from throughout the country.

Perhaps most significantly, in June 2014 the president and first lady made a historic visit to Indian country, traveling to the Standing Rock Sioux Indian Reservation, where they heard from Native American youth. This visit has spurred a new White House Generation Indigenous Initiative that is focused on improving the lives of young Native Americans.

Gillette will move back home to North Dakota and commute to her new job. Upon her departure she said, "Policy must keep bolstering the ability of tribes to advance self-determination. As a country, the United States also must invest in Native youth, must continue to seek ways to be a better partner to Indian Nations." <http://bit.ly/1JLFMzl> 🌐

## Santa Ynez Band Wins Federal Award For Saving Food Waste

By feeding 80 tons of food scraps to its animals, and preventing more than 13 tons of food waste from entering landfills, the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians and Chumash Casino Resort of California has received the 2014 Food Recovery Challenge Certificate of Achievement from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

"It's great to receive this acknowledgment," said Santa Ynez Band Chairman Vincent Armenta after the certificate was presented at the Regional Tribal Operations Council meeting on May 13. "It not only recognizes the wonderful work of our Chumash Casino Resort facilities' team but also motivates us to continue finding new ways to be environmentally sustainable."

"Through their participation in EPA's Food Recovery Challenge, the Chumash are providing much needed leadership in the Pacific Southwest," said EPA Pacific Southwest Regional Administrator Jared Blumenfeld, "They are fighting climate change and advancing the cause of zero waste in Santa Barbara County."

Under the program, the EPA joins forces with organizations and businesses to cut down on the amount of food that gets thrown out. The coalition includes grocers, educational institutions, sports and entertainment venues, restaurants and hotels.

The Band began its zero-waste program waste program in 2010. It is overseen by its environmental department, which has put on more than 100 tribal events to promote the initiative. The EPA specifically cited the Santa Inez's Inter-tribal Pow Wow, which "diverted over 7,000 pounds of waste from the landfill to achieve an 87.5 percent diversion rate."

<http://bit.ly/1RGnO6K> 🌐

## Belize Ordered to Recognize and Protect Maya Property and Rights

BY RICK KEARNS

The government of Belize must demarcate and officially register communal lands of its Maya people, the Caribbean Court of Justice announced on April 19. The ruling affirms a 2013 decision by the Court of Appeal of Belize that these indigenous persons have rights to the lands they customarily have used and occupied for many generations.

In the judgment, the court affirmed that these traditional land rights, be-

longing to 38 Maya villages in Belize's Toledo District, constitute property as defined by the nation's constitution, which generally protects property free from discrimination. The decision also requires that the government protect the Maya from incursions by outsiders and mandates that both the government and the communities present a report on the situation in 12 months.

"This judgment of the Caribbean Court of Justice sets an important precedent worldwide, building upon ever-greater recognition of the rights of Indigenous Peoples internationally," said Professor James Anaya, who has been involved with the case since 1996

as the chief architect of the legal strategy. Anaya also noted that the decision followed a 2004 report issued by the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights (IACHR) that found Belize to be in violation of its international human rights obligations for failing to recognize and protect Maya customary land tenure.

"We have had to grovel before these courts for more than 30 years," said Alfonso Cal, the top traditional leader for the Mayan people. "But now we are happy that the highest court has stood again with my people by putting Belize on the road towards the right side of history." <http://bit.ly/1L9QwbE> 🌐



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

## LAND CONSOLIDATION EFFORTS UNDERWAY

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

- Many landowners have already been paid.
- The Program has successfully concluded transactions worth more than \$414 million, restoring the equivalent of nearly 670,000 acres of land to tribal governments.
- All sales are voluntary, but landowners will only have 45 days to accept.

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

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

**1-888-678-6836**

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

### Sanchez Apologizes For Making 'War Whoop'

*A questionable gesture by a congresswoman*

Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez (D-California) apologized after video surfaced of her making a stereotypical Indian "war whoop" earlier this month. Addressing the Indian American Caucus in Anaheim on May 16, Sanchez made the gesture while attempting to differentiate between Native Americans and Indian Americans; she patted her hand on her mouth and made a "war cry" sound. The next day Sanchez said she was sorry: "In this crazy and exciting rush of meetings yesterday, I said something offensive, and for that I sincerely

apologize." Sanchez is currently running for the Senate seat that will soon be vacated by the retirement of Barbara Boxer. <http://bit.ly/1Hrctlu> ☞

### A Hidden Text In Blanket For Obama

*Dakota artist embroiders anti-pipeline statement*

At Lake Area Technical Institute in Watertown, South Dakota this month, President Obama was presented with a star quilt blanket—the most cherished gift the Sioux Nation can award—created by DeVon Burshiem, a citizen of the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate. But little did anyone realize that on the reverse side, she had embroidered the letters "NOKXL"—to protest the Keystone XL pipe-

line project to carry oil from the tar sands of Alberta to the Texas Gulf Coast. Obama will likely decide in the next few months if the controversial project will be completed. "Tears ran down my face as I prayed for our land and for our water," said Burshiem. <http://bit.ly/1HraLk4> ☞

### Cherokee Nation Has \$1.5 Billion Impact

*Report assesses effect on Oklahoma economy*

The Cherokee Nation has an impact of more than \$1.5 billion on the economy of Oklahoma, a new report states. The Nation's annual operations "now support more than \$1.55 billion in local production of goods and services, ranging from retail purchases to new

construction and manufacturing to new demands for local health care and education," wrote Russell Evans, an assistant professor of economics at the Meinders School of business. Since the last such report was issued, in 2012, the Nation's overall economic impact on the state economy grew by 50 percent. In fiscal year 2014, Cherokee Nation businesses generated more than \$829 million in revenue. <http://bit.ly/1c2PMsn> ☞

### A Posthumous Honor For Billy Frank?

*Bill Would Rename a National Wildlife Refuge*

A congressional bill has been introduced to rename the Nisqually National Wildlife Ref-

uge after the late Billy Frank, Jr., the Nisqually environmental leader and activist who took the lead in the campaign against state-imposed limits on Native treaty fishing during the 1960s and '70s. "In the story of our state, he is a leader who inspired a movement for justice," said the bill's sponsor, Rep. Denny Heck (D-Washington). The bill has been co-sponsored by the entire Washington State congressional delegation, as well as by leading House members from Oklahoma, Minnesota, Alaska and Arizona. <http://bit.ly/1Hhikas> 📍

**Stearns Reappointed To Gambling Commission**

*Washington governor approves second term*

Chris Stearns (Navajo) was reappointed by Washington

Gov. Jay Inslee to the state's Gambling Commission on May 4 for a term that will expire on June 30, 2021. Inslee first appointed Stearns to the commission in May 2013 to fill in for a commissioner who left the position early. Stearns, an attorney specializing in Indian law, served four years as counsel to the U.S. House Committee on Natural Resources and was the first director of Indian Affairs for the Department of Energy. He served two terms as chairman of the Seattle Human Rights Commission, and is vice president of the Seattle Indian Health Board. <http://bit.ly/1PXnpcw> 📍

**Begaye Opposes Grand Canyon Deal**

*Navajo president says 'No' to escalate*

Russell Begaye, who took of-

fice as president of the Navajo Nation on May 12, has publicly opposed the Grand Canyon Escalade, a billion-dollar project that would allow commercial development on the canyon's south rim and run a gondola from the top of the national park to an elevated walkway a mile below. The proposed project calls for the development of 420 acres of Navajo land. "It is not in the best interest of the Navajo Nation and the Navajo people," said Begaye. His predecessor, Ben Shelly, was one of the project's biggest champions, arguing that it would bring jobs and revenue to the tribe. <http://bit.ly/1eim6cp> 📍

**Oklahoma Indian B'ball Teams Announced**

*High school hoops stars mark 20 years*

The roster for the 2015 girls' and boys' Oklahoma Indian All-State Basketball Games next month has been announced, marking two decades of bringing some of the best Native high school hoopsters together for competition. The event will take place at Oklahoma Wesleyan University in Bartlesville. "We had no way of knowing that an event we started 20 years ago to highlight the accomplishments of some of Oklahoma's finest high school athletes and to encourage them to pursue college educations would last two decades," Dr. Carol Conner, co-founder of the games, told NDNSports.com. Nearly 100 young men and women make up this year's first and second teams. <http://bit.ly/1LhaII4> 📍



Reserve Ad Space for  
**50 FACES**  
 OF INDIAN COUNTRY  
 Special Print Edition NOW!

**Call (315) 447-6145**

distributed at:  
 Santa Fe Indian Market \* Global Gaming \* NIGA Mid-year\* NCAI \* RES 2016

# Congress Grills Bureau of Indian Education

*On Capitol Hill, queries by both House and Senate* BY TANYA H. LEE

**Bottom Line:** *The federal apparatus of Indian education is now under serious scrutiny.*

In two separate hearings, Congress this month asked the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) what it intends to do about the current mismanagement of its affairs and the “deplorable conditions” of its facilities.

The hearings—conducted by the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs on May 13 and by the House Committee on Education and the Workforce on May 14—came following several scathing Government Accountability Office (GAO) reports issued during the past year.

The reports found mismanagement, fraud, communication failures, organizational chaos and insufficiently trained personnel. They also pointed to schools and dormitories that are so dilapidated that they are not only not conducive to learning but endanger children’s health and safety.

The bureau has failed to institute recommendations made by the GAO, said Melissa Emrey-Arras, the organization’s director of Education, Workforce and Income Security Issues.

But BIE Director Charles Roessel (Navajo) argued that the bureau is working toward comprehensive reform. The bureau, he said, has begun by realigning roles and responsibilities of BIE personnel, clarifying the role of line offices and bringing tribes into the process.

“We can’t improve the BIE unless the tribes are with us,” he said. “For the first time tribes are being asked to sit at the table.”

The bureau’s strategic and communication plans are not finalized yet, Roessel said, because the agency is still conducting tribal consultations.

One of the biggest problems facing the BIE is that different federal agencies are

responsible for different areas of its operations. For example, maintenance and repair of BIE facilities is the responsibility of the bureau. But new school construction is the purview of the Bureau of Indian Affairs’ Office of Facilities Management and Construction.

This fragmentation has resulted in serious delays, ranging from getting new textbooks into classrooms to hiring and housing good teachers. In one instance, a

---

*‘We can’t improve the BIE unless the tribes are with us,’ said the director, Charles Roessel.*

---

school had no hot water for a year because a repair request for its hot water heater was lost in the organizational morass.

Perhaps the biggest challenge facing the BIE is solving the \$1.3-billion backlog involved in getting all 183 of its schools and dormitories into acceptable physical condition. Advocates say that there has not been for decades—nor is there now—enough money in the federal budget to meet the need. President Obama has requested \$1 billion for Indian education, with about \$60 million earmarked for repairs and construction at BIE schools.

In the meantime, the 2015 and 2016 federal budgets will cover the last three schools on the 2004 school construction priority list. Another list is being prepared now.

Sen. John Tester (D-Montana) and others have called on Interior Secretary Sally Jewell to make sure the new priority list is compiled in a fair and transparent process.


The current fraud and mismanagement makes it difficult to convince Congress to allocate more money for BIE schools, said Sen. Heidi Heitkamp (D-North Dakota). Heitkamp recommended that the bureau focus sharply on such issues to help free up funding.

Sen. Al Franken (D-Minnesota) said, however, “We can’t say we won’t put in any more money until you prove you won’t waste a dime. We’d never do anything.”

Rep. Carlos Curbelo (R-Florida) suggested that the Department of Education simply take over BIE schools.

But when that idea was discussed with tribal leaders, “They wholeheartedly rejected the idea of moving BIE schools out of the jurisdiction of the Interior Department,” said William Mendoza (Oglala-Sicangu Lakota), executive director of the Education Department’s White House Initiative on American Indian and Alaska Native Education.

Rep. Buddy Carter (R-Georgia) asked why American Indian and Alaska Native students could not go to public schools instead of BIE schools. Roessel responded that tribes had also rejected that proposal. He noted that tribes run roughly two-thirds of BIE schools, and that public schools often do not offer the same opportunities for a culturally appropriate education as tribal schools do. It was, he said, a matter of sovereignty.

“The way tribes see it is that language, history and culture are the foundation of their ability to succeed,” said Mendoza. “The first thing youth and elders say is ‘We lack a meaningful role and our kids’ education is not rooted in our culture and history. That needs to be the starting point.’” <http://bit.ly/1JrXEC> 

# New Days For Red Ink

A groundbreaking Native student magazine evolves BY CHRISTINA ROSE

**Bottom Line:** After a quarter of a century, the only publication in the country to feature the work of Native students and academics alike is morphing into a new incarnation. The path has been rough but the future looks bright.

It was the end of an era—and the beginning of a new one.

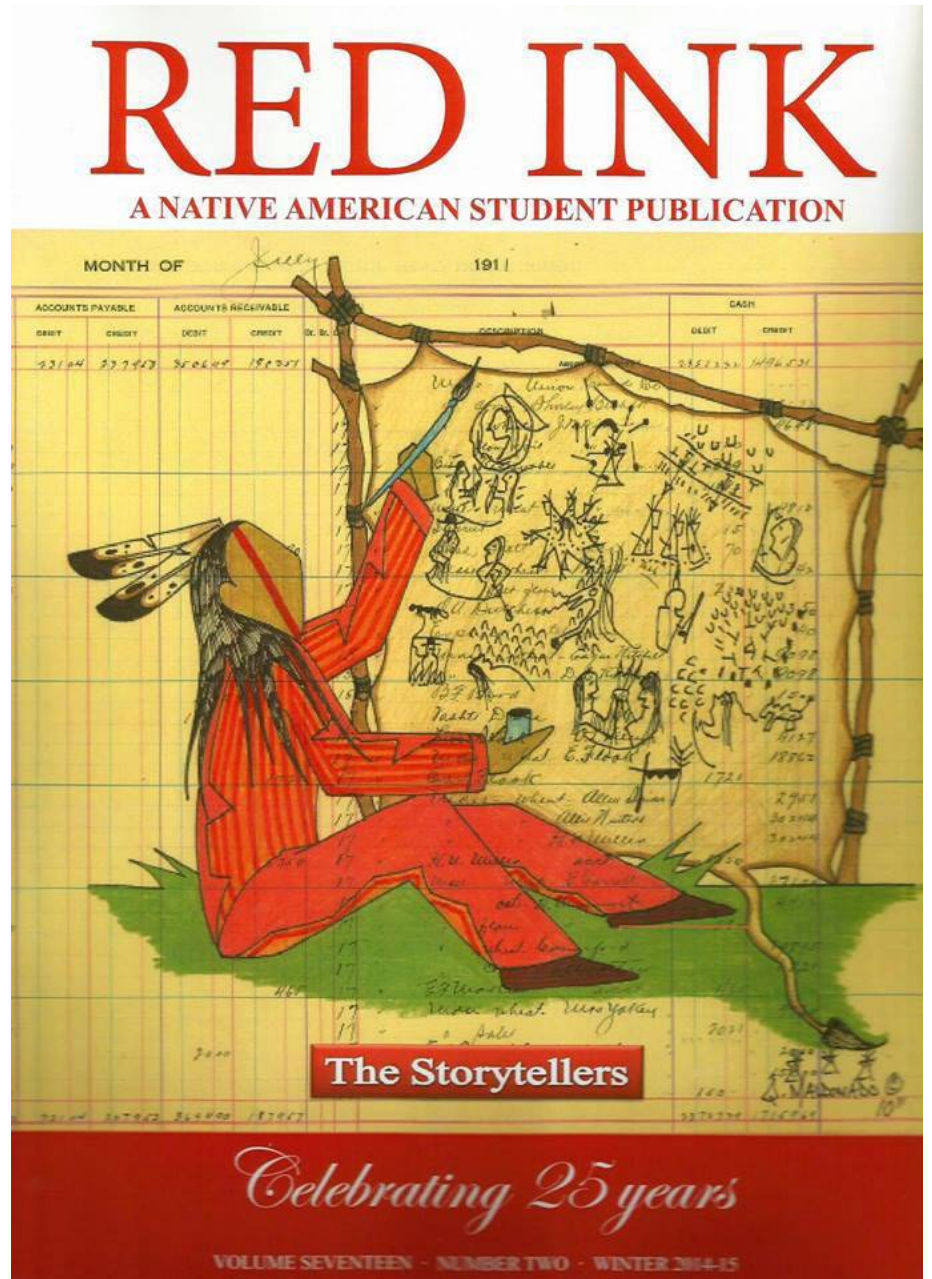
On May 7, more than 50 students, elders, community members and staff gathered to celebrate the 25th anniversary of *Red Ink* magazine. They also gathered to honor the end of the journal as they knew it. For *Red Ink* was being reincarnated as *Red Ink, A Native American International Journal of Indigenous Literature, Art and Humanities*.

The combination celebration and farewell took place at the Woksape Tipi on the Oglala Lakota College campus in Kyle, South Dakota, some 800 miles from the magazine's origins in Arizona. That distance paralleled the recent, tortuous journey of the widely acclaimed periodical.

For a quarter of a century, *Red Ink* was the only publication in the country devoted to the writing and art of Native students, local denizens and noted authors. Such major names as Vine DeLoria Jr., Rigoberta Menchu and Joy Harjo have graced its pages.

Now there will be a noticeable change in *Red Ink's* approach as it expands into a journal of indigenous voices from a variety of ages, communities and occupations from around the world. This shift in editorial direction is being accompanied by other changes. The new *Red Ink* will be based at Arizona State University (ASU) in Tempe, after being published for more than 20 years at the University of Arizona (UA) at Tucson.

The student editor of *Red Ink*, Melissa Slocum (Seneca), said that it will continue to feature both nonfiction and fiction, plays, book reviews and cultural criticism. While the new *Red Ink* will feature less artwork than it once did, its website will present galleries of paintings, videos, music,



The silver anniversary issue of *Red Ink* is also its last in its traditional format.

poetry readings and other multimedia arts.

The physical format of *Red Ink* has also changed. Smaller in size, its new, book-like format will no longer have a glossy magazine appearance.

The journal will be under the overall direction of program manager and managing editor Simon Ortiz (Acoma Pueblo), a poet and author of several books and an ASU professor of English. Although





Top: Editor Sheila Rocha among Red Ink covers and assorted artwork from current and previous issues. Bottom: Cover artist Quinton Maldonado and Red Ink faculty advisor Barbara Robins.

he was never directly involved in the production of *Red Ink*, he has been a steady contributor over the years. He pledged that even as it expands its horizons, *Red Ink* will carry on its core mission.

“We, *Red Ink*, are utilizing the voice beyond the student group to include other cultural voices, with an inclusive awareness of who indigenous peoples are,” Ortiz said. “We see ourselves [as] a collective communal voice.”

Through *Red Ink*, he added, “We look at ourselves as a voice of indigenous people, not only students or associated with education. Indigenous knowledge is very cross-age in terms of ancient oral knowledge and current expressions of prose and poetry.”

The transition to the new *Red Ink* began in 2011, when the University of Arizona’s American Indian Studies Department, which had overseen the magazine, told the staff to cease publication after its 20th anniversary issue. The reasons were complicated. At the time, *Red Ink* staff offered several explanations.

First, they said, the new head of the American Indian Studies Department, Ronald Trosper, was acting on the instructions of his predecessor, Joseph Hiller. Second, as ICTMN reported four years ago, Trosper said that *Red Ink* was distracting its student staff members from their studies. Joseph Quintana Ramirez (Santo Domingo), who was then editor, disputed

this; he noted that the grade-point averages of the staff were 3.0 or higher.

Third, at one point *Red Ink* failed to credit a contributor and assign him an author biography. Although Quintana Ramirez said the error was quickly corrected, Hiller said it was not and found himself concerned about legal ramifications.

Fourth—and perhaps most important—the magazine was expensive. The American Indian Studies Department at UA provided \$2,500 to support the 20th anniversary issue, with additional funds provided by students. The expenses, however, exceeded the profits; some of this overrun was due to the cost of the glossy stock and the oversized physical dimensions of the product.

Though *Red Ink* was formally terminated, the staff managed to produce the magazine through other UA departments. It soon became apparent, though, that support for the magazine was evaporating.

However, hope emerged through an unlikely turn of events. When Sheila Rocha (Tarasco) entered the American Indian Studies program at UA as a Ph.D. candidate in 2010, she became involved in the editorial process of *Red Ink*.

“It had all the markings of a well-tuned student organization,” she recalled. “Driven by Native sensibilities and values, *Red Ink* easily served as the most memorable experience of my education.”

In the course of her work with the magazine, Rocha became acquainted with Ortiz and his contributions. Then, in 2012, she accepted a teaching position in the humanities department at Oglala Lakota College. “While I was there, Simon had been working with the previous editor, and he agreed to take *Red Ink* so it wouldn’t die,” she said.

For a while, the production of *Red Ink* hovered among the old crew at UA, Ortiz at ASU, and Rocha in South Dakota. “With a core group partially based in Tucson, and another one on the Pine Reservation, an evolution ensued,” said Rocha. This period was highlighted by a profusion of Plains artists and writers, as well as a double issue that was published in spring 2013.

Finally, Rocha recalled, Ortiz said, “Why don’t you put out a final magazine—a transition magazine—from the



Once a magazine, Red Ink will now be more of a literary journal.

old *Red Ink* to the new, and I will take it over to ASU. The former editor said, “That’s great,” so I agreed to get the last copy out.”

She added, “Simon supported us in so many ways and he stayed anonymous about much of what he was doing, because he believes in the students and what we have been doing for the last 25 years.”

With a staff of mostly Lakota students and anonymous private funding, Rocha and her crew began the challenging process of putting the magazine together at Oglala Lakota College. “It was very tough, especially because of the distance and the difficulty of getting from one place to the other on Pine Ridge,” she said. “The [students] didn’t have a lot of experience, but they have the passion.”

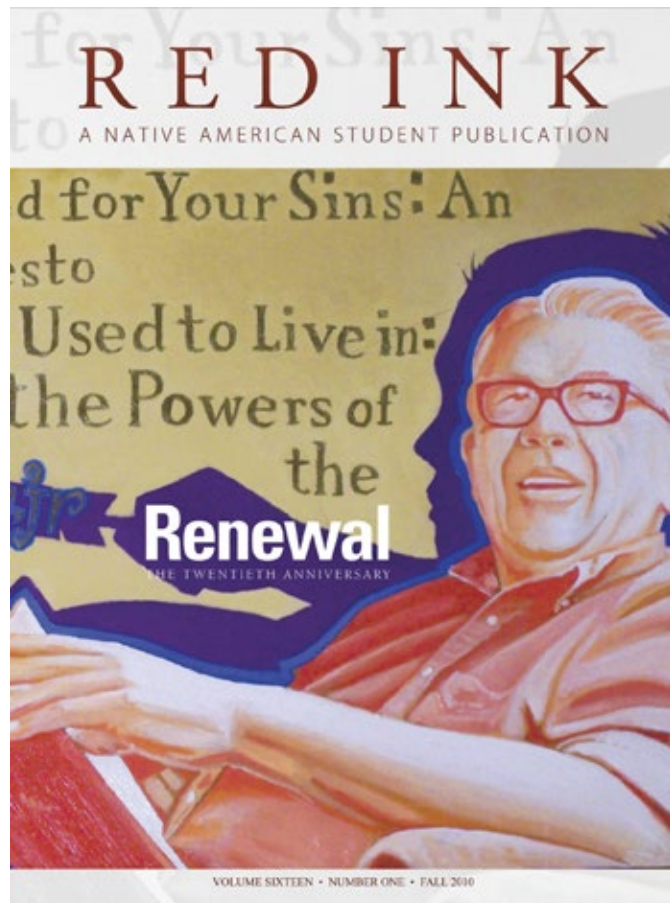
The final edition features contributions of artists and writers from the Lakota Nation. They include community members, the young poets’ group “Dancing With Words,” and *Red Ink*’s exiting editorial

board. The special literary guest is the poet Tanaya Winder, who was nominated for the *Best New Poets 2014* anthology (Samovar Press/Meridien). Winder is also the winner of the 2010 A Room of Her Own Foundation’s Orlando Prize in poetry and a semi-finalist for the Kenyon Review/Earthworks Prize for Indigenous Poetry.

*Red Ink* student board member Tom SwiftBird (Oglala), who worked on the final issue, said the opportunity gave him a chance to shine a spotlight on local voices.

“We have a lot of talented people here who don’t get a lot of recognition,” SwiftBird said. “It’s very high caliber work, and it’s a unique venue to showcase that work. If someone were to ask me to find me five world class writers, or artists or anything creative, I could do that within the boundaries of the Pine Ridge Reservation.”

Looking forward, Ortiz emphasized the universality of *Red Ink*. “The point of the publication is to get the words, the stories, and the art out to the public,”



Red Ink’s 20th anniversary issue coincided with much internal conflict.

he said. “The way we write and speak is knowledge, our own voice. Our knowledge is important to the nation as a whole, not just to indigenous people, not to Native Americans or Lakota or Acoma, but for the public at large.

“Even though there may be some differences in the way we continue the publication, there will be a lot of agreement because we are working for the same reasons: for our land, our people, our culture, for humanity,” he added.

“As a staff we are really excited about thinking more globally and getting to know new artists in that way,” said Melissa Slocum, the student editor. “I am truly happy that we can continue this legacy and it didn’t have to disappear.

“I am, and I know my staff is, honored as individual scholars, writers, and as students, to see it unfold and become something; to see it being taken seriously outside of Indian country and around the world.” <http://bit.ly/1HfXBGz> ☞



**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

**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

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

We are an equal opportunity employer.

**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

A Non-profit organization dedicated to advancing American Indian Higher Education, seeks a Director of AIHEC NARCH Research with 5+ years of experience. Successful candidate should be able to work independently in a fast paced environment, be accurate, well organized and possess excellent computer and communication skills.

Please visit [http://ai-hec.org/what-we-do/docs/announce/2015\\_AI-HEC-NARCH-ResearchDirector.pdf](http://ai-hec.org/what-we-do/docs/announce/2015_AI-HEC-NARCH-ResearchDirector.pdf) for a complete job description.

Competitive salary (commensurate w/experience) excellent benefits. Must be willing to submit to a background check.

Apply today by emailing your cover letter, resume, salary requirements, and salary history to [jobs@aihec.org](mailto:jobs@aihec.org). Applications must be received by **June 26, 2015**. If you do not provide all of the information requested, your resume will not be considered for employment.

**Finance Division  
Manager**

Northern Cheyenne Tribal Housing Authority

Northern Cheyenne Tribe

Lame Deer, Montana

**Opening Date:** May 20, 2015

**Closing Date:** June 4, 2015

**Salary:** DOE

**Contact:** Ernest Robinson  
406-477-6419

**Not a Subscriber?  
Get your own  
This Week From Indian Country Today  
eNewsletter!**





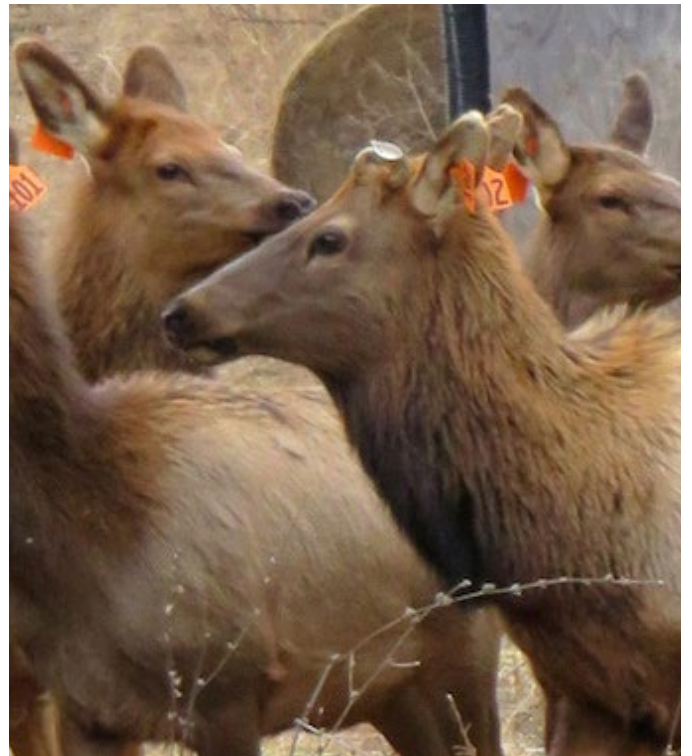
*Emcee Jody Gaskins, Ojibwa of Sault Sainte, from Marie, Michigan, performed at the 26th Annual Cherokee County Indian Festival.*



*Nine traditional baskets were stolen from the United Indian Health Services building at Potawatow Health Village in Arca, California on May 14.*



*Jodi Gillette, President Obama's special assistant for Native American Affairs, has joined a private law firm in Washington, D.C..*



*The Ho-Chunk Nation of Wisconsin is importing wild elk from Kentucky in an effort to replenish its severely depleted population.*

AMY MORRIS; UNITED INDIAN HEALTH SERVICES; COURTESY THE WHITE HOUSE; WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

# Headlines from the Web

## RIBE REACHES DEAL WITH HIGHWAY OFFICIALS ON BURIAL SITES

<http://bit.ly/1R5h94W>

## NATIVE AMERICAN ASTRONAUT MAKES EARTH-BOUND TRIP TO HOPI HIGH SCHOOL

<http://bit.ly/1IP2DeG>

## RECENT NAVAJO POLICE OFFICER DEATHS EXPOSE INCREASED VIOLENCE

<http://bit.ly/1F1gBWb>

## GEORGE TIGER PLANS TO SEEK RE-ELECTION AS CREEK NATION PRINCIPAL CHIEF

<http://bit.ly/1F1pfE0>

## TRIBE SEEKS WYOMING APOLOGY OVER 'DISRESPECT' IN GRIZZLY BEAR MEETING

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

## GRAND RONDE TRIBE, WILLAMINA SCHOOL BOARD AT ODDS OVER TRIBAL FLAG DISPLAY

<http://bit.ly/1SzSas4>

## Upcoming Events

### FEDERAL SACRED TRIBAL SITE TELECONFERENCE JUNE 1-JUNE 2

This phone-in conference is coordinated by the departments of the Interior, Defense, Agriculture and Energy, pursuant to a proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to improve the protection of—and Indian access to—sacred sites through federal interagency coordination and collaboration. These two tribal consultation sessions, part of the MOU process, are designed to refine policy to help educate private citizens and state, county, and local governments about the importance of sacred sites to tribes so they might be better protected and preserved.

**Contact Information:** Conference line: (888) 921-8428; participant pass code: 6108878

### BUREAU OF INDIAN EDUCATION TELECONFERENCE JUNE 2

This phone-in session, held on the first Tuesday of each month, is part of the Bureau of Indian Education's effort to improve communication and stimulate an ongoing dialogue among key stakehold-

ers about the restructuring of the bureau. **Contact Information:** Conference line: (800) 369-3311; participant pass code: 6428279

### NATIVE AMERICAN & INDIGENOUS STUDIES ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE JUNE 2-4

The seventh annual meeting will feature more than 125 panels, discussions, sessions and presentations by hundreds of scholars and experts from around the country. Hosted by the College of William and Mary, Virginia Commonwealth University, Old Dominion University and the National Museum of the American Indian, in association with the National Congress of American Indians.

**Location:** Hyatt Regency Washington, Washington, D.C.

### NATIVE AMERICAN STUDENT ADVOCACY INSTITUTE CONFERENCE JUNE 4-5

"Educating Native Youth For Success: Many Nations, One Vision" will discuss new solutions, share best practices, and collaborate to make a difference in the lives of American Indian, Alaska Native

and Native Hawaiian students. Conference topics will include "Identifying the Learning Target," "Leveraging Cultural and Academic Partnerships to Develop Leaders," "Developing Pathways to Success in STEM," and "Creating a Transfer-Responsive Culture for Native Students." Continuing education units are available through the International Association for Continuing Education and Training.

**Location:** Washington State University, Pullman, Washington

### STABILIZING INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES SYMPOSIUM JUNE 4-6

The goals of the symposium are to bring together indigenous language educators and activists to share ideas and experiences to discuss how to best teach indigenous languages in homes, classrooms and communities; to provide a forum for exchange of scholarly research; and to disseminate recent research and thinking on best practices to promote, preserve and defend indigenous languages. The theme of the 22nd conference is "Ourselves Saving Language Saving Ourselves."

**Location:** Wind River Hotel and Casino, Riverton, Wyoming.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Re Deborah Miranda's column about the "missionization" of California's Native population being given short shrift in classrooms (April 7):

Michelle Obama was onto something when she convened the Creating Opportunity for Native Youth program at the White House last month. It would be great if we got a Presidential Executive Order for all schools from K-12 through college level to start fill-

ing in the gaps when it comes to teaching students about the Native people of this country.

—Sherole Benton  
Hobart, Wisconsin

I remember getting frustrated in high school with any Native American portion and how misconstrued it was. Being Ojibwe and living on the rez, I would sit through the lesson

rolling my eyes the whole time. I am now in the Air Force and was actually in shock when somehow, during a conversation, I mentioned that I grew up on a reservation in Michigan—and the response I got was, "Indians are still alive?" I was dumfounded and said, "Uh, yeah. There are a lot of us." It's heartbreaking.

—Nicole Turley  
San Antonio, Texas



## TOP NEWS ALERTS

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

### NAVAJO MEMBER HEADS UP INDIAN ENERGY

Christopher Clark Deschene (Navajo) has joined the Department of Energy as Director of the Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs. Deschene has more than 20 years of management and policy experience, along with extensive tribal relationships and deep expertise in business and energy development, natural resources and environmental policies, federal Indian law, and government affairs. A Marine Corps veteran, he spent 10 years as a partner with the law office of Schaff & Clark-Deschene, LLC.

### ACTOR DISSES INDIANS IN THE NEW YORKER

The actor Jesse Eisenberg made several stereotypical references to Natives in the "Shouts and

Murmurs" column of the May 25 issue of *The New Yorker*. The piece, "Men and Dancing," pokes fun at men's reluctance to dance in public. One sequence depicts "Chief" and "Squaw," wherein Squaw wants Chief to do a "rain dance" to "appease the rain gods." There is also a character called "Two Dogs Prancing Unself-Consciously Across New Horizons." Writing in *Colorlines.com*, Aura Bogado found the piece "deeply troubling."

### ANOTHER BID FOR FEDERAL RECOGNITION

The Mishewal Wappo Tribe of Alexander Valley, California, is making a second attempt to achieve federal recognition. A federal judge denied the request in March, but on May 15 the tribe filed an appeal with the U.S. Court of Appeals for

the 9th Circuit. "Napa County officials say the county has a stake in the outcome," wrote the *Napa Valley Register*. "They are concerned the tribe, if recognized, might seek to have local land put into trust, possibly opening the door to a casino or other developments."

### SHERMAN ALEXIE IN AMERICAN ACADEMY

Sherman Alexie (Coeur d'Alene, Choctaw, Colvin, Choctaw) was formally inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Letters on May 20, following the announcement of his election earlier this year. Alexie is a multiple PEN award-winning author and received the National Book Award for Young People's Literature for his best-selling *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*. *The*

*New York Times Book Review* has called him "one of the major lyric voices of our time."

### 'REZ' COMMENTS FROM A SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER

Kelly Hughes Depczynski, who agreed online that some Native Americans should "go back to the reservation," has been elected to New York's Lancaster Central School Board. Depczynski's comment came in March amid debate over dropping the local high school's "Redskins" mascot. "If this American Indian at Lancaster and his family are so 'offended,'" wrote a Facebook respondent, "maybe the school board can gently refer him to go back to the reservation." Depczynski wrote, "My thoughts exactly!" On March 16, the school board retired the mascot.

# How Did I Miss That?

*Deflated footballs, second-guessing Iraq and French fries in Texas* BY STEVE RUSSELL

I wasn't going to say anything about it. The idea that one of the locker room peons just decided to deflate footballs for Tom Brady is about as likely as political peons in New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie's office just deciding to cause a terrible traffic jam to punish a small town mayor for not endorsing Christie.

At the very least, people who work for an organization or an elected official know the ambient values in their shop, and the person at the top is responsible for those values. The ball deflators and the bridge closers, at the very least, did what they did to curry favor with the boss because they had reason to believe cheating would please the boss.

If it's so simple, why did I comment on it? Because I could not resist repeating some of the headlines in the tabloid field day: "Brady: My Balls are Perfect." "Ballsh#t!" My personal favorite is "Great Balls of Liar!" Even *Sports Illustrated* took notice of the sport the headline writers were having at the expense of Brady and the Patriots.

Then we learned that the guardians of professional football morality in the NFL have decided to suspend Brady for twice as long for deflating footballs as they suspended Ray Rice for knocking his girlfriend out with his fist.

"Now I see how the NFL could make Jameis Winston the first draft pick," my cousin Ray Sixkiller remarked. "He never deflated any footballs."

\* \* \*

Schooling us in federal priorities, a House committee cut about a fifth of Amtrak's funding on a party line vote the day after the fatal Amtrak derailment. My Republican Cousin Ray was not happy when I

asked him to guess which party voted for the cuts.

"I suppose you are going to say," he complained, "that budget cuts had more to do with it than entering a 50 m.p.h. curve at over 100 m.p.h.?"

Well, yes, when previous budget cuts are what kept Amtrak from implementing Positive Train Control (PTC), the computerized system that would have slowed the train. PTC has been mandated by Congress but not funded.

\* \* \*

Schooling us in Texas priorities, *The Wall Street Journal* reported that Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller has embarked on a crusade to restore deep fryers to Texas schools. "It's not about French fries, it's about freedom," Miller said.

Cousin Ray was unavailable for comment because he was trying to reach Miller by phone to sew up the concession to sell fry bread to Texas kids.

"It's not about condoms and birth control pills," I taunted my Republican cousin. "It's about freedom here in the state with the third highest teen pregnancy rate in the country."

\* \* \*

Looking to the past to argue about future priorities, Jeb Bush told Megyn Kelly on Fox News that, knowing what we know now, he would have authorized the second invasion of Iraq. He quickly claimed that Hillary Clinton thinks the same. Bush later walked it back, claiming he misunderstood a very clear question. He did not walk back misrepresenting Clinton's position. She has apologized for the vote she termed "a mistake."

Assuming Jeb Bush did misunderstand that Kelly's question related to now rather than 2003, it was still breathtaking when he named George W. Bush as one of his closest advisors on Middle East policy.

This is the same Bush who ridiculed Bill Clinton for trying to broker a deal between Israel and the Palestinians before realizing he needed to do the same?

The same Bush who installed a viceroy in Baghdad who did not know the difference between Sunni and Shi'a and who considered a person's position on abortion a more important qualification for Iraq duty than speaking Arabic?

\* \* \*

Fox News contrived to have Pamela Geller face off with Anjem Choudary, who Fox claimed is a "Muslim cleric." Nonsense. He's a lawyer, not an imam. Anyway, Choudary and Geller are in complete agreement that there's a clash of civilizations that did not get resolved in the Crusades and will not be resolved until the other side converts or dies.

\* \* \*

On a less deadly but still shocking issue, the Texas House just passed HB 324, requiring a peace officer to get a search warrant before conducting a body cavity search during a traffic stop.

Cousin Ray was skeptical that this was a problem and he reminded me of Gov. Greg Abbott calling out the Texas State Guard to foil an expected invasion by the feds, ISIS, and Wal-Mart.

But Ray was wrong. It's a problem. <http://bit.ly/1FjP45O> 

# UPCOMING POW WOWS

**CONNECTICUT NATIVE AMERICAN  
INTERTRIBAL URBAN COUNCIL  
FOUNDER'S DAY POW WOW**

5/30/15—5/31/15  
New Haven, CT  
203-397-8507

**5TH ANNUAL URBAN POWWOW**

5/30/15—5/31/15  
East Rock Park  
New Haven, CT  
203-215-1521  
[CNAITUC.org](http://CNAITUC.org)

**WORCESTER INTERTRIBAL  
INDIAN CENTER POW WOW**

5/30/15—5/31/15  
Treasure Valley Boy Scout Reservation  
394 Pleasantdale Road  
Rutland, MA  
774-578-5385  
[WIICCenter.com/powwow.html](http://WIICCenter.com/powwow.html)

**SYCAMORE SHOALS NATIVE  
AMERICAN FESTIVAL**

5/30/15—5/31/15  
Sycamore Shoals State Historic Area  
1651 West Elk Avenue  
Elizabethtown, TN  
[SycamoreShoalsTN.org](http://SycamoreShoalsTN.org)

**34TH ANNUAL YUBA-  
SUTTER POW WOW**

5/30/15—5/31/15  
Beckwourth Riverfront Park  
Marysville, CA  
530-749-6196  
[pbennett@mjsud.k12.ca.us](mailto:pbennett@mjsud.k12.ca.us)

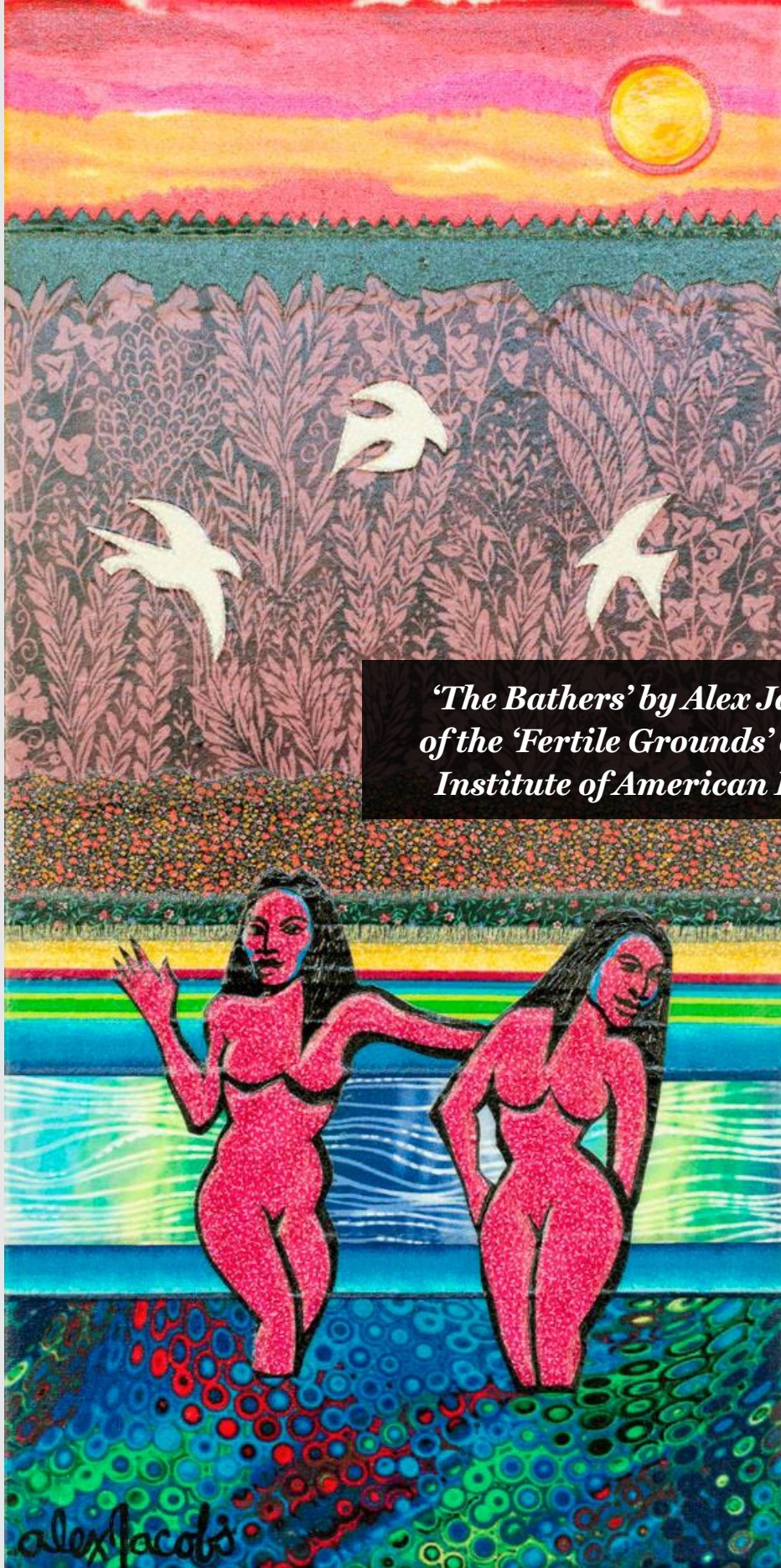
**13TH ANNUAL RIVERBANK  
TRADITIONAL POW WOW**

5/30/15—5/31/15  
201 East Shiawassee Street  
Lansing, MI  
517-721-1502  
[robin\\_menefee@yahoo.com](mailto:robin_menefee@yahoo.com)



DIEGO JAMES ROBLES





*'The Bathers' by Alex Jacobs is part of the 'Fertile Grounds' exhibit at the Institute of American Indian Arts.*

# THE BIG PICTURE