



Indian Country THIS WEEK FROM

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

A Letter from the Publisher

Shekóli. With revised Environmental Protection Agency standards calling for the production of tens of billions of gallons of renewable fuel in the United States within the decade, tribal nations with large territories may be facing an opportunity to take advantage of one of their greatest assets: land. According to one Native entrepreneur featured in this week's edition of our newsletter, large-scale production of switchgrass has the potential to be a game-changing, renewable resource for the growing needs of biomass energy facilities of the near future.

Rosebud Sioux member John Lytle, founder and CEO of First American Renewables, has a vision of establishing tens of thousands of acres of switchgrass to supply up to eight biomass processing stations located near the territories of the Great Sioux Nation. First American Renewables cites the Shakopee Sioux Tribe's commercial biomass operation in Minnesota as an example of the opportunity awaiting the rest of Indian country. Switchgrass is a hardy, drought-resistant crop that would seem to be well suited for thousands of acres now leased out to mostly non-Native farmers.



In his conversation with ICTMN, Lytle outlines the basic mechanics and potential upside in fertile detail.

Whether or not the proposals of First American Renewables gain traction in the near future, Lytle's vision is another forward step in a long-running conversation about lasting economic independence for Indian nations. Throughout our recent histories, the remarkable ability of Natives to adapt and innovate in the face of some of the greatest challenges a people can ever face cannot be discounted. A tough, resilient crop such as switchgrass—or industrial hemp for that matter—may well be the natural agent for the Plains nations to harvest the most return from former and current rangeland. If it turns out to be the case, you may indeed look back and remember that you read it here first.

NΛ Ki wa,

Ray Halbritter

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Tribal Government Comes In Many Forms

ICTMN contributor Duane Champagne observes that when it comes to tribal council governments, one size does not necessarily fit all:

Some indigenous nations have found that Western-style constitutional governments work for them. Take the Five Civilized Tribes of the U.S. Southeast and what was later Oklahoma.


However, many nations feel that contemporary democratic government forms are not agreeable. The California and Pueblo nations rejected American constitutional models when offered to them during the 1930s. During the '20s,

many Canadian indigenous nations in general—and the Iroquois Nations in particular—resisted the semi-constitutional forms of the Canadian Indian Act. Many Canadian reserves, such as the Mohawk at Akwesasne, have long resisted and worked to recover self-rule within their own traditional political forms.

Indigenous nations with governments organized by general councils are often reluctant to take on constitutional forms that delegate authority to elected officers. This is especially true when general councils among have emphasized consensus-making among social groups, clans, lineages, villages, or bands. The Iroquois Confederacy, which was organized by lineages, clans, nations and then

the confederacy itself, worked this way. The confederacy was ultimately a coalition of the several nations.

Missionaries and historical circumstances led the Oneida of Wisconsin to give up clans and their confederacy and remove to the Midwest, far from their original homelands in upstate New York. Nevertheless, the Wisconsin Oneida still uphold a collective community that might now more resemble a Christian church group than past clans and lineages. Their general council ensures that all can participate and voice their views.

There is so much diversity of Indigenous political governments that no one pattern is effective for all. <http://bit.ly/1eFTGJV> 

In Praise of 'Survivance'

ICTMN contributor Peter d'Errico extols Encounters at the Heart of the World: A History of the Mandan People by Elizabeth Penn, which received the 2015 Pulitzer Prize in History—and which reflects an unusual word:


Though Penn does not use the term, her presentation is an example of what the Asnishinaabe writer Gerald Vizenor calls “survivance”—“an active sense of presence, the continuance of Native stories, not a mere reaction, or a survivable name. Native survivance stories are renunciations of dominance, tragedy and victimry.”

Encounters at the Heart of the World depicts Mandan survivance in the face of Christian missionaries, proto-capitalist traders, Old World plagues, colonial usurpers, new technologies, and American military force. In Fenn's hands, the interwoven episodes of trade, war, and pestilence force the Mandan more than once to their last resources—and yet fail to eradicate them as a people.

Fenn closes her powerful book as she opens it, with spiritual considerations. She recounts the revival of the Okipa ceremony at On-A-Slant Village in June 2011: “Lone Man made his entry, and all the creatures came back. From

morning to midnight, we danced and we danced, pausing to smoke, pray, tell stories, and ponder the Mandan way through the world.”

Fenn's energy and deep attachment to the Mandan as a living people inform the book from the first page to the last. She tells us in the first paragraph of the preface that the Mandan “have lived here . . . for centuries.” Not once does she slip into the past tense so often used by writers about Indians.

The reader encounters the heart of the Mandan and, through their iconic history as a people of the Plains, learns something of the history of the world. <http://bit.ly/11NYZUq> 

Attention Athletes: Rise Against Mascots

Civil rights activist John Guenther (Aleut) shifts the responsibility of combating Native mascot names and logos from team owners to team players:

Cornerback Richard Sherman of the Seattle Seahawks recently said that the NFL should not have a team named after a skin color. Thank you, Mr. Sherman.

Now all athletes should step up and let team owners and fans know that this is no longer going to be acceptable. You athletes need to be leaders. If you can

lead a team, you can step out and lead in life. Don't underestimate your power. It is time for a change.

Clearly, the two most famous violators of consciousness are the Washington Redskins and the Cleveland Indians. Can you imagine if this were another culture? Can you imagine a name like the “Blackies” and people actually painting their face and attempted to act “black”?

If you athletes are part of a non-Native team that has taken on one of these negative stereotypes, don't conduct a poll. Don't ask a Native American to support your cause. Be a leader. This is an issue

that crosses political lines; both Democrats and Republicans need to feel free to join this fight. This is not political correctness gone wild. List any other culture, start to negatively project these images, and supporters will step up immediately.

Where are you, athletes? Where is your pride? Stand up against a racist agenda. Indian people are not honored by these names. Take this as a message to get involved, talk to your owners and to the public. The tide is turning against racism. The time to get involved is now.

Athletes, stand for what is right. <http://bit.ly/1enSLh2> 

Rider Would Curb Federal Authority Over Tribal Recognition

BY GALE COUREY TOENSING

A rider that would stop the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) from revising procedures for federal acknowledgment of Indian tribes has been attached to the Interior Department's 2016 spending plan by the House Appropriations Subcommittee.

National Congress of American Indians Executive Director Jacqueline Pata has urged the subcommittee to review the rider and have Congress "review the final regulations before taking action."

The rider is part of what some tribal leaders say is a new congressional assault on Indian Country. The House Subcommittee on Indian, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs recently held heated oversight hearings whereat committee members challenged the Interior Department's authority to take land into trust.

The (BIA) lodged the final rule for the proposed new recognition procedures with the Office of Management and Budget on April 20, for review by the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs. This would be the last step before the procedures are enacted.

After the release of the discussion draft of the proposed rules, the BIA consulted federally recognized tribal leaders, held public meetings with leaders of non-federally recognized tribes and others, and engaged in a comment period. There was another round of consultations and public input last summer, which yielded the final rule.

The House Appropriations Subcommittee voted unanimously to send the bill to the full committee, where it likely faces months of debate and amendments. <http://bit.ly/1IjhJW2> ☞



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Tribes Angered Over Snubbing At Upcoming Keystone XL Hearings

A consortium of environmentally minded Nations is angry that tribal testimony will not be permitted at a July hearing that will help shape the fate of the controversial Keystone XL pipeline.

The hearing, conducted by the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (PUC), is being held to determine if the energy giant TransCanada, the builder of the pipeline, must resubmit its application to run the controversial conduit through that state.

"Tribal Nations, traditional treaty council members and grassroots leaders are outraged over the decision to exclude aboriginal rights and off-reservation rights from the discussion," said the Indigenous Environmental Network (IEN) in a statement. "The nine tribal nations of South Dakota all stand in resistance to the proposed tar sands pipeline."

The consortium emphasized that Keystone XL, which would carry oil from the tar sands of Alberta into the western U.S. as part of the larger Keystone Pipeline project, carries grave environmental threats.

"The KXL pipeline, if constructed, will drive expansion of the energy carbon-intensive extraction and processing of tar sands from under Canada's Boreal forest, increasing global carbon and greenhouse gas emissions," the Indigenous Environmental Network said. "The Mni Wiconi water system, over which the KXL pipeline would have to cross in three locations, provides drinking water to thousands of Native and non-Native people in western South Dakota."

Among the specific issues that the network is concerned about is the potential lack of a spill response plan in the event of a pipeline leak. Also under contention is the route itself, which takes the pipeline "through 200 miles of high-risk landslide

areas," said the IEN.

In addition, it is charged that no analysis has been done on the potential for increased crime related to the influx of temporary pipeline workers.

Finally, it is also charged that there has not been enough assessment of the effect the pipeline would have on cultural resources, nor has an inventory been taken of sacred sites that stand to be affected.

"The PUC's decision amounts to a complete disregard for the inherent treaty rights of Oceti Sakowin peoples to address their concerns on how this dirty tar sands pipeline will affect our territories, water, air, and relationship to the sacredness of Mother Earth," said Dallas Goldtooth, IEN anti-Keystone XL campaign organizer.

"Treaties are the supreme law of the land, and not to be broken. This is yet another unjust action by South Dakota ignoring its obligations." <http://bit.ly/1K0XhxH> ☞

New Study Of Native Gangs Suggests Solutions And Examines Causes

BY TANYA H. LEE

Timely prevention and intervention might help curb youth gangs on American Indian reservations and Canadian First Nations reserves, a new sociological study at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) has concluded.

The study, "Prospective Childhood Risk Factors for Gang Involvement Among North American Indigenous Adolescents," was published in the journal *Youth Violence and Juvenile Justice*. It found that Native and First Nations youth gangs tend to be smaller, less organized and more recently recreated than urban gangs—and therefore may stand a better chance of being thwarted.

"For the most part other gang prevention programs in the urban setting really haven't been very successful or have been very mildly successful," said one of the study's co-authors, UNL doctoral candidate Dane Hautala. "There's really not a lot out there that works ... [But] I think useful prevention/intervention programs could still be implemented [in Indian country]."

The paper, based on a longitudinal study of indigenous youth that began in 2002, also looked at risk factors for gang involvement, membership and initiation among 646 adolescents ages 10-12 and ages 18-20 who were living on reservations and reserves. A total of 6.7 percent of the adolescents reported gang membership, while 9.1 percent reported gang initiation over the course of the study.

The study found that "per capita family income tends to be a very persistent risk factor. Lower family income predicted greater gang involvement. Parental monitoring—a lower level of monitoring by parents—parents who don't know where the kid's at any given time—predicted higher gang involvement."

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Bill To Create Native Child Commission Passes Senate

BY VINCENT SCHILLING

The Senate passed a major bill to improve the lives of Native children on June 8. Sponsored by Heidi Heitkamp (D-North Dakota) and Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska), it was unanimously approved by the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs in February.

The bill would create a Commission on Native Children to “work to identify the complex challenges faced by Native children,” said Heitkamp’s office in a statement. The commission would study “high rates of poverty, staggering unemployment, child abuse, domestic violence, crime, substance abuse, and dire economic opportunities” and make appropriate economic and educational recommendations.

The bill specifically calls for the commission to make better use of existing federal, state and local resources; increase coordination of programs benefiting Native children; improve data collection methods; recommend measures to determine the well-being of Native children; promote stronger public-private sector partnerships in Native communities; and identify and highlight successful models that can be adopted in Native communities.

“For generations, children on tribal lands have lived with the odds stacked against them,” said Heitkamp. “Despite being saddled with challenges no child should ever face, our Native kids are determined to persevere.”

Heitkamp invoked the memory of Alice Spotted Bear (Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara), vice president of Fort Berthold Community College and a member of the National Advisory Committee of Education, who died in 2013. Spotted Bears’ family presented her with a ceremonial blanket when the bill was introduced last year. “We are going to give it to the president when he signs the bill,” Heitkamp said. “That will be a wonderful reminder of his commitment to Native kids.” <http://bit.ly/1G8pcWB> 📍

Resolution Copper Says It Is Consulting Apache Over Land Swap

BY LEE ALLEN

Allegations of corruption have swirled around a recent land swap that has made 2,400 acres of sacred San Carlos Apache land in Arizona vulnerable to mineral mining. Protesters have been camping out in the controversial area. But the company in question says it has not only offered outreach but remains open to discussion and consultation.

Far from being aloof, Resolution Copper Project Director Andrew Taplin told Indian Country Today Media Network, his company has been rebuffed in its attempts to connect with the San Carlos Apache.

“I think the public’s understanding is that no dialogue has taken place, and that’s not the case,” Taplin said in an exclusive interview. “I have written and personally spoken with current San Carlos Chairman Terry Rambler and former Chairman Wendsler Nosie Sr.”

Some discussions are taking place with other neighboring tribes and non-Natives, as well as “some members of the San Carlos Apache tribe who understand the benefits associated with the project,” said Taplin. “We held an open forum on the reservation a few weeks ago with 50 tribal members engaging in healthy dialogue for over three hours.” Another session is planned in the next few weeks, he said.

Meanwhile, the company is safeguarding Apache Leap and the Oak Flat campground, where protesters have been staying since the land-swap rider—which is attached to the National Defense Authorization Act—was passed in February. “Ongoing access to the campground will continue as long as it is safe to do so,” said Taplin, “and we expect access will continue for a number of decades.” <http://bit.ly/1dLrvIA> 📍

Pew Survey Gives Skewed View Of Mixed Indian Population, Critics Say

BY SIMON MOYA-SMITH

Critics are questioning a recent Pew Research Center poll that has found that a sizeable percentage of multiracial U.S. adults identify themselves as both white and Native American.

Released on June 11, the Pew report stated that 6.9 percent of its 21,224 participants “could be considered multiracial.” Of that number, half were reported to be white and Native American—“by far the country’s largest multiracial group.”

But some Native skeptics feel that the survey’s reliance on self-identification has skewed its results. The survey offered no guarantees that participants would be honest about disclosing their racial make-up, Adrienne Keene (Cherokee), a Harvard postdoctoral fellow in Native American studies at Brown University, told ICTMN. “There’s no easy answer to it,” Keene said. “[But] there clearly has to be a better way.”

“[Pew] presents their study as if it is fact, and makes little to no mention of participants self-identifying their race,” Tara Houska (Ojibwe), a tribal attorney in Washington, D.C., told ICTMN. “Identifying as Native American has be-

come trendy, just as appropriating pieces of our cultures is now fashionable.”

“We have to take people at their word for how they identify themselves,” the center’s associate director of research, Dr. Juliana Menasce Horowitz, told ICTMN. “In surveys, you have to trust what people are saying is true.” She emphasized that the survey constituted a research project and was not an official government survey.

The Pew study also found that 61 percent of those who claim to be white and Native American reported they have more in common with the former group than with the latter. <http://bit.ly/1GnY9KI> 📍

The Money in Switchgrass

'It's so much better than gaming.' BY LYNN ARMITAGE

Bottom Line: Tribes may be able to profit from the cultivation, distribution and processing of an energy-rich crop.

Many tribes are planning how they can reap riches by growing medical marijuana. But 72-year-old elder John Lytle (Rosebud Sioux) thinks that the crop to plant is switchgrass.

Switchgrass is a perennial, energy-rich, drought-resistant crop that could be used to make biomass feedstock for processing plants. Lytle, the founder and CEO of the alternative energy company First American Renewables, Ltd., hopes to develop up to eight biomass-processing plants and related agricultural opportunities throughout South Dakota. He believes that biomass could not only constitute a multi-million-dollar revenue source but might generate renewable diesel and jet fuels—as well as methanol.

Partnering with the bio-energy firm BBI International, Lytle is calling for processing plants to be located relatively close to South Dakota's Indian reservations and operational railroads for easy distribution.

"Tribes in the targeted area are all part of the original Greater Sioux Nation," he said. "Each of the eight tribes controls a land base large enough to support the growing and harvesting of at least 10,000 to 12,000 acres of switchgrass." This amount, he predicted, would produce 55,000 to 60,000 tons of feedstock needed annually by local biomass processing plants.

Lytle recently discussed his plans with ICTMN.

Why should tribes be interested in the biomass business?

Biomass represents one of the most exciting opportunities to come along for

Indian country. It's so much better than gaming. Biomass will allow tribes to leverage or use their biggest asset—their large land bases within their boundaries—to grow switchgrass that they can sell to biomass plants, year after year.

It will also help create jobs for each tribe and the surrounding communities—roughly 35 to 45 agricultural, handling and transportation-based jobs; 35 to 40 construction jobs to build the plant; and an additional 20 to 24 onsite jobs to



Switchgrass could generate tribal profits on a number of fronts.

run it.

How much money can tribes make from growing switchgrass for feedstock?

Much of the land being considered for switchgrass development is currently being leased to non-tribal farmers and ranchers as grazing land, at a rate of roughly \$22 to \$25 per acre. In comparison, a biomass processing plant will pay about \$60 to \$70 per ton for switchgrass. One acre of switchgrass will produce about five to six tons.

So that amounts to about \$300 to \$420 per acre annually, gross revenue, compared to the \$22 to \$25 per acre they are getting just for grazing.

How many tribes in Indian country are already growing switchgrass or other materials for biomass?

I could be wrong, but I'm not aware of anyone but the Shakopee Sioux Tribe in Minnesota, which started one of the first commercial-grade biomass operations in Indian country. They would qualify as kind of a pioneer for the overall effort.

How much will it cost a tribe to grow this feedstock?

The cost is about \$185 per acre to establish a stand of switchgrass the first year. In the third year of growing, it will reach full maturity and you can harvest it. Harvesting is the highest cost at about \$120 per acre. To develop 10,000 to 11,000 acres and to carry all activities up to harvest time, you're looking at about \$5.2 million. And roughly 50 percent of that cost is recoverable from the Department of Agriculture's BCAP [Building Crop Assistance Program].

How popular is this method of producing alternative fuel?

Biomass is starting to really gain ground. This administration has been pushing the concept to use federal lands to meet America's energy needs. According to revised Environmental Protection Agency numbers, they want 50.1 billion gallons of renewable fuel by 2022. Here's the math: If an acre of land produces about 500 gallons of renewable fuel, you will need 100 million acres of land to grow switchgrass, the designated energy crop.

There is no way all the tribes in Indian country have that much land. The eight South Dakota tribes have 4.5 million acres collectively. So all the tribes can have as big a piece of this apple as they want.

<http://bit.ly/1IcnMf8> 

At Odds On Internet Poker

A division among tribes in California BY LYNN ARMITAGE

Bottom Line: *Online poker could generate \$300 million annually in the Golden State. Much of that could go to tribes—and that has spurred a struggle.*

Internet poker is not permitted in California, where legalization efforts have been waging for more than seven years. But a bill now wending its way through the legislature in Sacramento is gaining ground.

And that has prompted at least 14 tribes to split into several distinct factions, each with its own take on the legislation.

The tribes all want a piece of the estimated \$300 million in annual revenue that Internet poker could generate. However, they disagree over whether other parties should share in that money.

They are especially concerned about the potential percentage of horseracing tracks, and of a major online poker site that has violated federal law.

The legislation over which the tribes are arguing, Assembly Bill (AB) 431, provides for the licensing and regulation of Internet poker websites. It unanimously passed the state assembly's appropriations committee last month after some tribes that were initially against it switched their positions from "opposed" to "neutral." Now AB 31 is poised for a full vote by the full assembly—and, in turn, the senate.

AB 431 has divided the 14 tribes in question into three groups:

The First Group:

The Morongo Band of Mission Indians and the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians strongly support Internet poker. "We recognized early on that the Internet is the future of gaming and tribes must adapt to remain the gaming industry leaders," said Morongo Tribal Chairman Robert Martin.

It is not clear how the Morongo and the San Manuel feel about race tracks conducting Internet poker. "Morongo is keeping an open mind," said spokesman Michael Fisher.

What is known, however, is that the

Morongo and the San Manuel have allied themselves with three large Southern California card clubs. In 2011 the Justice Department indicted one of those clubs, PokerStars, the world's largest online poker website, for ignoring a federal ban on Internet gambling. The case was settled out of court for \$731 million. PokerStars has since been acquired by Amaya Inc., a Canadian gambling company.

'Our philosophy is, if you don't embrace technology, you are going to be left behind.'

The Second Group:

The largest party in the current fight, comprising nine tribes, does not oppose Internet poker. But it does object to AB 431. "We're opposed to there not being enough of a framework to regulate Internet poker on a state level," said Leland Kinter, the chairman of the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation.

Kinter's coalition also does not want racing tracks to offer Internet poker because, the members say, the tracks lack experience. And they want to exclude PokerStars because of its indictment. They also believe the firm's customer database would afford them an unfair advantage.

In addition to the Yocha Dehe Wintun, the group includes the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, the Barona Band of Mission Indians, the Habematolel Pomo of Upper Lake, the Lytton Band of Pomo Indians, the Pechanga Band of Luiseno Indians, the Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation, the Table Mountain Rancheria and the Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians.

The Third Group:

Three tribes split from the nine-member group in February because they regard that coalition as obstructionist and uncompromising. The breakaway tribes—the Pala Band of Mission Indians, the United Auburn Indian Community and the Rincon Band of Luiseno Indians—are aligning with the Morongo faction.

"We are committed to moving the legislation forward," said Rincon tribal council member Steve Stallings. Stallings also said that his group does not oppose PokerStars being included in any deal.

Stallings and his allies do not support track involvement. But, he said, "If that's the only way the legislation gets passed, then we don't have a problem with it."

He added, "Our philosophy is, if you don't embrace technology and the Internet in any industry that you're in, you are going to be left behind."

The future of Internet poker and any tribal role remains uncertain. When AB 431 passed the appropriations committee in May, proponents claimed victory.

"Some of the heavy lifting of crafting legislation has been done," said Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians Chairman Bo Mazzetti. "Now it is time for the stakeholders to come together."

But Lee Acebedo, the executive director of California Nations Indian Gaming Association (CNIGA), whose primary concern is the protection of the exclusivity of tribal government gaming in the state, was not as enthusiastic.

"It's just a shell, there's nothing of substance right now," he said. "All it did was assure that the bill did not die."

"Here in California, we have a constitutional guarantee that tax-free gaming is an exclusive right of California tribes. It's possible that online poker going to other venues, such as racetracks, could be viewed as an expansion of gaming. And we want to keep an eye on that."

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

The Trauma In Tribal Bodies

Are Natives hard-wired to feel emotional pain?

BY MARY ANNETTE PEMBER

Bottom Line: *The emerging science of epigenetics suggests that genes might carry the seeds of suffering. The implications for Indian country are profound.*

Trauma is big news these days. Stories about dramatic improvements that allow science to see more clearly how jarring, upsetting and horrific events affect our bodies, minds and even our genes.

Much of the current coverage is concerned with the breakthrough scientific connection between trauma and illness. The next breakthrough may lie in determining how trauma affects our offspring.

All this can go a long way toward explaining the collective pain that continues to pervade Indian country—and how it may constitute a collective genetic consciousness.

At the heart of the current discussion is the field of epigenetics (literally, “above the gene”). This relatively new scientific discipline posits that we pass along more than DNA in our genes.

Genes, adherents of epigenetics believe, can actually carry memories of trauma that have been experienced by ancestors. That trauma, in turn, can influence our genetic structure. This restructuring can make

genes more likely to “switch on” negative responses to stress and upheaval.

The generational connection between genes and emotions represents cutting-edge research. “Never before in the history of medicine have we had better insight into

Today, those in Indian country are wondering why it took science so long to catch up with traditional Native knowledge in connecting trauma of the past to pain of the present.

“Native healers, medicine people and elders have always known this and it is common knowledge in Native oral traditions,” said Dr. LeManuel “Lee” Bitsoi (Navajo), a Harvard University research associate in genetics, at the 2013 Gateway to Discovery conference.

Epigenetics, said Bitsoi, is beginning to uncover scientific proof that historical trauma is real. It can be seen as a contributing cause in the development of illnesses such as post-traumatic stress disorder, depression and type-2 diabetes.

Michelle M. Sotero, an instructor in Health Care Administration and Policy at the University of Nevada, has offered a threefold definition of historical trauma (also known as generational trauma):

- In the initial phase, the dominant culture perpetrates mass trauma on a population in the form of colonialism, slavery, war or genocide.

- In the second phase, the affected population shows physical and psychological



The roots of depression, stress and even diabetes may literally be in Native genes.

the factors that determine the health of an individual from infancy to adulthood, which is part of the life course perspective—a way of looking at life not as disconnected stages but as integrated across time,” the American Academy of Pediatrics has stated.

The evidence has been building for a while. A landmark 1998 study conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Kaiser Permanente showed that adverse experiences across generations could contribute to mental and physical illness.

symptoms in response to the trauma.

- In the final phase, the initial population passes these responses to trauma to subsequent generations. They in turn display similar symptoms.

These characteristics obviously resonate in Indian country. Some researchers are convinced that high rates of drug addiction, suicide, mental illness, sexual violence and other ills among Native peoples might be, at least in part, influenced by historical trauma.

“Many present-day health disparities can be traced back through epigenetics to a ‘colonial health deficit’—the result of colonization and its aftermath,” said Bonnie Duran, an associate professor in the Department of Health Services at the University of Washington School of Public Health.

According to the American Indian and Alaska Native Genetics Research Guide, which was created by the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), studies have shown that various behavior and health conditions are due to inherited epigenetic changes.

Authors of the guide refer to a 2008 McGill University study led by Moshe Szyf, which examined the brains of suicide victims. Szyf’s team found that genes governing stress response in the victims’ hippocampus area of the brain had been methylated—that is, “switched off.” Excessive trauma produces hormones (called glucocorticoids) that can alter gene expression.

Chronic exposure to glucocorticoids can inhibit genes in the brain’s ability to regulate those hormones. Szyf suggested that the genes were “switched off” in response to a series of events, such as abuse during childhood (all victims in the study were abused as children).

Much of Szyf’s research was conducted with laboratory rats. With McGill neurobiologist Michael Meaney, Szyf demonstrated a significant difference in the hippocampus between adult rats raised by attentive and inattentive mothers. Adult offspring of inattentive rat mothers showed that genes regulating sensitivity to stress were highly methylated. Rats with attentive mothers did not exhibit this tendency.

To test their research, the scientists switched the parents for rat babies that were born to two different kinds of mothers. The

babies born to attentive mothers, but which were given to inattentive mothers, also developed highly methylated genes and grew to be skittish adults.

The opposite proved true for babies that were born to bad mothers but given to good mothers. As adults, these baby rats appeared calm.

This research would seem to combine the historically polarizing theory of nature versus nurture in determining behavior. Thus, gene methylation may be linked to

*Science may
finally be catching
up to what Native
healers and elders
have strongly felt
all along.*

health disparities among Native Americans, suggested Native researcher Teresa Brockie, a research nurse specialist at the National Institute of Health.

In the scholarly publication *Nursing and Research and Practice*, Brockie and a research team noted that high adverse childhood experience (ACE) scores have been linked to methylation of genes that regulate the stress response.

The researchers further noted that endocrine and immune disorders are also linked to methylation of such genes. And they found that Native peoples have high rates of ACE’s and health problems such as post-traumatic stress disorder, depression and substance abuse, and diabetes. All are linked with methylation of genes regulating the body’s response to stress.

“The persistence of stress associated with discrimination and historical trauma converges to add immeasurably to these challenges,” the researchers wrote.

However, there is a dearth of studies that have examined these findings. So Brockie’s team could not establish a direct cause between epigenetics and high rates of certain diseases among Native Americans. Nonetheless, some researchers are optimistic.

“Epigenetic studies provide a unique opportunity to characterize the long-term impact of stressors including historical trauma on the function of genes,” said Dr. Jessica Gill, a principal investigator at the Brain Injury Unit of the National Institute of Nursing Research.


“The modification of gene function through epigenetic modifications can greatly impact the health of the individual and may underlie some of the health disparities that we observe in populations including Native Americans,” she predicted.

Epigenetics is becoming a hot topic—though not always in a good way. Some academics believe it could be perverted to demonstrate that Native peoples and other ethnic groups may be genetically inferior.

“[T]he science has faint echoes of eugenics,” wrote Shannon Sullivan, a philosophy professor at the University of North Carolina-Charlotte in her article “Inheriting Racist Disparities in Health: Epigenetics and the Transgenerational Effects of White Racism.”

On the other hand, research into epigenetics offers the hope of creating better and more specific medicines and interventions for learning and memory issues associated with such mental health problems as depression, anxiety and post-traumatic stress disorder.

And many researchers feel that the ability of Native peoples to maintain their culture and sense of self in the face of historical trauma suggests an inherited resilience that bears scientific examination. Joseph Gone (Gros Ventre Tribe of Montana), a professor at the University of Michigan, is among them.

However, he also wondered if the new science may be getting ahead of itself. “There is a lot of research that needs to be done,” he said, “before we will understand whether and how these processes work.” <http://bit.ly/1EB9t16> 



A new Canadian Coast Guard vessel has been named for Nuu-chah-nuth hereditary chief Martin Charles for decades of selfless service.



Bronson Koenig (Ho-Chunk) of the Wisconsin Badgers is currently evincing Native pride with an eagle feather-shaped buzz cut.



The Mashantucket Pequot Tribe of Connecticut broke ground on June 5 on a new affordable housing project.



Isadore Day has been elected regional chief of the Ontario branch of the Assembly of First Nations.

CANADIAN COAST GUARD; TWITTER; CHRISTINA ROSE; UNION OF ONTARIO INDIANS

Nez-Perce Tribe

The Nez Perce Tribal Enterprise is seeking written bids from qualified CPA Firms to assist with end of the year preparation for Fiscal Year 2015 financial audit.

Services will include but not limited to: Providing subsidiary ledger review and implementation, account reconciliation and adjusting journal entry preparation if needed. Mandatory experience with fixed asset management and inventory control systems related to convenience stores. Sage 100 accounting software experience is preferred. Estimated on site requirement will include 1 week periods in September and in October with possible off site support. Quotes must be received no later than August 31st, 2015.

Submit written bids to:
 Nez Perce Tribal Enterprise
 ATTN: Accounting Department
 P.O. Box 327
 Lewiston, ID 83501

For inquires please contact the Accounting Department at (208) 298-1101 or Fax (208) 746-5669.

LATE OR INCOMPLETE PACKETS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.
 The Nez Perce Tribal Enterprise reserves the right to reject any or all bids

Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska

The Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska is seeking bids for the Independent Audit of the financial statements for the fiscal year ended **9/30/2015**.

The bid should include:
 Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska/Gaming Commission and the WinnaVegas Casino with a separate bid price for each.

Proposals are due by close of business on **July 15, 2015**. A Request for Proposal may be obtained by contacting the:

Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska, P.O. Box 687, Winnebago, NE 68071.
 Attn: "Acting CFO"

Griffin House

122 South Broadway
 Yonkers, NY 10701

One Bedroom Affordable apartments available for persons 62 years of age or older

Located across the street from St. Joseph's Medical Center

Enhanced Security System
 Secured Parking
 Onsite Laundry
 Local Shuttle
 Shopping Nearby
 Public Transportation

Qualified applicants will be required to meet income, age and family size guidelines as well as additional selection criteria to qualify.

For more information call (914) 376-1400 or visit our website at

<http://www.hhmgmt.com/griffinhouse>



North Fork Rancheria

Chief Financial Officer. Full time, Exempt Employee. Under general direction of the Tribal Council, to perform complex, difficult, fiduciary, professional, and managerial accounting and general fiscal management. Five years of prior public or not-for-profit fund accounting experience in a managerial/supervisory capacity or eight years of prior general accounting experience in a managerial/supervisory capacity. Experience must demonstrate comprehension and application of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). A Bachelors Degree in Accounting, Public Administration, Business Administration or a related field or a certification in grants management and/or training courses in accounting, grants management, and federal audit and administrative requirements sufficient to provide the breadth and depth of knowledge necessary to manage federal awards and report on them. Salary: \$58,562 - \$91,255 (DOE).

Closing Date: July 17, 2015 at 5:00 pm.

ICWA Representative. Full time, Non-exempt Employee. Responsible, under the direction of the Chief Administrative Officer, for all activities of the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) Program and general Child Social Welfare issues related to the Tribe's social welfare programs. Duties include networking and collaboration with appropriate agencies to provide appropriate support services to ICWA clients. In depth knowledge of Federal and State ICWA and related legislative documents/requirements is a must. Requires a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work, Psychology, Political Science and four (4) years directly related experience; or Six (6) years experience in a directly related field with emphasis on Social Work, Psychology or Political Science; or a combination of education, training, and directly related experience. Salary: \$39,179 - \$56,406 (DOE).

Closing Date: July 24, 2015 at 5:00 pm.

Human Resources Manager: Full time, Non-exempt Employee. Under the direction of the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) performs a high level of complex and confidential personnel functions. Collaterally oversees the day to day administrative operations of the government office and creates, recommends and ensures efficient and effective personnel and office procedures. Other duties include: administration of security systems for all NFR facilities; assisting with management of grants; overseeing the entire recruitment cycle in coordination with Hiring Managers and Tribal Council; and recommending updates to NFR Personnel Policies & Procedures and the Administrative Department Procedural Manual. Salary range: \$39,570 to \$56,9074 (DOE).

Closing Date: July 31, 2015 at 5:00 pm.

Applicants for any of these positions must possess a valid California Driver's License and successfully pass a pre-employment drug screen and criminal background investigation. All applicants must have the ability to work with people from diverse cultures, ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds and must always maintain cultural sensitivity. Indian Preference applies to those who are qualified. EOE. Drug and Alcohol Free Workplace. All employment is "at-will". For an Application Package, contact the **Tribal Government Office at (559) 877-2461, toll-free at (866) 291-9909** or via email at treyes@nfr-nsn.gov. E-mailed PDF version is available.

Headlines from the Web

FLAGSTAFF, HOPI TRIBE NEAR SETTLEMENT ON RECLAIMED WATER AT SNOWBOWL

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

FORMER OMAHA TRIBAL CHAIRMAN PLEADS GUILTY IN THEFT CASE

<http://bit.ly/1GKPSS8>

APPEALS COURT HALTS STATE PROSECUTIONS OF UTES FOR CRIMES ON TRIBAL LAND

<http://bit.ly/1SoVx44>

KEY LEGAL MILESTONE COMING FOR SQUAW ISLAND NAME CHANGE

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

SPOKANE TRIBE'S CASINO PROPOSAL GETS KEY FEDERAL APPROVAL

<http://bit.ly/1G2CTHz>

LABOR RIGHTS AND TRIBAL SOVEREIGNTY COLLIDE AT INDIAN CASINOS

<http://huff.to/1JWj2jB>

UPCOMING EVENTS

ENDURING LEGACIES NATIVE CASES SUMMER INSTITUTE JUNE 25-26

The gathering will build on 10 years of work on developing teaching interdisciplinary case studies on significant issues in Indian Country and offering workshops for educators to learn how to use cases in their classes. The case collection covers a wide range of topics applicable to all academic fields. Problem-based learning, place-based learning and collaborative learning are the cornerstones of the approach. Cases promote student engagement and critical thinking in the context of complex and pressing real-world issues, with an eye toward promoting diversity.

Location: Little Creek Resort Hotel, Shelton, Washington

AMERICAN INDIAN PSYCHOLOGISTS AND PSYCHOLOGY GRADUATE STUDENTS CONVENTION JUNE 26-30

The 28th annual convention provides

professional, government and academic communities the opportunity to learn more about opportunities and challenges currently facing indigenous peoples, their culture, language religious and/or spiritual beliefs and values. A retreat at the Logan Canyon Horse Camp and Bear Lake Training Center will preface the formal convention.

Location: Utah State University, Logan, Utah

NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS MID YEAR CONFERENCE & MARKETPLACE JUNE 28-JULY 1

“Nurturing Tribal Resources: Culture, Land & People” will comprise a variety of working groups, forums and lectures. Scheduled events include “Tribal-State Relations for the 21st Century,” “Tribal Communities Responding: Shaping an Agenda for Resilience,” “Connecting Across Distance and Difference: Tribal Citizenship in a New Era,” “Disasters Express: Resources for Tribal Community Emergencies” and “Native Vote: What It Will Take For Indian

Country To Win The 2016 Election.” Other offerings will include a consultation session with the Department of Housing and Urban Development, a meeting of the Large Land Base Tribal Nations Task Force, regional caucus sessions, a discussion among the United League of the Indigenous Nations, and various subcommittee meetings. **Location:** St. Paul Rivercentre, St. Paul, Minnesota

KEEPSEAGLE V. VILSACK HEARING JUNE 29

This hearing in U.S. District Court will consider how to allocate unclaimed funds generated in *Keepseagle v. Hilsack*, the landmark Native discrimination case. Although the federal government agreed to a settlement of \$680 million, \$380 million remains unclaimed. Options include awarding the funds to various combinations of plaintiffs or claimants who had been previously denied but who might bear reconsideration because of a “technical defect.”

Location: U.S. Courthouse, Constitution Avenue, Washington, D.C.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Re: the congressional land-swap measure that would exploit acreage of the Apache in Oak Flat, Arizona for mineral wealth (June 4):

What’s going on here apart from government corruption and collusion with a foreign mining company?

If these people can do it there, they can do it anywhere. I wish that more people would wake up to this. Profiteers are heartless.

—Bob Smith
Arlington, Massachusetts

Re: “School Policy in the 21st Century” and the current controversies over Native students who wish to wear feathers at graduation ceremonies (May 20):

The very school districts that teach “The First Thanksgiving” and that continue to teach that Indigenous

Americans no longer exist are now refusing to allow Native American students to be visible. What a shock!

To these students, I say wear your feathers proudly. Don’t ask permission, just do it. If people ask you what it means, then you have the chance to educate them.

—Theresa Dante
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Fort Peck Housing Authority Request For Proposals For Accounting Services

Fort Peck Housing Authority

Box 667

Poplar, MT 59255

Phone (406) 768-3459 Fax (406) 768-5489

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR

ACCOUNTING SERVICES

Opening date: June 25, 2015

Closing date: July 16, 2015

The Fort Peck Housing Authority is soliciting proposals for Accounting Services. The contract period of performance is for two (2) years, with two (2) single-year options to extend the contract. After the initial two-year base period, the engagement shall be renewed on a year-to-year basis. The Scope of Services to be provided may include assistance with:

1. Maintaining Great Plains General Ledgers consistent with any applicable federal regulations and adopted HA policies.
2. Providing Procurement Processes, Contracts and Training.
3. Assisting with Pre-Audit Preparation.
4. Posting to the general ledger in a timely and accurate manner.
5. Reviewing and advising on HA internal control system in its accounting functions.
6. Assisting with the annual operating bud gets, budget revisions and financial statements to conform to HUD submittal deadlines.
7. Oversight to ensure that all accounting-related deadlines are met.
8. Providing timely and accurate monthly reporting to the Board of Commissioners on the financial status of the HA.
9. Training HA Finance Division staff and other appropriate staff on account in g requirements.
10. Advising the Executive Director and the HA Board of Commissioners the financial implications of management proposals and participate in HA planning efforts upon request.
11. Reviewing and balancing tenant ledgers by assisting HA Resident Services staff on daily, monthly and annual data input with regards to Tenant Accounting.
12. Preparation of homebuyer annual account statements and continual updating of all Low-rent tenants in the system. Will work closely with the Finance division by providing quality Accounting Services in all areas of funding.
13. Maintenance of physical and fixed asset inventory.

14. Assist on any projects agreed to upon by both the Firm and HA.

Responsive, responsible proposals shall be evaluated based on a point system with a total possible score of 100. The criteria for selection will include points given in the following areas:

Evaluation Criteria

1. Firm's willingness and ability to work with Great Plains & HDS Software. 20 points
2. Previous work for the HA. 10 points
3. Managerial, technical and administrative capability. 10 points
4. References. 5 points
5. Experience with NAHASDA and grants management. 10 points
6. Detailed plan on addressing annual audit. 10 points
7. Plan detailing training of FPHA staff as needed. 5 points
8. Cost proposal: fee schedule: online technical support: phone support. 10 points
9. Indian preference. 15 points
10. Ability to travel onsite and provide technical support and assistance. 5 points

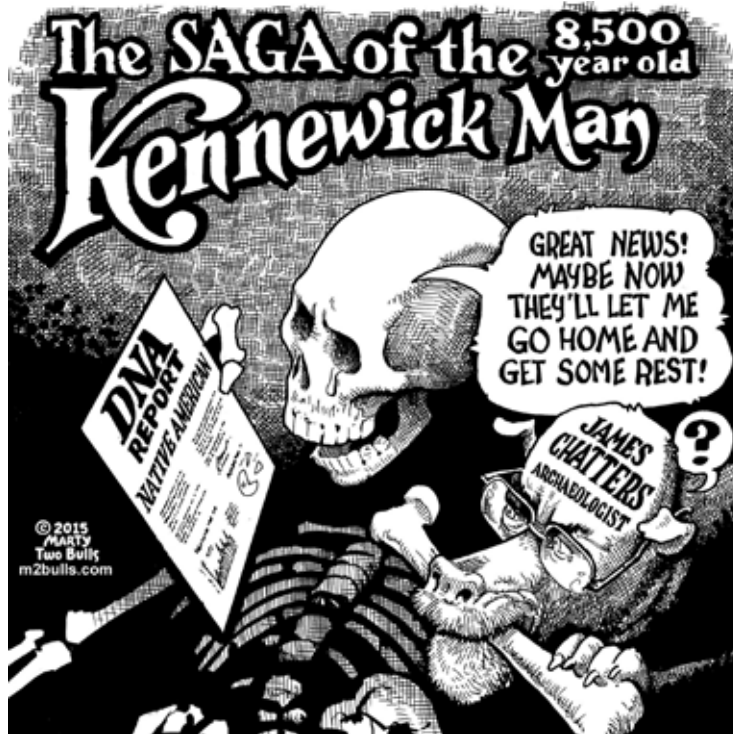
The Fort Peck Housing Authority plans to implement the Indian Preference procedures by the use of the procedure set forth in 24 CFR 1000.52 Indian Preference. The particular section to follow can be found at 24 CFR 85.36 Methods of Procurement. However, responsible proposals will be accepted from Indian and Non-Indian owned accounting firms.

Proposals must be in written format and submitted to the address below on or before, July 16, 2015, by 4:30 p.m. MST. The price proposal must be on an hourly basis and be inclusive of all overhead and profit. Reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of services will be reimbursed. Proposals received after this date shall be considered unresponsive and shall be returned unopened to the responding firm. The HA reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals and to waive any informality in the proposal received, consistent with the Regulations, if it is in the best interest of the HA.

For further information on this Request for Proposal, please contact Dr. Robin Bighorn, Executive Director at the Fort Peck Housing Authority at (406) 768-3459.

By:

Dr. Robin Bighorn
Executive Director
Fort Peck Housing Authority



TOP NEWS ALERTS

From IndianCountryTodayMediaNetwork.com

SUICIDE RECOVERY FUNDS FOR PINE RIDGE

The Pine Ridge School in South Dakota has received \$218,000 from the federal government to aid in recovery from student suicides and suicide attempts. The funding comes under the auspices of the Department of Education's Project School Emergency Response to Violence grant program. The Pine Ridge School, which serves the Oglala Sioux Tribe on the Pine Ridge Reservation, requested assistance after experiencing a significant increase in counseling referrals, suicide attempts and actual suicides among young people between August 2014 and April 2015.

MASHANTUCKET PEQUOTS EMBRACE CHEAPER HOUSING

The Mashantucket Pequot

Tribe of Connecticut broke ground on June 5 on a new affordable housing project. The idea, conceived a year ago, will initially entail building two colonial-style, two-family pre-fabricated duplexes that are approximately 1,800 square feet each. "We just knew we needed housing," said Jean Swift, chair of the tribe's housing committee and tribal council treasurer. "We were being criticized because we were divesting older properties, but they cost so much to maintain."

LACROSSE HONOR FOR ONONDAGA PLAYER

For the second year in a row, Lyle Thompson (Onondaga) was honored with the Tewaarton Award, the highest honor in college lacrosse. Last year, the State University of New York at Albany student shared

the stage with his older brother Miles. On April 14, Thompson became the all-time leading scorer in NCAA Division I men's lacrosse, ending his career with exactly 400 points. Thompson has been drafted No. 1 in the Major League Lacrosse draft to the Florida Launch.

MORE NATIVE VETERANS AT INDIAN AFFAIRS

Indian Affairs offices and bureaus have hired nearly 600 American Indian and Alaska Native veterans in the last year, Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs Kevin Washburn announced last week. The new personnel were recruited under a federal initiative announced on June 14, 2014. Their presence exceeds the goal of increasing the number Native American veterans employed by the relevant agencies from

nine percent of the workforce to 12.5 percent. In total, there are approximately 7,940 Indian Affairs employees.

A FINE FOR A NATIVE YOUTH ASSAULT

A man charged with hurling beer and shouting racial slurs at Native American students in Rapid City, South Dakota will not face jail time. Trace O'Connell, 41, was accused of pouring beer on Native American students during a Rapid City Rush hockey game at the Rushmore Plaza Civic Center in January; he reportedly told them to "go back to the reservation." After police investigated, O'Connell was charged with disorderly conduct and faced up to 30 days in jail. But last month, Fourth Circuit Magistrate Judge Eric Strawn imposed a fine rather than incarceration.

UPCOMING POW WOWS

65TH ANNUAL INDIAN HILLS POW WOW

6/24/15—6/26/15
Oklahoma City Pow Wow Club
9300 N. Sooner Road
Guthrie, OK
405-329-1049

[Facebook.com/pages/Indian-Hills-Pow-wow/154728691269489](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Indian-Hills-Pow-wow/154728691269489)

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION FESTIVAL

6/25/15—6/28/15
Claude Cox Omniplex
555 Tank Farm Road
Okmulgee, OK
918-732-7995

ctiger@mcn-nsn.gov
CreekFestival.com

WINNEBAGO POW WOW

6/25/15—6/28/15
Winnebago Veterans Memorial Park
Winnebago, NE
402-878-2272

TONKAWA TRIBAL POW WOW

6/26/15—6/28/15
Fort Oakland
Tonkawa, OK
580-628-2561

18TH ANNUAL PEORIA POW WOW

6/26/15—6/28/15
Peoria Pow Wow Grounds
60610 East 90 Road
Miami, OK
918-540-2535

PeoriaTribe.com

THE MIAMI VALLEY COUNCIL FOR NATIVE AMERICAN 27TH ANNUAL KEEPING THE TRADITION POW WOW

6/27/15
2301 West River Road
Dayton, OH
SunWatch.org

KANATSIOHAREKE MOHAWK

COMMUNITY STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

6/27/15—6/28/15
4934 State Highway Route 5
Fonda, NY

CIRCLE THE BLUFFS POW WOW

6/27/15—6/28/15
Legacy of the Plains Museum
2930 Old Oregon Trail
Scottsbluff, NE
308-225-1325

jina_red@yahoo.com

39TH ANNUAL CHIEF ONE BEARS TOPIC POW WOW

6/27/15—6/28/15
Prowse Farm
5 Bluehill River Road
Canton, MA
508-292-7773



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

How Did I Miss That?

Tiny deer, the FIFA scandal and a take on American Pharoah

BY STEVE RUSSELL

Awww. A southern pudu (*Pudu puda*), the second smallest deer species in the world, was born at the Wildlife Conservation Society Queens Zoo in Flushing, New York. It was six inches tall and weighed less than two pounds, but is expected to grow twice that tall. Southern pudu are indigenous to Chile and Argentina. The smallest deer species is a northern cousin, *Pudu mephistophiles*, native to Ecuador, Peru, and Columbia.

My own northern cousin, Ray Sixkiller, observed, “Those South Americans sure eat small portions of venison.”

NJ.Com reported that Thomas Bacon, 19, of Madison was charged with simple assault on another individual who allegedly ate Bacon’s last piece of sausage.

“I’m betting,” Cousin Ray said with a snicker, “that somebody egged him on.” I was beginning to think my cousin must have uncharacteristically missed lunch.

Cousin Ray, a Republican, was skewering *The New York Times* for not running on its front page the results of an Environmental Protection Agency investigation of fracking and drinking water. BloombergBusiness, which ran the EPA news more prominently, reported that the EPA found “no widespread, systemic pollution” of drinking water attributable to fracking.

This time, I’m with the Republicans. The Times has reported allegations that fracking imperils the supply of potable water often enough that data contrary to that position deserves similar prominence. It’s like front-paging the perp walk and then burying the “not guilty.”

Of course, I was offended when Gasland used an obvious casing leak to

suggest that fracking allows people to light up their tap water. A casing can leak whether or not the well is fracked. There’s no need to twist the science to point out real risks in fracking. Oil and gas companies point out that prudent methods are “too expensive.” In a sane world, the translation of that would be “fracking is too expensive.”

Presidential candidate Mike Huckabee has written a book blurb for *The A.R.K Report*, by Harry Moskoff, who calls himself a “Jewish Indiana Jones.” Without formal training in history or archaeology, Moskoff claims to have discovered the location of the Ark of the Covenant. As if that weren’t enough, Mother Jones reported Moskoff’s claim that the Central Intelligence Agency is interfering with archaeological research because it would strengthen Israel’s claim to disputed territory.

“So,” Cousin Ray complained, “you’re going to report that and not tell where this guy claims he found the Ark?”

American Pharoah brought home the Triple Crown by five and a half lengths in the Belmont Stakes, becoming the first winner in 37 years and only the 12th ever. Owner Ahmed Zayat proved it’s better to be lucky than smart. Zayat almost lost Pharoah to repossession before birth in 2010 when he defaulted a loan on his stables from Fifth Third Bank. Taking the stables into bankruptcy, he was able to renegotiate terms. The bank would have gotten both of Pharoah’s parents.

In the wake of corruption indictments against the leadership of Fédération Internationale de Football Association

(FIFA), NBC reported speculation that World Cups may be taken away from Russia and Qatar because of bribery.

“What I want to know,” Cousin Ray asked, “is whether Russia and Qatar will get their money back?”

Oh, all right. Moskoff claims the Ark of the Covenant has been hiding for millennia in the most obvious place: underneath the courtyard of the First Temple in Jerusalem.

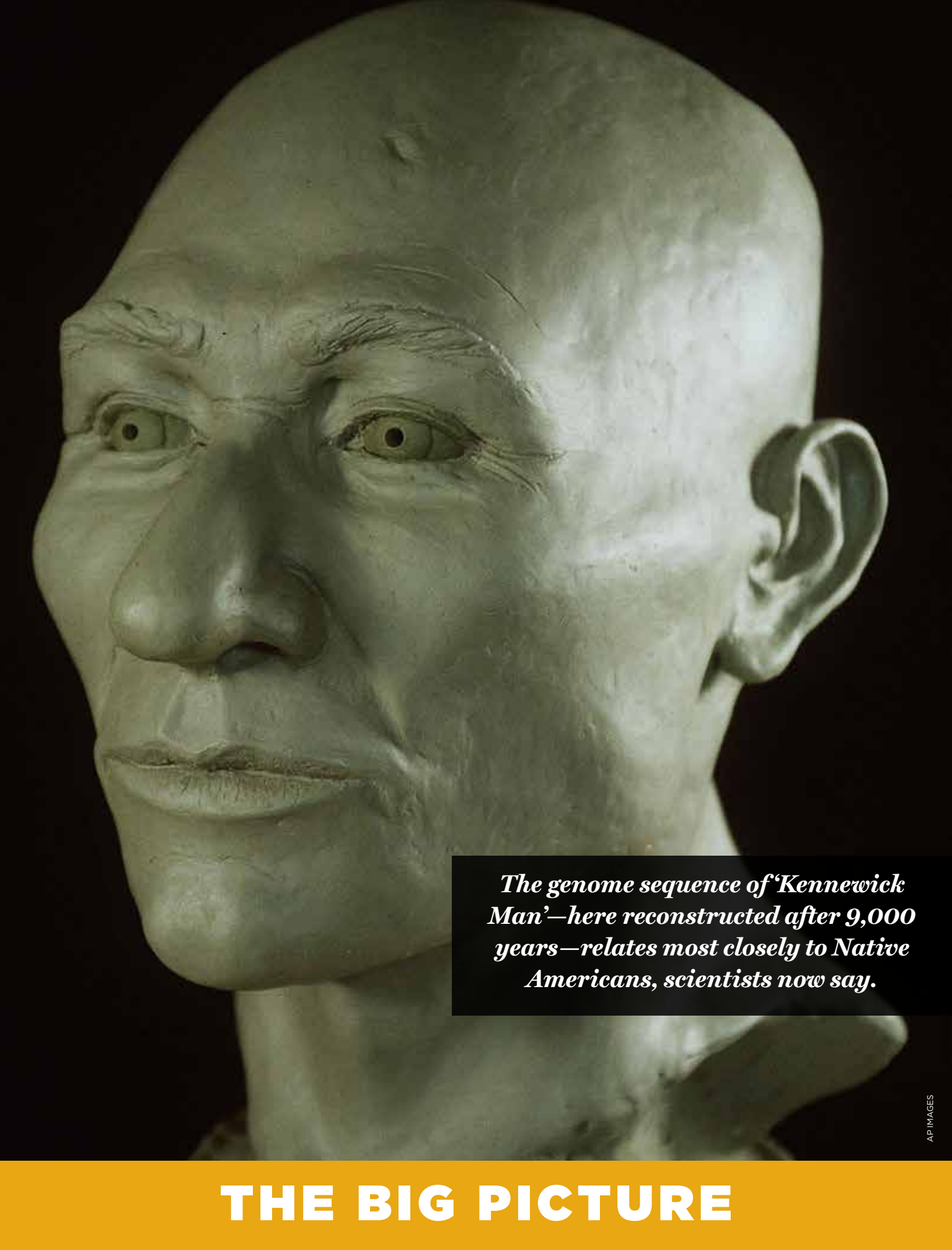
Conveniently enough, the exact location of the First Temple is not known. It was destroyed some time between 587 and 422 B.C.E. and the ruins lie somewhere under sites sacred to Christians and to Muslims. This traffic jam of the three Abrahamic faiths guarantees no digging and no way to verify Moskoff’s claims—unless Huckabee is elected as president and decides to send SEAL Team Six after the Ark.

National Public Radio reported that the Defense Department paid the National Football League more than \$5 million between 2011 and 2014 for what most fans thought were spontaneous salutes to the troops and recognition of “Hometown Heroes.”

Props to the Washington Redskins for not appearing on the list of teams on the take to appear patriotic with the Falcons, Ravens, Bills, Bengals, Browns, Cowboys, Forty Niners, Packers, Colts, Chiefs, Dolphins, Vikings, Saints, Jets, Steelers, and Rams.

“Too bad the Patriots weren’t on the take,” Cousin Ray said. “They could be forced to donate their name to the Washington team. The Washington team still needs a non-racist name.”

Then he asked, “How about Pharoahs? That misspelling is going to be immortal!” <http://bit.ly/1fb8yQw> ☞



The genome sequence of 'Kennewick Man'—here reconstructed after 9,000 years—relates most closely to Native Americans, scientists now say.

THE BIG PICTURE