



Indian Country THIS WEEK FROM

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

A Letter from the Publisher

Shekóli. This past weekend I introduced keynote speaker Amanda Blackhorse at the Native American Journalists Association Convention's closing award ceremony. It was an honor to stand before 300 dedicated Native writers, reporters and editors at the close of an auspicious week of celebration, capped by the decisive victory in the long-running trademark case against the Washington football team.

Many of us in that room had stressed the harmful psychological effects of the team's name. Some in the mainstream media have sought to downplay the significance of the team's name. But social science research shows that the continued promotion of this dictionary-defined racial slur does great damage to Native Americans' self-image and self-worth.

Few know the real-world effects of that better than Amanda Blackhorse. Having grown up on the Navajo reservation, and now a psychiatric social worker, she has seen firsthand how the iconography of hate comes with serious human costs. Amanda is not a newcomer to this battle. As a student at the University of Kansas a decade ago, she joined a group called "Not In Our Honor" that protested the use of Indian nicknames outside Kansas City's Arrowhead Stadium. In that role, she was berated by those who believe their desire to denigrate Native Americans is more important than Native Americans' right to be treated with civility and respect.

It was Suzan Shown Harjo, one of the greatest civil rights heroes in the last few decades, who recruited Amanda to the legal battle against the



Washington team's name. No discussion about the Washington name issue should be made without acknowledging Suzan. In this fight, we all stand on her shoulders. She has been our guiding light and our conscience for decades.

Suzan and Amanda and other tribal leaders have bravely faced down the voices of hate. They challenged the \$9-billion-a-year National Football League, methodically pursued a historic trademark case—and won! With a federal judge cancelling six major trademarks last week, the Washington team has been dealt a heavy blow.

As the plaintiff in that case, Amanda is forcing Washington to do something that is hardly radical. In fact, it's a very simple, minimal request. Amanda is asking the government to stop using taxpayer money to help protect and promote a dictionary-defined racial slur. And because the moral underpinnings of that request are so indisputable and self evident,

the U.S. government has been compelled to act.

Amanda is part of a new generation who understand that the fight for civil rights and equality is not something just for the history books.

NA Ki wa,

Ray Halbritter

Table of *Contents*



2	COMMENTARY	13	CLASSIFIEDS
3	NEWS	14	WEB, EVENTS, LETTERS
5	NEW FEDERAL GUIDELINES HERALD BETTER TRIBAL RECOGNITION	15	CLASSIFIEDS
8	PAMUNKEY GET FEDERAL NOD	16	CARTOON, ALERTS
9	THE 'DEVIL'S HIGHWAY'	17	HOW DID I MISS THAT
11	CLASSIFIEDS	18	POW WOWS
12	WEEK IN PHOTOS	19	BIG PICTURE

Constructing A Native Self

Dina Gilio-Whitaker (Colville), a research associate at the Center for World Indigenous Studies, considers the issue of Native identity in light of the case of Rachel Dolezal, the white former NAACP leader who “identifies” as black:

Americans as settlers and descendants of settlers (whites in particular) have struggled to form their own unique collective identity. They were caught between the cultures they left behind in the Old World and the New World that was foreign and had belonged to the Native. The Old World symbolized what it meant to be civi-

lized and proper. Ironically, it was also those things that they found so constricting.

The New World, on the other hand, represented freedom from those political and psychological constraints. It presented the possibility of becoming something new, and the Indian was the ultimate symbol of that wild, “savage” freedom. The Indian was also the only truly authentic “American.”

But because Europeans could never truly become Native, American identity remains unfinished and confused. This is why Americans historically have vacillated between exterminating Indians and venerating them. It also explains why Americans have always been so

obsessed with playing Indian, and why Americans create narratives that write Indians out of local landscapes and re-scripts settlers as indigenous.

The desire to be something other than what one is stems from the discomfort of this confusion, and also from white Americans’ desire to distance themselves from the racist aspects of American history and society. Staking false claims to a non-white identity—whether black, Indian, or other—is one way white people can deny responsibility for the racism of the past, and for the systemic racism that still structures American life and their own racial privilege within that system. <http://bit.ly/1ghaAz7> 🌀

Retiring The Stars and Bars

Drawing on the Civil War-era example of the Cherokee, Virginia Commonwealth Associate Professor of History Gregory Smithers submits that scrapping the Confederate flag is simpler than some people believe:

On October 7, 1861, the Confederate Indian Commissioner, Albert Pike, presented the Cherokee Nation with a flag that symbolized their recent alliance with the Confederacy. Three horizontal stripes of red, white, and blue dominated; the words “Cherokee Braves” ran through the white horizontal stripe at the center. In the upper right-hand corner, a blue rectangle contained eleven

white stars.

Indian Country, however, was deeply divided during the Civil War. For most Cherokees and other Native Americans living in and around Indian Territory and the borderlands with Arkansas, it was a foreign war that they wanted no part of. Thousands fled the encroaching violence to refugee camps. Some attempted to sabotage Confederate war efforts.

Ultimately, the flag that Pike presented came to represent military and political failure. It was also a symbol of wartime divisions that postwar Cherokee leaders were determined to consign to the pages of history. So they turned to the “Cherokee Peace Flag,” a white flag emblazoned

with seven red stars in the form of the Big Dipper, which was said to have accompanied their ancestors along the Trail of Tears.

Recognizing the power of symbols to unite, Principal Chief Lewis Downing approved the Cherokee Nation’s national seal as the centerpiece of a new Cherokee flag on December 11, 1869. Containing the words “Seal of the Cherokee Nation,” it included seven stars. These stars symbolized the seven matrilineal clans that traditionally defined Cherokee identity.

In eliminating the symbols of rebellion from public spaces, Cherokee leaders recognized that their predecessors had made grievous mistakes. <http://bit.ly/1Upg2zB> 🌀

Don’t Shed Tears For Us Poor Indians

Disaffection alone does not define Natives, says Harlan McKosato (Sac and Fox Nation of Oklahoma):

Do you ever get tired of hearing about how pitiful it is to be Native American from our own Native writers, the mainstream American press and international media outlets? I do. We’re not all the upset, militant, discomfited, disenchanting, down-trodden people we’re made out to be.

Last weekend I went to my hometown powwow in Perkins, Oklahoma—Ioway tribal land. This lazy town on the outskirts

of nowhere came alive with Native culture, history and tradition. The powwow is one of our well-kept secrets that doesn’t need to be commercialized, commodified, or glamorized. It was just us Indians being Indians in our own way.

It made me feel good for our people, especially our young ones. There was no investigation of an unknown cause of death for one of our tribal people, or someone being abducted. There was no court case involving racism or prejudice that caused our people to march in protest. There was no mention of the Doctrine of Discovery or the Marshall Trilogy. We came together to celebrate our past, our present and our

future.

When I saw all those giant Avatar-looking straight dancers and fancy dancers competing, I thought, “Where did these guys come from?” It was an amazing sight—they were larger than life. They must have been about seven feet tall with all their regalia. Am I the only one who is witnessing and documenting this phenomenon?

There’s so much more to being American Indian than being unhappy about the way things down in this country’s history. Guess what? We will live on despite the injustice and the racism and the prejudice. No one can defeat our way of life. <http://bit.ly/1ChWxTA> 🌀

Understanding Alzheimer's in Native American Communities.

The Banner Alzheimer's Institute Native American Program will host the first National Conference on Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia in Native American communities.

The conference will focus on:

- Knowledge, skills, and program innovations that directly impact the care of elders living with dementia
- Join in the discussions about current and future medical, caregiving and policy issues
- Exploring and creating next steps in the care and support of Native families impacted by Alzheimer's disease

WHERE: The Scottsdale Plaza Resort, 7200 N. Scottsdale Road, Scottsdale, AZ 85253

WHEN: Thursday, October 15 and Friday, October 16, 2015

Early bird rate available until August 15, 2015 includes free CME/CEUs, breakfast/lunch both days and evening reception on opening night.

For more information,

visit: <http://www.banneralz.org> and click Native American Program under Patients & Family, or contact Nicole Lomay at nicole.lomay@bannerhealth.com or 602-839-6858.



Banner Alzheimer's Institute

Artist: Rance Raymond Speed

Final Vote On Navajo Fluency Requirement Next Week BY ALYSA LANDRY

In a special referendum election on July 21, Navajo voters will decide an issue that has divided their Nation for nearly a year—whether to amend fluency requirements in Navajo and English for the Nation's top two elected posts. The election code currently mandates that all candidates for president and vice president understand and speak Navajo fluently, and read and write English.

An affirmative vote means that voters want a say in determining whether a candidate's language proficiency qualifies as fluent. Should the referendum pass, the election code would require that candidates for president and vice president speak and understand both Navajo and English, and that "this ability shall be determined by the Navajo voter when he/she casts a ballot."

Questions over language fluency exploded after last August's primary election for the Nation's eighth president. Former two-term president Joe Shirley Jr., and political newcomer Chris Deschene came in first and second, respectively. Deschene was disqualified after a legal battle that began when two former presidential candidates complained he did not speak fluent Navajo. The dispute pitted the Navajo Supreme Court against the Board of Election Supervisors and the Navajo Election Administration. The Navajo Nation Council also became involved, seeking last-minute legislation amending the election code. <http://bit.ly/1JKdg4U>

Tribe Will Build Casino Despite Cease And Desist Order

The Wampanoag Tribe of Massachusetts is ignoring a July 6 order to cease and desist converting its 6,200-square-foot community center into a Class II gaming facility. The tribe is moving forward with plans to offer electronic bingo in the fall.

The order came from selectmen in the town of Aquinnah, who say the conversion is illegal of Martha's Vineyard, where the tribe's reservation is located. The officials say the tribe forfeited its right to offer gaming on their land when they signed a land settlement agreement in 1983. "The tribe's position, consistent with the federal government, is that IGRA [the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act] supersedes all laws of the commonwealth and the town," countered tribal attorney Scott Crowell.

In 2013, Massachusetts sued the tribe to block the casino. But as the litigation process has dragged on, the tribe has continued to proceed with the work.

"The tribe has the approvals required to move forward," said Crowell. "And unless and until those circumstances change, we'll move forward." A federal judge will hear arguments from both parties in August. <http://bit.ly/1KU9m86>

Judge Upholds Trademark Cancellation Against Redskins

BY SIMON MOYA-SMITH


A federal judge in Northern Virginia last week ordered the cancellation of six of the Washington Redskins football team's current seven trademark registrations. The decision comes more than a year after the U.S. Trademark Trial and Appeal Board (TTAB) found the name of the team to be "disparaging to Native Americans," in violation of federal law.

The July 8 decision by Judge Gerald Bruce Lee does not require that team owner Dan Snyder, who has vowed to "never" change the name of his team, to do so. Instead, it would permit copycats to produce similar motifs and to profit from the team's current logo and name.

The cancellations will not go into effect until the team has exhausted every legal avenue to overturn the decision and reinstate its trademark protection, *The Washington Post* reported. A spokesperson told the *Post* that the NFL franchise is reviewing the decision and considering its options.

In August, the Redskins won a lawsuit against the five Native American plaintiffs who first brought the trademark case against them. The Justice Department has since stepped in to support the TTAB; the Redskins organization has argued that the intervention is an unconstitutional violation of free speech.

Organizations who oppose the team name hailed last week's decision. "Today's ruling further highlights how the Washington NFL team's insistence on ignoring the will of an increasingly diverse country has become a crisis for the NFL," said the Change the Mascot campaign, an initiative of the National Congress of American Indians and the Oneida Indian Nation.

Diné activist Amanda Blackhorse, the lead plaintiff in last year's case against the Redskins, told ICTMN that the decision is "not just a victory of Natives in the case, but for all indigenous people." <http://bit.ly/1HgpTRi> 

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

New Federal Guidelines Herald Better Tribal Recognition

Bureau of Indian Affairs modifies original 1978 provisions BY GALE COUREY TOENSING



Tribal leaders praised Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs Kevin Washburn for working “to improve a terrible process.”

Bottom Line: *The new “final rule” governing federal recognition of tribes is being welcomed. But its staying power is far from clear as anti-Indian forces—who have already defeated a key provision—dig in.*

The Bureau of Indian Affairs has unwrapped its long-awaited package of reformed regulatory procedures and criteria for the federal acknowledgment of Indian tribes.

U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell and Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs Kevin K. Washburn released the new streamlined “final rule” June 29. It is the first major overhaul of the regulations for federal acknowledgment (or federal recognition) since they were es-

tablished in 1978.

But the road ahead is uncertain. Some Indian law experts say a provision removed from the final rule that would have allowed previously denied tribes to re-petition under the new regulations will likely result in litigation.

And the final rule may not even be implemented. On June 16, the Republican-led House Appropriations Committee approved a \$30.17 billion spending plan for the Department of the Interior and related agencies that includes a rider prohibiting the implementation of the new rule. The rider is of a piece with other assaults on Indian country that have taken place recently in the House Subcommittee on Indian, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs.

where the termination of federal recognition was discussed and Interior’s authority to take land into trust was challenged.

Washburn and his team worked for three years on the revision project. They held dozens of consultations and public meetings around the country and conducted teleconferences that lasted for hours. They read thousands of opinions submitted during extended public comment periods. They produced a discussion draft released in the spring of 2013 and a proposed rule a year later.

Ultimately, their goal was to repair a federal recognition system that has been widely criticized as broken, long, expensive, burdensome, not trans-

parent, unpredictable, and subject to undue political influence and manipulation.

The new rule will foster what the department says will be a more transparent, fair, timely and consistent process. It will reduce the governmental red tape that has snarled some tribes seeking federal status in a process lasting more than three-decades, and it will be flexible enough to accommodate the unique histories of individual tribal nations.

Among the provisions of the final rule are the following:

* Reviewers will establish whether a petitioning group's members can prove descent from an historic tribe. If not, the petition will be denied without further review.

* Petitions and accompanying public documents will be posted on the website of the Interior Department.

* A positive Final Determination will be issued without further review when there are no objections to a positive Proposed Finding.

* Evidence or methodologies that have satisfied any criterion in the past will satisfy that criterion in the present.

* The year 1900 will be used as the starting date to identify a tribe and its continuous community and political authority.

Despite the modifications, the final rule substantively maintains the rigorous seven mandatory criteria that have been in place since the regulations were established nearly 40 years ago. Of the 51 petitions for federal acknowledgment that have been resolved since 1978, only 17 petitions have been approved, while 34 have been denied.

An overwhelming number of tribal members, leaders and organizations have enthusiastically supported the final rule. Many, however, were not happy about the deletion of the re-petition provision and most assumed that some kind of quid pro quo was in play that forced compromise.

Still, in general they praised the efforts of Washburn and his team.

“[The deletion] leaves tribes that

clearly should be recognized with the inability to have those erroneous decisions overcome or at least reexamined,” Pastor John Norwood, co-chair of the Task Force on Federal Acknowledgment of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), told ICTMN. Nonetheless, Norwood said he was “grateful” to Washburn and his team.

“I know that they received some stiff and powerful opposition,” he said. It's

‘The new rule should foster a more transparent, fair, timely and consistent process.’

disappointing that the changes were not as much as we thought they would be and it seems to me that the Assistant Secretary appeared to share in that disappointment.”

NCAI President Brian Cladoosby said that the final rule fulfills a promise to reform a broken process.

“Although this is a compromise, NCAI greatly appreciates the effort and commitment from the administration to get these regulations finalized and to improve the process,” Cladoosby said. The NCAI membership supported the proposed changes in a 2013 resolution.

“The loss of the re-petition provision is not a happy thing,” said Judy Shapiro, an attorney who has practiced Indian law for almost three decades. “Denying those tribes that were ill-served by the prior non-improved application of the criteria the right to [review under] the

new application is a denial of justice.” But she praised the Washburn initiative for its “laudable work to improve a terrible process. I applauded them for what they were able to do and I’m sad they weren’t able to do better.”

Any tribe with a pending petition ought to be “ecstatic” about the changes included in the final rule, said Matthew Fletcher, Professor of Law & Director of the Indigenous Law & Policy Center at Michigan State University College of Law. “More transparency and standards that are more attuned to the histories of Indian nations will be beneficial,” Fletcher said.

But he regretted that tribes who had previously been denied status are apparently out of luck.

“No re-petitioning—that’s a really big deal,” he said. “I imagine there will be some significant litigation over that provision, with previously denied tribes reconstituting to seek another turn at bat. Or they may be forced to go to Congress to seek authorization to be put back in the queue. I bet that there will be several previously denied tribes petitioning for a special bill, and I wouldn’t be surprised if some get those special bills passed.”

The process of reforming the regulations brought out Indian Country’s most consistent adversaries—Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-Connecticut) and other Connecticut politicians who follow his lead.

As former state attorney general, Blumenthal led a decades-long battle against federal acknowledgment of the Golden Hill Paugussett Indians, the Eastern Pequot Tribal Nation and the Schaghticoke Tribal Nation. The Eastern Pequot and Schaghticoke were recognized through the BIA process in 2002 and 2004. In his most relentless and notorious effort, Blumenthal led the state’s congressional, state and local politicians and a group of wealthy anti-Indian, casino-opposing landowners in a campaign of political pressure on Washington decision-makers that ended with BIA officials taking the unprecedented step of revoking the two tribes’ federal recognition in 2005.

All three Connecticut tribes have been state-recognized, with state-recognized reservations for more than 300 years. A provision in the proposed rule would have expedited the recognition of tribes with state recognized reservations since 1934. Blumenthal opposed that provision.

He also vehemently opposed the provision that would have allowed tribes that have been denied recognition under the old regulations to re-petition under the new rule if they could demonstrate they would likely qualify—because all three tribes would meet that condition.

According to *The Hill*, Connecticut took its battle against the new rule directly to decision makers in the Office of Management and Budget in the White House where the final rule was lodged for review since April. “Top aides to Sen. Chris Murphy (D-Conn.), a Connecticut business group, lobbyists for a California Indian tribe and commercial gaming interests all huddled

in the last month with officials tasked with reviewing BIA’s final rule,” the report said.

In a joint statement following the release of the final rule, Murphy, Blumenthal and Gov. Dannel Malloy praised the BIA for dropping the re-petition provision.

“We are pleased that the Bureau of Indian Affairs heeded and heard our concerns and reversed deeply problematic language that would have eviscerated four decades of existing administrative procedures and principles,” the three politicians said.

The final rule is “a big victory for the state of Connecticut,” Malloy said. “These changes ensure that previously denied tribal groups in Connecticut

will not get another bite at the apple, and that any future petitioners will not be advantaged because the core criteria the federal government employs to recognize a tribe has not changed.”

“[The] press release from the triumphant trio came with everything but whoops of satisfaction at vanquishing Native Americans,” responded Kevin Rennie in the *Hartford Courant* on July



Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-Connecticut) opposed the key re-petitioning provision of the new regulations.

2. “They are so proud of themselves.”

Rennie continued, “What is unsettling is the unforgiving hostility of the state’s three highest elected officials to a handful of state-recognized tribes seeking to win federal recognition. The sin of Native American aspiration, it seems, is unforgivable.”

Connecticut tribal leaders said they were not surprised that state officials had managed to exert pressure on federal decision makers. But they said they were determined not to give up their quest for federal recognition.

“As the State of Connecticut and its delegation continue the premeditated genocide of the remaining three state recognized tribes, the Eastern Pequot Tribal Nation would like to give praise


to the Creator for allowing us to fight another day and showing us the way,” Eastern Pequot Tribal Nation Chairman Dennis Jenkins said.

“Even as the BIA worked to bring more transparency to the process of federal recognition, the [Malloy] administration and our congressional delegation have been working behind closed doors in Washington to produce the current outcome,” said Golden Hill Paugussett Chief Quiet Hawk. “The new rules smell of heavy-handed political influence, violation of due process and violation of the rights of certain Native American tribes.”

Schaghticoke Tribal Nation Chief Richard Velky said that his people would not “be deterred by the grave omissions and errors” in the final rule. Citing the Final Determination supporting the tribe’s federal acknowledgment in January of 2004, Velky noted that when the tribe was federally acknowledged, the BIA staff was satisfied that all the mandatory criteria had been met.

teria had been met.

The Connecticut tribes will have the support of the NCAI’s Taskforce on Tribal Recognition in their quest for justice, John Norwood said: “The taskforce supports the ability to reap- ply and we’re resolute about trying to do something about it. We’re not giving up. We’re still going to fight so that every historic tribe has the opportunity to a fair hearing—and not doing so is an injustice.”

A major obstacle to the new federal tribal recognition process remains the rider attached to the Interior Department appropriations bill that would block it. At press time, the full House was set to vote on the bill. <http://bit.ly/1LWm1t7> 

Pamunkey Get Federal Nod

A 567th tribe joins the official roster BY VINCENT SCHILLING

Bottom Line: *It took 33 years, but the Pamunkey Indian Tribe has joined the ranks of formally recognized Nations—the first Virginia tribe to do so.*

The federal government has officially recognized the Pamunkey Indians of Virginia as the nation's 567th Indian tribe. This is the second federal acknowledgment to take place during the Obama administration, and the first of any tribe in Virginia.

The Pamunkey Indian Tribe “was found to have met all seven mandatory criteria for Federal acknowledgment as set forth in 25 CFR [Code of Federal Regulations] Part 83.7,” the Department of the Interior stated in its official announcement.

English settlers encountered the tribe more than 400 years ago; their land base in southeastern King William County, was once depicted on a 1770 map as “Indian Town.” Currently, the tribe comprises a little over 200 members. About a quarter of them live on a 1,200-acre reservation near Richmond.

Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs Kevin K. Washburn issued the verdict on July 2. “This work reflects the most solemn responsibilities of the United States,” he said. “Our professional historians, anthropologists, and genealogists spent thousands of hours of staff time researching and applying our rigorous acknowledgment criteria to these petitions.”

Interior determined that the Pamunkey had satisfied the mandatory requisites—that they have continuously identified as an American Indian body since 1900; existed as a distinct community; maintained political influence over their members since historical times; provided governing documents describing governance procedures and membership criteria; provided a list of current members who descend from a historical Indian tribe; established that these mem-

bers are not also members of another federally recognized tribe; and have never been subject to congressional legislation that expressly terminated or forbade the federal relationship.

The Pamunkey first approached Washington for recognition in 1982. However, they met stiff resistance from gaming interests who feared the prospect of competition from a possible casino complex on

and it was Kevin Washburn. I was surprised to hear the news because we were supposed to be told on July 29. Needless to say, it was a really good phone call.

“Assistant Secretary Washburn said, ‘We just want to let you know we have reviewed your application, we have looked at all the criteria and we are happy to say that you meet the criteria and you are the newest federally recognized tribe.’”

Brown immediately spread the news. “I have been making phone calls and sending emails, the calls are starting to come in, everyone is really happy and congratulatory,” he said.


“It is pretty awesome, since we have been trying for so long,” said 17-year-old Austin Alfonso, who currently works for the tribe's museum. “There have been a lot of bumps in the road. I am excited about how we can address such issues as education at a federal level since there are a lot of kids on this reservation.”

“I cannot tell you how difficult it is to live in Virginia sometimes, but now we have a tribe that has been federally recognized,” said Nedra Darling of the Interior Department. “The Queen of England recognized the Pamunkey, but we haven't until now. This is not to be taken lightly.

This is a historic day for Virginia and for the United States.”

After decades of working hard to get recognition for his tribe, Brown said he is now preparing to take a well-earned rest.

“This was the last thing on my list to accomplish,” he said. “After today I will be the former chief and Assistant Chief Bob Gray will be stepping into my shoes. I want to leave on an amazing note. I was on council for 12 years before I was chief. This was during the '80s when we started and I have been involved in one way or another for about 25 years.”

Gaining federal recognition, said Brown, is like “winning the championship and stepping down at the height of my career.” <http://bit.ly/1KDa7nJ> 

‘The Queen of England recognized the Pamunkey, but we haven’t until now. This is not to be taken lightly.’

their reservation, even though organized gaming is currently illegal in Virginia.

The Pamunkey also faced opposition from members of the Congressional Black Caucus, who accused the tribe of “discriminatory policies against African Americans.” The caucus specifically cited a tribal ban on interracial marriages, which the tribe said has been repealed.

The Washington Post reported that the Pamunkey spent more than \$2 million to press their claim over the course of a generation. The tribe is now immediately eligible for federal housing, education and health-care funding.

“Overall, this is just really great,” Pamunkey Chief Kevin Brown told ICTMN. “I got a call at 9:30 this morning

The ‘Devil’s Highway’

In New Mexico, high-speed dangers for the Navajo BY ALYSA LANDRY

Bottom Line: *U.S. 491 is one of the most dangerous thoroughfares in the West. But for the Native denizens who must cope with it, help may be on the way.*

Twin ribbons of asphalt unfurl into the distance as Sammy Ahkeah heads south on U.S. 491. For Ahkeah, who spent 36 years in law enforcement on the Navajo Nation, the recently widened, four-lane highway represents a safer future for a road that was paved with misfortune, superstition and death.

Previously known as U.S. 666, this north-south corridor on the New Mexico portion of the Navajo Reservation earned a reputation as one of the most dangerous highways in the West. Frequent fatalities coupled with the highway’s unfortunate number branded a 70-mile section of this road with various

nicknames, including “Devil’s Highway” and “Highway to Hell.”

Although the name has changed, memories remain, Ahkeah said. Crosses or other roadside memorials still trigger images of head-on collisions, drunken drivers and entire families who lost their lives along this route.

“Most of the stuff you investigate stays with you,” said Ahkeah, now a commissioner for San Juan County, New Mexico. “I drive down that highway and there are road memorials. If I drive past them, see the memorials, it brings back those memories.”

The highway’s history stretches back to the 1500s, when Navajos and other American Indians traveled the route. In the last century, the road has been overhauled several times, but even when a long, two-lane section was paved in 1928, the road never

lost its trademark beauty or isolation.

“It is 96 miles in length, having no right-angle curves in the entire distance,” a project engineer wrote in 1928. He described the highway as “a seemingly endless stretch over the desert” with few habitations except “a lonely Indian hogan or an oil camp here and there along the way.”

Once paved, the highway linked the Four Corners area to major freight routes and railroads. It also served as the main corridor connecting Gallup, New Mexico, with communities on the Navajo Nation and a sprinkling of small towns in southern Colorado and Utah. The additional traffic also brought increased danger, especially along the 70-mile, two-lane section between Shiprock and Tohatchi on the Navajo Nation.

“That section of the road was one of the

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 \$500 million, restoring the equivalent of more than 975,000 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

most dangerous to encounter,” Akheah said. “When I was a police officer, most of the accidents I responded to were on that road. When I was an investigator, most of the accidents I investigated were there.”

According to a New Mexico Department of Transportation report, the two-lane section of the road saw 38 traffic fatalities and more than 200 accidents with injuries between 1999 and 2002. Many of the accidents were head-on collisions, and 20 percent involved commercial trucks.

“Inattention was a big thing or trying to pass without enough room,” Akheah said. “The two-lane road was really terrible for that. It was isolated and dark, and there were accidents with speeding and with collisions with livestock.”

Before it was widened, fatality rates on that section of the highway were two and one-half times greater than the state average, the transportation department report found. Although most of the crashes can be attributed to driver behavior, road conditions and the 250 turnouts along the route, the highway had a bad reputation, according to transportation spokes-

woman Delane Baros.

“666 was and is considered, biblically, the mark of the beast,” she said. “The local public would always relate the crashes to the name.”

*Roadside markers
still evoke
memories of
drunken drivers,
collisions, and
whole families lost.*

However, since 2003—the same year New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson pledged to change the highway’s name—the transportation department has been working to widen the route from two

lanes to four. But improvements have come in fits and starts, with construction taking place “as funding became available.”

Environmental planning began in 2003. Two new bridges were built in 2005. Additional lanes were constructed in stages beginning in 2009. But 12 years into the project, a 22-mile section of the road in McKinley County still needs to be widened to four lanes.

The transportation department this spring started the final phase, Baros said. The section is the last of 11 construction phases that came with a combined price tag topping \$225 million. Funding came from state allocations, bond sales and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The entire route is slated to be complete by late 2016 or early 2017.

For those who drive the road, the changes are coming none too soon.

“When they made it into four lanes, the fatalities were really cut down,” Akheah said, “What they have done is really helpful. It’s a good investment for everyone. Money you can replace but human lives, you can’t.” <http://bit.ly/1GAIx6d> 📌

Not a Subscriber?

**Get your own
This Week From Indian Country Today
eNewsletter!**

SUBSCRIBE NOW



MCKINLEY MANOR

Beginning on **July 1, 2015**, applications for the waiting list will be available for a 59 unit building, including 3 units designed for the handicapped, located at E 168th Street, Bronx, New York, to families with limited income.

Qualifications will be based on Section 8 Federal Guidelines.

Interested persons may obtain an application by telephoning: (516) 466-6520 Ext. 24 or writing to:

A.M.S. REALTY COMPANY LLC
98 CUTTER MILL ROAD
GREAT NECK, NY 11021
SUITE 240-S

Completed applications sent by regular mail must be returned by **September 1, 2015** to the address indicated on the application.

NO APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED/AVAILABLE AFTER THIS DATE.



A.M.S. Realty Company, LLC does not discriminate on the basis of disability status in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its federally assisted programs and activities



The Fallon Paiute

The Fallon Paiute – Shoshone Tribe is looking to fill the following positions:

- Grant Writer
- Housing Program Development Manager
- Physician
- Tax Director
- Social Services Manager

Tribal paid medical benefits, retirement plan and paid vacation. Please visit www.fpst.org to apply or call 775-423-6075 for more information.

Yavapai-Apache Nation

located in Camp Verde, AZ
 is hiring for the following positions

Human Resources Director

The Human Resource Director performs a variety of complex administrative, technical, and professional work in directing and supervising the personnel systems of the Nation, including classification, compensation, recruitment, policy development and benefits administration.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Bachelor Degree in Human Resource Management, Public Administration, Business Management from an accredited college or university.
- Minimum five (5) years varied Human Resources Director/Management experience preferred, and at least one (1) year experience with governmental experience.
- Thorough knowledge of modern policies and practices of governmental personnel administration.
- Ability to read, analyze and interpret moderately complex data.
- Must be able to read write and speak the English language.
- Ability to communicate effectively, both verbally and in writing.
- Ability to apply principals of logical or scientific thinking to a wide variety of issues.
- Strong computer skills, preferably in Microsoft Office.

PAY RATE: D.O.E.; Plus Tribal Benefit Package

POSITION STATUS: Regular; Full-time

OPEN UNTIL: Friday, July 17, 2015

To apply please visit www.yavapai-apache.org for a complete job description or you can email your completed employment application and resume to crivera@yan-tribe.org. Or contact Human Resources at 928-567-1062.

INDIAN PREFERENCE:

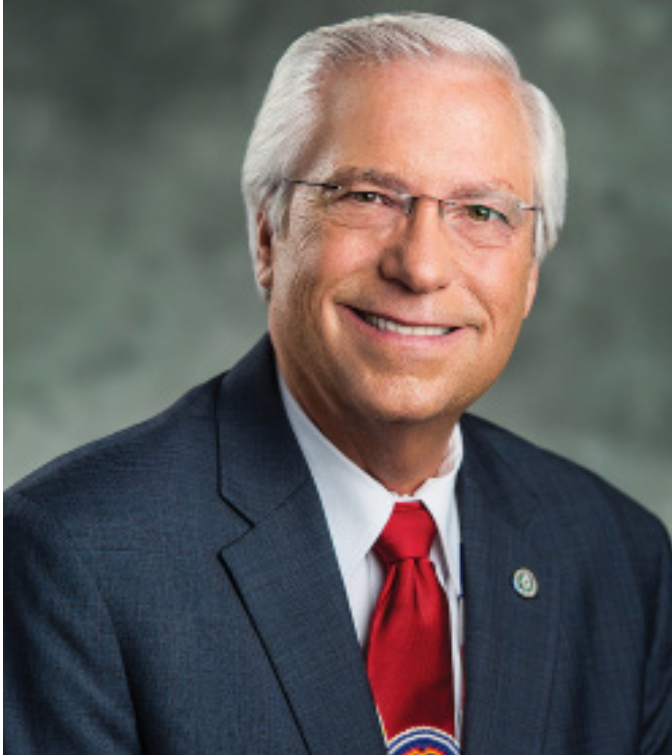
Preference will be given to qualified applicants who are members of federally recognized Indian tribes. To be considered for Indian Preference, you must submit your Certificate of Indian Blood (CIB) with your application.

WILL BE REQUIRED TO PASS A PRE-EMPLOYMENT DRUG SCREEN AND COMPLETE A BACKGROUND CHECK WHICH MAY INCLUDE FINGERPRINTING

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



SUBSCRIBE NOW



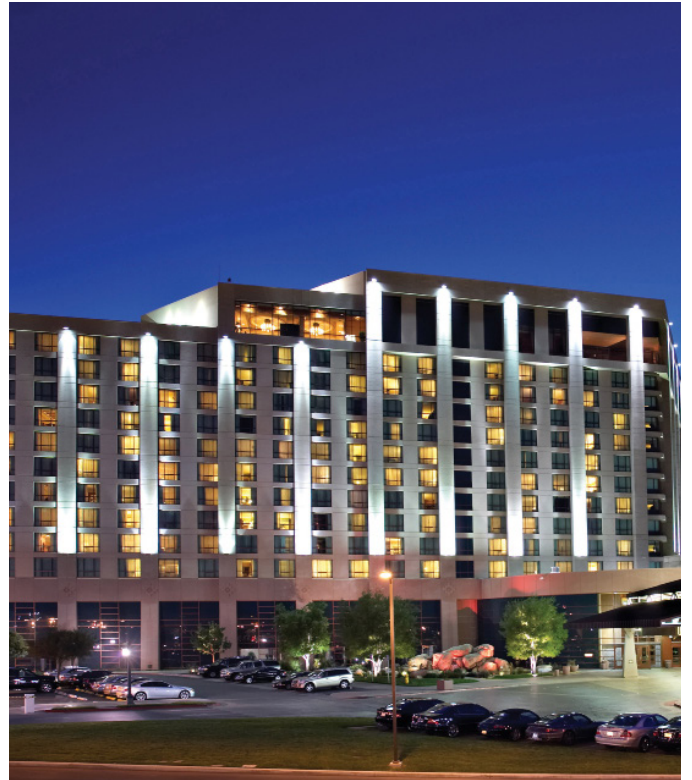
Bill John Baker, principal chief of the Cherokee Nation, was re-elected on June 27 to another four-year term.



The head of an Indian effigy was dropped into the lap of a statue of Andrew Jackson in Jacksonville, Florida just before Independence Day.



Sahmie Joshevama (Hopi), an Arizona State University graduate, is one of the many Native subjects of photographer Ryan Red Corn (Osage).



USA Today has named Pechanga Resort & Casino, owned and operated by the Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians, America's favorite casino.

CHEROKEE NATION: WJAX-TV; RYAN RED CORN (OSAGE); PECHANGA RESORT & CASINO

TRI BLOCK

Beginning on **July 1, 2015**, applications for the waiting list will be available for a 95 unit building, including 5 units designed for the handicapped, located on Fort Greene Place, St. Felix Street in Brooklyn, New York, to families with limited income.

Qualifications will be based on Section 8 Federal Guidelines.

Interested persons may obtain an application by telephoning: (516) 466-6520 Ext. 24 between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. or writing to:

A.M.S. REALTY COMPANY LLC
98 CUTTER MILL ROAD
GREAT NECK, NY 11021
SUITE 240-S

Completed applications sent by regular mail must be returned by **September 1, 2015** to the address indicated on the application.

NO APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED/AVAILABLE AFTER THIS DATE.



A.M.S. Realty Company, LLC does not discriminate on the basis of disability status in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its federally assisted programs and activities

FULTON PARK

Beginning on **July 1, 2015**, applications for the waiting list will be available for a 208 unit building, including 11 units designed for the disabled, located on Fulton, Herkimer Streets, Utica Avenue and Hunterly Place, Brooklyn, New York, to families with limited income.

Qualifications will be based on Section 8 Federal Guidelines.

Interested persons may obtain an application by telephoning: (516) 466-6520 Ext. 24 between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. or writing to:

A.M.S. REALTY COMPANY LLC
98 CUTTER MILL ROAD
GREAT NECK, NY 11021
SUITE 240-S

Completed applications sent by regular mail must be returned by **September 1, 2015** to the address indicated on the application.

NO APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED/AVAILABLE AFTER THIS DATE.



A.M.S. Realty Company, LLC does not discriminate on the basis of disability status in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its federally assisted programs and activities

CLINTON ARMS

Beginning on **July 1, 2015**, applications for the waiting list will be available for an 85 unit building, including 5 units designed for the handicapped, located at Clinton Avenue, Bronx, New York, to families with limited income.

Qualifications will be based on Section 8 Federal Guidelines.

Interested persons may obtain an application by telephoning: (516) 466-6520 Ext. 24 between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. or writing to:

A.M.S. REALTY COMPANY LLC
98 CUTTER MILL ROAD
GREAT NECK, NY 11021
SUITE 240-S

Completed applications sent by regular mail must be returned by **September 1, 2015** to the address indicated on the application.

NO APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED/AVAILABLE AFTER THIS DATE.



A.M.S. Realty Company, LLC does not discriminate on the basis of disability status in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its federally assisted programs and activities

CARIBE GARDENS

Beginning on **July 1, 2015**, applications for the waiting list will be available for a 120 unit building, including 6 units designed for the handicapped, located at Humboldt Street, Boerum Street & Johnson Avenue, Brooklyn, New York, to families with limited income.

Qualifications will be based on Section 8 Federal Guidelines.

Interested persons may obtain an application by telephoning: (516) 466-6520 Ext. 24 between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. or writing to:

A.M.S. REALTY COMPANY LLC
98 CUTTER MILL ROAD
GREAT NECK, NY 11021
SUITE 240-S

Completed applications sent by regular mail must be returned by **September 1, 2015** to the address indicated on the application.

NO APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED/AVAILABLE AFTER THIS DATE.



A.M.S. Realty Company, LLC does not discriminate on the basis of disability status in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its federally assisted programs and activities

GET BACK TO SCHOOL!
 Advertise in the fall print edition of
**INDIAN COUNTRY
 EDUCATION TODAY!**

Call (315) 447-6145



Wide distribution to Tribal High Schools and Colleges

Headlines from the Web

FEDERAL AGENTS RAID MARIJUANA FARM ON PIT RIVER TRIBAL LAND

<http://bit.ly/1eGJO25>

NATIVE AMERICANS PROTEST PROPOSED ARIZONA COPPER MINE

<http://bit.ly/1HKx1c2>

CHEROKEE NATION CHIEF HOPES TO BUILD ON HIGH TRIBAL PRIDE

<http://bit.ly/1GYF0MZ>

RENEWABLE ENERGY ON TRIBAL LANDS STALLS OUT

<http://bit.ly/1JPLn8J>

MONTANA TRIBE'S HOPES FOR RECOGNITION BUOYED BY RULE CHANGES

<http://bit.ly/1Rf1X8L>

MICCOSUKEES ABSENT AS RESIDENTS PROTEST TRIBAL LAND TRUST ISSUE

<http://bit.ly/1JG7yRr>

Upcoming Events

FIRST NATIONS LANGUAGES CONFERENCE JULY 16-17

The First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC) First Nations Languages Conference, "In the Spirit of Sharing," is dedicated to supporting the efforts of First Nations languages to persist and flourish. Held every two years, this conference brings together elders, teachers, linguists, administrators and many others to learn and share. Workshops showcase a variety of practices in language teaching and planning, curriculum development, technology, and community revitalization efforts. Jessie Little Doe Baird, vice chairman of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, will deliver the keynote address.

Location: Coast Plaza Hotel and Suites, Vancouver, Canada

NATIVE YOUTH IN AGRICULTURE LEADERSHIP SUMMIT JULY 19-28

This second annual initiative is offered to

American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian youth between the ages of 13 and 18 who are devoted to food and agricultural production and who wish to lead their tribes and communities into the future. Hosting organizations and supporters include the Intertribal Agriculture Council, the Farm Credit Administration and the First Nations Development Institute.

Location: University of Arkansas School of Law, Fayetteville, Arkansas

AMERICAN INDIAN CHAMBER COMMERCE OF CALIFORNIA EXPO '15 JULY 19-21

"Everyone Wins: Leveraging Supply Chains to Enhance Business Opportunities" is devoted to creating opportunities for growth, capacity and sustainability. Featured sessions will include "Native American Veterans Resources," a "Tribal Leader Summit and Economic Development Consultation," "Leveraging Supply Chains to Enhance Business Opportunities," "Follow-Up to Speed Networking with Corporate, Government and Tribal Enterprises" and a "Non-Profit Advanced Business Building Blocks Roundtable."

Location: Agua Caliente Resort, Rancho Mirage, California

SALT RIVER PIMA-MARICOPA INDIAN COUNTY GATHERING JULY 21-23

The goal of the sixth annual men's and women's conference is to bring healing and strengthening to the Akimel O'odham (Pima) and Xalychidom Pii-paash (Maricopa) communities. There will be a general work session, cultural exchange, assorted panels, and song and dance performances.

Location: Talking Stick Resort, Scottsdale, Arizona

ANNUAL TEKAKWITHA CONFERENCE JULY 22-26

The theme of the 76th annual conference is "Saint Kateri Embraces the Wetlands." Workshops, panels and gatherings will include "Meet Me at the Sweat Lodge," "Living on the Bayou, Embracing the Wetlands," "Weaving Life and Native Spirituality Into a Basket," "Painting From Natural Colors," morning prayers and a reconciliation and healing service.

Location: Alexandria Riverfront Center, Alexandria, Louisiana

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Re UC-Riverside Associate Professor Andrea Smith, who has claimed to be Cherokee without being enrolled in any Cherokee tribe (July 1):

I appreciate knowing I have some Cherokee heritage, but I would never claim I am Cherokee. My paternal grandfather was the last person in our family to be in touch with enrolled Cherokee relatives living in the mountains of North Carolina. But he himself

was not an enrolled member of the tribe. (However, he would have been eligible, as would his sons, one of whom is my father.)

I am too many generations out to be considered eligible for enrollment. Forced to describe myself ethnically, I would say I am "white"—a typical southern American mutt, of Scottish-English-French heritage, with a distant Cherokee ancestry with which I grew up

and which I was taught to appreciate as part of my mix.

There are things in my family culture that came from my grandfather and from his genuine attachment to his Cherokee heritage. I am grateful for what they bring to my experience. But I would never claim a tribal identity.

—Miranda Lyon
Three Points, Arizona

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 FPFA 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

DUWAMISH ARE DENIED FEDERAL RECOGNITION

The Interior Department last week issued a final rejection of the Duwamish Tribe of Washington State's longstanding request for federal recognition. The Duwamish first applied for recognition in 1977. In denying the Duwamish application, Interior ruled that the tribe had not provided adequate evidence of its continued existence or "tribal political influence over its members as an autonomous entity from historical times until present," the Associated Press reported. Tribal chairwoman Cecile Hansen called the decision "devastating."

SASKATCHEWAN WILDFIRES FORCE OUT 13,000

Wildfires forced more than 13,000 Lac La Ronge band members and others from their homes in aboriginal communities earlier this month in Saskatchewan's largest evacuation in history. "Everybody's safe, but we just couldn't take on Mother Nature today," Chief Edward Henderson told CKOM Radio News on

July 4. "There was no stopping it—four water bombers, two helicopters bucketting, crews on the ground doing whatever they could, but we just couldn't do anything." More than 1,500 firefighters battled the blaze, said CBC News.

NATIVES FIGURE IN PBS FILM FEST

Four entries in this year's PBS Online Film Festival focus on Natives. "I Am An Alaska Native Dancer" looks at Haliehana Stepetin's efforts to promote and teach Alaska's diverse culture of dance. "The Fishing Club," depicting friends who try to save Hawaii's last pristine beach, offers familiar Native island faces. "Isabelle's Garden" portrays a young Native girl fighting poverty and hunger in her Oklahoma community. And in "Migrant Hero," Hugo Morales (Mixtec) travels from farm worker to Harvard Law School and the airwaves of Radio Bilingüe.

CHEROKEE PUBLIC SERVANT RISES AT PENTAGON

President Obama plans to nominate former Oklahoma congressman Brad

Carson (Cherokee) as Undersecretary for Personnel and Readiness at the Department of Defense. Carson has served in an acting capacity since April; he previously served as undersecretary and general counsel of the Army. Carson served as a naval intelligence officer in Iraq from December 2008 to 2009; he has also been chief executive officer of Cherokee Nation Businesses, a director of the National Energy Policy Institute, and a law professor at the University of Tulsa.

CLADOOSBY GOES FOR ANOTHER TERM

Brian Cladoosby, chairman of the Swinomish Tribe, has announced that he will run for a second term as president of the National Congress of American Indians. Cladoosby, who narrowly defeated Joe Garcia (Ohkay Owingeh) in October 2013, said that he would emphasize improving the Indian Health Service, seek more funding for Bureau of Indian Education schools, and work to reauthorize the Native American Housing Assistance and Self Determination Act.

How Did I Miss That?

Chris Christie jokes, prison breakouts and the wisdom of Stephen King BY STEVE RUSSELL

New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, interviewed on “Morning Joe,” said that the marriage equality debate has been misunderstood: “It’s not about the marriage; it’s about the equality.”

My cousin, Ray Sixkiller mused, “That’s exactly how the bigots understand it. It’s the equality part that scares the Christian mullahs.”

I wanted to complain that Jesus said nothing about homosexuality, but that he did denounce divorce. Not that the mullahs care.

If his latest Chris Christie joke is any indication, Jimmy Kimmel needs some new writers. Here you’ve got a candidate who tells voters to “sit down and shut up,” who bullies New Jersey mayors to endorse him, who treats the Port Authority as a patronage piggy bank . . . and the best Kimmel can do is make fat jokes?

Another political joke, Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, told Sean Hannity that the Supreme Court decision that failed to strike down Obamacare over a drafting error constituted “some of the darkest 24 hours in our nation’s history.”

“From his point of view, this is the worst thing the SCOTUS has done since *Brown v. Board of Education*,” said Cousin Ray, never missing a chance for a shot at Cruz. “I would say Cruz should go back where he came from, but Canada has even more health insurance.”

Gov. Christie, already reeling from accusations that he used his office to cause traffic jams in the city of a mayor who did not endorse him, picked up his first major endorsement from Maine Gov. Paul LePage. LePage is facing impeachment for using his office to punish a political

enemy by withdrawing state funds from a school unless it rescinded a job offer. LePage could help Christie look popular because the former’s numbers are dropping like a rock in Maine.

“Paul LePage,” tweeted the most well known Mainer, novelist Stephen King, “has become a terrible embarrassment to the state I live in and love. If he won’t govern, he should resign.”

Hearing about King’s tweet, Cousin Ray cracked a sly smile.

“Endorsements are *Needful Things*,” he advised, “and LePage is definitely a *Firestarter*. *The Stand* by LePage might look like *Desperation*, but Christie’s in *The Dead Zone* right now.”

This election, I admonished Ray, is about the White House, not the *Black House*, and these Stephen King references are causing *Misery*.

The only election news item more ridiculous than the battle of the Stephen King references arose when *The New York Times* printed a recipe for guacamole with English peas. The price of avocados has been so outrageous that Chipotle Grill is threatening to quit offering guacamole temporarily.

That’s bad, but not as bad as sully-ing the treat with an alien veggie. The Republican Party of the Lone Star State tweeted that the *Times* had “declared war on Texas.”

The *Times* reported that in Pryor, Cherokee Nation, Oklahoma, the Northeastern Oklahoma Klavern of the Traditionalist American Knights of the KKK has distributed flyers calling for the boycott of Mexican restaurants for talking “trash about white people in Spanish” and “employing illegals and sending our American currency back to their homeland.”

The KKK also wants a local credit

union boycotted because it celebrates Martin Luther King Day. They are apparently ignorant of the fact that the Federal Reserve considers MLK Day a banking holiday—just like the U.S. Post Service, which does no regular deliveries that day.

“It’s hard to read with a pillowcase on your head,” Cousin Ray chuckled, turning back to his plate of enchiladas.


Several GOP candidates are stoking the fears of the constitutionally illiterate by claiming that ministers will have to marry gay couples. Not so.

Many priests will not marry Catholics to non-Catholics; many rabbis will not marry Jews to Gentiles. There are plenty of evangelical Protestant bigots who still will not marry interracial couples in spite of the Supreme Court legalizing interracial marriages in 1967.

At the same time, state and local governments are bound by both the interracial and gay marriage decisions, and a couple of justices of the peace still get disciplined every year for refusing to marry interracial couples. So we can anticipate some of those who are sworn to uphold the law will defy the law.

The idea that the government can dictate the content of a religious sacrament (as opposed to a civil contract) comes from the deepest pits of ignorance—where some candidates with no shame will troll for votes.

The two convicted murderers who escaped last month from a New York prison were shot, one fatally, and so will fade from the front pages. While the two escapees focused U.S. media for three weeks, some 1,200 prisoners escaped from a prison in Yemen, according to Reuters.

“Context is everything,” Cousin Ray said. <http://bit.ly/1ChyKn5> 

UPCOMING POW WOWS

WORLD ESKIMO INDIAN OLYMPICS

7/15/15—7/18/15
The Carlson Center
Fairbanks, AK
907-452-6646
WEIO.org

QUILEUTE DAYS

7/17/15—7/19/15
La Push, WA
[Facebook.com/quileute.days](https://www.facebook.com/quileute.days)

HONOR THE EARTH HOMECOMING CELEBRATION AND POW WOW

7/17/15—7/19/15
Lac Courte Oreilles Pow Wow Grounds
8575 North Round Lake School Road
Hayward, WI
715-634-8934
TravelWisconsin.com/events/history-heritage/lco-honor-the-earth-pow-wow-38913

MARVIN "JOE" CURRY VETERANS POW WOW

7/17/15—7/19/15
Veterans Park
520 Broad Street
Salamanca, NY
716-532-4900, ext. 5015
penny.kerr@sni.org
SenecaPowWow.org

ROBERT WOOLERY SENIOR MEMORIAL POW WOW

7/17/15—7/19/15
Missouri State Fairgrounds
1600 South Limit
Sedalia, MT
Bob Woolery, Jr.
660-826-5608
dwoolery@aol.com

CHILDREN OF MANY COLORS INTERTRIBAL POW WOW

7/17/15—7/19/15
Moorpark College
7075 Campus Road
Moorpark, CA
805-217-0364
redbirds_vision@hotmail.com
RedbirdsVision.org

7TH ANNUAL SACRED VISIONS COMPETITION POW WOW

7/17/15—7/19/15
Big Bend Ranch

Wadsworth, NV

[Facebook.com/SacredVisionsPowwow](https://www.facebook.com/SacredVisionsPowwow)

53RD ANNUAL MII-GWITCH MAHNOMEN DAYS TRADITIONAL POW WOW

7/17/15—7/19/15
US 2, 6 miles west of Deer River
Ball Club, MN
218-398-2893
LLOjibwe.org

25TH ANNUAL TAMKALIKS CELEBRATION

7/17/15—7/19/15
70956 Whiskey Creek Road
Wallowa, OR
541-886-3101
tamkaliks@gmail.com
WallowaNezPerce.org

7TH ANNUAL COLORADO SPRINGS NATIVE AMERICAN INTERTRIBAL POW WOW

7/18/15
Freedom Financial Services EXPO Center
3560 North Nevada Avenue
Colorado Springs, CO
719-559-0525
rhetta_walter@hotmail.com
OneNationWT.org

SUMMER MOON POW WOW

7/18/15—7/19/15
Endicott Park
Zero Dean Street
Danvers, MA
617-642-1683
mcnaa@aol.com
MCNAA.org

22ND ANNUAL SUSCOL INTERTRIBAL COUNCIL POW WOW

7/18/15—7/19/15
Yountville Veterans Home
Yountville, CA
707-256-3561
suscol@suscol.net
SuscolCouncil.org



Protesters blocked construction of the controversial Thirty Meter Telescope atop sacred Mauna Kea in Hawaii on June 24.

DARREN MILLER PHOTOGRAPHY

THE BIG PICTURE