



# Indian Country

THIS WEEK FROM

## TODAY

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

### A Letter from the Publisher

*Shekóli.* Early last week, the state of California made civil rights history when Governor Jerry Brown signed into law a bill that eliminates the dictionary-defined R-word slur as a mascot from all of the state's public schools. Assembly Bill 30 (AB 30), the California Racial Mascots Act, will prohibit public schools from using the term R\*dskins as a school or athletic team name, mascot, or nickname beginning on January 1, 2017. California, the most populous state in the nation, is the first to pass legislation restricting the use of the epithet in its schools statewide.



to the use of the demeaning and damaging R-word slur in the state's schools. They have set a shining example for other states across the country, and for the next generation, by demonstrating a commitment to the American ideals of inclusion and mutual respect."

It is hard to overstate the incredible efforts of the student activist Dahkota Brown, who helped introduce and shepherd the legislation, and of Assembly member Alejo. They are true leaders.

Passage of the bill is the latest development in the drive to ban this racist mascot. Across the country, school boards, administrators and students themselves are also making the decision to give up the offensive term. Students at Cooperstown High School in New York voted to drop the R-word as their school's nickname in 2013. They served as an inspiration to the grassroots Change the Mascot campaign and led the way for many others who have removed the R-word from their schools.

I had the honor of testifying at a key hearing on the bill in the California Senate Education Committee in June. After the bill was signed, fellow Change the Mascot leader and National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) Executive Director Jackie Pata and I were pleased to issue the following statement:

"We applaud and extend our deepest gratitude to AB-30 author Assemblyman Luis Alejo, Governor Jerry Brown, and California's lawmakers for standing on the right side of history by bringing an end

This week, NCAI is holding its annual meeting in San Diego. Needless to say, the mood among tribal nation leaders is a buoyant one. All Californians can take pride in this historic step, which stands in stark contrast to the dogged inaction of Washington's NFL team. This issue is not going away; opposition to the Washington team is only intensifying. On one side, we have mountains of evidence that this term degrades and offends Native Americans. On the other, we have a team owner who continues to defend and promote the slur for his own financial gain.

There is only one way to read the headlines from California: The time for change is now.

*Na ki' wa,*

Ray Halbritter

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### The Charade Of 'Conservation'

**Stephen Corry**, director of *Survival International*, assails many environmental initiatives as patronizing and even destructive:

For 150 years, the conservation movement has been kicking indigenous populations off their homelands, rebranding them as "wildernesses" and claiming it will do a better job of "preserving" these areas than those who lived there for generations.

But the conservation movement hasn't. Because it didn't even look at how the land was already successfully managed, "conservation" was set up to fail

When the movement changed the landscape—usually to make money from tourists—it left supposedly "protected" areas newly scarred by roads and hotels, and marred by unrestrained undergrowth that stifled much biodiversity. This is still going on. Throughout Africa and Asia, tribal homelands are being designated as conservation zones, with the indigenous population being kicked out and attacked if they're even suspected of trying to sneak back in.

Conservation organizations are crying out for reform. Instead of stealing the land of local people, they need to start listening, respectfully, to them. For they have a far better knowledge of their environment than does anyone else. Instead

of kicking these people out, "conservationists" need to ask, "How can we, with our vast resources, help you to protect your land from any urbanization or industrialization which you don't want?"

The popular environmental movement remains largely an homage to a "wilderness" that exists only its own beliefs. It sees a "garden of Eden" in which man is the sinner and "Nature" (capitalized like "God") is always sinned against. It is fundamentally anti-humanitarian and quite prepared to violate human rights for the "greater good" of saving the world. The Yellowstone and Yosemite models, whereby local people aren't allowed in, is still destroying tribal peoples. <http://bit.ly/1LA8ORD> ☞

### Down With Elections, Up With Consensus

**Mike Myers**, the founder of *Network for Native Futures*, favors returning to traditional, ie. consensual, tribal governance:

Having elections as a way for people to believe they have some form of participation in their levels of government is a purely Western phenomenon. What the electoral process accomplishes is institutionalizing a state of constant discord and unrest by choosing people to occupy seats of power, supposedly on your behalf.

So what does original democracy look

like? The key functional component is the extended family. In many civilizations, this is expressed through the clans or other structure to which all citizens have belonged. Each extended family is responsible for selecting the best member to represent them on the council or any other form of organization within our civilizations.

In today's time, that would mean that each extended family not only selects its representative for council but for committees, commissions, boards, etc.

We have long had a problem with the English word "nepotism." In our world it is a good thing because it means that one

has been selected by one's extended family to work on behalf of them and to look out for their rights and interests.

Balancing the demands and needs of all extended families within the village or the nation is achieved through the process of consensus development. Achieving consensus on various issues can be done very quickly when there is universal agreement on key principles and values. It can also take time when the issue is complex or controversial.

But what is of the utmost importance is that the process produces "one mind, one heart, and one spirit" in order to be able to move forward. <http://bit.ly/1K6yVOY> ☞

### Obama In Alaska

**Native Alaskan Raina Thiele** (Dena'ina Athabascan and Yup'ik), associate director of White House office of Intergovernmental Affairs and Public Engagement, reflects on accompanying President Barack Obama on his trip to the 49th state:

I grew up in a uniquely "Alaskan" way. My summers were spent subsistence and commercial fishing for wild salmon, salmon that depended on the health of the environment to flourish. In my mother's small Dena'ina Athabascan village, I'd help her and my grandmother filet and smoke salmon for the winter in the tra-

ditional Dena'ina way. Other summers I spent commercial fishing in Bristol Bay with my dad on a salmon gillnet boat. Whether for subsistence or economic reasons, salmon and other natural resources were the lifeblood of my family.

It was Alaska's land and natural resources, coupled with the Dena'ina and Yup'ik cultural values instilled in me by my parents and grandparents—humility, hard work, generosity—that have allowed me to make it as far as I have. I often joke that I was fortified by a diet of moose, salmon, and berries, and that I would probably survive a zombie apocalypse with my Bear Grylls-style survival skills.

But these natural resources do more than just fortify the body; they fortify the spirit. They are essential to cultures that have thrived for millennia. My connection to my Athabascan and Yup'ik roots is the well from which I draw strength.

This is why accompanying my boss, President Obama, to Alaska was the proudest moment of my life, hands down. That he cared to see a piece of Alaska typically shrouded from view by remoteness and a lack of accessibility, and that he was able to witness first-hand why Alaska's natural resources are worth protecting, filled me with hope. <http://bit.ly/1hA37va> ☞



National  
Congress of  
American  
Indians

# National Congress of American Indians

## Future Dates

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### **2015 Annual Convention & Marketplace**

Town & Country Resort, San Diego, CA  
October 18-23, 2015

### **2016 Executive Council Winter Session**

Capital Hilton, Washington, DC  
February 22-25, 2016

### **2016 Mid Year Conference & Marketplace**

Spokane Convention Center, Spokane, WA  
June 27-30, 2016

### **2016 Annual Convention & Marketplace**

Phoenix Convention Center, Phoenix, AZ  
October 9-14, 2016

### **2017 Executive Council Winter Session**

Capital Hilton, Washington, DC  
February 13-16, 2017

### **2017 Mid Year Conference & Marketplace**

Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, CT  
June 25-28, 2017

### **2017 Annual Convention & Marketplace**

Wisconsin Center, Milwaukee, WI  
October 15-20, 2017

### **2018 Executive Council Winter Session**

Capital Hilton, Washington, DC  
February 12-15, 2018

### **2018 Annual Convention & Marketplace**

Denver, CO  
October 21-26, 2018

## New Language Provisions For Alaska Elections

BY STEPHANIE WOODARD

In a historic decision, a federal court has mandated that Alaska implement the expanded use of Native languages and dialects in election materials, balloting procedures and related matters. The agreement was announced jointly by the state and the Native American Rights Fund (NARF).

Alaska will now translate election materials and ballots into Gwich'in and several Yup'ik dialects. As a result of the agreement, Juneau will also provide increased bilingual training for election workers, expanded collaboration with Native language experts and tribal councils, and additional help for voters with limited English-language proficiency.

The order, issued by U.S. District Court Judge Sharon Gleason, stems from a provision of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. The provision, Section 203, mandates the rendering of relevant voting procedures and materials in the languages of applicable minority groups. However, some governments, such as Alaska, have not always provided such services.

"This is the first fully tried Section 203 case since 1980," noted NARF attorney Natalie Landreth (Chickasaw), "so it will provide a strong precedent for other lawsuits." She pointed out that all-mail voting systems, which have lately surged in popularity but which eliminate or weaken language assistance, are particularly vulnerable to legal challenges.

Mail-in elections often shift translation duties to relatives, noted plaintiffs' attorney James Tucker. "Under the law, voters may receive assistance from a person of their choice, but jurisdictions can't require that families translate," he said.

Tucker added that expert translations and language assistance are not merely legal and practical matters. "They are a demonstration of respect for Native languages and cultures," he said. <http://bit.ly/1LOkyGt> ☞

## No Charges In Clash Over Classroom Use Of 'Genocide'

BY VINCENT SCHILLING

A month after a California university student charged that a history professor threatened to expel her from class for challenging his views on Native genocide, the university has determined that no academic policies were violated.

According to the student, Chiitaanibah Johnson (Navajo/Maidu), a sophomore at California State University Sacramento, Professor Maury Wiseman told his class in early September that he thought "genocide" was "too strong" a word to describe what befell Native Americans following European colonization. When Johnson publicly disagreed with him, she said, he accused her of "making me sound like a racist and a bigot" and said she would "be disenrolled and expelled from this classroom."

Following an investigation, Sac State President Robert Nelsen on October 5 announced that neither Wiseman nor Johnson had violated any university policy. Therefore, he said, the administration was "closing the inquiry." Nelsen added, "While people may agree or disagree with the decision . . . we cannot and should not stop the conversations that the incident has provoked."

Johnson was dissatisfied with the outcome. "If the university wanted to hold him [Wiseman] responsible, at least they are more than capable of doing so," she said. "They just don't want to at this point." She was also dissatisfied by a series of Native outreach panels and discussions that Sac State held following the incident.

"The panel and 'Native American day' they held were events that were haphazardly thrown together at the last minute," Johnson said. "An event in the multicultural center was basically thrust upon them by the president's office without any real instructions." <http://bit.ly/1GcXjDn> ☞

## Indian Health Service Assists Anti-Methamphetamine Programs

BY TANYA H. LEE

The Indian Health Service (IHS) has awarded more than 100 grants to help American Indian and Alaska Native communities battle the twin scourges of methamphetamine and suicide. The awards were made through the IHS Office of Clinical and Preventive Services, Division of Behavioral Health, as part of its Methamphetamine and Suicide Prevention Initiative begun in 2009.

Altogether, 117 IHS Methamphetamine and Suicide Prevention Initia-

tive grants, totaling \$13.2 million, will go to tribes, tribal organizations, urban Indian organizations, and IHS federal government programs. The purpose is to increase access to health services and build capacity within American Indian and Alaska Native communities to prevent and treat meth use and reduce suicides rates.

The current funding reflects the federal commitment to continue the work done through a six-year demonstration project that supported 130 health programs.

"The Indian Health Service remains dedicated to working closely with tribal entities to address, prevent and provide much needed resources," said IHS

Principal Deputy Director Robert G. McSwain. "These awards allow IHS to increase the effectiveness of early prevention services, promote culturally sensitive programs and improve overall access to treatment and education."

Research shows that meth use and suicide go hand in hand, and that both are rife in Indian country. "The issues of suicide and methamphetamine use among American Indian and Alaska Native communities are at a critical stage," said McSwain. According to a Justice Department publication, "Native Americans now experience the highest meth usage rates of any ethnic group in the nation." <http://bit.ly/1hAZ1Tk> ☞



## Alaska Scraps 'Columbus Day'

Action follows national trend

By proclamation last week of Alaska Gov. Bill Walker, Alaska became the first state in the union to declare the second Monday of October "Indigenous Peoples' Day." The proclamation encourages "all Alaskans to celebrate the thriving cultures and values of the Indigenous Peoples of our region and to continue efforts to promote the well-being and growth of Alaska's Indigenous community." On October 12, the same day that Walker signed the proclamation, Anchorage Mayor Ethan Berkowitz signed a similar decree, adding the city to an ever-growing roster of U.S. municipalities that have done so, including Portland,

Oregon and Albuquerque, New Mexico. <http://bit.ly/1RFlwna> 📍

## Senate Committee Passes Native Bills

Land transfer and tourism are approved

The Senate Committee on Indian Affairs passed two significant pieces of legislation at its business meeting of October 7. One, H.R. 487, would allow the Miami tribe of Oklahoma to lease or transfer certain lands. The other, S. 1579, the Native American Tourism and Improving Visitor Experience (NATIVE) Act, would increase federal coordination of programs that support the tourism industry in Native communities. Seven other bills dealing with land into trust issues were addressed at the com-

mittee's legislative hearing. Testimony was offered by, among other witnesses, Michael Smith, deputy director for the Bureau of Indian Affairs; and Glen Casamassa, associate deputy chief for the National Forest System. <http://bit.ly/1LHEPgQ> 📍

## Chickasaw Governor Begins Eighth Term

Milestone for Bill Anoatubby

Bill Anoatubby was inaugurated for an unprecedented eighth consecutive term as the governor of the Chickasaw Nation on October 1, on the campus of East Central University in Ada, Oklahoma. Before he was first elected governor in 1987, Anoatubby served the Chickasaw as director of health services and finance.

In 1978, he was promoted to the position of special assistant to the governor and controller. The following year, he became the tribe's first lieutenant governor. "It is exciting to look toward the future of the Chickasaw Nation as we travel together toward an even brighter future," Anoatubby said upon his inauguration. <http://bit.ly/1L6LEK2> 📍

## 'Redskins' Out In California Schools

Governor bans use of term

California has become the first state in the nation to prohibit public schools from using the term "Redskins" as the name of an athletic team or mascot. Gov. Jerry Brown signed the legislation, which will become effective on January 1, 2017,



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### Culture & Tourism

- Native American Activities
- Nation's Largest Pow-Wow
- International Balloon Fiesta
- Petroglyph National Monument
- Nation's Longest Aerial Tramway

### Services & Support

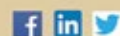
- Conference Facilitation
- Business Development Services
- Business & Procurement Events
- Monthly Networking Opportunities
- Annual Native American Economic Summit

2401 12th St NW, Suite 5-S  
 Albuquerque, NM 87104



American Indian Chamber  
 OF COMMERCE OF NEW MEXICO  
[www.aiccnm.com](http://www.aiccnm.com)

PH: 505-766-9545  
[info@aiccnm.com](mailto:info@aiccnm.com)



on October 11. The legislation affects four public high schools in as many counties; it also requires Sacramento to provide funds to help the schools change relevant items ranging from uniforms to signage. "This bill is about respect," said California State Assembly member Luis Alejo, who sponsored the proposal. "Respect for every culture and every person." <http://bit.ly/1VSdNCY> 📡

### Chumash Donate Eighty Chromebooks

*Computer gift helps elementary school*

The Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians has donated 80 new Chromebook computers to the Santa Ynez Elementary School in California to assist in the

students' technology needs. The gift was made possible through the proceeds of the 11th annual Chumash Charity Golf Classic, which was held on August 13. "Having tools in the classroom that are new, updated and ready to work at faster speeds will make a huge difference," said principal Maurene Donner. The Band has distributed more than \$19 million to hundreds of groups, organizations and schools in the community and across the nation. <http://bit.ly/1GDi4Ty> 📡

### New Native Financial Network Leader

*Will focus on capital access*

Tanya Fiddler (Cheyenne River Sioux), former head of Four Bands Community

Fund, will now serve as the first executive director of the Native CDFI Network, a national association of Native community development financial institutions (CDFIs) that work to increase access to capital in Native communities. Fiddler, a founding co-chair and former chairperson of the Native CDFI Network's board of directors, has also served as a member of the U.S. Treasury's Community Development Advisory Board. Originally formed in 2009, the Native CDFI Network serves Native trust land communities, American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians. <http://bit.ly/1hzQn7M> 📡

### Fiber Optic Venture For Oneida Nation

*Upgrade will serve*

*tribe and community*

A new fiber optic partnership with Northland Communication will enhance Oneida Indian Nation guest services with updated technology while creating a new technological infrastructure for local businesses. The communication upgrade for the Nation's portfolio of enterprises began nine months ago and is expected to be completed in early 2016. The advanced network will provide the Oneidas' enterprises and other local businesses with unlimited bandwidth, secure data connections and increased reliability. Such Oneida Nation businesses as Turning Stone Resort Casino, Yellow Brick Road Casino and SavOn convenience stores, as well as the greater community, stand to benefit. <http://bit.ly/1jXD8zw> 📡

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# A Proposal For Bears Ears

*Tribes appeal to White House for unique partnership* BY ANNE MINARD

**Bottom Line:** A tribal coalition hopes to save two majestic Utah plateaus by managing them jointly with Washington.

Five tribes last week formally proposed to President Obama a plan for a 1.9 million-acre Bears Ears National Monument that would protect lands in southeastern Utah that are both culturally significant and ecologically imperiled.

The Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition—comprising representatives from the Navajo, Hopi, Zuni, Ute Mountain Ute and Uintah & Ouray Ute tribes—made their announcement at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. on October 15.

“This is a day about a people’s movement, a humanistic endeavor, and this is about collaborative management,” said Eric Descheenie (Navajo), who along with Alfred Lomaquahu (Hopi) chairs the coalition. “It comes very much from the heart of Indian country.”

The Bears Ears are majestic twin plateaus that rise above pristine landscapes between Moab, Utah and the Arizona border. The area, filled with historic homes, villages, granaries and ancient trails, has long figured in the histories of numerous tribes. It is still used today, especially by Navajo and Ute people, for the gathering of herbs, medicines and firewood.

But the spiritual and cultural significance of the land, its advocates say, is threatened by grave-robbing, destructive off-road vehicle use and mining.

The new proposal lays out an unprecedented model for federal-tribal collaborative land management. Under the model, tribes would be elevated to true government-to-government status, from the management plan stage all the way through day-to-day operations.

Although tribes are regularly consulted as part of federal agency actions, these consultations are often formalistic and relegate tribes to the position of interest groups.

In addition to the five-tribe coalition,

25 pueblos and tribes have expressed support for the proposal. The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) has also issued a resolution urging President Obama “to use his powers under the Antiquities Act to declare the Bears Ears National Monument and, by doing so, provide permanent protection for these lands.”

The Bears Ears proposal competes with a congressional proposal called the Utah Public Lands Initiative (PLI). That plan, advanced by Reps. Rob Bishop and Jason Chaffetz—both Republicans from Utah—has lain dormant in the House for several years.

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*‘We’re here as  
sovereign nations,  
wielding a tool  
our grandparents  
never knew.’*

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Critics say the PLI is likely to fail because it calls for an end to the popular Antiquities Act of 1906, which allows presidents to set aside culturally significant lands for conservation. Presidents from both parties have used the act to designate nearly 150 national monuments; the Bears Ears Coalition is asking Obama to do the same in this case.

The PLI retains some support among residents of San Juan Country, Utah, which overlaps with the proposed Bears Ears Monument. Some Utah locals, including several Navajo tribal members living in San Juan County, oppose a monument designation that would include a mining withdrawal and could restrict other uses.

The Bears Ears Coalition says it has attempted for years to participate in the PLI, to no avail. “We have not been taken seriously,” Descheenie said, “and our voices have never been heard.”


In response to the coalition proposal, Utah’s two Republican senators, Orrin Hatch and Mike Lee—along with congressmen Bishop and Chaffetz—issued a joint statement that called the coalition “an important stakeholder” in the PLI. The legislators said they “remain committed to reviewing each proposal and producing a final PLI bill that is balanced and broadly supported.”

But coalition members say the designation of “stakeholder” falls far short of the government-to-government relationship to which they are entitled. “We have a unique relationship with the federal government, founded on the backs of our ancestors and manifested in tribal treaties,” Descheenie said. “We are not stakeholders. We are relatives to this land.”

Regina Lopez-Whiteskunk, a council member of Ute Mountain Ute Tribe and a Coalition member, pointed out that the U.S. government bears a trust responsibility to each of the federally recognized tribes. The Bears Ears proposal, she said, calls upon Washington to honor that responsibility.

“We’re standing here, a part of a coalition, with solutions,” she said. “We’re here as sovereign nations, wielding a tool that our grandparents never even knew.” She added, “We’ve been chosen by our ancestors to speak and to bring forth the huge issue of allowing them to rest in peace.”

Philip Vicente, head councilman from the Pueblo of Zuni in New Mexico, noted that tribal leaders and medicine people still go to Bears Ears to conduct their ceremonies.

“Bears Ears land is a unique land,” he said. “We visit for the purpose of attaining health. When we speak about health, we’re not speaking about our health. We’re speaking about everybody’s health, and the land also.” <http://bit.ly/1X8AXY8> 



# The Shame Of The Kinzua Dam

*A golden anniversary is not as bright as it seems* BY CHRISTINA ROSE



*In 1965, the Kinzua Dam submerged nearly 10,000 acres of Seneca land in New York. That has left a bitter legacy.*

**Bottom Line:** *In the 1960s, the federal government broke a promise made by George Washington to the Seneca Nation by building a giant dam in Pennsylvania. Fifty years later, the repercussions linger.*

On September 16, the U.S. Army Corps

of Engineers celebrated the 50th anniversary of the completion of the Kinzua Dam, located on the Allegheny River east of Warren, Pennsylvania. For many, this massive project represents a triumph of civil engineering.

But for the Seneca Nation, the Kinzua symbolizes the excesses of a federal

government that ruthlessly built dams all along the Missouri River and elsewhere throughout the country—many of them on treaty land.

In 1965, the Kinzua Dam submerged nearly 10,000 acres of Seneca land in New York. This represented nearly one-third of tribal land and the Na-



tion's last remaining land in Pennsylvania. The dam's construction broke the 1794 Canandaigua Treaty, signed by President George Washington. It read, in part, "[T]he United States acknowledges all the land within the aforementioned boundaries, to be the property of the Seneca Nation; and the United States will never claim the same, nor disturb the Seneca Nation, nor any of the Six Nations, or of their Indian friends residing thereon, and united with them, in the free use and enjoyment thereof; but it shall remain theirs, until they choose to sell the same."

Today, the dam stands as a bitter reminder to the Senecas. Here are some reasons why, along with some background to consider.

\* \* \*

- To build the Kinzua Dam, 600 residents were forced to relocate and the remains of Seneca ancestors were bulldozed to make way for it.
- Seneca homes and forests were burned and then flooded to clear the land. The fallout was devastating: "Forced relocation, the desecration of our grandparents' graves, the burning of our homes, our longhouses and churches, the loss of our gardens—a lot of people had gardens that were multi-generational," said Dennis Bowen (Seneca), former president of the Allegheny Seneca Nation in New York State. "The loss was so traumatic."
- The 1,500-acre Cornplanter Tract, granted by the Pennsylvania General Assembly to the descendants of Chief Cornplanter in 1796 and which was all that was left of Seneca land in Pennsylvania, was seized and flooded. Two thousand graves, including the 1836 grave of Chief Cornplanter, were moved. But many were not.
- The Seneca proposed rerouting the Allegheny River as a less expensive alternative. They appealed to the U.S Supreme Court, which refused to hear their case. President Ken-

nedy denied the rerouting plan and sent his condolences in a letter to the Seneca. He wrote that he supported the building of the dam, stating that Congress had already allocated the funds to build it.

- In that letter, Kennedy suggested that new land might be offered to replace the land that was lost. "No land was ever given back," Bowen said. "Each family that was in the relocation had a tract of land in their name and was given a house in exchange for what they lost in the take areas and floodplain, and that was the compensation at that time." Indeed, in his letter, Kennedy asked the Senecas' cooperation "for a fair and orderly abandonment of their land."
- To get the attention of the locals, Seneca Harry Watt wore a Plains Indian outfit to protest the dam. Watt's outfit is on display as part of the Seneca-Iroquois National Museum's "This Is Where We Walked" exhibit. "He wanted people to recognize him as a Native American as he protested the taking of Seneca land," Kari Kennedy-Hoag, a descendant of Watt, told GoErie.com. "And that's what people expected."
- The dam divided tribal members who had long lived side by side. A highway was built between two communities who now had to travel to see their friends and family. "The stress and pain was divisive," Bowen said. "Your neighbor wasn't your neighbor anymore; they were living somewhere else."
- After the dam was built, Dennis Bowen estimates, half of the elders died within two years: "You could say it was high blood pressure or a stroke, but it wasn't. They died of broken hearts. Some of them didn't want to move into the new houses that were built, some of them, even though they had indoor plumbing, brought their outhouses with them; and they still wanted to have their wood stove. It was a very deep wound."
- The ecology of the dam has been

ignored. "This is the second summer that we faced an onslaught of algae because the water in the reservoir is not flowing," said Bowen's sister, Rebecca, of the Seneca Nation Archives Department. The Army Corps of Engineers and the hydropower company are not properly controlling the elevations of the dams, she added, and thus the flow of the water. "At such a pace, it doesn't flow like a river. We get large areas where we have a buildup of algae. We have hot temperatures, so now we get cautions: Don't get in the water, don't let the animals drink the water, because of the algae."

- At one point, the ecological situation was so dire that the late Johnny Cash visited the Seneca and recorded the song "As Long As The Grass Shall Grow" in an attempt to spotlight their plight. Among the lyrics: "No boats will sail on Lake Perfidy/In winter it will fill/In summer it will be a swamp/And all the fish will kill."
- Jay Toth, Seneca tribal archaeologist, has reached out to state historic preservation officials in New York and Pennsylvania to address the ongoing problems. "They are clueless about the dam up here," including actions taken to remove people from the area, he said. "For the general public the dams aren't something they pay attention to but it has had extreme impacts on the environment and the people."

\* \* \*

(A footnote: On November 26, 2013, the Seneca Nation entered into a comprehensive settlement agreement with FirstEnergy Generation, LLC. Rebecca Bowen stated that the Seneca Nation is a stakeholder in the dam and will not be pursuing its licensing. According to a Duquesne Energy Initiative blog, First Energy sold its license in March 2014 to operate the Kinzua Dam for \$395 million to Harbor Hydro Holdings, LLC.) <http://bit.ly/1LLQRiY> ☞

# Jim Warne Continues To Field Success

*Ex-NFL offensive lineman offers lessons in football and life* BY RODNEY HARWOOD

**Bottom Line:** *Oglala Lakota gridiron giant Jim Warne is no longer playing, but he hasn't retired. In fact, he is inspiring a new generation.*

Jim Warne (Oglala Lakota) has had quite a football career. After helping Arizona State win the Rose Bowl in 1987, he had stints in the National Football League with Cincinnati, Tampa Bay and Detroit. Overseas, he played in the World League of American Football with the New York/New Jersey Knights. His days on the gridiron ended following the 1992 Arena Football League season, when he was with the Albany Firebirds.

Today, Warne is an entrepreneur. He is also an occasional stuntman in the film industry and a member of the Screen Actors Guild, with credits that include *The Substitute*, starring Tom Berenger.

Perhaps most important, he is giving back.

Warne, a former NFL offensive lineman and a member of the American Indian Athletic Hall of Fame, spends much of his time bringing his Warrior Society Developmental youth football camp to reservations around the country. He has introduced this initiative, which teaches young people athletic skills and life skills alike, to 150 reservations over 11 years. Warne has been to the Colville in Central Washington State, the Lakota in South Dakota, the Seminole in Florida, and the Seneca in upstate New York.

It's all an outgrowth of Warrior Society Development, LLC, the consulting firm in San Diego, California that he founded in 2004. The youth football camps are just a part of the circle, but they are a big part. Warne emphasizes how physical prowess

on the field can translate into self-confidence and personal empowerment in all walks of life.

The process, which puts young people through drills of practice and teambuilding, can be subtle.

"By keeping the drills fun, the kids don't realize how hard they are working," Warne recently told the *Two Row Times*. "Especially the obstacle course. They are

connections, bringing in guest coaches like former Buffalo Bills safety Mark Kelso (who played in four consecutive Super Bowls), Pittsburgh Steelers linebacker Marv Kellum (who played in Super Bowls IX and X), and former Minnesota Viking and NFL Hall of Famer Randall McDaniel. He also blends his life experiences with the medicine wheel, invoking his athletic and educational perspectives to deliver a message with which Native youth can connect.

"I try to be an example of an Indian man who utilized athletics to get an education, so that I can be successful in life. I think it applies to more than just our people," he said. "It's so much more than the just the fighting elements. It's about balance, being spiritual, a family man, being a representative of your people ... which is what a warrior's all about."

As part of his efforts, Warne stresses the role of education. He has earned a B.S. from Arizona State, an M.S. from San

Diego State, and a postgraduate certificate in Rehabilitation Administration. Currently, he is a doctoral candidate at the University of Northern Colorado. "I always tell the kids if I was counting on the NFL and Hollywood, I'd be a bouncer today," he said.

In some ways, Warne's experience in carrying his camp from reservation to reservation reflects the nomadic history of his Oglala Lakota people. So, too, does his experience in the pros.

"I've been called a professional journeyman because I bounced around several teams," he said with a laugh, "but I refer to myself as a professional refugee, playing in three different pro leagues."

<http://bit.ly/1OE2tdc> 



*Six Nations young people got to meet and learn both football and life skills from former NFL*

really challenging themselves to get a better time each run and get it right. They are having a blast, but they really are working hard."

Recently, Warne traveled north. In August, his Warrior Society Developmental effort made its Canadian debut at Ohsweken, Ontario at the inaugural Six Nations Thunder Football Camp. Traditional Wellness Coordinator Cindy Martin, who has been active with Warne's camps on the Cattaraugus reservation in upstate New York, helped initiate this latest effort.

"It's not every day you get to meet and hang out with an ex-NFL player," she told the *Two Row Times*.

Warne likes to trade on his NFL con-



First Peoples Fund, a national Native nonprofit organization who supports the advancement of native arts and culture is seeking to fill two vacancies.

**PROGRAM DIRECTOR** – This position is responsible for the overall strategy and operations for all First Peoples Fund program areas. This involves a variety of significant responsibilities including the development of programs supportive of strategic goals and the organization's theory of change, excellent program administration with a focus on strong outcomes, oversight of regular program evaluation, and strategic relationship development and outreach to communities. This position manages the communication of program results to internal and external audiences, which facilitates program planning and our ongoing fundraising effort. The Program Director is responsible for the continuous development and consistent use of systems that support efficient and effective operations, while respecting and retaining the cultural values that are the heart of First Peoples Fund.

**FINANCE AND COMPLIANCE MANAGER** – This position will oversee FPF's finance department. The position is responsible for supporting the President in activities associated with the financial management, budgeting, business analysis, annual audit, and financial planning for the organization.

If interested, please request a detailed position description by emailing [info@firstpeoplesfund.org](mailto:info@firstpeoplesfund.org). Or you may send a resume and cover letter to First Peoples Fund, PO Box 2977, Rapid City, SD 57709. The positions are open until filled and the salary DOE.

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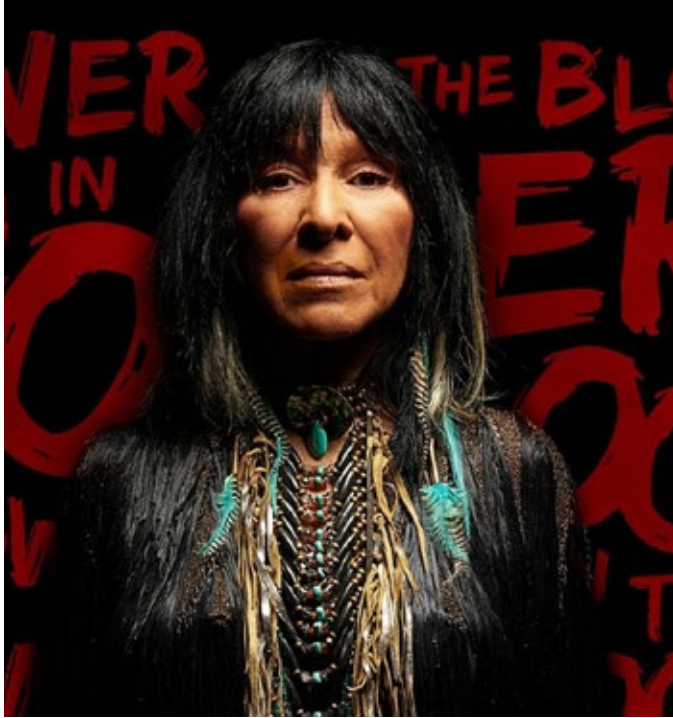
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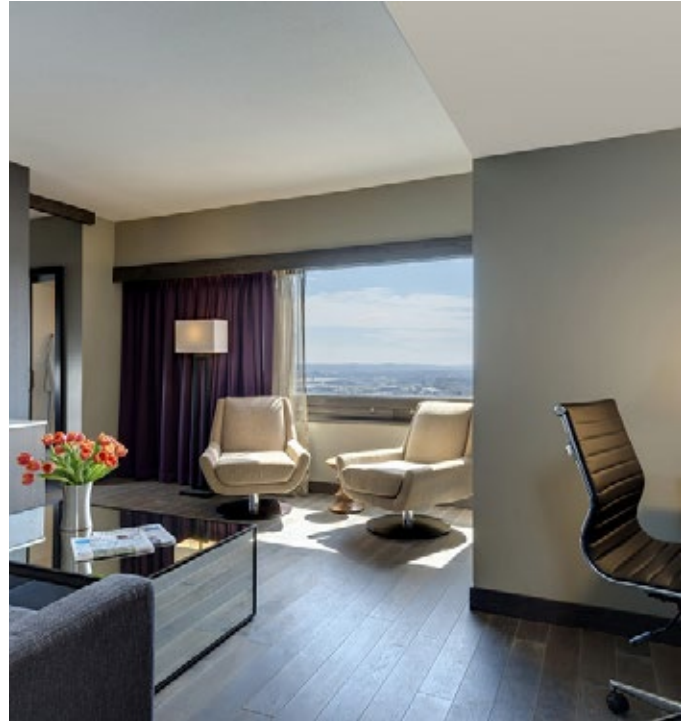
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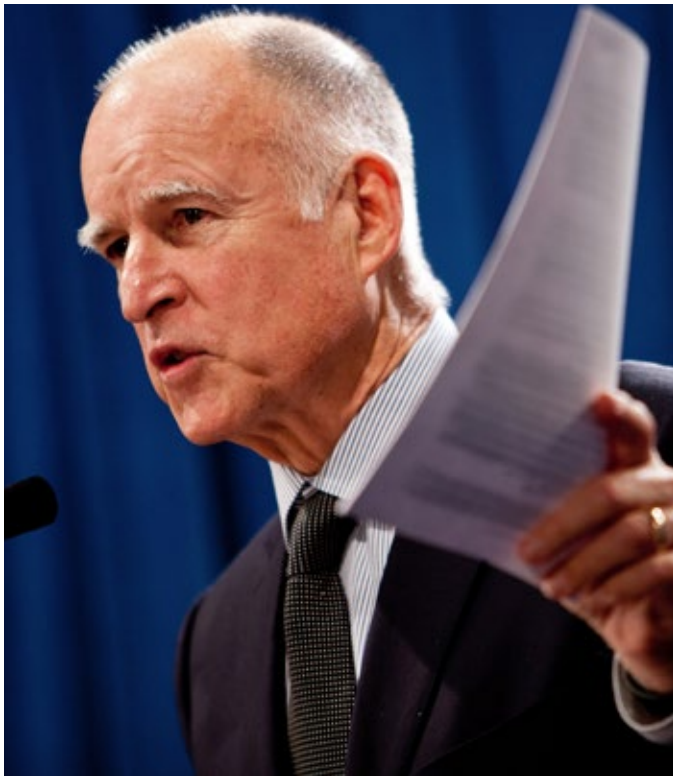




*Buffie Sainte-Marie (Piapot Cree) has won the 2015 Polaris Music Prize for her album Power in the Blood.*



*The Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe unveiled its new multimillion-dollar InterContinental St. Paul Riverfront hotel last week.*



*California Gov. Jerry Brown signed a bill that bars public schools from using "Redskins" as a team name or mascot.*



*A series of fires burned 7,500 acres on the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation in both North and South Dakota.*

BUFFYSAINTE-MARIE.COM; MILLE LACS BAND OF OJIBWE, COURTESY SEISMO.BERKELEY.EDU; TOM STROMME/BISMARCK TRIBUNE VIA AP IMAGES

# Headlines from the Web

## BASKETBALL ROLE MODELS VISIT THE OMAHA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA

<http://bit.ly/1FYM4i6>

## MAN CHARGED IN SEMINOLE DOUBLE MURDER CASE

<http://bit.ly/1N9zIDr>

## NEW WINNEBAGO TRIBE LEADERSHIP WANTS TO STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY

<http://bit.ly/1N6Faa1>

## WOMAN IN CUSTODY CASE HIDES ON RESERVATION WITH GRANDSON

<http://wapo.st/1Mtjzdt>

## INMATE SEEKS TRIBE'S APPROVAL TO KEEP 'TRIBAL MULLET' IN JAIL

<http://bit.ly/1NF70NU>

## REPORT: TRIBAL GAMING OUTPACES COMMERCIAL

<http://on.rgj.com/1VMDAw4>

## Upcoming Events

### AMERICAN INDIAN HEALTH RESEARCH CONFERENCE OCTOBER 23

"The Changing Face of Research in Indian Country" will provide an opportunity to learn how to do research with American Indian communities, determine the research that needs to be done among those communities, allow students to present their research with American Indians, and provide opportunities to partner among communities, tribal colleges, and researchers. Sponsors include the North Dakota Idea Network of Biomedical Research Excellence and the Center for Rural Health. **Location:** Alerus Center, Grand Forks, North Dakota

### TRIBAL COURT CLEARINGHOUSE TRAINING SESSIONS OCTOBER 26-27

Two training sessions will be offered simultaneously to address violence against Indian women. "Strengthening Tribal Laws to Protect Native Women and Families" will equip participants with specific strategies and resource tools for developing tribal laws that support victim safety and batterer accountability; "Incorporating Indigenous

Traditions and Practice in Our Work With Victims/Survivors" will offer parallel and similarly applicable resources.

**Location:** Mystic Lake Casino and Hotel, Mystic Lake, Minnesota

### NATIVE FOOD SOVEREIGNTY SUMMIT OCTOBER 26-29

At this forum for sharing and collaborating to build healthy food systems within communities, Native Americans will come together to learn from one another in order to promote health, wellness and food sovereignty. Three tracks will be offered: Applied Agriculture, Community Outreach and Products to Market. Native farmers, ranchers, gardeners, businesses, policymakers and other practitioners from around the U.S. will share information, program models and tools to meet growing and marketing challenges, and to provide inspiration, mentoring and networking opportunities.

**Location:** Radisson Green Bay Hotel and Conference Center, Green Bay, Wisconsin

### ALASKA TRIBAL CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT OCTOBER 27-30

Themes to be addressed at Alaska's premier annual environmental event will be "Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Environmental Values"; "Air Quality and Healthy Homes"; "Water Quality and Sanitation"; "Changing Climate and the Local Environmental Observer"; "Solid Waste Management—Reduce, Reuse, Recycle"; and "Brownfields—Repurpose, Redevelopment, Revitalization".

**Location:** Anchorage Downtown Hilton Hotel, Anchorage, Alaska

### WATER IS LIFE: A TRIBAL PARTNERSHIP OCTOBER 28-29

This event aims to build tribal executive capacity through a strategic series of forums, events, and sharing of documentation and experience by archiving water from a historical context. There will be a blessing of water, an interview on Indian water policy, and legal and tribal perspectives from the National Tribal Water Partnership, the Center for the American West and the National Center for Atmospheric Research, among other participating parties.

**Location:** Colorado University at Boulder, Boulder, Colorado

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Re "Pope Francis and When Genocide Isn't Genocide" (October 4):

"Genocide" is a sensitive word, and I don't think it quite describes what happened to the First Nations of the Americas. The arrival of Europeans certainly brought death and destruction. Maybe it was not intentional at the beginning, but it got worse and more evil as time

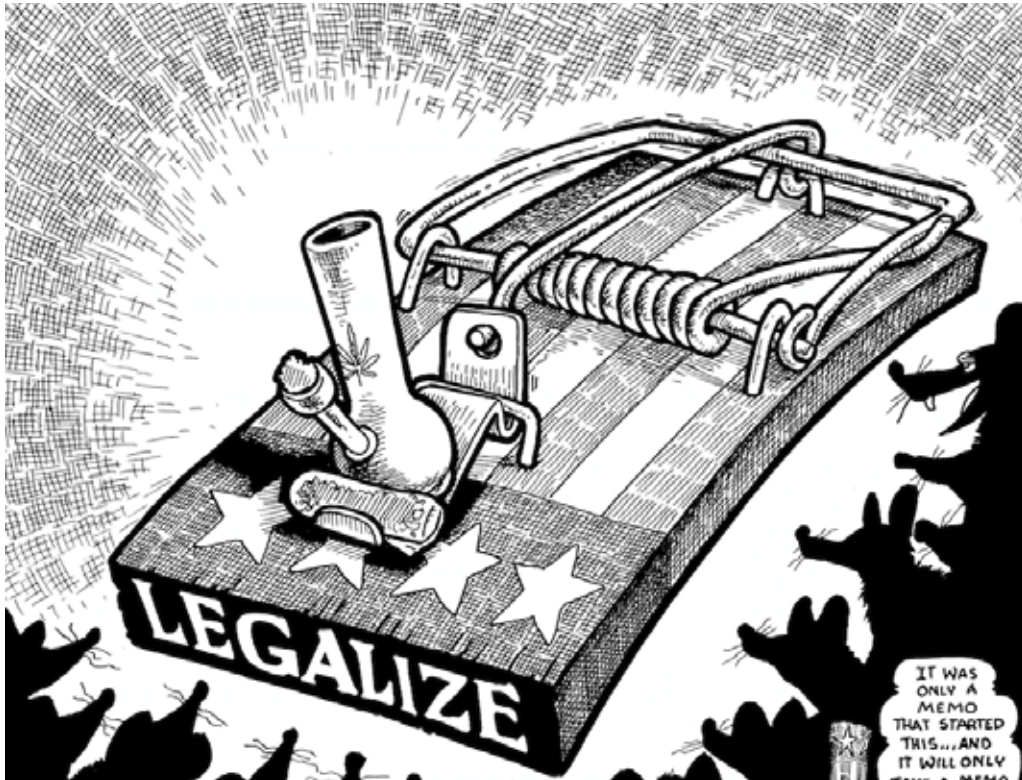
went on. And it was, indeed, propagated by the Catholic and Protestant religions. But I don't think it was engineered by a single person or government entity.

I wish there were a better word than genocide, which has come to have a pretty narrow definition, and which does not encompass the expanse of anti-Indian activities conducted by the Christian

religion—such as Indian schools that seized children to remove any trace of their native culture, cuisine and language, but which left them alive to become rootless and unhappy.

Christians (of which I am not one) have a lot to atone for.

—Natalie Serra  
Reno, Nevada



## TOP NEWS ALERTS

From IndianCountryTodayMediaNetwork.com

### FIRES ON STANDING ROCK SIOUX RESERVATION

Three fires consumed 7,500 acres of the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation in both North and South Dakota last week. About 340 people had to be evacuated, and the Associated Press reported that three homes and a church were destroyed in Cannon Ball, North Dakota. All three fires are being investigated and are of unknown cause; no deaths or injuries were reported.

### ACTION ON TWO INDIAN BILLS

The House Natural Resources Committee passed two Indian-related bills at a recent markup session. H.R.2212 places some 300 acres in trust for the Susanville Indian Rancheria in

California; the acreage would be used for a cultural center, museum, powwow grounds and a recreational area. H.R. 2270, known as the Billy Frank Tell Your Story Act, renames the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge after the late treaty rights activist. It further establishes a national historic site to mark the 1854 Treaty of Medicine Creek.

### CHARGES IN PROFILE ROCK VANDALISM

Three men have been charged with defacing Profile Rock, a historic Wampanoag site in Massachusetts, with epithets, a swastika and the satanic number "666." The site, a 50-foot outcropping of natural rock, is said to show a profile of Massasoit, the legendary leader of

the Wampanoag confederacy in the 1600s. Bright orange paint was used in the incident; the scrawled messages included the words "Kill Me" and the last name of one of the accused.

### ALASKA VILLAGE ENDURES SUICIDES

The Alaska Native village of Hooper Bay, about 530 miles west of Anchorage, has endured four suicides in less than three weeks. The spate began on September 24 with the suicide of a 26-year-old man; his death spurred his friend, a 24-year-old man, to kill himself on October 2. This was followed two days later by the suicide of "a 20-year-old woman reportedly distraught over the 24-year-old's death," reported the Associated Press.

On October 10, in an incident whose cause was unclear, a 21-year-old male was found dead at his parent's home.

### FORMER AMERIND RISK CHAIRMAN WALKS ON

Wayne Chico (Tohono O'odham), a former chairman of AMERIND Risk Management Corp., the only wholly tribally owned insurance solutions provider in Indian Country, walked on October 7 at age 64. One of the founding fathers of AMERIND Risk, Chico was chairman from 1986 to 1995; in that capacity he pioneered serving the risk management needs of Indian housing authorities. Among his other positions, Chico worked for the Tohono O'odham Indian Housing Authority for 20 years.



# How Did I Miss That?

*Unlikely lottery numbers, the GOP's Benghazi obsession and the politics of Washington football* BY STEVE RUSSELL

Jeanne Leach of Three Rivers, Michigan said she was having “a really bad night at work.” So she decided to go out on her break. Sitting in a Mickey D's drive-through, she figured she would check her Powerball numbers. She won \$310.5 million.

My cousin Ray Sixkiller was amused. “Don't tell me,” he laughed. “She decided to super size it?”

\*\*\*

Stuart Stevens is a Republican strategist who was a major mover in the Romney campaign. He could be forgiven that, because his consulting firm has the best record in GOP state races, bar none. On *Hardball*, he made a gutsy prediction that the Republican nominee next year will have held elective office. The prediction was gutsy because all the people on top are newbies: Ben Carson, Carly Fiorina and The Donald Trump.

Chris Matthews responded, “Prior public service is like a rap sheet.”

\*\*\*

The nightmarish end of the record of public service rendered by U.S. Ambassador to Libya Chris Stevens (Chinook) might finally be over, thanks to House Majority Leader and former Speaker heir apparent Kevin McCarthy—who blurted out the truth about the latest investigation into the riot that took the lives of Stevens and three others. Asked on Fox News what the Republicans have accomplished since they gained the majority, he replied that they had appointed a select committee on Benghazi and tanked Hillary Clinton's poll numbers.

In the ensuing uproar, McCarthy withdrew from the race to be third in line for the presidency—a scary thought—and endorsed former vice presidential nominee Paul Ryan, who does not want the office.

My Republican Cousin Ray was in full-on sarcasm mode: “This is the finest moment for my party since that fool in Pennsylvania said the purpose of voter ID laws is to cut Obama's margins.”

\*\*\*

The Benghazi Select Committee is on track to spend \$6 million. If it meets its stated goal of publishing a report in time to ding Clinton in 2016 elections, it will be the longest investigation in the history of Congress. Iran-Contra? Watergate? No, Benghazi.

I could not resist piling on, so I asked Ray to remind me how many votes the House had taken to repeal Obamacare and protect 16.5 million people from having health insurance.

\*\*\*

Jeb Bush said that the Washington football team does not need to change its name, adding, “Native American tribes generally don't find it offensive.”

Politico reported some contributions to a SuperPAC supporting Bush for president by NFL team owners. I will refer to team names, excepting the one that's a racial slur. The Houston Texans gave Bush \$500,000. The New York Jets are owned by Bush's national finance chairman, so the Jets have contributed over half a million dollars.

The owner of the Washington team dropped a paltry \$100,000, so he didn't pay for Bush's opinion.

“I think he did,” Cousin Ray growled. “When a candidate isn't polling in double digits, a six-figure contribution is persuasive.”

After Cousin Ray made that remark, one of the SuperPACs disgorged \$1.9 million for ads in three states to buy Bush's numbers back up.

\*\*\*

Cousin Ray is tired of my razzing about the Republican mullahs waging jihad against women's access to reproductive health care. This week, he brought me a report from Amnesty International about what happened when the Taliban took over Kunduz, Afghanistan. The Taliban do not approve of women controlling their own reproductive decisions, and so they target providers of birth control and abortions for gang rape and killing.

Point taken. Being raped and killed is much worse than having your clinic closed.

\*\*\*

Douglas County, Oregon Sheriff John Hanlin linked on his personal Facebook page after the Sandy Hook Massacre to a video claiming that Sandy Hook was faked by the federal government for the purpose of confiscating guns. This week, Sheriff Tinfoil Hat's department was among the first responders to a mass shooting at Umpqua Community College.

“There is no truth to the rumor,” Cousin Ray said with a sigh, “that black helicopters landed near the Sheriff's Department the night before the shooting and unloaded bales of money.”

\*\*\*

The federal prison system will soon make the biggest release of prisoners in history—some 6,000, all of them nonviolent offenders, most doing time for drugs. The reason for the release is that these people have already served the time they would get under current sentencing guidelines.

Cousin Ray asked how much time Leonard Peltier would have served if he had gotten a fair trial. Beats me. <http://bit.ly/1NyPdb5> ☞



*Twenty-year-old Demetrius Williams performed a fancy dance at the 27th Native American Festival at the Moundville Archaeological Park in Moundville, Alabama on October 9.*

## UPCOMING POW WOWS

### RED CLAY POW WOW

10/23/15—10/25/15

Red Clay State Park

1140 Red Clay Park

Cleveland, TN

423-240-7270

[naservices@gmail.com](mailto:naservices@gmail.com)

[NAServices.org](http://NAServices.org)

### 32ND ANNUAL ROY TRACK MEMORIAL MESA POW WOW

10/23/15—10/25/15

Pioneer Park

525 East Main Street

Mesa, AZ

602-799-0260

[roytrack@aol.com](mailto:roytrack@aol.com)

### 38TH ANNUAL UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MILWAUKEE AUTUMN POW WOW

10/24/15

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Ballroom

2200 East Kenwood Blvd

Milwaukee, WI

414-229-5880

[joylogan@uwm.edu](mailto:joylogan@uwm.edu)

[aiss.UWM.edu](http://aiss.UWM.edu)

### STONE MOUNTAIN PARK INDIAN FESTIVAL AND POW WOW

10/29/15—11/1/15

Stone Mountain Park

US Highway 78 East

Stone Mountain, GA

[StoneMountainPark.com/events/Indian-Festival-and-Pow-Wow.aspx](http://StoneMountainPark.com/events/Indian-Festival-and-Pow-Wow.aspx)





*San Pasqual Vice Chairwoman Victoria Diaz was one of many tribal leaders at Native American Day in California.*

PAULA SCHULTZ

**THE BIG PICTURE**