



# Indian Country

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

## A Letter from the Publisher



*Shekóli.* A house divided may not stand. But for Indians, finding friends on both sides of the American political divide is smart politics. When we engage in diplomacy with the federal government, it is much better if both parties at the negotiating table look for mutually beneficial relationships, as opposed to adversarial ones.

For years it has been difficult not to look at the United States as partner in a deal gone bad. With compromise often leading to more rotten results, the challenge has been to educate U.S. legislators about the realities of treaty rights and legal obligations.

The Obama administration has for two terms openly embraced the idea of ending old adversarial relationships and has moved to settle cases and disputes that have lasted for decades. Now there is news of a \$186 million settlement that resolves a long-standing land dispute involving the federal government and the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations.

“This settlement represents a significant milestone in helping solidify and improve our relationship with the United States,” says Chickasaw Nation Governor Bill Anoatubby in this week’s feature. At a celebratory sign-

ing attended by Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewel at the Choctaw Event Center, Choctaw Chief Gary Batton also hailed the improved federal relations. After more than 100 years of mismanagement of timber and other resources, the three nations ended one era and started another.

Also this week is an ICTMN interview with freshman Rep. Ryan Zinke (R-Montana), a former Navy SEAL team commander, amid a barnstorming tour of his state’s historic Hi-Line region. Zinke’s tour included meetings with leaders of Native nations. In his outreach to the Blackfeet and Crow, Zinke advocated an appealing and solidly Republican party line: reducing regulation for economic development and resource extraction. “Sovereignty is not going through a labyrinth of rules that are far greater than other federal lands or state lands,” Zinke tells ICTMN. “It’s not right.”

Credit the man for knowing his audience.

*NA Ki wa,*

*Ray Halbritter*

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### The Worst Possible Candidate

*Although presidential candidate Donald Trump is known for bad-mouthing minorities in general, Gyasi Ross (Blackfeet Nation/Suquamish Territories) points up his particular animus toward Natives:*

There is one singularly bad candidate for Native people. That's right: Donald Trump. I laughed about it early on: "He doesn't even believe what he's saying." And I still don't think that he believes 90 percent of what he says. But it doesn't matter. If you rule up enough racist, xenophobic, misogynistic energy as he has done, things get

dangerous. America already struggles getting past its racist pasts. It certainly doesn't need new bigots stirring the pot.

Trump has a long history of antagonizing Native people.

Obviously, there's the history of Trump crying to Congress that American Indian casinos should be shut down because Indian casinos are going to create "the biggest organized crime problem in the history of this country. Al Capone is going to look like a baby."

Then there was Trump playing racial policeman about mixed members of the Mashantucket Pequot Tribe, saying, "They don't look like Indians to me." Additionally,

Trump recently was kind enough to speak for Native people about the Washington Redskins franchise: "I know Indians that are extremely proud of that name."

Trump also recently went on record to say that if elected, "I will immediately approve the Keystone XL pipeline," trampling on the sacred sites and water supplies of many, many Native people. There are plenty more examples.

And while we don't have absolute certainty about who will be best for Native people in this upcoming election cycle, we do know who will be the worst. Thank you, Donald Trump, for making that clear. <http://bit.ly/1MRiQ5W> ☞

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### Trick Or Treat Indeed

*It's that time of year again for Halloween and culturally degrading Native get-ups alike, writes Ruth Hopkins (Sisseton Wahpeton & Mdewakanton Dakota, Hunkpapa Lakota):*

When I go to the Halloween section of stores and see fake headdresses, plastic tomahawks and skimpy buckskin bikinis alongside werewolf and zombie masks, it's disheartening. Is this what society thinks we are? Monsters? Figments of the imagination?

Talk about dehumanizing. The "Indian" costumes people are wearing are insult-

ing, offensive and horribly inaccurate.

Pocahottie costumes are the worst. Real Native women are out here running Indian country, playing for the WNBA and winning Mrs. Universe pageants. Meanwhile, bratty sorority girls and thirst-trapping celebrities are bouncing around in plastic breastplates made in China, faux leather panties and war bonnets that are meant to be kept sacred and reserved for Native leaders who have earned each feather through great acts of valor.

I can't lie. Sometimes I'm tempted to snatch headdresses right off their heads, and I know I'm not the only one. Call it righteous anger or a reckoning.

If you ever get too comfortable in your

Native skin, let's not forget: Halloween is sandwiched between a holiday that honors a greedy, lost, European slave trader who is largely responsible for the annihilation of millions of Indigenous people and another that is based on a heartwarming myth that should be called Thanks-taking instead of Thanksgiving.

Natives have been disrespected for way too long. So watch us make Halloween our own, Columbus Day fall to Indigenous People's Day, and Thanksgiving become a day when real history is acknowledged and children are educated about it—while Natives hold feasts of harvest with all of their extended family. <http://bit.ly/1MZASIT> ☞

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### Support The Bears Ears Project

*Jim Enote, director of the A:shiwi A:wam Museum and Heritage Center, backs the current proposal for a unique conservatorship of a national monument to oversee the mammoth Bears Ears plateaus in Utah:*

The effort by five tribes to establish a new national monument west of the Four Corners region is worthy of our attention. Tribes and the federal government would collaboratively co-manage the monument as equal partners. Upper-level policy and decision-making for the monument would be conducted through a monument commission comprising equally

numbered tribal and federal representatives. Tribal authority would not be limited to occasional tribal consultations.

The Bears Ears monument concept will actualize a vision whereby indigenous traditional knowledge and science are given equal treatment and application. This is particularly important because the Bears Ears area is dense with cultural resources and is still an operative cultural landscape for several regional tribes.

The ancient springs, shelters, shrines, petroglyphs, pictographs, plants and mineral gathering places of the Bears Ears area are blessed in perpetuity and must be protected. Sadly, the area of the proposed monument has been ground zero

for looters of cultural resources. As tribal peoples have become increasingly mobile and able to visit the Bears Ears area, what they find is not always pleasant.

Imagine a national monument where your presence is needed to complete a co-existing relationship of people and place. How this sense of home and place is interpreted would be a special task for the monument's staff. There will be an opportunity to make the monument a place to create original meaning from a complicated history and with a new relevance—to negotiate and create innovative plans based in new environmental criteria, lexicon and vision.

A Bears Ears monument would signify restoration. <http://bit.ly/1NMgvuu> ☞

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### Emergency Contraception Now Available Through All IHS Facilities


BY MARY ANNETTE PEMBER

American Indian and Alaska Native women can now freely access the emergency contraception pill known as Plan B at Indian Health Service (IHS) clinics. The IHS last week finalized a policy whereby the over-the-counter pill is available at its facilities to women of any age, with no questions asked.

The updated policy carries out a 2013 federal court order to the Food and Drug Administration to approve Plan B as an over-the-counter drug for women of all ages without a prescription. However, the IHS left the decision to dispense the pill up to individual service units.

As a result of this choice, dispensing policies were uncoordinated. According to surveys published by the Native American Women's Health Education Resource Center (NAWHERC), some IHS clinics required women to be at least 18 years old, or required a doctor's prescription, or did not offer the medication at all.

NAWHERC was joined in its efforts to convince the IHS to standardize Plan B policies by the American Civil Liberties Union and Amnesty International. In addition, Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-California) conducted a survey in March that exposed a lack of access to Plan B among Native women; she urged the Department of Health and Human Services to take action.

"This policy is way overdue," said NAWHERC Director Charon Asetoyer. "Denying equal access to health care for Native women is a violation of human rights." <http://bit.ly/1NQVq2a> 

### California Doctor Accused Of Stealing 30,000 Native Artifacts


BY THERESA BRAINE

A California anesthesiologist has been indicted on multiple felony counts of looting some 30,000 Native artifacts from private lands and national parks. Jonathan Bourne, 59, of Mammoth Lakes was arraigned on October 5 after being charged with violating the Archaeological Resources Protection Act.

Bourne is charged with eight counts of transporting archeological resources more than 100 years old from public lands in Nevada to California in 2010 and 2011, the Eastern District of California U.S. Attorney's Office said. These included obsidian biface tools, Steatite pendants, and glass beads allegedly removed from a tribal cremation and burial site.

Bourne is also charged with six counts of "unauthorized excavation and removal damage or defacement of archaeological resources in Death Valley National Park, Inyo National Forest, and Sierra National Forest" between 2010 and 2014, the U.S. Attorney's Office said. Those resources included dart points, stone tablets, and a juniper bow staff.

For the last six counts, Bourne allegedly "willfully injured property of the United States by excavating, removing damaging and defacing cultural artifacts on land administered by the United States Forest Service and the National Park Service in the Counties of Mono, Inyo, and Fresno," the authorities said.

If convicted, Bourne could spend up to 98 years in prison. <http://bit.ly/1hLr4zG> 

## Seattle City Council Acknowledges Pain Of Boarding School Era

BY RICHARD WALKER

The Seattle, Washington city council has formally noted the injustices of the boarding school era by passing a resolution that acknowledged “the various harms and ongoing historical and inter-generational traumas” and “subsequent abuse and neglect” that boarding school policies had inflicted on American Indian, First Nations, and Alaskan Natives.

The resolution, which was approved on October 12, further calls on the U.S. to examine its human rights record and to work with American Indian and Alaskan Native peoples “in efforts of reconciliation in addressing the impacts of historical trauma, language and cultural loss, and alleged genocide.”

“The supposed goal [of the boarding schools] was to ‘Kill the Indian, save the man,’” said the resolution’s sponsor, city council member Kshama Sawant. Sawant called the resolution “another step toward getting the city to take real action to address the poverty, oppression, and marginalization that the community faces to this day.”

The resolution was passed on Seattle’s second annual Indigenous Peoples’ Day, which included a rally and march to Seattle City Hall, drumming and songs, a keynote address by Winona LaDuke (Ojibwe), and a celebration at Daybreak Star Indian Cultural Center.

Seattle, named for the mid-1800s leader of the Duwamish and Suquamish peoples, is the largest city in a state with 29 federally recognized Native nations. The first American Indian boarding school in the U.S. was established at the Yakama Nation in the eastern portion of the state in 1860. Today, almost 65,000 students in Washington identify as Native American or Alaskan Native.

<http://bit.ly/1W3Ah9x>

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## 'Controlled Contact' Is Illegal and Dangerous, Indigenous Leaders Say

BY RICK KEARNS

The recently advanced idea of “controlled contact,” whereby anthropologists might observe and study isolated Indigenous Peoples in Latin America without causing them harm, has come under attack from critics.

The criticism is a response to an article in the June issue of *Science* magazine, wherein U.S. anthropologists Robert Walker and Kim Hill argued that “a well-designed contact can be quite safe”—unlike previous disastrous interactions in this hemisphere over the centuries. The authors asserted that with trained and culturally competent personnel, contacts could be “humane and ethical.”

But an open letter signed by 10 indigenous organizations from Brazil, Paraguay and Peru disagrees. “The proposal is both dangerous and illegal, and undermines the rights that Indigenous Peoples have fought long and hard for,” read the statement in part.

“The anthropologists claim that uncontacted tribes are unviable, but this dangerous myth plays into the hands of those who wish to invade and exploit tribal people’s ancestral homelands,” the letter also said. “The real threats against uncontacted tribes’ futures are genocidal violence, the invasion of their lands and theft of their natural resources, and prevailing racist attitudes.”

“The place where the uncontacted Indians live, fish, hunt and plant must be protected,” said one critic, the Yanomami shaman Davi Kopenawa, who is president of the Hutukara Yanomami Association. “The whole world must know that they are there in their forest and that the authorities must respect their right to live there.”

The letter signers are supported by the advocacy group Survival International. <http://bit.ly/1PqPq0k> ☞

## Ayn Rand Said ‘Savages’ Had No Right To U.S. Land

Not only did Native Americans not have a right to their homeland, said the noted conservative philosopher Ayn Rand at a public forum 41 years ago, white people were justified in conquering them, Salon.com reported last week.

Rand made these remarks before the senior class of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point during a question-and-answer session following her seminal talk “Philosophy: Who Needs It” on March 6, 1974. In a recently uncovered transcript that Salon reprinted, Rand held forth as follows:

“I do not think that they [Native Americans] have any right to live in a country merely because they were born here and acted and lived like savages,” said Rand. “[S]ince the Indians did not have any property rights—they didn’t have the concept of property ... they didn’t have any rights to the land, and there was no reason for anyone to grant them rights which they had not conceived and were not using.”

Rand went on, “Let’s suppose they were all beautifully innocent savages, which they certainly were not. What was it that they were fighting for, if they opposed white men on this continent? For their wish to continue a primitive existence, their right to keep part of the earth untouched, unused, and not even as property, but just keep everybody out so that you will live practically like an animal, or maybe a few caves about.”

Rand also declared, “Any white person who brings the elements of civilization had the right to take over this continent, and it is great that some people did.”

<http://bit.ly/1Ndo8ar> ☞

## Native Community Development Financing Institution Taps New Revenue Source

BY MARK FOGARTY

A Native community development financial institution (CDFI) has become the first such American Indian group to take part in a new guarantee program run by the federal CDFI Fund. The Citizens Potawatomi Community Development Corp. of Shawnee, Oklahoma will use the proceeds from its \$16 million bond loan for large-scale commercial real estate projects in its service area.

The financing was part of an Oppor-

tunity Finance Network-issued bond of \$127 million on behalf of seven eligible CDFIs that serve urban, rural, and Native American communities. The CDFI Fund, a unit of the U.S. Treasury, called this issue “the most diverse application approved thus far in the CDFI Bond Guarantee Program.”

In all, the CDFI Fund guaranteed \$324 million in bonds in this round. Altogether, nine bond loans were guaranteed this fiscal year, bringing the total guaranteed to date to \$852 million. All of the bond proceeds are designed to provide long-term, fixed-rate capital for projects in low-income and underserved commu-

nities. The ultimate source of the funds is the Federal Financing Bank.

By way of comparison, the CDFI Fund has disbursed \$20 million to 43 Native community development financial institutions in its latest round of Native American CDFI Assistance funding. This is less than \$1 million for each institution but up from the \$12.2 million total of FY 2014.

Since its inception, the CDFI Fund has allocated more than \$100 million to Native CDFIs. The Fund now certifies more than 70 Native CDFIs, with many more seeking certification.

<http://bit.ly/1MaF3Hb> ☞

# In Canada, An Indigenous Victory

*National election results bode well for aboriginal voices* BY CARA MCKENNA

**Bottom line:** *There is a renewed rush of indigenous power in Ottawa, reaching all the way up to the prime minister's office.*

Indigenous leaders welcomed the victory of Justin Trudeau's Liberal Party over the Conservative Party of longtime Prime Minister Stephen Harper in Canada's October 19 national election, which ushered in Trudeau as Harper's successor.

At the same time, they hailed Liberal Party gains across the country and an unprecedented number of aboriginal Members of Parliament (M.P.s) who will now join the House of Commons.

During his campaign, Trudeau stressed renewed outreach to aboriginal communities. Indigenous leaders, encouraged by the Liberal Party's inclusive platform, exhorted First Nations, Métis and Inuit people to register and vote.

"We welcome the new federal government," said Assembly of First Nations National Chief Perry Bellegarde. "The Liberals put out a vision for real change. The Prime Minister spoke in his victory speech about a renewed nation-to-nation relationship that respects rights and honors treaties. We are ready to start working now on those terms to close the gap together and build a stronger country for all of us."

"Canadians have spoken," said Trudeau in his acceptance speech. "You want a government with a vision and an agenda for this country that is positive and ambitious and hopeful."

Liberals overtook a number of Conservative strongholds, including the New Brunswick riding (district) of former Aboriginal Affairs Minister Bernard Valcourt. Valcourt was in office during the Idle No More movement and the advent of several controversial pieces of legislation, including the First Nations Control

of First Nations Education Act.

A record of 10 First Nations, Inuit and Métis M.P.s will now represent ridings across Canada for the Liberal and New Democratic parties, occupying three percent of the total number of 338 seats. At the polls, indigenous voter participation appeared to reach new levels.

Among other victors, former B.C. Assembly of First Nations regional chief Jody Wilson-Raybould was elected as a Liberal M.P. in the newly created Vancouver

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*'We are ready to start working now to close the gap and build a stronger country for all of us.'*

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Granville riding, which sits in the middle of the city.

"I feel fantastic," Wilson-Raybould said after getting 44 percent of the vote. "It was a great night for the Liberal Party and it was a great night for Canadians who decided they wanted to be part of a change in this country and how it is run."

Another successful Liberal Party candidate was Robert-Falcon Ouellette, who unseated longtime New Democratic Party (NDP) M.P. Pat Martin in the Winnipeg Centre riding. Ouellette said in his victory speech that the riding encompasses both rich and poor areas and that he hopes to unite people of all backgrounds.

"Tonight is only the beginning," he said. "We have taken a first step on the journey together."


In Nunavut, the Liberal sweep unseated Canada's first Inuk cabinet minister, Leona Aglukkaq. Conservative Aglukkaq was defeated by Hunter Tootoo, who is also indigenous.

Along with Manitoba, British Columbia and Nunavut, the Liberals now have aboriginal representation in Ontario, the Northwest Territories and Labrador. The NDP has a total of two indigenous M.P.s in Quebec and Saskatchewan. A total of 54 aboriginal candidates ran across Canada, according to CBC News.

In the last election, seven aboriginal M.P.s were voted in, which was also a record at the time.

"The UBCIC congratulates the ten indigenous M.P.s elected last night," said Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President of the Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs. "Specifically, Jody Wilson-Raybould who as Regional Chief of the B.C. Assembly of First Nations won the respect of many with her strong resolve, and we look forward to working with her as a likely and essential member of Cabinet."

"For me, this was the most important election in my lifetime," said Wilson-Raybould, 44, in her victory speech. "This election became about who we are as Canadians, about what we want for our country. People wanted to start another, better path for our country where we can ensure that all voices are heard."

"I'm very proud to be an aboriginal person in this country and proud of the diversity that exists in Vancouver-Granville, and we need to ensure that diversity is reflected in the decisions, discussions and debates we have as a government." <http://bit.ly/1M5NIky> and <http://bit.ly/1XkbomZ> 

# Service And Outreach

For San Manuel Band leader, gaming is just the start **BY KRISTIN BUTLER**

**Bottom Line:** Last month, Lynn Valbuena joined the Gaming Hall of Fame. But there is much more to this pioneering Native leader than that.

“It’s not about me, it’s about us,” says Lynn Valbuena, chair of the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, of her recent induction into the American Gaming Association’s (AGA) Gaming Hall of Fame. Induction is the industry’s highest honor, awarded to those who have made significant contributions in leadership and entertainment.

In her acceptance speech, she recalls, she told the assembled, “I’m accepting this award on behalf of Indian country. We all work so tirelessly, and we are not all recognized for what we do.”

At the September 30 ceremony at the Global Gaming Expo at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas, Valbuena joined a distinguished group. Her fellow members include not only such widely known gaming figures as Steve Wynn and Donald Trump but entertainment legends like Frank Sinatra and Celine Dion.

Valbuena is the third Native American to be elected to the Gaming Hall of Fame. The first, in 1993, was Leonard Prescott, former chair of the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community and then-chairman of Little Six, Inc., the tribal gaming enterprise. The second, two years ago, was Ernie Stevens, Jr. (Oneida Nation of Wisconsin), who this spring started his eighth consecutive term as chairman of the National Indian Gaming Association (NIGA).

In Valbuena’s more than four decades

of service to San Manuel and Indian country, she has arduously fought to protect and advance tribal rights and business interests. It has been a long and rewarding journey.

“I turned 61 this year,” she reflects. “I started working with my tribe as a housing commissioner at age 20. From that

its San Manuel Indian Bingo & Casino is easily accessible off Interstate 10, located just north of the reservation in Highland on the San Manuel Indian Reservation. It is the nearest class III gaming facility to Los Angeles, approximately 70 miles east.

San Manuel community, known as the Yuhaviatam or “People of the Pines,” remains one of several small tribes of what was once a great Serrano Indian Nation. Before the incursion of non-Natives into their region, the Nation was composed of many clans and thousands of tribal members.

San Manuel has come a long way since launching their gaming enterprise in 1986. In those days, the people lived in 500-square-foot HUD [U.S. Housing & Urban Development] homes and waited on welfare provisions.

“We literally had nothing,” Valbuena says. “We had no water or electricity until the 1950s. As a child growing up on the reservation, I remember eating corn flakes. We would have to go outside and put water on them from the spout because we had no milk. We had welfare trucks come to our reservation with powdered milk sometimes.

“Those are things I’ll never forget. I don’t take for granted what we have now at San Manuel with [business] diversification and gaming.”

Valbuena was inspired in part by her grandmother Martha Chacon, who served as chair and spokeswoman for San Manuel in the early 1950s. “My mother and grandmother always told me, ‘Don’t forget who you are and where you came from.’ Things were hard; it wasn’t easy. I appreciate everything we



Valbuena: “We ask questions like, ‘What does sovereignty mean?’”

point I stayed involved with the tribe. I served as secretary/treasurer from 1992-1994, then as chair from 1994-1996. I was vice chair from 2008-2012. How things have changed!”

The San Manuel Band of Mission Indians’ nearly 1,000-acre reservation in Southern California consists mostly of mountainous land in the foothills of the San Bernardino Mountain region. But



*Valbuena with her fellow 2015 inductees into the AGA Gaming Hall of Fame*

have now.”

Valbuena had a 17-year career with the San Bernardino Police Department. She worked various roles including stenographer, police assistant in narcotics and missing persons, court officer and public information officer. In the 1980s she would finish her 8-to-5 job, immediately drive to the tribe’s bingo hall and change into her uniform to work her night shift from 6 p.m. to midnight.

“I wanted to learn the business and operation,” she says. “It was new to all of us.”

Her rise began when she left the police department in 1992 and was elected to the Business Committee at San Manuel. It was the beginning of a remarkable business and political career, replete with associations, memberships and leadership roles.

Among many other positions, she was NIGA secretary for 14 years and has been a member on the American Indian Chamber of Commerce of California advisory board for the past 16 years. As the 20-year chair of the Tribal Alliance of Sovereign Indian Nations, a coalition of California tribes, Valbuena initiates conversations with local and state politicians.

“We hold state legislature candidate forums, where we ask questions like, ‘What does sovereignty mean to you?

Have you ever visited a reservation?’” Valbuena says. “They let us know some of the things they don’t understand about tribes. And we’re always educating newly elected officials.”

Central to Valbuena’s mission is tribal solidarity. In a partnership called Four Fires, San Manuel has joined with the Forest County Potawatomi Community of Wisconsin, the Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin and the Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians on economic development projects.

These include a \$43 million hotel in Washington, D.C., the Residence Inn by Marriott; it is the first-ever joint business venture among Indian tribes. It is located within walking distance of Capitol Hill and three blocks from the National Museum of the American Indian and just blocks from the U.S. Capitol. A sister hotel, the \$53 million Residence Inn by Marriott, Three Fires, in Sacramento, sits a block from the state capitol building.

San Manuel’s relative success has made it possible for the tribe to give back. Over the past 15 years, the Band has contributed more than \$100 million to community-based groups and non-profit organizations in the Southern California region, and to Indian tribes and Native nonprofit groups across the country.

San Manuel is greatly focused on fostering Serrano speakers and carriers of culture. The tribe runs multiple programs through its Serrano Language Revitalization Project and offers kids and teens a glimpse at tribal politics through its youth committee. Young people also benefit from San Manuel’s commitment to higher education.

“Any college or vocational school [a San Manuel member] wants to attend, the tribe will take care of it, as long as they finish and graduate,” Valbuena says. In addition to helping tribal youth, Valbuena supports fellow women in leadership and gaming roles.

“Being involved with tribal politics for 40 years, you see things,” she reflects. “Back in the day, it was rare to see female leaders in tribal councils, as leaders, or as chair. I think nowadays, more and more, you see that. It’s great, because we have a lot

of great leaders who are females now in the gaming industry. I do what I can to mentor gaming leaders.”

Valbuena also maintains connections through the Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) in Washington, D.C. In December, she reached the end of her six-year term on the NMAI Board of Trustees, with two years as board secretary. And Valbuena has strong ties to the Autry National Center, a Los Angeles museum dedicated to exploring an inclusive history of the American West, where she is a trustee.

Always there is the responsibility that tribal people have to educate the public about the benefits that tribes bestow on their surrounding communities. Misleading information is rampant and continual outreach is vital to correct it, Valbuena says.

“A few years ago, I was asked to speak about tribal gaming and the structure of tribes at the Anaheim Convention Center in Orange County for a non-Native conference. When I said San Manuel is the county’s largest employer in the private sector with 3,700 employees, people in the audience were shocked!”

<http://bit.ly/IGMSdsq> 🍀



# ‘New Chapter In Our Trust’

With a historic settlement, an affirmative message

**Bottom Line:** *There was more than money involved in the end of a long-running Oklahoma tribal land lawsuit.*

Tribes and the Department of the Interior heralded the outcome of a recent \$186 million settlement to solve a longstanding land trust dispute between the U.S. government and the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations as a new chapter in tribal-federal relations.

“This settlement represents a significant milestone in helping solidify and improve our relationship with the United States,” said Chickasaw Nation Governor Bill Anoatubby.

The agreement resolved a 10-year-old lawsuit that challenged the way the federal government had managed the tribes’ trust resources. At the formal October 6 ceremony at the Choctaw Event Center in Durant, Oklahoma, Anoatubby and Choctaw Chief Gary Batton signed along with Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell.

The suit, *Chickasaw Nation and Choctaw Nation v. U.S. Department of the Interior*, was filed in 2005. However, it reached back more than 100 years, to just before Oklahoma became a state. The suit alleged that the U.S. mismanaged 1.3 million acres of Chickasaw and Choctaw timberlands, violating both the Administrative Procedure Act and the Fifth Amendment of the Constitution.

The \$186 million will be divided between the two tribes based on treaty agreements. The Choctaw will receive 75 percent, or \$139.5 million, and the Chickasaw the other 25 percent, or \$46.5 million. The signing of the agreement capped a two-day visit by Secretary Jewell to both nations on October 5 and 6.

“Today’s agreement is the latest addi-

tion to a record number of longstanding settlements resolved under this administration,” Jewell said. “This historic settlement is the start of a new chapter in our trust relationships with the Chickasaw and Choctaw Nations, and underscores our commitment to fulfilling those responsibilities to Native communities across the country.”



Interior Secretary Sally Jewell (center) signed with Chickasaw Nation Governor Bill Anoatubby (left) and Choctaw Nation Chief Gary Batton (right).

During the ceremony, Anoatubby acknowledged Jewell’s role.

“We respect the vital role Secretary Jewell has taken in helping make this historic settlement a reality,” he said. “We are confident she will play an essential role in our efforts to continue strengthening the relationship between our governments, because we believe she has a unique appreciation for the mutual benefits of a positive government-to-government relationship.”

Jewell indicated as much by greeting the crowd, many of them wearing traditional attire, with the Choctaw “Halito!” In a statement, the Choctaw Nation said that the gesture “spoke to her empathy and support of American Indian issues and people.”

Batton, too, spoke of improved federal relations. “This visit marks the start of a revitalized relationship with the United States,” he said. “Secretary Jewell’s presence

here, coming soon after President Obama’s recent visit, also serves to reaffirm that the foundation of this relationship is government-to-government.”

In July, President Obama visited the Choctaw Nation and designated it as a “Promise Zone” initiative under a new anti-poverty program meant to provide resources such as grants and tax incen-

tives to help improve conditions in persistently high poverty communities.

Both Batton and Anoatubby said the revenue from the settlement would be invested in education and other endeavors. “We plan for the proceeds to be invested in our people—expanding education, creating jobs and promoting economic development and culture, as well as a portion to be invested in a sustainability fund for the future of our Citizens,” Batton said.

Anoatubby had announced the settlement to members in his State of the Nation Address on October 3. “Our portion of the funds will be carefully invested and the returns used for activities that improve the overall quality of life of all Chickasaws,” he said. The settlement, he added, was about more than money.

“Perhaps more important than the actual dollars, this settlement turns the page,” said Anoatubby. “It represents the United States’ acknowledgement of its mistreatment of the Chickasaw Nation and American Indians of Indian Territory during those early decades of the twentieth century. We continue to actively protect and defend our sovereignty, but we will continue to strive to improve our working relationship with the government and its agencies and agents.”

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

# The View From Montana

*'Sovereignty is not going through a labyrinth of rules'* BY CHARLES KADER

**Bottom Line:** *Indian Country Today Media Network caught up with freshman Rep. Ryan Zinke (R-Montana), a former SEAL team commander, amid a barnstorming tour of his state's historic Hi-Line region, which included meeting with Native American tribal representatives.*

**Thank you for taking time from your recent travels to talk to ICTMN.**

You are welcome. Montana is a big state. Last week we drove 2,000 miles, all within the state. That's about as far as if you drove from Caribou, Maine, to Key West, Florida. We have counties bigger than some states. And we also have seven sovereign tribes—eight if you count the Little Shell.

**You met with members of the Blackfeet Tribe and discussed border issues, in addition to the exercise of tribal sovereignty.**

In Browning I visited with Blackfeet Chairman Harry Barnes, Secretary Tyson Running Wolf, as well as other tribe members. They told me that they are seeking to expand the border access to Canada and the other Blackfoot Confederacy (Niitsitapi). Right now the border ports of entry close after sundown and do not reopen until the morning.

**It's ironic: Blackfeet Nation trackers help secure the southern border via the special Shadow Wolves unit of the Department of Homeland Security. But when they return to Montana, their access to their cultural heritage is restricted.**

Tribal sovereignty and respect is an important part in federal recognition. Tribal government must be seen as a relationship of equals. Sovereignty means something. The Blackfeet Tribe has earned its status as a warrior nation. Many military veterans come from their people who have defended the United States. It cannot be overlooked.

**Would you consider joining the bipartisan Northern Border Caucus to help to advance those sentiments that you heard recently?**

Montana has one of the longest foreign borders in our nation, and we have a special relationship with Canada as neighbors, trade partners and friends. It was one of the first caucuses I joined.

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*'Montana is a big state. Last week we drove 2,000 miles, all within the state. That's about as far from Caribou, Maine to Key West, Florida.'*

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**H.R. 538, the Native American Energy Act, just passed by a 254-173 margin this month, with Republican majority support. News coverage has centered on a streamlining of the licensing process of energy projects on tribally controlled lands, and bypassing regulatory challenges. Why did you vote for the Act?**

This bill represents a significant step for tribes across the country. I have only been in this seat for a short time and I can tell you that the federal government has infringed on the sovereignty of our tribes to develop their own natural resources.

What is sovereignty? Sovereignty is not going through a labyrinth of rules that are far greater than other federal lands


or state lands. It's not right. It's not right for the Crow People who want to develop their coal. It's not right for every Indian Nation across this land. The government hinders their ability to develop energy resources, and this is coming straight from a June 2015 GAO report. The Crow Tribe, a proud tribe within Montana, wants to be self-sufficient. They would like to have a prosperous economy and do right by their people.

Chairman Old Coyote has said a war on coal is a war on the Crow People. And he is right. There is no better job on the Crow Reservation than a coal job. There is no better future than having access to the nine billion tons of coal that are locked in the ground. However, these resources have yet to be developed because the federal government is in the way.

This bill doesn't skirt environmental rules or laws. It simply streamlines the process. It reduces bureaucracy and deters frivolous lawsuits that limit competitiveness of tribal energy development. This bill honors their sovereignty and their rights.

**What one memory sticks out from the past busy week that you have had?**

Definitely the memorial ceremony for Michael Bell, a fallen Navy SEAL from the Assiniboine Sioux tribe. Michael was tragically murdered in 2006 while he was at home between deployments. This really struck me because I was one of his instructors early in his career. Michael was a warrior's warrior; he made me proud as his commander and as a Montanan.

I visited Wolf Point to see Michael's family and tribal leaders and to honor Michael's life and sacrifice. They honored me with a traditional name, Seal Leader, performed a name song, and presented me with beautiful hand-made gifts in Michael's honor. I left knowing I had family in Wolf Point. <http://bit.ly/203PFC6> 



# RENOVATED SECTION 8 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Cow Bay HDFC Inc. is pleased to announce that applications are now being accepted for Section 8 rental apartments at Cow Bay Apartments, 2 Bay Green Lane, Port Washington, NY 11050. The size and rent for the apartments are as follows:



Apartments Available	Apartment Size	Maximum Rent (Subsidized)
TBD	Studio	\$1,675.00
TBD	1 Bedroom	\$1,900.00
TBD	2 Bedroom	\$2,375.00
TBD	3 Bedroom	\$2,725.00
TBD	4 Bedroom	\$2,900.00

*There are NO minimum incomes. Eligible households will be required to pay 30% of income for rent.*

*Maximum Tenant Rent for those households that qualify includes all utilities. Maximum incomes vary by household size and are determined by the current HUD Section 8 guidelines.*

*TBD - Number of apartments of each bedroom size are to be determined based on current occupancy.*

Applicants will be required to meet income and additional selection criteria. Applications may be requested from **Cornell Pace Inc., 542 Main Street, New Rochelle, NY 10801** or online at [www.cornellpace.com](http://www.cornellpace.com).

Requests for applications should include a self-addressed legal size envelope. Completed applications must be returned by regular first class mail only.



Cow Bay HDFC Inc. and its management are equal opportunity housing providers and do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status or disability.

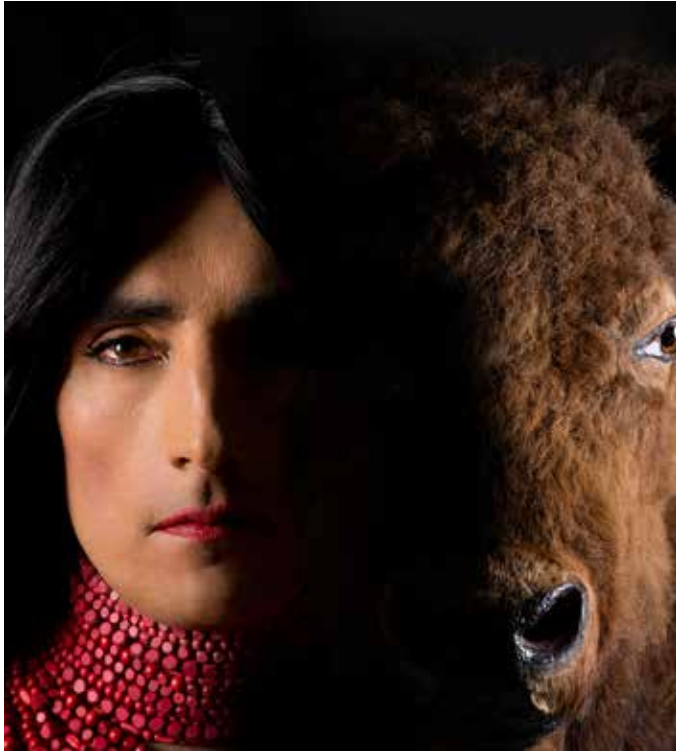


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*“The Rise and Fall of Civilization” by Kent Monkman (of Cree ancestry) was featured at Toronto’s imagineNative Film + Media Arts Festival.*



*This 40,000-year-old wampum belongs to the Tomaquag Museum of Rhode Island, which received a \$30,000 Agriculture Department grant.*



*During a recent barnstorming tour of his state, Montana Rep. Ryan Zinke (R) met with Native tribal representatives.*



*The longhouse at Evergreen State College celebrated its 20th anniversary on October 17.*

IMAGINEINATIVE; CHRISTINA ROSE; FACEBOOK/CONGRESSMANRYANZINKE.COM; RICHARD WALKER



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.

**Woodstock Manor  
755 Palisade Avenue  
Yonkers, NY 10703**

60 Unit *Senior Citizen* Residence

Located at  
755 Palisade Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10703

Age 62 & Older of very low income\*

Studio & One Bedroom Units Only

Beginning October 21, 2015 through November 20, 2015  
Woodstock Manor will be updating its waiting list

If interested, please call our office at (914) 969-6159 or go to our website at <http://hhmgmt.com/woodstockmanor>

*\*The household must compose of one or more persons at least one of whom is 62 years of age or more at the time of initial occupancy.*



**Ross Towers**

a 112 unit building including units designated for the mobility impaired located at 200Lafayette Avenue Suffern, NY 10901 is reopening its waiting list for rental to elderly 62 years of age and over with limited income of \$34,600 for 1 person and \$39,550 for 2 persons.

Qualifications will be based on Section 8 Federal guidelines.

Interested persons may obtain an application by calling 845-357-9507 ext. 105, Monday thru Friday

9AM—1PM or

By writing to  
Ron Bynoe, General Manager  
Ross Towers—Rockland Home for the Aged  
P.O. Box 148  
Suffern, NY 10901

If you have a disability and need assistance with the application process, Please call Ron Bynoe at 845-357-9507 ext. 112.

Completed applications should be sent by regular mail and must be received no later than January 15th 2016.



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# Headlines from the Web

## TRIBAL MEMBERS SEEK FEDERAL HELP FOR SUICIDE RATES

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

## RIVER FIGHT BETWEEN MAINE, TRIBE COMES TO HEAD

<http://bit.ly/1QN5IDL>

## UC POLICE REMOVE OHLONE ELDER, ACTIVISTS FROM GILL TRACT

<http://bit.ly/1OCAS9Q>

## PLAINTIFFS DROP LAWSUIT CHALLENGING DAM TRANSFER TO MONTANA TRIBE

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

## COEUR D'ALENE CASINO LIQUOR LICENSE SUSPENDED

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

## WINDSOR WANTS LYTTON TRIBE TO GATHER SIGNATURES FOR VOTE

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

## Upcoming Events

### SACNAS NATIONAL CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 29-31

The annual meeting of the Society for Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science is expected to draw nearly 4,000 scientists and affiliates of color in an environment where the intersection of science, culture and community constitutes a celebration of identity and diversity. The conference is designed to inspire, engage and train participants as they pursue education and careers in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) fields.

**Location:** Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center, Maryland

### ABORIGINAL TRUST AND INVESTMENT WORKSHOP NOVEMBER 3-5

The three-day event is designed to educate and engage participants in discussion on the fundamentals of aboriginal settlement trusts and investment management. Attention will be paid to the analysis of how to use capital and income to effect change both in communities and the broader aboriginal sector. Also on the agenda will be managing public market and direct investments and exploring how they work together. Finally, the po-

tential impact of regulatory changes through the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act, and the Foreign Bank Account Report, on non-U.S. investors who invest in domestic securities will be examined.

**Location:** Regina Doubletree by Hilton, Regina, Saskatchewan

### FNHMA NATIONAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE NOVEMBER 3-5

The First Natives Health Managers Association will conduct more than a dozen workshops at its fifth national conference to further its goals of contributing to First Nations health service delivery at the community level.

**Location:** Westin Montreal Hotel, Montreal, Quebec

### TRIBAL FINANCIAL MANAGER CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

NOVEMBER 4-6

This program is offered through the Native American Finance Officers Association and Arizona State University's American Indian Policy Institute. Participants will learn about principles of Indian law and its effect on tribal financial management; government accounting standards and principles;

IRS Information Reporting Requirements for tribal employers under the Affordable Care Act; best practices for internal controls and procurement policies; key tools for developing and managing budgets; and the effects of federal, state and tribal taxation on tribal financial management, including development of revenue allocation plans.

**Location:** Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona

### WHITE HOUSE TRIBAL NATIONS CONFERENCE NOVEMBER 5

The seventh annual conference will provide leaders from the 567 federally recognized tribes with the opportunity to interact directly with high-level federal government officials and members of the White House Council on Native American Affairs. The gathering continues to build upon the Obama administration's commitment to strengthen the government-to-government relationship with Indian Country and to improve the lives of American Indians and Alaska Natives, with an emphasis on increasing opportunity for Native youth.

**Location:** The White House, Washington, D.C.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

Author Alex Jacobs wrote, "According to the Geneva Convention, we can't call what happened in the Americas 'genocide.'" Therefore, would it not be wise to organize and convene a new organization, located in Central or South America, whose judgment is truthful and not

Eurocentric—thereby giving voice to the reality of the Great American Genocide? We need not live in a world of purposeful applied fantasy.

Regarding Pope Francis, during his recent visit to this country he missed the opportunity to reverse 500 years of religious imperialism based upon the Bulls Dum Diversas, Romanus Pontifex, and the Inter Caetera. All these doctrines were designed to search out, capture,

vanquish and subdue pagans and other "enemies" of Christ. This is now known as the Doctrine of Discovery.

We once again must look to the rings of time and steel ourselves with the long view, living in right relationship and serving as seeds of fire for future generations.

—Sammy Snake  
St. Charles, Missouri



## TOP NEWS ALERTS

From IndianCountryTodayMediaNetwork.com

### COLLEGE VIOLATES NAGPRA TERMS

By failing to properly inventory its collection of 1,100 tribal artifacts, a Massachusetts college is in violation of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, the federal government has determined. The Interior Department issued its ruling following an investigation resulting from a complaint made in June against Andover Newton Theological School by Sealaska Heritage Institute. The school, which had planned a sale of objects that was suspended earlier this month, has 45 days to respond to the Interior Department's decision.

### NEW CHEROKEE HOSPITAL IS UNVEILED

With a ribbon cutting ceremony on October 15, the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians unveiled a new hospital on their North Carolina Reservation. The \$82 million, 150,000-square-foot Cherokee Indian Hospital was built entirely with tribal money, with no federal funding. It is the Band's fourth hospital and will begin seeing patients on November 16. "It's a monument to self-determination and an illustration of the magnitude of what can be accomplished when healthy, cooperative relationships are forged," said hospital CEO Casey Cooper.

**ATTACK ON XWISTEN BAND**  
A member of the Xwisten (Bridge River) Indian Band of British Columbia attacked its offices with a hammer on October 16, injuring 11 people

before he died while being taken into custody. The assailant, identified as David Allan Patrick, was facing an eviction. "He had complex social and health needs that our staff did not have the resources or training to adequately respond to," said Chief Susan James. "And when the situation become overwhelming for him, he lashed out."

### AWARD FOR INDIAN ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

Gary Davis, President and CEO of the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development (NCAIED), has received the National Director's Special Recognition Award of the U.S. Department of Commerce's Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA). The award recognizes individuals who have

made a significant impact on the success of minority business enterprises nationwide. MBDA National Director Alejandra Castillo presented the award last week during the National Minority Supplier Diversity Council Annual Convention in San Diego.

### FORMER NANTICOKE CHIEF WALKS ON

Chief Red Deer, Kenneth S. Clark, Sr. of the Nanticoke Indian Tribe of Delaware for 30 years, walked on a month before his 85th birthday, on October 9. Serving as chief from 1972 to 2002, he helped lead the respectful re-interment of ancestors' remains at the Island Field Site and Thompson Island, as well as the enactment of the Delaware Native American Remains Act. He was a veteran of U.S. Navy Seabees.

# UPCOMING POW WOWS

**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)

**AWI AKTA CHEROKEE VETERANS POW WOW**

11/7/15

Gage Park Zoological Shelter House

635 South West Gage Boulevard

Topeka, KS

785-272-5489

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

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

**5TH ANNUAL INDIANA UNIVERSITY TRADI-  
TIONAL POW WOW**

11/7/15—11/8/15

Indiana University - Alumni Hall

900 East 7th Street

Bloomington, IN

812-855-4814

[fnecc@indiana.edu](mailto:fnecc@indiana.edu)

[Indiana.edu/~fnecc/](http://Indiana.edu/~fnecc/)

**AUSTIN POW WOW AND AMERICAN  
INDIAN HERITAGE FESTIVAL**

11/7/15

Tony Burger Center

3200 Jones Road

Sunset Valley, TX

512-371-0628

[austinpowwow@grandecom.net](mailto:austinpowwow@grandecom.net)

[AustinPowWow.net/austin-powwow/](http://AustinPowWow.net/austin-powwow/)

**16TH ANNUAL CLEARFIELD VETERANS DAY  
POW WOW**

11/7/15—11/8/15

Clearfield County Fairground Expo II Building

5615 Park Street

Clearfield, PA

724-693-0549

[thomas.taylor@bayer.com](mailto:thomas.taylor@bayer.com)

[clearfieldvdpw.Homestead.com/clearfield.html](http://clearfieldvdpw.Homestead.com/clearfield.html)

**NATIVE AMERICAN RIGHTS FUND 45TH  
ANNIVERSARY COMMUNITY APPRECIATION  
POW WOW**

11/7/15

Colorado Convention Center, Exhibit Hall B1

700 14th Street

Denver, CO

303-447-8760

[powwow@narf.org](mailto:powwow@narf.org)

**RED MOUNTAIN EAGLE POW WOW**

11/7/15—11/8/15

Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community

1839 North Longmore Road

Scottsdale, AZ

208-241-2175

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

**NATIVE AMERICAN RIGHTS FUND 45TH  
ANNIVERSARY COMMUNITY APPRECIATION  
POW WOW**

11/7/15

Colorado Convention Center, Exhibit Hall B1

700 14th Street

Denver, CO

303-447-8760

[powwow@narf.org](mailto:powwow@narf.org)





CLIFFMATTIAPHOTOGRAPHY AND RED HAWK COUNCIL

*Artist, author and ICTMN contributor Gyasi Ross held forth at New York's Indigenous People's Day.*

**THE BIG PICTURE**