



Indian Country

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

A Letter from the Publisher

Shekóli. In one year, elections will be held that will bring change to the federal government of the United States. Will the incoming administration honor the gains in communication and understanding made by Native governments and build upon them? Or will the departure of President Barack Obama, the most supportive and arguably the most constructive chief executive of the U.S. towards Indians, set back the state of our government-to-government relations? As a news-gathering platform, ICTMN looks forward with anticipation to the wealth of stories that a key election cycle brings. Once again, underlying themes will inform discrete pieces of coverage, such as considerations concerning participation in elections, and how best to leverage Native strengths at the community level to negotiate for the best policies in Washington.



conversation,” she told ICTMN, “and I look forward to getting elected and making sure that voice is there.”

Indian voices were present at the Seventh Annual White House Tribal Nations Conference, also featured in this week’s newsletter. President Obama dropped in early for some unscripted conversation with five Native youth during a panel with college basketball and academic star Jude Schimmel. Arizona State University student Blossom Johnson brought up the fact that she was raised in a Navajo home with no running water and electricity. Citing decades of small budgets and mismanagement, Obama replied with an observation that would serve many politicians: “The first thing we needed to do was listen.”

In this week’s issue, contributor Adrian Jawort sits down with Denise Juneau for an in-depth conversation. Juneau was the first Native woman to be elected to statewide office in Montana as Superintendent of schools, where she pressed for the implementation of its widely admired Indian Education for All act. Now she hopes to be the first Native American woman elected to Congress, and she recently announced her candidacy for the state’s lone U.S. Representative seat. Her reasoning to embark on a grueling campaign is clear. “When Indians are at the table there’s a huge difference in the

Here at ICTMN, our job is to make sure the Indian story continues to be heard.

NA Ki wa,

Ray Halbritter

Table of *Contents*



2 COMMENTARY

3 NEWS

5 THE MIRACLE THAT SAVED
HEART BUTTE FROM
BURNING

7 DENISE JUNEAU FOR
CONGRESS

8 SHARING THE STAGE WITH
OBAMA

9 CLASSIFIEDS

10 WEEK IN PHOTOS

11 WEB, EVENTS, LETTER

12 CARTOON, ALERTS

13 HOW DID I MISS THAT

14 POW WOWS

15 BIG PICTURE

The Rules of War Are Made for Breaking

When it comes to war, much like everything else, there's always two sides, and as Steve Russell discusses those sides commonly point fingers.

"Massacre" is a slippery pejorative like "terrorist." If one man's terrorist is another man's freedom fighter or asymmetrical warrior, it's also true that the prevailing party in a battle never describes it as a massacre. Just typing those words reminded me of a one-sided battle from WWII, which our prevailing airmen have always called "the Marianas turkey shoot" instead of the more anodyne "Battle of the Philippine Sea."

The Turkey Shoot was as one-sided as many if not most battles from the Indian wars. Both the colonists and the Indians generally took whatever advantages they had and went for not just decimating but destroying. The Indians never completely

gave up driving white people back where they came from and the white people came to view the Indians as vermin that threatened the entire colonial enterprise and therefore had to be exterminated.

The English colonists, declaring political independence from their motherland, listed a bill of particulars against King George III as justification for what would certainly be treason if they lost the resulting war. Among the offenses alleged against the King:

He has...endeavoured to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages, whose known rule of warfare, is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions.

Raised where Indians were the most numerous minority, I was supposed to be lucky that, unlike the black kids, I was offered the same education as the whites. As soon as I knew the word "massacre," I was told it was something Indians did to white

people.

We are taught that the modern idea of total war, erasing the distinction between soldiers and non-combatants, started with the idea of "strategic bombing" by both sides in WWII. The purposes were to demoralize the home front and disrupt supplies.

The history of the Americas shows slaughter of non-combatants is nothing new. If Carl von Clausewitz had it right in his famous dictum, "War is merely the continuation of politics by other means," the slaughter of women and children has been the continuation of war by other means.

The other obvious commonality between WWII and the Indian wars is both sides pointing fingers at the other on the issue of who started it. There were always "rules of war," for what they were worth. Any attempt to enforce those "rules" has always been met by what we lawyers call *tu quoque*, "you do it, too." <http://bit.ly/1OHEfoe> ☞

Keystone's Not Dead: Don't Relax!

Keystone XL isn't quite dead as Mike Myers explains, but with it out of the way for the time being, attention should be focused on the Sandpiper Pipeline.

But I don't think we've heard the last of the Keystone XL Pipeline, especially if any of the contenders in the Republican clown car get into the White House. Should this happen then Keystone will be back with a vengeance and on an extremely fast track for approval. Just because Obama has said

no doesn't mean that it's gone away.

With Keystone out of the way for the moment people need to turn their attention to the Sandpiper Pipeline. The Sandpiper Pipeline would be a 610-mile, \$2.6 billion pipeline across North Dakota and Minnesota to transport 1.4 million barrels of oil per day from the Bakken region of North Dakota (the fracking fields) to Superior, Wisconsin, so it could be loaded onto ships and rail for further transport. The pipeline is being proposed by Enbridge Energy, a Calgary, Alberta, Canada, company, who already operates other oil pipelines in Min-

nesota and was driving the Keystone development.

Sandpiper hasn't gotten near as much attention as Keystone because it is wholly within the U.S. That project doesn't require federal permitting. Just state permitting. And this is where the battle has been, primarily in Minnesota. The focal point has been the Minnesota Public Utility Commission (PUC) that is responsible for issuing a Certificate of Need for the pipeline – which it did without requiring an Environmental Impact Statement. <http://bit.ly/1QlltPB> ☞

Ann Coulter—A Native American?

Educational consultant Christie Poitra takes issue with Ann Coulter's novel claim that she is a Native American, which she recently expressed on The View:

A couple of minutes into the interview, host Ana Navarro challenged Coulter's views about immigrants by asking if her family immigrated to America. Coulter responded by stating that she is actually a Native American because she descended from the early settlers who founded the United States.

Coulter's beliefs about the history of the

United States are steeped in a Manifest Destiny narrative. To Coulter, America came into existence because of the efforts and ingenuity of early settlers to discover an unoccupied territory and forge a government. Coulter defended this half-truth by stating, "I am not living in Cherokee Nation. So I am not an immigrant to Cherokee Nation. I am living in America—which was created by settlers, not immigrants."

Coulter's views on how America came to be purposefully ignore the long legacy of aboriginal land ownership. Moreover, she does not acknowledge that America was not unoccupied when it was "discovered" by settlers, or the atrocities that were com-

mitted against Native people that resulted in the displacement of these societies to the reservations that exist today.

The core of Coulter's argument against immigration is that there exist two classifications of immigrants: (1) the early settlers who predate the United States, and (2) everyone else. Native people or anyone who has immigrated in the last 100 years can fit into Coulter's narrowed definition of a "real American."

Coulter is soft-selling this country's painful history of colonization in order to spin a more palatable creation story of the United States that is in alignment with her political orientation. <http://bit.ly/1GQZ5ec> ☞

Obama Rejects Keystone XL

President Barack Obama has rejected outright the Keystone XL oil pipeline proposal, just ahead of global climate talks in Paris and less than a week after TransCanada Corp. asked for the government to halt its review of the controversial project.

"This morning, Secretary [of State] John Kerry informed me that after extensive public outreach, in consultation with other cabinet agencies, the State Department has decided that the Keystone XL pipeline would not serve the national interests of the United States," Obama said in an announcement to reporters at the White House on November 6. "I agree with that decision."

Although TransCanada and others in the oil industry had touted the project's job-creation potential, studies had shown that it would not in fact create many jobs.

The 1,700-mile-long, \$8 billion pipeline would have brought 800,000 barrels per day of bituminous crude from the oil sands of Alberta, Canada to the coast of the Gulf of Mexico, in Texas. The project was under review by the U.S. Department of State because it would cross the border between the two countries.

Studies showed the project would have contributed to global warming by increasing the capacity of the oil sands, adding even more carbon to the atmosphere—something Obama had said would cause him to reject the proposal.

Environmentalists and other opponents called the move a victory for Earth's—which is to say, everyone's—land and water.

"We stood our ground, and today President Obama stood with us, the pipeline fighters," said Jane Kleeb, director of Bold Nebraska, where the pipeline's route is mired in legal challenges. <http://bit.ly/1ksEJxM> 📱

Land Buy-Back Program: Interior Awaits Participants BY TANYA H. LEE

Tribes and individuals have until March 11, 2016 to let the U.S. Department of the Interior know they may want to participate (though not be committed to anything) in the next phase of the Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations.

Since 2013 the program has paid Native American landowners nearly \$715 million for their interests in land parcels and returned 1.5 million acres of land to tribal trust ownership, says Interior Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs Kevin K. Washburn, who says the program has been "incredibly successful."

So far Interior has selected 42 reservations for land-consolidation activities scheduled through mid-2017. The department is now asking landowners willing to sell their interest in land parcels and tribes interested in working with DOI on land consolidation to be in touch as planning begins for the next – and probably last – round of purchases, scheduled for mid-2017 through 2022, when the program ends.

Individuals who believe they may be eligible to participate are encouraged to call the Trust Beneficiary Call Center at (888) 678-6836 or to visit or call the Office of Special Trustees for American Indians to register their interest and confirm contact information. Registering does not commit an individual to participating in the program.

DOI has scheduled a listening session for March 3 in Albuquerque to hear comments on the program from tribes, landowners and others. Comments may also be submitted by email at buybackprogram@ios.doi.gov or by mail at U.S. Department of the Interior Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations, 1849 C Street NW, MS-5552-MIB, Washington, DC 20240. <http://bit.ly/1NOOrQJG> 📱

Mohegan Chief Lynn Malerba Elected USET Secretary

The first female chief of the Mohegan Tribe in more than 300 years has been elected to serve as the United Southern and Eastern Tribes, Inc. (USET) secretary.

Lynn Malerba's new appointment was announced during the 2015 USET Annual Board of Directors Meeting, in Choctaw, Mississippi, held October 26-28. Chief Malerba was selected by acclamation during a special election.

Malerba joins the USET Executive Officer Committee leadership team

with President Brian Patterson (Oneida Indian Nation – New York), Vice President Randy Noka (Narragansett Indian Tribe), and Treasurer Kirk Francis (Penobscot Indian Nation).

"We are so honored and pleased to have a treasured and well esteemed leader like Chief Malerba join us as an officer of USET. She is highly educated, well accomplished, and energetic as a tribal leader," President Patterson stated after the selection for USET Secretary was made by the (USET) Board of Directors. "I think one of her greatest attributes is her passion to advance our tribal nations and pro-

mote their sovereignty, not just her own tribe, but all of Indian country."

Chief Mutáwi Mutáhash (Many Hearts) Marilynn "Lynn" Malerba became the 18th Chief of the Mohegan Tribe on August 15, 2010, and is the first female Chief in the tribe's modern history. The position is a lifetime appointment made by the tribe's Council of Elders. Lynn follows in the footsteps of many strong female role models in the Mohegan Tribe, including her mother, Loretta Roberge, who holds the position of Tribal Nonner (elder female of respect). <http://bit.ly/1Mr9I48> 📱

Feds Expand Homeless Services for Native Veterans

BY MARK FOGARTY

After consulting with tribes, two federal departments are launching a novel joint outreach to assist American Indian veterans who are homeless or likely to become so. The effect is to add a Native component to services reservation Indian vets had been shut out of before.

The U.S. Departments of Housing and Urban Development and Veterans Affairs are now ready to launch a demonstration program to offer a permanent home and supportive services to Native vets.

The Tribal HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (Tribal HUD-VASH) program will combine \$4 million in rental assistance from HUD with case management and clinical services provided by VA to serve approximately 600 Native American veterans. <http://bit.ly/1GZxOpM>

Students Sacred Medicine Pouch Sparks Outcry

BY SIMON MOYA-SMITH

A 13-year-old Native American student was pulled from the lunch line at her school in Wisconsin and sent to the guidance counselor over a traditional Menominee medicine pouch, family says.

On October 21, Rosella "Rose" Kaquatosh was wearing the pouch outside of her clothing when a kitchen employee at Gresham School in Gresham, Wisconsin, allegedly demanded Kaquatosh take it off.

Kaquatosh told school officials the tobacco within the pouch was sacred, and not

for chewing or smoking. Principal Keary Mattson allegedly examined the pouch and removed some of the tobacco as Kaquatosh cried, Gardner said.

Kaquatosh has since been ordered to tuck the pouch in her shirt, Gardner said.

Gardner said she asked the school board for an apology. The school board is slated to issue a response within 21 days, Gardner added.

<http://bit.ly/1kQZ6Em>

My Adidas: Stepping Up to End Indian Mascots

BY TARA HOUSKA

Over the past 35 years, Native American advocacy has resulted in the eradication of 2/3 of Native-themed mascots from schools across America. Not one professional sports team has selected a race-based logo or name since 1963.

As the controversy surrounding the National Football League's Washington Redskins has reached national levels, so too has the scrutiny of Native mascots at the local level.

On November 5, Adidas joined the growing swell of momentum and announced a new initiative to offer its design resources to any high school wishing to change their Native American mascot, and provide financial assistance to ensure it is not cost prohibitive.

Adidas has also committed to be a founding member of a coalition to assess the issue of Native imagery and mascots in sports, and working to find ongoing solutions.

<http://bit.ly/1ksJt6y>

Jody Wilson-Raybould Named

Justice Minister and Attorney General

First Nations leaders were optimistic after Liberal Justin Trudeau was sworn in as Prime Minister of Canada accompanied by Inuit throat singers, drums, a 13-year-old Pottawatami-Cree youth and the Governor General office's acknowledgment that the ceremony was taking place on Algonquin land.

Trudeau's "history-making" new cabinet, as the Aboriginal Peoples Television Network (APTN) called it, features Jody Wilson-Raybould, who took office as the first indigenous Justice Minister and Attorney General of Canada, an office that "plays a role in almost every federal matter."

Wilson-Raybould, formerly the British Columbia regional chief of the Assembly of First Nations (AFN), was one of 10 indigenous candidates to win in the October 19 election, which toppled a nine-year Conservative Party hold on the government.

<http://bit.ly/1PEQj45>

U.S. Ninth Circuit Rules in Favor of West Valley Casino Project

On November 6, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit ruled unanimously in favor of the Tohono O'odham Nation's Desert Diamond Casino – West Valley, the 18th favorable court and federal agency ruling the project has received. The Ninth Circuit struck down a state law, H.B. 2534, which attempted to allow the City of Glendale to unilaterally annex a portion of the Nation's West Valley property which had not been taken into trust as a reserva-

tion.

The ruling by the three-judge panel was met by great praise from the tribe.

The City of Glendale dropped out of the lawsuit after determining the state's arguments were unfounded, and Glendale supports the project along with many other Arizona cities, the press release states.

The new Desert Diamond Casino – West Valley is on schedule to open December 20, 2015. <http://bit.ly/1MaIG38>

The 2015 AISES National Conference Is Coming Up

BY JASON MORGAN EDWARDS

The American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES) has been convening its annual conference since 1978. This year's will be held November 19-21 in Phoenix, Arizona. The one-of-a-kind, three-day event brings together high school juniors and seniors, college and graduate students, teachers, professionals and corporate partners. Olympic gold medalist Billy Mills will serve as keynote speaker this year. Other conference highlights will include a live art performance and auction by renowned artist Bunky Echo-Hawk; an American Indian Career & Education Expo; tours of Boeing and Intel facilities; college tours; a golf tournament; and the closing powwow and American Indian products marketplace.

Conference registration and other details about the organization can be found at AISES.org. <http://bit.ly/1N0tgBW>

The Miracle That Saved Heart Butte From Burning

A sudden wind change shifted the course of the Spotted Eagle wildfire

BY MARY ANNETTE PEMBER

Bottom Line: Montana's high winds pushed wildfires toward the Heart Butte community, but those who live there believe an intangible force diverted the blaze.

"If the wind stopped blowing, we'd all fall down," joked Pat Armstrong of the Blackfeet reservation in Montana. To a newcomer, the force that blows here is unlike any other experience of the relatively benign flow of air commonly referred to as wind. The wind here is often clocked at 80-100 miles per hour. It makes the eyes run with tears and rips even the most firmly placed watch cap off one's head.

That formidable wind brought flames from summer forest fires this year closer to the reservation than anyone can remember, forcing folks to flee for their lives.

Remarkably, it was the same wind that saved the people and their property. Changing course at the last possible moment, it diverted fire away from the tiny community of Heart Butte on the Blackfeet reservation and its smattering of homes clinging stubbornly to the rugged hills just below the Butte.

Many people here believe that an intangible force saved them.

Folks in Heart Butte are a sturdy lot, used to taking care of themselves, their community and land. Life here in this stark yet beautiful environment is also a leap of faith in which spiritual connection to the land sustains residents through the challenges of the seasons.

come out of the smoke." Although it was mid-afternoon, heavy smoke from the fires that began in the nearby Lewis and Clark National Forest made it dark as night on August 28 according to Crawford and other residents of Heart Butte.

Nearly two months after the fires, Heart Butte residents are still shaken by their close call.

"Everybody just panicked! When I first saw the fire, I wondered if it was the sun and realized it couldn't be," Crawford said. "I thought, oh my God, where are we gonna run? We're gonna burn!"

"I just grabbed some clothes and threw them in a suitcase. I loaded the cooler and my three kids into the (ATV) and got out of there. One kid had on p.j.s and one

was wearing swimming trunks; none of them had any shoes on," said Anna Armstrong.

"The fire moved so fast, like there was gasoline on the ground feeding it," said Marvin Crawford, Dusty's brother.

Ranchers worked desperately to get their animals out of harm's way, opening gates and driving them away from the path of



Smoke from summer wildfires, often heavy, is not uncommon but this season was different.

The hot, dry summer season, for instance, means wildfires, and wildfires mean smoke.

Smoke, often heavy, is not uncommon but this season was different. "We had heavy smoke here for over three months, but my wife had a funny feeling that day and told our son to look outside," recalls Dusty Crawford. "He saw a wall of fire

the fire, but some cattle perished in the fire. Marvin Crawford reported seeing some charred elk remains as well.

Miraculously no one was hurt and no property was damaged because, at the last minute, the wind changed.

The speed and ferocity of the fire seemed to have caught even seasoned firefighting veterans by surprise. The little town of Heart Butte, where some people lack cell phones or internet service, had no evacuation plan and, in many cases, authorities to go door to door to notify residents of the evacuation order.

No one could recall such a large and sudden fire, although some residents recalled hearing elders speak of a similar fire season during the early 20th century. Conditions then – an unusually dry season and an excess amount of fuel in the forest – helped create an environment for the Big Blow Up. Conditions have been similar in 2015 and may become worse according to scientists who study wildfires.

John Gilham, Blackfeet tribal Forest Manager explained how climate change increases wildfire risks. “Increased temperatures combined with longer growing seasons, less moisture, reduced snowpack in the mountains create dry conditions and more fuel for fires,” he said.

Differences in fighting wildfires and forest management styles between tribes and federal agencies contribute to the problem. Blackfeet Fire Management has a 100 percent fire reduction policy. Federal land management policies used by the Parks Service and National Forest Service authorize agencies “to use all the tools in the toolbox to suppress fires,” according to Traci Weaver, Fire Communications Education Specialist for the National Park Service.

This means that federal agencies have a “let it burn” policy in some cases, meaning that some fires are allowed to run their natural course.

The reservation is bordered by both Glacier National Park and the Lewis and Clark Forest.

According to an article in *High Country News*, federal policy jargon makes it difficult to understand which fires or parts of fires federal agencies will suppress or allow to burn.

Wild-firefighting strategies and the use of suppression fires (fires that burn up excessive amounts of potential fuel in forests) are controversial. Some experts maintain that cutting down dead or dying trees helps reduce fires. Some environmentalists, however, oppose cutting down trees. Keith Hammer of the Swan View Coalition notes that wildfires enrich soil and create different wildlife habitat.

According to the Flathead News Group, there is a history of bad blood between the Blackfeet tribe and the National Park Service about wildfire and forest management policies.



Marvin Crawford at base of Heart Butte

The tribe is seeking \$60 million in damages caused by a fire that started in Glacier National Park and burned 19,000 acres on the reservation.

Gilham noted that tribal, federal, state and county fire fighting resources have been stretched thin by the larger and longer fire season.

In fact, the famous Chief Mountain Hotshots, an elite Native American fire fighting crew based out of Browning were busy fighting a fire several hours away in another part of the state when the Spotted Eagle fire hit the Blackfeet reservation.

“Initially the Forest Service thought that the Spotted Eagle fire would be contained within the Lewis and Clark Forest,” Gilham said.

The fire, however, got to the reservation very quickly. “We were trying to get our ducks in a row to deal with the fire but before we could get anything in place we had to move straight to emergency evacuation,”

according to Gilham.

Several local volunteer fire departments joined tribal and BIA firefighters as they worked to protect structures and later worked to establish fire lines to keep the fire from spreading.

Montana Sen. Jon Tester noted that Blackfeet tribal officials had reached out to the BIA to help pay for more firefighting personnel during the unusually hot and dry season. Earlier this summer Tester sent a letter to Department of Interior Secretary Sally Jewell asking for additional funding for firefighters. No additional personnel have been hired according to *Hungry Horse News*.

In 2008, the Blackfeet tribe assumed all responsibility for fire fighting and management contracting with the BIA to provide personnel. The BIA requires the Blackfeet Tribe to pay for emergency firefighting staffing costs upfront.

Several tribal community members expressed concern about future wild fire policies and procedures and worried about the longer-term impact of the Spotted Eagle fire.

Tom Crawford of Heart Butte leases grazing land in order to feed his cattle. Although the fire destroyed much of the grass on the land leased through the BIA, Crawford noted that not only will he have to continue to pay for the lease he will also have to borrow money to purchase feed for his cattle during the coming months.

“We haven’t seen the end yet of the impact of this fire. I think we may see more flooding and pollution to the water table down the line. A lot of the wild game that we depend on also got burned up,” said Marvin Crawford.

In the end, however, he is grateful that his home is still standing and believes that there were forces greater than forest and fire management policies that worked to turn the fire away from the people of Heart Butte.

He and his family have faithfully conducted yearly ceremonies here at Heart Butte, an important sacred site for the Blackfeet.

“The elders told me not to worry, that our traditions would protect us. There was really no reason for our homes not to burn but the wind came and turned the fire away from us. This is why we need to keep our ways and language alive,” observed Tom Crawford. <http://bit.ly/1MMQHsg>

Denise Juneau For Congress

A Mandan Hidatsa woman has sights set on Capitol Hill BY ADRIAN JAWORT

Bottom Line: Montana may now be too small for a certain legislator who is gunning for bigger political vistas.

In 2008, when she was elected as Montana's Superintendent of Public Instruction, Democrat Denise Juneau became the first American Indian woman ever voted into a statewide office in Montana. She was a speaker at the Democratic National Convention in 2012.

Now she would like to add the title of first American Indian congresswoman to her resume. Juneau recently kicked off her campaign against incumbent Ryan Zinke (R) in a bid to claim Montana's sole spot in the House of Representatives.

Juneau, an enrolled Mandan Hidatsa tribal member, grew up on Montana's Blackfeet Indian Reservation and is also of Blackfeet descent. She was re-elected as the head of Montana's Office of Public Instruction (OPI) in 2012. In Indian country, she has been noted for her commitment to combating the lack of awareness about Native peoples in the education system by helping to implement her state's Indian Education for All Act (IEFA).

Juneau recently took time to speak with ICTMN about her announcement to run for the Congressional seat.

What made you finally decide to run for Montana's only congressional spot?

I had weighed a lot of options of what to do with my future, and came to the conclusion that I'm not done with public service.

We've had great outcomes in the public education system, and I'm proud Montanans elected me to be in charge of their public education system—and also to be a part of the most precious resource we have: our children. I feel like I can take my record and list of accomplishments to a bigger stage and national level.

Do you hope to see the success of Montana's Indian Education For All (IEFA) reproduced on a national level?

We recently had several other Indian education specialists from other state education agencies here learning from the Montana OPI about what efforts are being implemented here. State legislation regarding Indian education is growing.



Juneau is running for Congress

I see other states picking up similar laws to IEFA, and there are national efforts, like from the Smithsonian and the National Museum of the American Indian.

It's definitely something that's starting to take off across the country as I talk with other state education leaders, and I think that's a good thing.

What are some issues that you hope to bring to the forefront?

There's a lot of special interest money that pours in, in huge amounts, that really buys elections. It keeps a lot of good people out of office who just don't have a lot of money in the bank, and who can't compete with the wealthy and their donors.

I'm sort of in that situation right now

too, starting out as I've always been a public servant without a huge bank account. And there's going to be a lot of money coming in from elsewhere that will try and distort my record with inaccuracies.

So our challenge now is to raise enough money to get the true word out to Montanans, because at the end of the day it's Montanans who will vote and decide who their representative is.

Also in Montana, living under the broken No Child Left Behind law is disruptive. Every now and then there's great hope that it will be reauthorized and re-written, but it really hasn't been. With my education background and experience that's something I could help fix so that it works for rural states like Montana.

What does it mean to you personally as an American Indian woman to run for this office?

There hasn't been an American Indian woman in Congress ever, and I think there's a very real opportunity to fill that gap—that there's this idea that there's still that "first" to be had. Also, when Indians are at the table, there's a huge difference in the conversation and I look forward to getting elected and making sure that voice is there.

Anything else you would like to add?

Besides I guess as far as being an American Indian congresswoman, I'm running firstly to represent all Montanans.

But I do have a unique perspective from growing up on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation and being enrolled with the Mandan Hidatsa tribe. I've worked not only in the education field, but I went to law school and actually worked in a federal Indian law firm.

So I understand both the history and reasons for tribal sovereignty, and I think I'd be able to push on that issue for the tribes as an attorney and person who understands the trust responsibilities the federal government needs to fulfill to the tribes. <http://bit.ly/1XY9Y1K> 🍀

Sharing the Stage With Obama

The President joined Native Youth in roundtable discussion

BY VINCENT SCHILLING

Bottom Line: President Barack Obama arrived early to the White House Tribal Nations Conference and took the opportunity to hear the concerns of Native youth.

President Barack Obama surprised an auditorium filled with tribal leaders, government department officials, reporters and Native youth on November 5 when he arrived earlier than expected and join five Native youth on stage at the closing of the 7th Annual White House Tribal Nations Conference. The conference was created by the Obama Administration to allow tribal leaders the opportunity to meet with top government political and agency leaders to create ways to strengthen the government-to-government relationships with Indian country and to improve the lives of American Indians and Alaska Natives, especially Native youth.

When the President got on stage, he sat down alongside the five youths, then turned to basketball star Jude Schimmel and said, "Am I supposed to make remarks first, or are you going to say something?"

Schimmel laughed and said, "I think we can do whatever you want."

The four other Native youth delegates were Tatiana Ticknor (Yup'ik/Tlingit/Dena'ina) 16, Brayden White (St. Regis Mohawk Tribe) 21, Blossom Johnson, (Navajo Nation) 23 and Philip Douglas, (Seminole Nation of Oklahoma) 15.

After prompting from Schimmel, the President, who said he sat down first amidst the youth because he felt so comfortable in their company, delivered his opening remarks. "When I ran for office, I pledged

to build a true nation-to-nation relationship with all of you. Back then, I was just a young adopted son of the Crow Nation, didn't have any grey hair. Now I am President Barack Black Eagle. What started out as a campaign promise, has now become a tradition. Welcome to the 7th Annual White House Tribal Nations Conference."

President Obama said he knew it was

White asked how the Obama Administration could empower Native youth hoping to go to college. Obama responded in part, "We need to do a better job of telling you what is there," and spoke about simplification of the Pell Grant process and the importance of holding onto your culture and becoming part of society's larger community through education.

Johnson, an Obama scholar at ASU, asked about poverty and mentioned how she did not have electricity and running water on her reservation home.

Obama said that for decades, the government agencies involved in utilities were underfunded and mismanaged. "Our first thing we needed to do was listen." He added that not having electricity and running water was unacceptable and

that the government is focused on more funding, but "Congress doesn't always cooperate with me."

Douglas asked if the President had ways to address childhood obesity and diabetes, to which Obama responded, "Absolutely, because I live with Michelle Obama!" He then talked about creating ways for access to healthier foods and the increasing success of programs such as 'Let's Move.'

Obama also talked about increasing outreach in the VA for veterans and to address Native youth suicide.

In closing, President Obama said of the panel, "This is an example of the incredible talent and potential of our young people. We have a huge stake in our country in making sure that they get opportunity. That their voices are heard." <http://bit.ly/1GZy2xm>



Obama wanted to hear from the youth. "I get tired of hearing myself talk."

traditional for him to deliver a long speech, but said he cut it short because he wanted to hear from the youth. "I get tired of hearing myself talk."

After touching on the topics of treaty obligations, sovereignty, strengthening relationships, harmful mascots, his travels and the daily struggles of Native youth, the President sat down with the youth panel.

They asked President Obama questions on various concerns in Indian country. Ticknor asked about helping teachers better understand Native students and culture, and eliminating stereotypes, to which the president responded, "If a school is not respecting culture, it is failing." He also lauded Adidas for working with schools to eliminate Native mascots that misappropriate culture and are harmful to the self-worth of Native youth.

Administrator - Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF)

Tohono O'odham Nursing Care Authority (TONCA), a leader in the field of Native American, tribally operated, nursing homes, is seeking a full time, highly motivated and dedicated, Licensed Skilled Nursing Facility Administrator to be responsible for the operations of the Archie Hendricks Sr. Skilled Nursing Facility, the Tohono O'odham Hospice, and employee housing.

Qualifications

- Arizona Licensed Nursing Home Administrator or eligible for Arizona license required.
- A minimum of five years operational experience in long term care facility required.
- Evidence of successful skilled nursing facility operations through documented results.

Salary

Competitive based on experience; excellent benefits. On-site housing may be provided.

Location

Within the Tohono O'odham Reservation (75 miles west of Tucson).

Contact:

Carolene Garcia at 520.361.1801 or cegarcia@toltc.org for application and information.

Ross Towers

a 112 unit building including units designated for the mobility impaired located at 200 Lafayette 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.



Not a Subscriber?

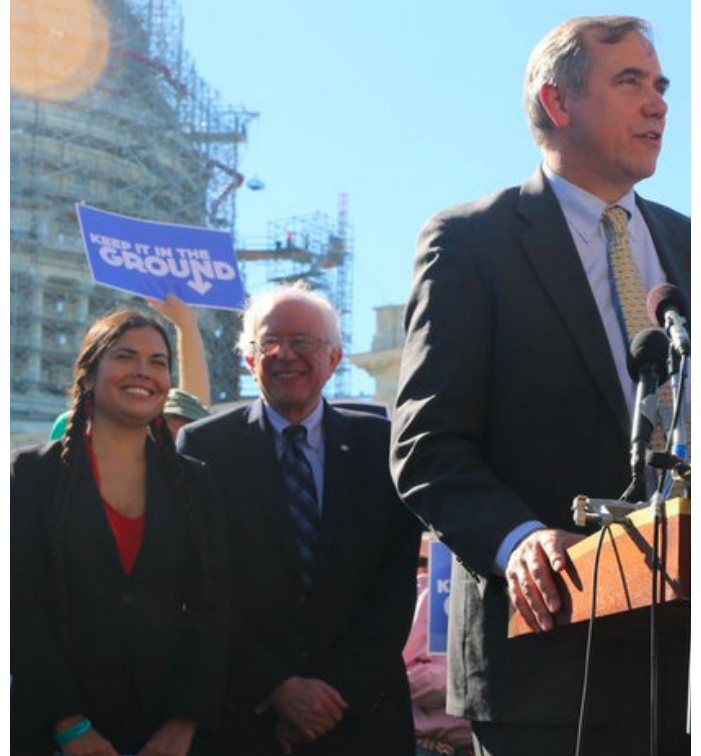
Get your own This Week From Indian Country Today eNewsletter!

SUBSCRIBE NOW





Carolyn Bennett, Canada's new Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs, being sworn in on November 4, 2015



Native Organizer Tara Houska shares stage with Sen. Bernie Sanders & Sen. Jeff Merkley, to introduce "Keep It In the Ground" bill



The new Billy Frank Jr. Street sign in Bellingham, WA, which replaces the old Indian Street sign, was unveiled on Nov 16th.



The Mashantucket Pequot Flag Flew Over the Connecticut State Capitol for the first time in history, for Native American Heritage Month

Headlines from the Web

GEORGE TIGER OUSTED AS CREEK NATION CHIEF

<http://bit.ly/1WN5aKp>

APACHES CONTINUE TO CAMP OUT FOR OAK FLAT

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

YUROKS TO HONOR WWII VETS AT VISITOR CENTER

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

TRIBE TO LAUNCH MONTESSORI, LANGUAGE IMMERSION SCHOOL NEXT YEAR

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

QUAPAW TRIBE, PORT DRAFT GOOD-NEIGHBOR POLICY

<http://bit.ly/1Pj0Bbu>

NATIVE AMERICAN CAUCUS RELEASES TRIBAL RESULTS

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

TRIBAL RENEWABLE ENERGY WEBINAR

NOVEMBER 18

“EPA Clean Power Plan: What Tribes Need To Know” is part of this year’s Department of Energy’s Renewable Energy Webinar Series. The series is intended for tribal leaders and staff who are interested in developing facility- and community-scale energy projects, responding to utilities’ requests for proposals, and learning more about the competitive power mar-

ket. The webinar is conducted in partnership with the Western Area Power Administration.

Contact Information: <http://1.usa.gov/1PyHDwf>

NAGPRA REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETINGS

NOVEMBER 18-19

Two meetings of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) Review Committee will address the progress made—and any barriers encountered—in implementing the act and federal legislation pursuant to the act. The review committee also will consider other presentations from Indian

tribes, Native Hawaiian organizations, museums, federal agencies, associations, and individuals. The review committee will also meet if necessary via teleconference on December 14.

Location: Riverwind Hotel and Casino, Norman, Oklahoma

NCAI TRIBAL INTERIOR COUNCIL BUDGET MEETING

NOVEMBER 18-19

The Interior Budget Council of the National Council of American Indians will conduct a series of caucuses and formal meetings.

Location: Washington Plaza Hotel, Washington, D.C.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

In Support of Tribal Labor Sovereignty Act:

We, the undersigned Indian tribal nations, tribal corporations, trade associations and state and local chambers of commerce, write in strong support of H.R. 511, the “Tribal Labor Sovereignty Act of 2015,” which would respect and promote tribal sovereignty by affirming the rights of tribal governmental employers to determine their own labor practices on their own lands.

In 1935, the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA) was enacted to ensure fair labor practices, but excluded federal, state and local governmental employers from its reach. Though the Act did not expressly treat Indian tribes as governmental employers, the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) respected the sovereign status of tribal governmental employers

for close to seventy years before reversing course in 2004.

Since its decision in *San Manuel Indian Bingo* (341 NLRB No. 138, 2004), the NLRB has been aggressively asserting jurisdiction over tribal labor practices when it determines tribal government employers are acting in a “commercial” rather than a “governmental” capacity—an analysis it does not apply to state or local government employers.

H.R. 511 builds upon a principle that has been amply demonstrated by Indian tribes across the country: when tribal sovereignty is respected and acknowledged, economic success follows. H.R. 511 would prevent an unnecessary and unproductive overreach by the NLRB into the sovereign jurisdiction of tribal governments. By amending the NLRA to expressly treat tribal government

employers and their enterprises and institutions the same as it treats state and local government employers, H.R. 511 would provide certainty and clarity to ensure that tribal ordinances relating to labor practices would be respected. This approach would best meet the needs of the tribes and the American business community more generally.

The undersigned strongly support H.R. 511, which would build upon recent congressional actions affirming tribal sovereignty such as the enactment of the Tribal General Welfare Exclusion Act in September 2014. We strongly urge you to support this important bill.

Sincerely,

Native American Enterprise Initiative

Editor’s Note: The bill was approved in the House late on November 17, 2015.



TOP NEWS ALERTS

From IndianCountryTodayMediaNetwork.com

YOUTH MAKE MIWOK PRIDE VIDEO BY MELISSA LEAL

Wilton Rancheria, a federally recognized tribe located in Sacramento County, California, believes that language is one of their biggest assets. Language has the power to take us back to a place where we understood our relationships with all living and non-living things. Wilton Rancheria also knows that their greatest asset is their youth. This summer, Wilton Miwok youth came together to begin the process of learning and utilizing the Miwok language as a community. The Summer Program culminated in a three-day project where students created, wrote, choreographed and produced art for a music video titled "Miwok Pride."

<http://bit.ly/1WYXI40> 

VERNON LEWIS ASHLEY WALKS ON

Vernon Lewis Ashley, 99, passed away peacefully surrounded

by loved ones in his own home and in his own bed, the way he wanted on November 10, 2015. Vernon, whose Indian name is "Sinkpe," meaning muskrat, was born on the banks of the Missouri River near Crow Creek District at the mouth of Wolf Creek on January 15, 1916 to Wallace and Elizabeth Ashley and joined a family of seven.

<http://bit.ly/1Mmt1O5> 

TREATY RIGHTS TRIUMPH

The besieged Peel Watershed has been given a reprieve of sorts, with a three-judge panel's ruling that the Yukon government breached indigenous treaty rights when it altered an agreed-upon land-use plan and stripped protections from the ecologically sensitive region to favor mining. First Nations and others involved in the legal dispute had some reservations about the ruling, fearing it could leave the process open to further tinkering

by the Yukon government. At the same time, the decision boosted treaty rights by affirming that the territory could not just change the plan at will.

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

INDIANS STILL LAGGING ON HOME OWNERSHIP BY MARK FOGARTY


Just 53 percent of American Indians own their own homes, a full 10 percent lower than the national average, federal government data show, and one of eight lives in a mobile home. And more than half of Native renters are cost burdened, paying more than 30 percent of their income on their rentals. According to the Census Bureau, which releases a set of bullet points about Native demographics each November in conjunction with American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month, an estimated 444,000 of a total of 838,000 housing units were owner occupied by Ameri-

can Indians and Alaska Natives. The other 394,000 housing units (47 percent) were rentals.

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

NIGC HIRES NEW OUTREACH COORDINATOR

A new job post at the National Indian Gaming Commission (NIGC) will assist rural tribes in overcoming Indian gaming regulatory challenges, and in turn support their economic development, self-sufficiency and strong tribal governments. Susan Waukon (Ho-Chunk) has been elected to the newly created position of Rural Outreach Coordinator, overseeing the NIGC's training and technical assistance program for rural tribes. This is the second NIGC position created to increase communication and enhance regulatory relationships for rural tribes.

<http://bit.ly/1j7JISS> 

How Did I Miss That?

Congressional work schedules, the Texas-Norway connection and a mistranslation from the Galician

BY STEVE RUSSELL

Outgoing Speaker of the House John Boehner (R-Ohio) gifted his successor with a budget deal that will wipe out further opportunities to shut the government down until there is no longer a black man heading it.

Rep. Paul Ryan of Wisconsin, drafted by his fellow Republicans to replace Boehner, has released the House “work” schedule for the next year. The people’s house will work 111 days total and only two “full” weeks, meaning five days. The traditional August recess starts on July 16 and its occupants come back to “work” after Labor Day.

“What do you expect,” my Republican cousin Ray Sixkiller snorted, “when the poor babies only get paid \$174,000 a year?”

If those 111 days they plan to work were eight-hour days (which they are not), and we assume the most important work is legislating, that’s less than \$200 an hour. When you came to Washington to blow up the government rather than to govern, I expect that 111 days is enough and that these people can make up the money when they move to K Street to lobby.

The Sunlight Foundation reported in 2014 that two-thirds of revolving door lobbyists make more money trying to influence legislation than members of Congress do writing it.

I expect that a lot of those members spend the time outside those 111 days raising money to run, since elections are funded privately rather than publicly. You can’t run for Congress for \$348,000—which is the salary you would make in a two-year House term.

How do you expect honest people to come to the top in that system?

“Easy,” Cousin Ray muttered. “You only get honest rich people.”

The Washington Post reported that a colloquial term for “crazy” in Norway is “texas.” A guru of Norway’s Language Council claimed that the phrase “helt texas” (“completely crazy”) was used in Norway’s newspapers at least 50 times in the last year.

I never thought I’d regret that Sarah Palin did not get elected to national office. But if she had, the result would have been a different word for crazy.

“You guys in Baja Oklahoma,” Cousin Ray hooted, “just never got over Alaska becoming the largest state.”

This year’s GOP presidential candidates didn’t like the sawdust and greasepaint aspect of their most recent debate, in spite of the TV ratings. So they pulled together to try and take charge of the next one. But they had such problems staying together that the list of demands got shortened substantially.

The first big hassle was Donald Trump and Jeb Bush differing over appearing on Telemundo. There, Bush’s Spanish fluency is an advantage. But Trump has a track record of disrespecting Telemundo reporters along with everybody else who speaks Spanish.

Cousin Ray said I should attend to the big picture. “Who would have thought,” my cousin asked, “that this gang would suddenly discover the value of collective bargaining?”

He’s right, and it would have worked if the gambit had not broken up with

all the candidates’ firepower aimed at their own feet.

The city of As Pontes, located in Galicia, recently had reason to blush. The Guardian reported that As Pontes was advertising a culinary festival that was celebrating a staple vegetable, grown locally, called grelo.

The organizers ran the notice through Google Translate for Galician to Spanish, which made a minor error, inviting the public to a “Clitoris Festival.” The “Spanish” translation read in part that “the festival has made the clitoris one of the star products of its local gastronomy.”

“Gastronomy?” Cousin Ray was puzzled. “That’s what they call it in Spain?”

Yahoo! News and just about every newspaper in the United Kingdom reported that Iranian actress Sadaf Taherian has had her license to work revoked by Iran’s Ministry of Culture for posting indecent photos on Facebook and Instagram. That is, photos that showed her face. Reports on the contretemps within Iran reportedly photoshopped a hijab on her photos so as not to be involved in the indecency.

The Iranian mullahs claim that the hijab requirement is to protect women because men could not control themselves at the sight of women’s faces. In the Creek Nation, where I was raised, young men seemed able to swim with young women and control themselves.

Cousin Ray said it was the same in the Cherokee Nation where he also grew up. “And the reason we had to start wearing bathing suits,” he said, “was not lack of self control.” <http://bit.ly/1SEJsrh> ☞

UPCOMING POW WOWS

**48th Annual
Louisiana
Indian Heritage
Association's
Pow Wow**

11/21/15—11/22/15
Lamar-Dixon Expo
Center
9039 Saint Landry
Road
Gonzales, LA
504-837-6085
djpm2@cox.net

**41st Annual
Baltimore American
Indian Center
Pow Wow**

11/21/15—11/22/15
Baltimore, MD

**45th Anniversary
Poarch Creek
Indians
Thanksgiving
Pow Wow**

11/26/15—11/27/15
Poarch Creek Indians
5811 Jack Springs Road
Atmore, AL
251-368-9136
PoarchCreekIndians.org



Apache Crown Dancers at The 2015 New Mexico State Fair



*Cape and dress
from “Desert
Heat” Collection,
2012, designed
by Orlando Dugi,
Navajo. Paint, silk,
organza, feathers,
beads, and 24k gold.
Hair and makeup:
Dina DeVore.
Model: Mona Bear.*

COURTESY ORLANDO DUGI, SANTE FE

THE BIG PICTURE