



Numuwaetu Nawahana

Telling The People's News

Volume 13 Issue 4

October, November, December 2019

They wanna do whaaat?

In what appears a totally whacked-out idea, a California energy company wants to build reservoirs above Pyramid Lake, suck up lake water to store in those reservoirs then run the water into a nearby underground cavern with hydropower turbines. Then the water will be run through those turbines to generate electricity and the water will be returned back into the lake.

Honest!

But this idiotic idea became real when on June 18, 2019, Premium Energy Holdings, LLC (Premium), filed an application with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) of the Department of Energy for a "preliminary permit to study the feasibility of the Pyramid Lake Pumped Storage Project to be located on Pyramid Lake and Truckee River, near the community of Nixon, Washoe County, Nevada."

On June 22, four days after filing with the FERC, Premium sent three separate emails to the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Tribal Secretary, R. Hunter, B. John, and L. Black. The first one was an introductory letter explaining the project, followed by a second email with a copy of the FERC permit application and the third email had a preliminary PowerPoint presentation.

These emails were all sent on a Saturday night at 7:52 pm (letter), 7:58 pm (copy of FERC application), and 8:06 pm (PowerPoint presentation). Did they really believe that there would be someone in their office on a Saturday night to receive these emails? Come Monday morning and faced with a page full of emails, it would be easy not to open an email from a stranger from an unknown company or the emails could have been categorized as Junk.

In any case, almost four months after Premium's initial filing with the FERC and the Saturday night emails, the Tribe responded to the Energy Commission on November 27 and essentially told them to stop their planning because of the numerous legal and environmental issues that must be considered before such a project can be approved. Oh, and to consult with the tribal council and affected departments before going to the feds asking for a permit.

The Project's Plans

The Pyramid Lake Pumped Storage Project is one of four projects being planned by Premium Energy as part of the Castaic Power Plant that is charged with supplying electrical power to Los Angeles. Indeed, Premium Energy boasted that Pyramid Lake "would be exploited for hydro power generation."

Premium Energy is proposing three alternative

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**Our quarterly newspaper
Numuwaetu Nawahana
will be discontinued.**

**The Tribe's newsletter will be available online
at our website: plpt.nsn.us
located in the left side bar under 'Numa News'.
Have news to submit? Announcements?
Please submit to businessassistant@plpt.nsn.us**

Tribe's Response to the Storage Plan

In a letter to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Tribal Chairman Anthony Sampson opposed the proposed Pyramid Lake Pumped Storage Project and noted that it would impact the Tribe's "federally-protected lands, water resources, water rights, fisheries and other cultural and natural resources."

To quote from the letter:

"Based on the limited information available, the Tribe opposed the project in any form at this time, due to the lack of consultation and coordination between Premium Energy Holdings, LLC (Premium) and PLPT (Tribe). Projects that have potential impacts to natural and cultural resources must first present their proposed project before the Tribe's Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) for preliminary questions, comments and recommendations. Once IDT has thoroughly reviewed the project, the IDT will make recommendations to the Tribal Council who may approve or deny the project, as well as seek additional information. Premium has provided

very little information to the Tribe and has not followed the aforementioned process. The following items include and are not limited to, general issues and concerns that Premium must address before moving forward in considering support for the proposed project:

- Obviously, the proposed project would face a multitude of state and federal regulatory obstacles, with respect to the proposed use of approximately 75,000 acre-feet of water for hydropower generation across 3 proposed new reservoirs on or adjacent to the Reservation.
- All water rights are subject to both state and federal permitting and authorization requirements, which would require stakeholder engagement and opportunity for participation. Over the last several decades, the Tribe along with its federal and other partners have undertaken an enormous amount of legal activity with the sole purpose of preserving and recovering Pyramid Lake after nearly a century

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Tribes' response to the Storage Plan *Continued from page 1*

of diversions of water out of the Pyramid Lake and Truckee River basins. these out-of-basin diversions, along with consumptive uses of water between Lake Tahoe and Pyramid Lake resulted in a precipitous decline of Pyramid Lake of nearly 100 feet from its recorded level at the beginning of the 20th Century. These diversions of water and the resulting decline of Pyramid Lake caused two indigenous fish of Pyramid Lake, the Lahontan cutthroat trout and the cui-ui, to be listed as threatened and endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act.

- As previously stated, Pyramid Lake is home to the Federally-listed fish species under the Endangered Species Act: The endemic and endangered suck fish, the cui-ui (*Chasmistes cujus*), and the threatened Lahontan cutthroat trout (*Orcohynchus clarkia henshawi*). The Pyramid Lake Paiute people has successfully thrived in the region for thousands of years utilizing these fish populations as the foundation of their diet, economy and culture. Protection of these species are of utmost importance. Premium must detail how the proposed action may affect these vital species and their habitat, including the changes in the function of Pyramid Lake by introducing a pumping regime. This also includes mortality of fish due to the impacts of the proposed project's turbine passage.

- Because of the unrelenting efforts of the Tribe to conserve and protect these culturally and economically-significant species, thousands of acre-feet of Truckee River surface water rights have been secured for the purpose of instream flows in the lower Truckee River and Pyramid Lake.

In addition to acquiring water rights for Pyramid Lake, the Tribe has also successfully seen the implementation of various regulatory regimes for the benefit of Pyramid Lake, including but not limited to the federal Operating Criteria and Procedures (43 C.F.R. Part 418) that govern diversions from the Truckee River to farming areas, the federal/state Truckee River Operating Agreement (43 C.F.R. Part 419) that governs storage and release of water in the Truckee River upstream reservoirs, the 1996 Water Quality Settlement Agreement, the Truckee-Carson- Pyramid Lake Settlement Act

(Pub. L. 101-618), and many others. Truckee River water rights are also governed by the federal Orr Ditch Decree and the 1935 Truckee River Agreement.

- In addition to concerns with respect to the source of water proposed to be used in this project, the applicant will also have to comply with the Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act, National Environmental Policy Act, and other relevant laws and regulations. In particular, the Endangered Species Act will require the applicant to undergo formal consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to ensure the project does not cause any adverse impact to the listed fishes in Pyramid Lake. Such impacts can occur because of adverse impacts to both the water quantity and water quality of Pyramid Lake from the proposed project, which impacts are almost certain to occur.

- The proposed action includes construction of a 2,000 MW pumped-storage plant with the ability to project power 24 hours a day. The level of Pyramid Lake may fluctuate up to six inches during the day operations and return to normal at night. As a result, there will be rapid change in water level compared to natural conditions, which are typically slow changes in the absence of a pumping operation.

Premium must analyze the effect of these rapid changes on water quality, fish, aquatic habitat, and surrounding littoral zone of Pyramid Lake.

- Total dissolved solids (TDS) is the sum of all ion particles that are smaller than 2 microns, including disassociated electrolytes (salts) that make up salinity, as well as other dissolved organic compounds. Because Pyramid Lake is a desert terminal lake, TDS is significantly higher than a typical freshwater lake. Pyramid Lake accumulates TDS over time, since fresh water evaporates leaving TDS behind. TDS is also dependent on lake elevations, as higher lake levels dilute TDS and lower lake levels increase TDS concentrations. TDS is a concern because elevated levels can result in toxic effects to fish and their eggs. Premium must detail how the proposed action may affect existing and future TDS levels in Pyramid Lake.

- All of the alternatives of the proposed action include construction of a solar energy farm(s) north of Pyramid Lake to meet pumping power requirements to each reservoir. Premium must detail effects of the solar energy farm on (1) migratory bird species, including the American white pelican population; (2) increased runoff and sedimentation to Pyramid Lake; and (3)

increased thermal pollution to Pyramid Lake.

This area also contains numerous archeological sites and historic sites. This area has a historical connection to the Tribe and are important to the culture.

- Pyramid Lake has unique circulation patterns within the lake that change depending on specific conditions, including water temperature distribution over depth and inflow conditions (ex. velocity and depth) of Truckee River and Pyramid Lake's surrounding tributaries. Premium must analyze how the flow and temperature conditions will change when compared to the existing regime.

- The proposed action's three alternatives include constructing reservoirs on the Lake Range, located east of Pyramid Lake. The Tribe is currently working with the Nevada Department of Wildlife to reintroduce bighorn sheep to the Lake Range. Premium must detail how the proposed action may affect these species and their habitat.

- The Pyramid Lake Basin frequently experiences rain on snow events, resulting in rapid increases [in] stream flow and downstream flooding. Dam failure can affect habitat downstream and pose a public safety concern. Premium must detail safety of the reservoirs, ensure stability of dam, and how reservoir levels will be managed during high-precipitation events.

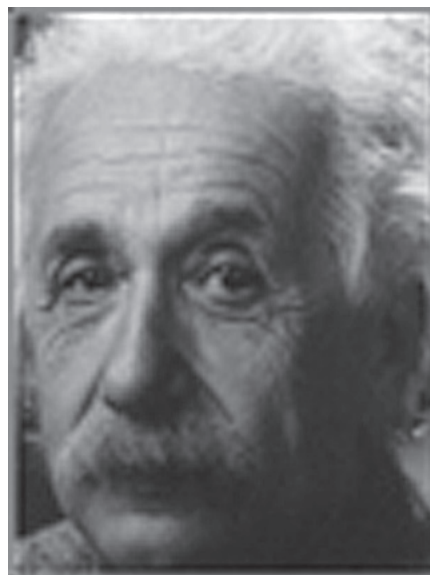
- All water sources are sacred to the Tribe. Tribal members hold a spiritual connection to the water from Pyramid Lake and other water sources on the Reservation, as these resources are important to traditional ceremonial practices and important to the cultural identity of the Tribe.

- The plans includes three proposed reservoirs, San Emidio, Tohakum Peak and Lake Range. All three of these sites are considered culturally and spiritually important to the Tribe.

These areas contain numerous archeological sites, traditional gathering locations, sacred sites, ceremonial locations, and historical sites, burial sites and habitation sites.

The Tribe's Historic Preservation Officer has reviewed the project and opposes the proposed construction of the reservoirs, pressure tunnels, PV solar farm, power house, converter station, and any transmission lines."

The letter concluded with the suggestion that Premium must comply with all state and federal regulatory laws and regulations and the Tribe's concerns as outlined above.



The world will not be destroyed by those who do evil, but by those who watch them without doing anything

—Albert Einstein—

They wanna do whaaat?

Continued from page 1

upper storage reservoirs that would be above the lake with an estimated water storage capacity of the San Emidio (21,550 acre-feet), Tokakum Peak (27,050 acre-feet), and Lake Range (26,020 acre-feet). *See adjoining map above.* The proposal states that “existing Pyramid Lake would be the lower reservoir” for each alternative reservoir.

The reservoirs would be concrete lined and flowing into concrete-lined tunnels that would feed into a concrete-lined powerhouse located in an underground cavern housing five pump-turbine generator-motor units rated at 400 megawatts each and another concrete-lined tunnel discharging the used water back into the lake. (This description was gleaned from Premium’s FERC filing but without all the dazzling mathematical measurements describing their system.)

Also included in this hair-brained scheme is a projected solar farm that would use 14,000 acres of land that would be located either on the northern or southern shore of the Lake according to Premium’s proposal. This solar farm would generate 4,000 megawatts that would interconnect with existing power transmission facilities but in order to accomplish the interconnection “a new Pyramid converter station” would need to be constructed so that “the power would be transmitted to the Sylmar Converter Station in the Los Angeles area.”

Premium emphasized that the project “will greatly improve the economy” of the reservation and “will not negatively impact the environment”.

The letter explained that the “pumped-storage hydro power plant using water from Pyramid Lake, pumping it during the day to an upper reservoir in the adjacent mountains and reversing the flow to generate power during the night, returning the water to the lake.” They called it a “closed loop pumping-generation operating cycle, assuring that no water will be consumed” and that the operation will just move water from the lake to the reservoir “back and forth.”

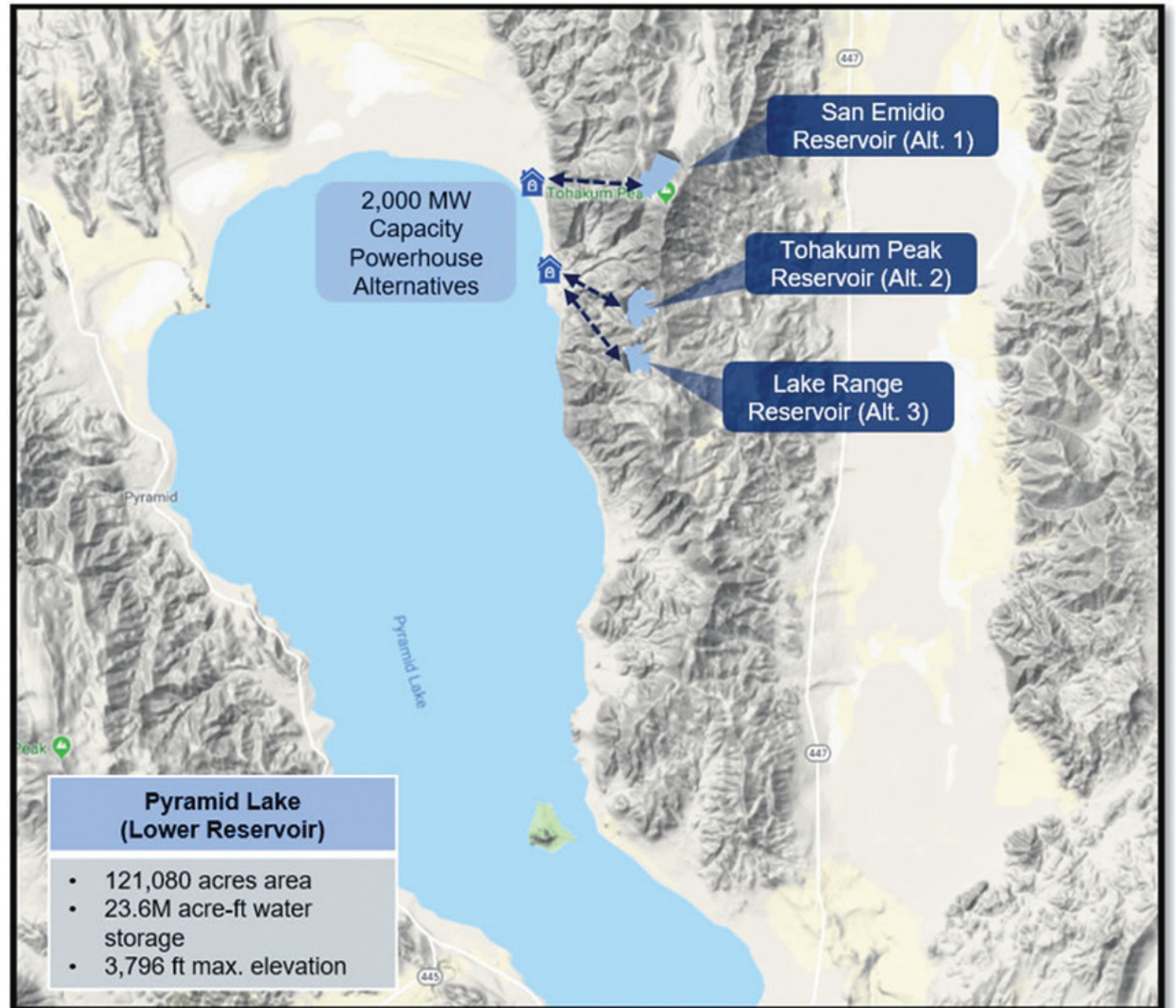
The project envisions “using the water of Pyramid Lake” to generate 2,000 megawatts during a 24 hour cycle and that “the level of the lake will not go down more than half a foot to support this operation. In other words, during the day the lake level will go down no more than half a foot (or less), and at night the level will return to normal,” wrote Victor M. Rojas, managing director for Premium.

Premium said the energy generated by their operation would be transmitted to Southern California via the 50-year-old Pacific DC intertie transmission line that runs east of the reservation connecting Oregon with southern California.

Environmental Hazards

Once Premium’s proposed project became known in late November, reaction was swift. Dan Mosley, executive director of the Pyramid Lake Fisheries wrote that the “mission of Pyramid Lake Fisheries is to operate and maintain fishery facilities at Pyramid Lake and the lower Truckee River for purpose of enhancing Cui-ui and Lahontan Cutthroat Trout populations, while creating a balance within natural resources management actions, which reflects the social, cultural, economic, and natural resource values

PYRAMID LAKE PUMPED STORAGE PROJECT CONCEPTUAL LAYOUT



of the Pyramid Lake Paiute people.” Premium’s “proposal to ‘pump’ water out of the lake, later to be dumped back into the lake would place our endemic aquatic species of Pyramid Lake at great risk.”

In other words, the proposed water cycle system would pulverize the aquatic life as it runs through the turbines and discharge dead organic matter back into the lake. This dead matter will eventually bring death to a living body of water until there is nothing left that is living. It appears that Premium Energy’s engineers are not aware of the fragile biological ecosystem of Pyramid Lake.

In addition to destroying the aquatic life of the lake, other considerations must be addressed such as the wildlife, the livestock, and the birds that inhabit the area or come through on the North American flyway. It is also a food source not unlike any other area in the country for the tribal people, the non-tribal fishermen, plus the recreation it offers to campers and swimmers.

The area selected for this project is “closed to the general public, except Tribal members, primarily to protect the cultural and burial sites that exist throughout this mountain range,” said Mosley. “The project would destroy the sacred places and its traditional resources that the Tribe is dependent upon for their cultural traditions, religion and lifestyles. The area is life sustaining in all aspects of traditional life.”

Mosley also pointed out that “to construct three reservoirs within the Lake Range could place the long-term structural integrity of these reservoirs/dams in jeopardy. This mountain range exists on a long and well-defined fault line. Slip rates are estimated to yield a potential earthquake magnitude range of 6.4 to 7.0. Any failure of

these reservoirs would place cultural sites, water quality, and aquatic life in harm’s way.”

Tribal Considerations

Indeed, most of the general public has forgotten the long and bitter fight the Tribe had to endure in order to bring the Lake back to some semblance of what it was before Derby Dam, the Newlands Project, the multiple dams on the Upper Truckee, and the uncontrolled siphoning of the Truckee by upstream users. Plus the legal obstacles the Tribe had to overcome in order to obtain the water rights for the Lake. Now the Tribe has to be continually on the lookout for any and all potential rip-offs of their Lake, lands, lifestyle and traditions.

Pyramid Lake, as well as other tribes with natural resources, are often approached with economic development projects that, in the long run, will destroy the resources and companies like Premium will move on to the next natural resource “to develop” and leaving the tribe(s) with nothing but regret. (See La Duke’s article on page 8.)

Considering all the federal, state, and tribal rules and regulations that a company has to deal with when proposing any project involving native people and their natural resources, it would take years of consultation with the Tribe and the affected departments, tons of paperwork, meeting criteria that would cause heartburn and headaches, and still may not be approved. Even so, in this day and age the Tribe must remain vigilant, even reading strange emails from strange companies with even stranger ideas.

Any benefits from this project are only for California and their need to keep the lights on and their swimming pools heated in their sprawling mega-metropolis of Los Angeles.

Eastern Nevada vs. Las Vegas

It comes down to this: Las Vegas wants to drain the ground and underground waters from the eastern portion of the Great Basin to keep their neon lights flashing throughout the night.

Having spent 30 years on plans to pipe water to the Las Vegas area, the Southern Nevada Water Authority said the proposed water pipeline from eastern Nevada would supply water for 170,000 new homes planned for the Las Vegas area plus their swimming pools, casino water fountains, and their 24-hour electricity needs apparently far outweighs the needs of those few who live in eastern Nevada.

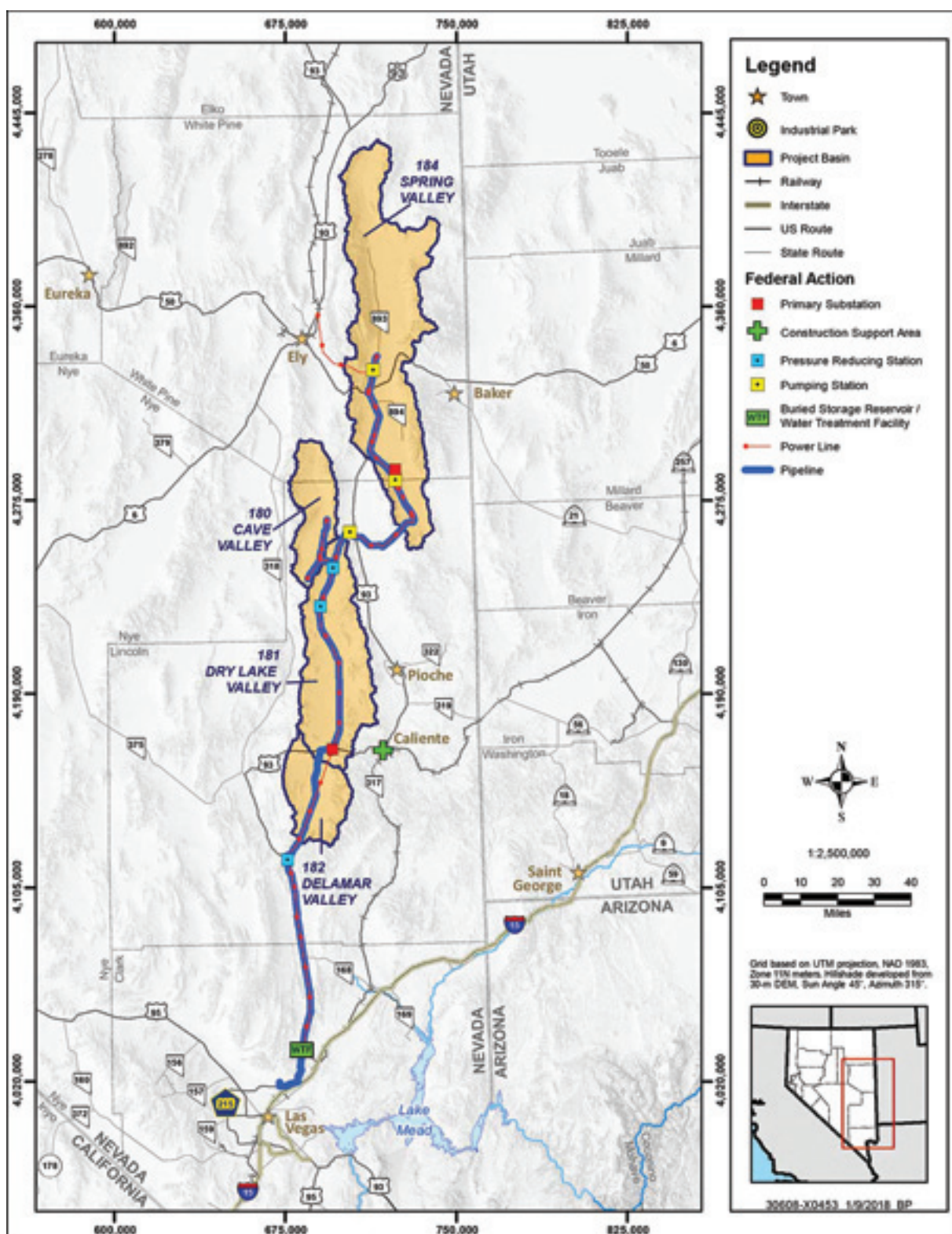
The director of the state’s Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Brad Crowell made this chilling statement: *“Despite what the fundamentals of our water laws may be here in Nevada of first in time and first in right, beneficial use, etc., the courts in Nevada are changing that dynamic with some precedent-setting decisions.”*

He said Las Vegas area gets 90 percent of their water from the Colorado River in addition to existing ground water but that may not be sustainable as the growth in Las Vegas continues.

To the folks in eastern Nevada it’s stealing water and that is a despicable crime in desert country regardless who gives the permission to do so. The Bureau of Land Management, the assumed lord and master over 78% of Nevada land, gave Las Vegas permission the go-ahead to build their \$15 billion, 300-mile pipeline so they can drain the eastern portion of the Great Basin of their water.

But a judge upheld the decision by the former State Water Engineer to deny the Southern Nevada Water Authority’s application for permits and the judge isn’t expected to issue a rule for several months.

The areas involved are four valleys in White Pine and Lincoln counties near the Utah border. The Goshute, Shoshone, environmentalists, ranchers and farmers, the two counties and the Mormon church are opposing the pipeline. The valleys are Spring, Delamar, Dry Lake and



Cave plus Snake Valley located in Utah. The Geological Survey said the valley’s aquifers are connected so it’s likely that Utah’s Snake Valley would also be impacted.

Map: Southern Nevada Water Authority

far as the Native Americans of Nevada and Utah are concerned, this is just a continuation of the land and resource grab that has existed since the authoring of the Bill of Rights. Those who take have been writing the rules.”

The needs and wants to the Colorado River was finally settled with the 1922 Colorado River Compact involving Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada, California and Mexico. During negotiations the parties involved specifically excluded Native Americans and Mexicans from having any water rights to the Colorado River.

The Compact negotiators ignored the Indian Tribes’ water rights under the 1908 *Winters Doctrine* figuring those rights can be bargained for at a later date. In fact, they illegally put Indian water rights under the jurisdiction of state law. The Bureau of Indian Affairs was no match for the Bureau of Reclamation during the negotiations that seem to either postpone the resolution of Indian water rights—hoping they would disappear or that the courts would not interfere.

Tribes using the 1908 *Winters Doctrine* to define their water rights have since successfully disputed state jurisdiction.



Goshute elder Rupert Steele offers a prayer and blessing at Swamp Cedars. Photo: Monte P. Stanford

Spring Valley is a spiritually sacred site for the Goshute and Shoshone where the U.S. military massacred their ancestors in 1863 and 1897. Known to the tribes’ as the Swamp Cedars Massacres, the valley area is where the tribes hold spiritual ceremonies honoring their ancestors. Goshute elders believe the massacred victims physically and spiritually feed the swamp cedar trees, “otherwise you’d never see swamp cedar grow this tall.” The tribes were ignored in the final environmental analysis conducted by the BLM.

According to Rick Spilsbury, Shoshone, “As



Pyramid Lake Museum and Visitors Center

We thank all of the community members who supported the tribal museum throughout this past year. We had interesting events and hope to see more participation in the future.

Plan on attending the opening of the Museum at the Stewart Indian School that will be opening in January 2020.

One of the big events coming to our area is the Uto-Aztecan Numic Language Conference in June 2020. The Reno-Sparks Indian Colony will be sponsoring the conference and our local tribes will be involved.

At the museum, we plan to change the displays and will be installing a basket collection from the Nevada State Museum. Initial plans include bringing our language relatives to Pyramid

Lake for a mobile tour. The language conference brings up to 800 people, with youth and adult training sessions.

Presentations on language, culture and history will be one of the highlights with workshops, native games, feasts, giveaways and more. This is an exciting time because the language conference hasn't been in Nevada for over 10 years and that was held in Hungry Valley years ago.

The Comanche Nation in Lawton, Oklahoma sponsored the 2019 conference. Language conferences have been hosted by the Southern Utes, Eastern Shoshones, Shoshone/Bannocks and others. We are hoping to see more tribes from California, Arizona, Utah, Wyoming, Idaho and parts of Mexico. Tribes from the Uto-Aztecan

family are in places as far away as El Salvador. Mark your calendars for June 16-18, 2020.

We look forward to hosting the Basket Weavers Gathering again next year and we'll send out details as the time gets closer. There is a lot we can do as a community to promote and revitalize the Numu language, culture and ways of life. We are at a critical time in maintaining the Kooyooe Tukadu identity and it's up to everyone to do their part to share knowledge and learn from our elders and those who keep our traditions alive.

Stop by and shop at the Museum Gift Shop. New items are added all the time and there's quite a selection for every age group. We buy from local tribal members, native vendors, and commercial businesses. You are sure to find unique gifts for yourself and others.

The updated 2020 Calendar has been a popular item and a gift for everyone's use. More historical dates were added and is a continual work-in-progress in researching important tribal events and promoting use of our language on a daily basis. The photographs are from the Pyramid Lake area and are beautiful. It allows us to appreciate the spiritual place that we come from and how important it is to take care of and protect the land, water and natural resources at Pyramid Lake.

The museum staff wishes everyone a Happy and Prosperous New Year!

—Billie Jean Guerrero,
Director

Cultural Program News

On November 13, 2019, the Cultural Program hosted Weyupooe Making 101 with Dean Barlese. Participants learned the steps of making Buckberry Pudding. It was a good time had by all and at the end we got to taste the delicious weyupooe. Most of us remember our Grandmothers making the pudding and it was always a treat. Now, we will be

able to prepare it and when the time comes, go and pick buckberries.



Left: The children and families at Natchez learned how to make Hand Drums.

Below: The High School students learning to scrape hides.



REMINDER !!

- If you have Books out, please return!
- Look for upcoming classes. We will post at the Post Offices and Stores so you are aware.
- Visit the Library. We have Books, DVD's and Paiute language material. Computers are available for use.

Nicholas Cortez, the In-School Language Instructor assists with Paiute language activities at the Wadsworth Head Start, Nixon and Wadsworth Daycares, the High School and Natchez.

Exciting news

We have been accepted to attend Recovering Voices, a National research program funded



through the Smithsonian. The Smithsonian partners with communities around the world to help revitalize and sustain language and cultural knowledge. Nicholas and I, along with 4 other community members (two of which are fluent speakers) will attend in April of 2020. We are grateful for the opportunity-which will be funded by Recovering Voices.

—Heidi Barlese and Nicholas Cortez



REINTRODUCTION OF BIGHORN SHEEP PYRAMID LAKE PAIUTE TRIBE

Please join the Pyramid Lake Natural Resources
Department and The Nevada Department of
Wildlife

January 9th, 2020

For the release of California Bighorn Sheep to
the Lake Range. The first reintroduction of
bighorn sheep to Tribal land in Nevada

This is an event you don't want to miss

Event Details

Time of Event TBD

Meet at Nixon Gym late morning/early afternoon to travel to release area, north of the Pyramid. All Pyramid Lake Tribal Members, Tribal employees and invited guests are welcome. Potluck reception to take place after event in the Nixon Gym.

For more information please contact the Pyramid Lake Natural Resources Department. More Information will be published at a later date.

Emily Hagler 775-574-0101 ex 25, egibson@plpt.nsn.us

The Beavers, They Know

At a reservation up north, the tribe got money for improving the homes of the elders. So, these two housing guys went to visit an old woman who lived by herself on the side of a mountain.

They said, "Old woman, we come to see if you want a bathroom put in your house."

"Why?" asked the old woman.

"So you can take a nice warm bath instead of using that creek over there."

The old woman said, "All my life, I've been taking a bath every morning in that creek and the cold water wakes up my body and makes me strong. It washes away my dirt. A bathtub can't do that."

"Yes, but in the winter, it gets very cold and you could get sick," said one of the

guys. And the other guy said, "And what if the beavers dam up your creek, then what?"

The old woman replied, "The beavers will not dam up the creek because every day I leave them fresh young branches to eat."

Years go by and one night the beavers dammed the creek. The old woman would have been 102 years old.

Crosby Lodge Purchased



It was announced on December 17 that the Tribe is finalizing the purchase of Crosby Lodge, a long-standing business enterprise at Sutcliffe that includes all the amenities associated with the Lodge. As a favorite establishment for visiting fishermen and recreationalists, the Lodge offers groceries, gifts, a restaurant, a bar with slot machines, lodging and a gas station.

NUMU, Inc., the business and economic arm of the Tribe, was instrumental in the purchase and will be in charge of its continued development. Tribal members appointed to serve on the NUMU Board include Gary Shaw, Brandon Ceroke, Virginia Cline, Brian Wadsworth, and Sherry Ely-Mendes. Other members are Kip Richie (Potawatomi) and

Shannon Keller O’Laughlin (Choctaw). Drew Rice is the Board’s CEO and assisted by tribal member Cassandra Darrough.

Tribal Chairman Anthony Sampson Sr. stated, “The Lake is our most sacred spaces, amazing wildlife and geologic formations has provided our culture a sense of tranquility and spirituality that cannot be seen anywhere else” and expressed the Tribe’s desire to control the development of Pyramid Lake “in order to maintain its spiritual significance and environmental integrity.”

According to the Crosby Lodge website: the property was homesteaded in the 1850s. The James Sutcliffe family acquired the deed to the property and when President Hoover came to fish

in the 1930’s he signed the deed for Sutcliffe. The Sutcliffe Inn property was a dude ranch in the 1940s as a place where divorcees could stay during the six-week residential requirement for a divorce. The Sutcliffe Inn was then purchased by the Capurro family in the 1950s.

Also in the 1950’s Allen and June Crosby bought a portion of the property from James Sutcliffe and built Crosby Lodge in 1957. In the 1980’s Fred Crosby and Judy Capurro married and subsequently acquired the Sutcliffe Inn merging both properties.

Prior to Fred and Judy marrying the Crosby and Capurro families could once be compared to the historically contentious Hatfield and McCoy families.

Tribal Response Program News

The Tribal Response Program (AKA Brownfields Program) recently conducted a Targeted Brownfield Assessment at the White Building site with the help of contractors. The assessment revealed that the soil surrounding the building contains

elevated levels of lead due to paint chipping off of the structure.

Please do not allow your children to play at the White Building site. Children are especially susceptible to the effects of lead because their bodies absorb it more easily than adults.

The Tribal Response Program is currently awaiting a final report of the site to begin working on finding ways and funding to clean it up.

To read the assessment report for the White Building site and other brownfield sites, please visit the PLPT Brownfield Program Website at www.plptbrownfields.org/public-record and click on the *Phase I/Phase II Environmental Site Assessment Report* links.



Commodity Foods Schedule for 2020

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November 2
December 7

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Reconciliation Pipeline: How to Shackle Native People



By
**Winona
LaDuke**

You can't make this stuff up. At the end of the fossil fuel era, the plan is to transfer the liability to Native people. And it's not going to work. Dressed up as "equity positions", or "reconciliation", across the continent, corporations and governments are trying to pawn off bad projects on Native people.

The most recent case was the attempt to stick the Navajo Nation with a 50-year-old coal generating plant—Navajo Generating Station. That's after BHP Billiton, the largest mining corporation in the world dumped a 50-year-old coal strip mine with all sorts of environmental and health liabilities, on the tribe. Always good to get rid of liabilities on some poor people you've taken advantage of for fifty years or so. It

didn't work because the Navajo Nation rejected the offer.

Now here's a new one—a really good one in Canada. It turns out that no one really wants a tar sands pipeline. Well, except some pipeline companies, the Koch brothers, Syncrude and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

Here's the skinny: The Trans Mountain Kinder Morgan would "twin" another pipeline making this a 1500 mile pipeline with a 800,000 barrel a day capacity. That pipeline is currently Canada's only way to get oil to Chinese markets.

That pipeline was originally purchased for \$4.5 billion in August of 2018 from Kinder Morgan who faced stiff opposition in the courts and in the streets.

Trudeau purchased that pipeline, for the people of Canada, and the next day the Court of British Columbia ruled that all permits were null and void on the pipeline, as Indigenous people had not been consulted and had to give consent.

Risky Business

Fast forward to January of 2019, when the value of the pipeline, now dubbed 'TMX' (I call it Trudeau West) has dropped about \$700 million in value. A pipeline without approvals is a risky thing and getting riskier by the day. Interest payments on a pipeline project are also pretty

hefty: Robyn Allan, an independent economist critical of an expanded Trans Mountain pipeline, says financial statements show the existing pipeline suffered a \$58 million loss in the first four months that the government owned it.

Economists disagree on the interest payments on just pipeline debt - it's somewhere between \$149 and \$249 million annually, and that's a chunk of change.

That's a lot of money. No time better to send that debt over to the First Nations. After all, most of the Canadian First Nations have poverty rates four times the national average, a lack of potable water, and inadequate infrastructure. It makes perfect sense that a First Nation, or coalition of First Nations should assume Canada's debt and liability on a mega project which will wreak environmental and economic havoc.

Enter "Reconciliation Pipeline"

Clever for sure in the political spin. "Let's make it the Reconciliation Pipeline. Through majority Indigenous ownership, it can improve Indigenous lives throughout the West. How?

By returning profits made from shipping resources to market to the traditional owners of the land from which those resources came," their website explains.

"Project Reconciliation wants Indigenous peoples to use capital markets to take a majority ownership stake in Trans Mountain. It also wants to create a Sovereign Wealth Fund to create intergenerational wealth to improve Indigenous lives across the West by investing in infrastructure and renewable energy projects".

That's one bid for the risky pipeline. Two more "competing" First Nations coalitions allegedly seek to buy the pipeline. The Iron Coalition from Alberta has invited 47 First Nations and about 60 Métis organizations in the province to sign up for the effort which was endorsed by the Alberta-based Assembly of Treaty Chiefs last fall. And then there's a third—the Western Indigenous Pipeline Group comprised of First Nations already along the infrastructure's route, impacted by the present 300,000 barrel a day tarsands pipeline, to be "twinned" should a miracle occur in financing.

That's three coalitions all preparing a bidding war for a pipeline project which faces massive opposition. The whole initiative, Rueben George, of the Tsleil-wauluth First Nation and leader in the opposition to the pipeline, calls this new development "a new smallpox blanket."

Economically, he's probably right.

Big Money on the Line

The offers are big, and the numbers a bit perplexing. Project Reconciliation plans a \$6.8-billion bid for a 51 per cent stake in the pipeline. The other two Indigenous initiatives are also bidding for an equity stake.

Just to make sure that more money is pilfered off First Nations, Project Reconciliation plans to raise \$7.6 billion in bonds. That's more debt and more people making money off the First Nations.

My math is not the best. But, let's just note that the pipeline was purchased for \$4.5 billion by Canada less than a year ago. (That gave a 400% profit to Kinder Morgan who dumped a liability).

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Library Hours

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No Uranium Mining on Sacred Land:

Big Win for Pine Ridge Reservation



Crow Butte, seen from the south, has historical and cultural significance for the Oglala Sioux Tribe. They are opponents to the continuation of uranium mining on their sacred lands in northeastern Nebraska.

The Oglala Sioux Tribe and activists scored a win when federal administrative judges ruled that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff had failed to take “a hard look” at cultural resources when recommending renewal of a uranium mining license for the Crow Butte Mine. The decision delays permitting.

The tribe, intervening in the license renewal application for the mine in Dawes County, Nebraska which is adjacent to the Pine Ridge

Indian Reservation, argued that the staff recommended approval in violation of its rights under the National Historic Preservation Act and National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA).

Ruling in favor of the tribe’s argument, the oversight panel established by the Atomic Licensing and Safety Board stated: “The NRC staff has not met its identification obligations” under the two laws, “nor has the NRC staff, in its environmental assessment, undertaken a hard look under NEPA at the cultural resources within the license area.”

The board requested the staff “remedy its noncompliance.” In other words: go back to the drawing board and address tribal concerns over

historical and cultural sites of relevance before any permitting.

Crow Butte Mine is a decades-old project of the world’s largest publicly traded uranium mining company, the Canadian Cameco Corp.

The company is facing federal tax-dodging allegations in its home country and an investigation by the Internal Revenue Service over \$32 million in U.S. back taxes.

Canadian Cameco Corp is reducing uranium wellfield development at its Wyoming operations as its stock values are crashing.



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Then the resale value of the pipeline dropped in January. And, as the Globe and Mail notes, “Expanding the pipeline, as Kinder Morgan had initially proposed doing before abandoning the project, has been forecast to cost roughly \$9 billion in addition to the purchase price of the existing pipeline and associated assets. That meant the total cost to taxpayers would be roughly \$14 billion.”

Now the Bands are looking to buy a 51% stake for \$6.8 billion—on a pipeline with no known final price tag. After all, the existing pipeline is decrepit and the new one doesn’t exist. Nice work Trudeau.

Let me ask who is going to make the interest payments for these First Nations? Those payments are going to be at least \$20 million a month.

“We need to get to a place where Indigenous peoples in Canada are in control of their own destiny, making their own decisions about their future,” said Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

That’s how Trudeau is justifying this, and

it won’t work. Indigenous people are best in control of our destiny when we control our land and water. This pipeline project is an exorbitant small pox blanket, really. The Trudeau West Pipeline (formerly known as Trans Mountain) will add about 162,536 million metric tons of carbon to the air annually.

That’s what 800,000 barrels a day of tar sands oil gets you. That carbon is supposed to stay in the ground, not the air; a basic biology class will tell you that.

The cost of removing the carbon from the air is about \$1000 a metric ton. That liability is for someone to pay, most likely the pipeline owner. Let alone, the cost and liability of spills, and costs to our First Nations and democracies for the brutality of militarization, criminalization and repression that will have to occur to put in these pipelines.

There is no way that the “Sovereign Wealth and Reconciliation Fund” dreamed of by the First Nations will have any money.

Take it from me: by the time you all are done paying the interest and financing you’ll be deep

into intergenerational debt servitude.

“If Canada is truly committed to reconciliation, it is time to walk away from this risky project,” suggested Eugene Kung, attorney for West Coast Environmental Law Firm. “Canada already overpaid for this risky project, and now its value is even lower—it’s time to cut our losses and move forward on a different pathway for Canada’s clean energy future.”

Alberta, it’s time to move on. You’re the sunniest province in Canada.

Reconciliation and justice doesn’t mean saddling more liability on First Nations. Reconciliation would have been to pay those First Nations a royalty for all the oil that has passed through their territories over the past decades. Reconciliation would mean infrastructure for people, not for oil companies; like potable water, renewable energy and peace.

After all, when the Navajo Nation rejected purchase of the aging Navajo Generating Station in April they put up the 27 megawatt Kayenta Solar Project.

That’s the future.

Traditions and Diabetes Prevention

Diabetes is serious. Diabetes is deadly. To see the devastating impact it can have on a population, sadly, one need look no further than to the first nation of people to inhabit North America. Recent data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Indian Health Service (IHS) show that in some American Indian and Alaska Native communities, diabetes prevalence among adults is as high as 60 percent. One in six American Indian and Alaska Native adults has diagnosed diabetes—more than double the prevalence rate for the general U.S. population.

But it wasn't always this way.

That was then, this is now

Less than 100 years ago, diabetes was virtually unknown in native communities. It was not until after World War II that diabetes cases began to be reported by IHS providers. In fact, a century ago, all chronic diseases, including diabetes, were practically nonexistent in Indian country. As recently as 1955, diabetes was unrecognized as a leading cause of death as evidenced by its absence in a listing of the 10 most frequent causes of death for this population.

However, by 2009, diabetes had jumped to number four on the list. American Indians and Alaska Natives now have the highest diabetes prevalence rates of all racial and ethnic groups in the United States. More than 16 percent of the native population has been diagnosed, compared

to 8.7 percent of non-Hispanic whites. The Pima Indians of Arizona have the highest rates of diabetes in the world with more than 50 percent having a diagnosis of type 2 diabetes.

Data from the 2003–2004 National Health Interview Survey and the 2004 IHS outpatient database show that male and female American Indians and Alaskan Natives have the highest rates of diabetes for each age-group when compared to rates for non-Hispanic whites and non-Hispanic blacks.

Higher incidence, more death, disability

The presence of diabetes in Indian country has caused a great deal of pain and hardship. IHS data show that American Indians and Alaska Natives have a higher incidence of long-term complications of diabetes and that these problems develop earlier in life.

Cardiovascular disease (CVD) is now the number one cause of death, and American Indians and Alaska Natives with diabetes are three to four times more likely to develop CVD than those without the disease. In addition, diabetes is the leading cause of new blindness, end-stage renal disease, and lower-extremity amputation. And the mortality rate for American Indians and Alaska Natives is growing faster than for the general U.S. population.

Young natives affected at alarming rates

Equally alarming is the fact that diabetes is

increasingly prevalent among Native American children and young adults. The IHS Diabetes Program shows a 160 percent increase in diagnosed diabetes for Native Americans between the ages of 25 and 34 years between 1990 and 2004. For children under 15 years of age there was a 77 percent increase during this time period. There is a 94 percent increase for those who were 15–19 and 20–24 years of age.

The urgent need for type 2 diabetes prevention in this population can be discerned through this prediction from the CDC: one in two American Indian/Alaska Native children born in 2000 will have type 2 diabetes in their lifetime unless the current trend is halted.

Diabetes: Inevitable or preventable?

Why are so many Native Americans vulnerable? Are they, as many native people believe, destined to receive a diagnosis of diabetes?

Factors contributing to the high rates of diabetes in American Indians and Alaska Natives include genetic, environmental, and behavioral issues, which may include a genetic predisposition toward insulin resistance, exposure of fetuses to hyperglycemia during pregnancy, sedentary lifestyles, obesity, and the effects of living in environments that are stress-producing from both a social and physical standpoint.

Impact of environmental changes

Before Europeans arrived in the Americas, more than 500 tribes (totaling about 22 million people) inhabited what is now known as the United States. Many archaeologists and scholars claim that native people may have inhabited the Americas for as long as 70,000 years before the arrival of non-natives.

On February 16, 1835, the U.S. Congress passed the Indian Removal Act, initiating the relocation of thousands. By the mid-1870s, reservation life had begun for most native people in the United States. By November 1, 1878, many American Indian children were being relocated to boarding schools and away from the reservations. And on February 8, 1887, the Dawes Act was passed, causing American Indian groups to lose a collective 90 million acres of land, although a majority of the loss had occurred before that time.

Although all of these events were obviously traumatic, many have said that it was the loss of the buffalo herds that was the most devastating to native people. This is because every part of a buffalo's carcass was used by tribal people, absolutely nothing went to waste. By the mid to late 1800s, the buffalo herds had been destroyed or hunted to near-extinction.

Despite this inexcusable treatment and the dramatic changes to their environment, Native Americans have persevered.

Increase in obesity

Unfortunately, the policies that created American Indian reservations resulted in drastic lifestyle changes that had a negative impact on health for native people. The prevalence of obesity in native populations is high, thereby increasing their risk for type 2 diabetes. A National Center for Health Statistics report of health characteristics of native populations between 1999 and 2003 showed that native adults were more likely to be obese than their white, black,

(Continued on page 11)



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Keep your arms at your side, not in your pockets.

Concentrate on keeping your balance.

So S-L-O-W-L-Y!

(Continued from page 10)

or Asian counterparts in the United States. For adults who had been diagnosed with diabetes, nearly 70 percent were obese, and this was an increase of nearly 11 percent over the previous 9-year period.

Environment versus genetics

In 2006, a report on the impact of environmental influences on the prevalence of obesity and type 2 diabetes in the Pimas in the U.S. compared to their Mexican tribal members. Results of the study showed the U.S. Pimas had significantly higher rates of obesity and type 2 diabetes; lower intake of dietary fiber and higher dietary fat intake; and less energy expenditure for work or leisure activities. The researchers concluded that development of type 2 diabetes and obesity are preventable and are caused primarily by behavioral and lifestyle factors.

Traditional patterns of physical activity

Traditional work activities for many tribes included farming, husking corn, fishing, canoeing, hunting buffalo, picking berries, and tanning hides. There were also frequent native dances and powwows, which involved strenuous physical activity. It has been estimated that native people expended more than 4,000 calories per day before the start of reservation life. The move to reservations resulted in a tremendous loss of opportunity for caloric expenditure, as well as a loss of pride for a lifestyle of hard work.

Traditional foods

In addition to the changes that occurred in physical activity levels, the movement to the reservations also brought significant changes in dietary intake for the tribes.

Foods traditionally eaten in the pre-reservation era included wild game (buffalo, elk, rabbit, snake, and fish), berries, other fruits, and root vegetables (raw, cooked, and dried), as well as soups made with meat and vegetables, nuts, and teas made from wild peppermint, juniper, rosehips, and wild cherries.

The quantity of food available was dependent on the success of hunting or fishing and seasonal harvesting of available plants. It was truly a situation of feast or famine.

Food distribution was communal. One or two meals were eaten each day, usually in the morning and evening. Celebrations of births, marriages, or the presence of visitors included sharing and feasting on whatever food was available.

Traditional food consumption patterns contrast sharply with today's modern food consumption patterns of many tribes. As is true for Americans of all ethnic backgrounds, American Indians and Native Alaskans now consume a diet that is highly processed. Foods are higher in fat, particularly saturated fat, higher in sodium, added sugars, and dietary cholesterol. The fiber, vitamin, and mineral content have decreased dramatically.

Changes in food consumption are also influenced by what is available in the marketplace. Because of limited finances, lack of transportation, and other factors, many tribal members have limited access to grocery stores, which offer a wider selection of nutrient-rich foods to promote good health. Convenience stores in small reservation communities often carry a large inventory of sodas, energy drinks, chips, and other snack foods and very little in fresh fruits and vegetables. Fresh fish and other low-fat protein sources are not available.

Other influences on modern dietary intake

include access to fast food, the including fried foods such as frybread (considered a traditional food), and numerous community events, ceremonies, and celebrations that provide access to food for hours or days at a time, and the use of government commodities which historically have been high in fat, added sugars and low in fiber.

The overarching impact of these factors is one of increased calorie consumption.

Research supports the traditional diet

Several studies agree to the belief held by many tribes that a modern diet leads to adverse health effects and that returning to a more traditional diet will prevent diabetes and reverse the adverse metabolic consequences of modern eating habits.

Short-term studies in both Australian Aborigines and Pima Indians have shown that return to a traditional diet is associated with improvements in metabolic abnormalities such as glucose intolerance and high cholesterol, triglyceride, and insulin levels.

One study showed that obesity and type 2 diabetes were less prevalent among Pima living a traditional lifestyle in Mexico than among those Pimas living in a more affluent environment in Arizona. A long-term study of the Pimas compared the effects of a self-assessed traditional, mixed, or nontraditional diet in 165 nondiabetic Pima Indians.

The results, after adjustments for age, sex, BMI, and total energy intake, showed that those who reported consuming an Anglo-type diet were 2.5 times more likely to develop diabetes, and those consuming a mixed diet were 1.3 times more likely to do so than those consuming the traditional diet.

Examples of tribal programs that are working to improve food consumption patterns include the Northern Plains Buffalo Hunt exchange among tribes, the Bemidji (Minnesota) Wild Rice Gatherers, and the Southwest Native Seeds Project.

The importance of spirituality

Another important aspect of Native American culture whose existence was challenged but has endured is the importance of spirituality and adherence to ceremonies, rituals, and native beliefs. Some of these are described below. Although similarities exist, it is important to note that some ceremonies, blessings, beliefs, and rituals are unique to particular tribes.

Medicine men and the traditional Indian health system remain of great value to many tribes and incorporate a more holistic approach to healing than is found in modern Western medicine. To many Native Americans, an illness may not be cured even if symptoms have been alleviated by a physician. Traditional medicine concerns itself with cultural beliefs about disease etiology based on folklore, taboos, and tribal religion. As long as the culture remains strong, traditional healers will remain a valuable component of the society.

There are many types of traditional healing practices that vary widely from among tribes. Characteristics of traditional Indian medicine include a profound system that is deeply rooted and complex; inclusion of religion and a realm of spirits who are capable of doing either good or harm; possession by traditional healers of special powers to communicate with spirits, heal the sick, and foretell future events; and power that is transcendently obtained through a trancelike state or through dreams. Power is not believed to

be a personal attribute of practitioners, but rather is viewed as a higher power that practitioners can invoke. Important rituals that are considered intensely private and spiritual include the Sweat Lodge, the Sun Dance ceremony, and the Vision Quest. The Medicine Wheel is a symbolic circle in the Native American community that represents eternity and the life of all beings on the Earth from birth to death to rebirth. It represents unification and fulfillment and is a powerful visual tool.

Tribal beliefs about diabetes

Perceptions and beliefs about diabetes vary considerably from one tribe to another. Recognizing these differences is important because individuals' understanding and beliefs about the origins of diabetes will affect how, why, and if they seek treatment. Some examples of various tribal beliefs about what a diagnosis of diabetes means include:

Navajo: Life is out of balance (physically, emotionally, spiritually, and from the perspective of a kinship network), and diabetes was brought on by outside influences, such as white people.

Iroquois-speaking Seneca: Diabetes is an attack on Indians with a source that is conscious, malevolent, and calculatedly aggressive.

Ojibway (Canada): Diabetes is a "white man's sickness" and results from disruption of the tribal way of life and contamination of the environment and food supply by white people.

Northern Utes: Diabetes is an entity that takes possession of people to do evil and results from witchcraft or a breach of tribal taboos.

Dakota: Diabetes occurs because of a loss of traditional ways and a change in diet.

Other Plains tribes: Diabetes is the consequence of the loss of traditional ways, not living a "right life," or breaking a spirit-imposed taboo.

Southwest American Indian youth (four tribes): More than half believe that diabetes is contagious, and a third believe that it happens to weak people.

Use of medical services and traditional healing

As one might anticipate, the attitudes services offered by traditional healers compared to medical health care providers varies from tribe to tribe. A study of randomly selected 2,595 Indians who were 15–57 years of age and living on or near reservations in the Southwest and Northern Plains showed that 1) a higher level of education was associated with a greater use of medical services for physical problems; 2) a greater identification with native culture had a higher usage of traditional medicine; and 3) a larger percentage of tribes in the Southwest use both traditional healers and medical services as healing options, whereas other Indians tend to use medical services more frequently for physical problems.

Provisions of health care

Recognition of the health care needs of Native Americans improved in the 1950s. The IHS, established in 1955, is a federal agency as part of the U.S. Public Health Service. As the principal health care provider and governmental entity for American Indians and Alaskan Natives, it has as its mission the goal of improving the physical, mental, social, and spiritual health of the native population. Nearly 2 million American Indians and Alaska Natives reside on or near reservations served by the IHS, and less than 600,000 receive service in 34 urban programs.

(Continued on page 12)

Traditions and Diabetes Prevention (Continued from page 11)

The IHS Division of Diabetes Treatment and Prevention (DDTP) was established in 1979 and is based in Albuquerque, N.M. The approach it has taken to address the epidemic of diabetes in Indian country is one of both clinical and public health and encompasses diabetes surveillance, enhancement and measurement of clinical diabetes care, and promotion of a diabetes network for rapid translation of research into clinical practice. Community-based prevention has been a more recent emphasis.

Demonstration projects involve fixed interventions of two types: Diabetes Prevention and Healthy Heart. The basic requirements of the Diabetes Prevention demonstration project for the Winnebagos includes recruitment and screening to identify people with pre-diabetes, provision of a 16-session diabetes prevention curriculum in-group education sessions, provision of individual coaching and community activities, and measurement of outcomes such as weight loss, lifestyle change, and type 2 diabetes prevention. Outcome data gathered thus far are promising. People are

losing weight; measures of BMI, blood glucose, blood pressure, and lipids are declining; the incidence of smoking is declining; and levels of physical activity are increasing.

Diabetes prevention programs

Funding for the prevention programs has made numerous programs possible in Native American communities that have made a significant difference in the health and overall quality of life for many tribal members. As reported in the IHS evaluation in 2005, sixteen community advocacy activities to prevent diabetes have included promotion of traditional foods and community gardening, campaigns to increase diabetes awareness and knowledge, and the use of traditional methods, such as storytelling and Talking Circles.

Storytelling is a highly valued native tradition that is used to teach younger generations about tribal ways and beliefs and to help maintain a tribal history and native languages.

Talking Circles are an ancient practice still used by many tribes to construct collective decision-making. In the context of diabetes education, Talking Circles are used to teach culture

and traditions for health education and promotion. The circle is an ancient symbol that represents eternity and life. Often, Talking Circles include the use of a Talking Feather or Talking Stick, which ensures participants' right to speak without interruption.

Talking Circles as a method of providing education and emotional support to participants and their families coping with diabetes and to offer a forum for community action to address the diabetes epidemic in tribal communities.

The prevention programs also offers weight management programs for adults and children. In 2002, 66 percent of the programs reported having weight management programs for adults, compared to a limited presence of 28 percent before the program. Equally important, programs available for primary prevention and weight management for children and youth and for physical activity services have increased dramatically from 1997 to 2005. Through education, tribal communities are increasingly cognizant of the importance of programs that promote healthy lifestyle change and are engaging in them.

—Sue McLaughlin, BS, RD, CDE (edited)

Positions available with the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe

Transit Operator

\$13.02–\$13.68 per hour. Full time, non-exempt, Class 115, Grade: 13, Steps 1-3; DOE. Posted: 12/06/2019. Closing date: 12/20/2019

Financial Manager

\$44,096.00–\$46,321.60 per annum. Class 539, Grade 23, Steps 1-3, DOE. Full time, exempt. Posted: 12/06/2019. Closing date: 1/21/2020

Child Care Director

\$34,548.00–\$36,316.80 per annum. Class 353, Grade 18, Steps 1-3, DOE. Full time, exempt. Posted: 12/06/2019. Closing date: Open Until Filled.

Maintenance II (2 positions)

\$10.71–\$11.25 per hour. Class 138, Grade 9, Steps 1-3, DOE. Full time, non-exempt. Posted: 12/06/2019. Open Until Filled.

Probation Officer

\$16.61–\$17.46 per hour. Class 306, Grade 18, Steps 1-3, DOE. Full time, non-exempt. Posted: 12/06/2019. Open Until Filled.

Public Utilities District Director

\$48,609.60–\$51,064.00 per annum. Class 535, Grade 25, Steps 1-3, DOE. Full time, exempt. Posted: 12/06/2019. Open Until Filled.

Police Officer

\$19.23–\$20.20 per hour. Class 443, Grade 21, Steps 1-3, DOE. Full time, non-exempt. Posted: 10/02/2019. Open Until Filled.

Case Worker

\$36,291.82–\$38,129.09 per annum. Class 408, Grade 19, Steps 1-3, DOE. Full time, exempt. Posted: 10/11/2019. Open Until Filled.

Tribal Comptroller

Salary negotiable per annum. Class 607, DOE. Full time, exempt. Posted 10/09/2019. Open Until Filled.

Sumunumu Manager

\$51,054.20–\$53,622.40 per annum. Class 508, Grade 20, Steps 1-3, DOE. Full time, exempt. Posted: 09/26, 2019. Open Until Filled.

Teacher Aide

\$8.81–\$9.26 per hour. Class 109, Grade 5, Steps 1-3, DOE. Part-time, non-exempt. Posted: 9/26/2019. Open Until Filled.

Retail Worker (weekend shift)

\$9.71–\$10.20 per hour. Class 123, Grade 7, Steps 1-3, DOE. On call, part-time, non-exempt. Posted: 9/17/2019. Open Until Filled.

Environmental Specialist

\$32,905.60–\$34,590.40 per annum. Class 432, Grade 17, Steps 1-3, DOE. Full time, exempt. Posted: 8/26/2019. Open Until Filled.

Child Care Provider

\$10.20–\$10.72 per hour. Class 112, Grade 8, Steps 1-3, DOE. Full time, non-exempt. Posted: 07/23/2019. Closing date: Ongoing

Museum Attendant

\$11.25–\$11.82 per hour. Class 217, Grade 10, Step 1-3, DOE. On call as needed. Posted: 7/16/2019. Closing date: Ongoing

On-Call Positions

Various positions. Part-time: 29 hours; Full-time: 40 hours. Posted: Ongoing. Closing date: Ongoing.

Preference in filling vacancies is given to qualified Indian candidates in accordance with the Indian Preference Act (Title 25, U.S. Code, Sections 472 and 473). However, the Pyramid Lake Tribe is an Equal Opportunity Employer and all qualified applicants will be considered in accordance with the provisions of Section 703 (I) of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, amended in 1991.

For more information contact Pyramid Lake Human Resources at 775-574-1000, ext. 1132.

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Website: www.plpthumanresources.org

Seriously Funny: Comedy Duo James & Ernie Have a Message for Native Youth

The comedians' humor is a vehicle for bringing their message to Indian country. "Ernie and I are recovering drug addicts and alcoholics," Junes says, explaining their involvement with Project Peace Train (PPT), an organization started by Tsosie's father, Ernest Jr., and brother John.

Their mission is to raise awareness among Native youth of the dangers of domestic violence, teen dating violence, bullying, sexual abuse, suicide, cyber bullying and substance abuse. "The kids are in that delicate situation where they're facing decisions about drugs and alcohol," Junes says. "And we just tell them our story. We tell them, 'You don't need drugs to enhance your life. You can be a success in this life. But you have to make that decision on your own.'"

Tsosie and Junes' youth activism predates PPT by about five years. "We were just kind of doing our thing," Tsosie recalls. "The original idea was to do all the schools on the Navajo Nation. That's turned into going wherever we're needed." They perform these programs on a largely volunteer basis. Tsosie admits the work can be "a grind" that "sometimes it almost comes to a complete stop. But we just keep it going. This kind of work is never-ending."

"Some people have said to us, 'Because of what you did, I've been sober for years,' or, 'I've gotten into physical fitness,'" Junes says, then recalls a recent breakthrough moment that hinged on a t-shirt Tsosie was wearing that said Sober Native. "This one gentleman came up to me, he said he had made the decision to change his life because of that t-shirt. He said, 'I wonder what it's like to wear a t-shirt like that and truly mean it.' I told him, 'Brother, you're doing the right thing. Even if we just reach that one guy, that made it all worthwhile.'"

"We do comedy with a message," Tsosie says. "Initially, it was being celebrated as being drug-free, Native American men, husbands



and entertainers. And, it's evolved into overall healthy mind, spirit and body."

The duo, who have been performing together since 2002, formed by accident. They had met each other, and were performing solo shows in the same venues for about a year. One night, in Tuba City, the show was running well behind schedule and the MC asked them if they'd take the stage together. They did, and ended up forming a partnership.

Native standup comedy, as far as they knew, wasn't thriving. "This was all brand new," Junes recalls. "There were probably three Native comedians we'd ever known about when we started. We were pushing on doors nobody had ever pushed on. We're doing conferences. We're bombing some of the shows. We're questioning ourselves." But, at the same time, they were trying to follow their dream.

They both cite Vincent Craig and Drew Lacapa as influences, saying that these Native pioneers encouraged them, early in their careers.

"We didn't really know about Charlie Hill until after we got started," Tsosie admits. "When we played with him for the first time, it was a great moment for us. He was the grandfather of Native comedy. He was the first one to bust down those doors. We were doing a show at Sky City Casino, and when came off stage, he was

passing out advice like he was passing out candy. Over the years, he became a friend of ours."

The routines are not scripted, rather they are universally understood. "We kinda feed off the audience," Tsosie says. "We try to do something with a personal feel to the audience. Most times, we just test out our new material right on stage. We're based off of improv, but if a bit works really well, then we keep it. We don't rehearse. Our set list is always different."

"People always ask, 'How does Navajo comedy translate into Minnesota comedy, or Florida comedy?'" Junes says. "And I answer that we draw the same picture using their crayons. Native communities are similar." Tsosie adds that while the jokes are delivered from a Native point of view, the humor is not restricted to any ethnicity; it's what he describes as "human comedy."

"There will be some non-Natives that have lived on the reservation, and they kind of get the humor, but they don't really get it. But, the Native Americans get all the inside stuff. In the early years, I think we really geared towards Native America. But now we do mainstream—it works whether you're black, you're white or Native."

The duo recognizes that diversifying their style opens up their act to a broader audience. Junes notes "When you present yourself in that way, you have this opening for people to hire you to perform in schools, conferences, and wellness conferences."

James & Ernie account for two-fifths of the 49 Laughs Comedy Tour; together with Tatanka Means, Pax Harvey and Adrienne Chalepah.

Independent of 49 Laughs, James & Ernie have released two comedy DVDs and multiple CDs over the years. To keep up with James & Ernie, visit their official Facebook page, as well as that of the 49 Laughs Comedy Tour.

Federal judges confirmed at record speed

Why is this important to you, dear reader?

Because 99% of tribal court cases go before federal judges. From all indications it appears that the Republican administration of Donald Trump hopes to have a number of major laws they don't like that deals with all basic human rights overturned by "their judges."

On Thursday, December 19, the Senate confirmed Trump's 187th judge. As the House debated impeachment, Senator Mitch McConnell set a fast pace that had the Senate voting on a judicial nominee approximately every two hours. By the end of the day, 13 new federal judges had been confirmed to lifetime appointments.

Trump has transformed the judiciary, appointing more than 20% of currently serving judges. That includes 50 appellate judges in 3 years.

President Obama confirmed only 55 in 8 years because of McConnell's exceptional obstruction of his appointees. Many of Trump's appointments were for seats McConnell held open during Obama's second term, hoping to have just this opportunity.

While hundreds of House bills sit on McConnell's desk awaiting action, he's shortened the time for Senate consideration of judicial nominees, setting up an assembly line that bypasses meaningful review. Senators rubber stamp Trump's nominees, a record number of whom have been rated "unqualified" by the American Bar Association—some nominees have never tried a case or have drawn criticism over a lack of judicial demeanor.

A new trend is for nominees is to decline to agree that *Brown v. Board of Education*, the case that ended school segregation, was correctly decided. Three of the judges confirmed yesterday followed this path. What that means for the future is unclear, although there has been some suggestion that this approach might make it easier to reverse longstanding precedent of *Roe v. Wade*. Trump's takeover of the courts is an underreported story that will have a lasting effect on our rights.

—Joyce Vance, former U.S. Attorney and currently a professor at the University of Alabama School of Law

From Senator Catherine Cortez Masto

"Last month I spoke out against Lawrence VanDyke's nomination to the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals. The truth is that Mr. VanDyke isn't from our state, lacks the necessary qualifications to serve on one of Nevada's seats on the 9th Circuit and has a troubling record on issues ranging from environmental protections to LGBTQ and reproductive rights. By confirming this nominee, Senate Republicans have set a dangerous precedent that is bad for Nevadans and bad for our nation."

Evil joy for Senate Leader

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) bragged about blocking former President Obama's attempt to fill federal judicial vacancies for more than two years.

"I'll tell you why," McConnell bragged. "I was in charge of what we did the last two years of the Obama administration." Then he *laughed*.

Preventing Obama's Supreme Court nominee Merrick Garland from getting a hearing McConnell said it was "the most consequential decision I've made in my entire public career."

New IHS director promises positive changes

WASHINGTON, D.C. —Michael Weahkee, Zuni Pueblo, was accepted by Republican and Democrats alike as he went before the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs for his confirmation hearing on December 11, 2019. He was nominated by



Rear Admiral Michael D. Weahkee

President Donald Trump to serve as director of the Indian Health Service, a federal agency that has gone without a permanent leader for more than four years.

“I think you’re going to get confirmed,” Sen. Jon Tester (D-Montana), a former chairman and former vice chairman of the committee, told Weahkee. “And you should get confirmed.”

The outlook was a lot more dire earlier when Trump’s first pick, Robert Weaver, Quapaw, was forced to withdraw after serious doubts were raised about his professional and educational background.

But the leadership crisis at the IHS, charged with providing health care to more than 2 million American Indians and Alaska Natives, goes back even further. The agency hasn’t had a confirmed director since the Obama administration.

“Unfortunately, the situation at the Service has grown even more critical in the intervening years,” Sen. Tom Udall (D-NM), the vice chairman of the committee, said in reference to long-standing quality of care concerns across Indian Country, some of which have gone uncorrected by the IHS and, in some instances, gotten worse.

Weahkee, worked at the IHS for more than two decades, is vowing to rely on his years of experience if he is confirmed as the new director. He told the committee that he plans to address staffing, recruitment, funding, management and other issues that have hindered the HIS and the Indian patients.

“We cannot solve everything at once, but we can make a positive, real and lasting difference in the lives and health of our patients,” Weahkee said in his opening statement. “And we can make what some say is impossible, possible.”

According to Weahkee, the IHS has gained ground in fixing problems in the Great Plains region that has experienced some of the worst problems. One hospital in Nebraska lost its federal certification, an unprecedented development in the history of the agency, and at least three other facilities in South Dakota suffered significant lapses in service after reviews uncovered major patient care issues.

“We have transitioned the Rosebud Indian Hospital from a facility that was on the brink of decertification by the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS), to now being fully accredited,” Weahkee said of the changes occurring in South Dakota, where leaders of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe have blamed several deaths on the lack of services in their community.

“And, just last week CMS conducted a recertification survey of the Pine Ridge Indian Hospital and we look forward to sharing the results of that survey soon,” he said of another medical facility that serves the Oglala Sioux Tribe.

Weahkee was not asked about, and he did

not bring up, the loss of certification at a unit in Nebraska that serves the Omaha and Winnebago Tribes. Patients were dying and being mistreated at the facility that has since been taken over by the Winnebago Tribe and reopened as the Twelve Clans Unity Hospital. The tribe is working to become accredited since the IHS is unable to

Senator Udall pointed out that other regions of Indian Country have been plagued with sub-standard care. Recently the Acoma-Canoncity-Laguna Service Unit was forced to shut down its emergency room and its urgent care unit because the HIS couldn’t find anyone to work there.

Weahkee did not explain what happened at that hospital instead he said he would try to make the IHS a more attractive place for doctors, nurses and other health care professionals to work.

“There are many different challenges to our recruitment and retention efforts,” said Weahkee, who cited housing, transportation and educational opportunities for spouses and families as among the barriers to bringing in more professionals into the IHS workforce.

Senate committee members expressed concern about another lingering scandal at the IHS. Stanley Patrick Weber, a pediatrician at IHS for decades has been convicted of abusing young male patients at South Dakota and Montana facilities. According to an investigation by PBS’ *Frontline* and the *Wall Street Journal*, the doctor remained employed at the IHS despite fellow employees raising concerns about his behavior and the doctor, dubbed the “Predator on the Reservation” was transferred to other places instead of being held accountable.

“Those types of activities are absolutely unacceptable and will not be tolerated,” said

Weahkee, who vowed to set a “tone at the top” in which transparency and openness are key values at the IHS. “We cannot risk any harm to our patients.”

But as more than one lawmaker brought up the Weber scandal, Weahkee tried to shift the focus away from what he considers negative media attention. Despite additional *Frontline* and *Wall Street Journal* stories detailing similar incidents elsewhere in Indian Country, he said the IHS hasn’t done enough to promote positive initiatives in tribal communities.

“How will you make sure that you don’t have a repeat of something like what happened with Stanley Patrick Weber?” asked Sen. John Hoeven (R-ND), the chairman of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs.

According to Weahkee, the IHS has developed a “centralized” credential system to ensure that health care professionals are in good standing before they are hired by the agency. He also said employees are being encouraged to report something “that doesn’t look right” so that incidents and behaviors can be investigated. “You have my full commitment to transparency and openness,” Weahkee said.

Weahkee has received support the National Indian Health Board, the Association of American Indian Physicians, the United South and Eastern Tribes, dozens of tribes, tribal organizations and Indian health entities.

The last confirmed director at the IHS was Yvette Roubideaux, a citizen of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe. She departed in 2015 and the agency has had numerous “acting” and temporary leaders since then.

—Acee Agoyo

IHS hit with \$1.8 million lawsuit

A long-running dispute between the Indian Health Service and Glacier County, Montana has escalated in a lawsuit and a prominent citizen of the Blackfeet Nation accusing the federal agency of putting the lives of his people at risk.

According to Glacier County, the IHS has failed to pay for care provided to Blackfeet citizens despite promises dating back to 2014. A complaint filed in federal court on Tuesday, December 17, demands “no less than” \$1.8 million from the federal agency that has not had a director for more than four years.

“We had hoped it wouldn’t come to having to sue a federal agency, but it has become clear that Indian Health Service has [no] intention to do the right thing and reimburse Glacier County,” said Michael DesRosier, Blackfeet, who serves as the chairman of the county’s board of commissioners. “This travesty shows Indian Health Service has no regard for the people that agency was created to serve.” Indian Health Services is putting Blackfeet lives at risk.”

The lawsuit includes a copy of a recent letter in which the IHS agreed to pay the county for emergency medical service. But the federal agency says it hasn’t been provided with adequate documentation about the money allegedly owed on behalf of Blackfeet patients.

In a recent statement the HIS said, “Despite repeated request for documentation, IHS has not

been able to substantiate the amount claimed by Glacier County. At this time, IHS does not believe the \$1.8 million amount is accurate. For the past 9 months, IHS has been working closely with the county to identify any outstanding claims that are eligible for payment,” the statement continued.

The payment dispute was brought up during the recent confirmation hearing for Michael Weahkee by Montana’s Senator Tester who wondered whether the lack of leadership has prevented the agency from fulfilling all of its obligations to the Indian people. “It’s why I asked if your leadership team was fully staffed.”

“I’m not saying IHS is wrong and I’m not saying Glacier County was wrong,” Tester said at the Weahkee’s hearing on December 11. “But it would be great to put somebody on this to get this resolved.”

Because of non-payment the county was forced to cancel its ambulance service to the Blackfeet Community Hospital, an IHS facility on the Reservation. DesRosier said his tribal government could no longer afford to transport patients from the reservation to other facilities, even if those patients need life-saving care and other services that are not available at HIS.

The Purchased/Referred Care program at the IHS was designed to cover such situations. But

(Continued on page 15)



Tribal members show their love for their lake



Lawsuit (Continued from page 14)

the agency said claims for payment must be reviewed and must meet certain requirements before they can be paid out.

“IHS is committed to paying all eligible Purchased/Referred Care claims submitted in accordance with applicable requirements. Medical referrals are not a guarantee for payment. The PRC program must review the claim to make the determination for IHS approval of payment. All PRC eligibility requirements must also be met.”

In hopes of improving services to more than 2 million American Indians and Alaska Natives, Congress just approved an appropriations package that includes a record amount of \$6.047 billion for the agency, a 4 percent increase.

“Our Interior bill provides key investments

for Indian Country, funding education, housing, infrastructure, and other priorities to help ensure healthy and prosperous Native communities,” said Senator Udall (D-NM), vice chairman of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, referring to H.R.1865 that funds the IHS and other Indian programs. However, Purchased/Referred Care program will remain at its current funding level of \$964.8 million and will not see any increase in H.R. 1865.

Montana’s Senator Tester said Weahkee needs to do more to help the tribal citizens like his constituents. “This isn’t on you, it’s on the agency in general over decades and decades and decades. [The Indian people] don’t believe there’s anybody in IHS that’s fighting for them.”

—Acee Agoyo

Government by Tweets: Welcome to Trump World

What we are witnessing, boys and girls, is a spectacle of a president gone haywire and the pitiful sight of the people around him who gave their souls to him. Indeed, a number of them have been indicted, sent to jail or are waiting to be sentenced for crimes committed on his behalf.

Donald J. Trump has made cowards of the Republicans in Congress, pays people (\$50 a head) to stand behind him and cheer at his political rallies, and he refuses to reimburse cities thousands of dollars spent for his security at those rallies.

Most politicians will bend the truth but never on such a grand scale as Trump who has lied more times than the days he has been in the White House. As December 16, he has “mis-spoke” 15,513 times in 1,055 days while president according to the *Washington Post*. That’s about 15 times a day!

He has been called a psychopathic liar, sued the individual who called him that, and lost. He has admitted he lied *only once* to Canadian Prime Minister Trudeau about tariffs because he didn’t know what he was talking about.

He has mocked a disabled man during one of his rallies and his supporters laughed with him. He has called Muslims terrorists; South Americans rapists and drug dealers; didn’t want refugees from South African sh**hole countries and refuses to help the Puerto Ricans who are U.S. citizens.

Trump has made orphans of almost 70,000 children by separating, jailing or deporting their parents, deported non-citizens serving in the military and veterans waiting to become citizens. On November 16 it was reported that he is planning

to send immigrants to a remote area in the low-land jungles of Guatemala. And if it can’t get any worse for those incarcerated “orphans”, plans are being made to put them up for adoption!

Like a schoolyard bully he has ridiculed his critics with nicknames to shame them into silence but those critics now wear those nicknames as a badge of honor. His wife with her anti-bullying campaign, Be Best, can’t shut him up. Even Greta, the teenage climate change activist who was named *Time*’s Person of the Year, hasn’t escaped his scornful comments.

Most of the professional sports teams refuse to visit the White House after winning a championship in their sport. College teams were “treated” to hamburgers from McDonalds. Only a few women athletes have bravely ventured into the White House. The Oakland Warriors preferred to visit former President Obama after winning their championships. The New England Patriots gave Obama a helmet signed by all the team members but none signed the one they gave to Trump. *Sports Illustrated*’s 2019 Sportsperson of the Year, Megan Rapinoe who kneels in support of Kaepernick, refuses to acknowledge Trump.

Shamefully he doesn’t read or listen to the daily intelligence reports but will follow the dictates of Fox News and Russia’s President Putin. He was laughed at by world leaders at the United Nations for declaring himself the greatest U.S. president ever, and recently he was ridiculed by a collection of leaders from allied nations and promptly left in a grandiose snit.

He has made suffering fools of his Attorney General, his Chief of Staff, all the 17 Agency

Secretaries, heads of the Defense Department’s major armed forces, and even the dreaded Internal Revenue Service. He continues to criticize the FBI, calling them “scum” and refuses to acknowledge his Intelligence Agencies as being a source of security information. And he has gutted the offices of the State Department and fired ambassadors as well as other federal offices.

Trump lives by a fool’s rule that if you lie often enough people will believe you which is why he continues to rant about FAKE NEWS. Curiously, he doesn’t read but declares major newspapers as FAKE NEWS because they’re mean to him and says bad things about him. How sad not to read anything except the love letters from North Korea’s boy leader.

Books abound about Trump, which he’ll never read and if he did, he would learn what a crook he was (and is) as a private businessman who paid his contractors only a small portion of the money he owed for their work and refusing to fully pay for the materials used in his buildings. He refused to rent to the disabled and people of color, got sued and lost. He bankrupted a casino, had multiple big-money toys like a yacht repossessed, established a scam “university”, used his charity foundation for personal expenses for him and his family. Oh, and certain ladies. Even Nevada refused to give him a gaming license because they didn’t trust him...

Trump has violated his oath of office and the general rule of law many times over and has now been impeached by the House of Representatives. He blames the “impeachment thing” on disappointed Democrats who lost the last election. Trump has no excuse for obstructing Congressional law and his pitiful excuse for withholding money from Ukraine was that he was worried about that country’s corruption to wit a congressman said that if he’s so concerned about corruption he should look in a mirror.

But corruption doesn’t stop there. The Senate Majority Leader, Mitch McConnell (R-Ky), has predetermined that Trump will be acquitted of the impeachment charges against him when it reaches the Senate. He said he’s been working closely with the Trump and the White House legal staff for direction on how to conduct the impeachment proceedings. That means McConnell and his Senate Republicans are already *planning on violating the oath* they will be taking to be impartial jurors in the Senate trial. An unbelievable judicial crime and they don’t care!

In addition to violating the laws of the Constitution, Trump is also facing criminal charges from the New York District Attorney’s office. He thinks he can avoid prosecution by changing his place of residence to Florida.

Because of him, charges of contempt of Congress could also be levied against the Vice President, Secretary of State, the White House Chief of Staff/Director of the Office of Management and Budget, Secretaries of Treasury and Energy, the U.S. Attorney General and his Department of Justice, the White House legal staff and all other lesser known people who defied Congressional subpoenas. Taking away their legal licenses, imposing big fines, and perhaps jail time would be the right thing to do.

Trumpisms

Compiled for your enjoyment

The light bulb dims: “We’re bringing back the old light bulbs. You heard about that, right? The old light bulb, which is better. I say, why do I always look so orange. You know why, because of the new light, they’re terrible. You look terrible.” Then he tweeted: “If you like your lightbulbs, you can keep your lightbulbs. The Obama Admin tried to limit Americans to buying more-expensive LED bulbs for their homes—but thanks to President @realDonaldTrump, go ahead and decorate your house with whatever bulbs you want.”

Christmas gift for wife: “I got her a beautiful card. ...A lot of love. We love our family, and we love each other...”

Regarding water-conservation standards. “We have a situation where we’re looking very strongly at sinks and showers, and other elements of bathrooms. You turn on the faucet, you don’t get any water. You go into a new building, a new house or a new home and they have standards and you don’t get water. You can’t wash your hands practically there’s so little water that comes out of the faucet. And the end result is you leave the faucet on and it takes you so much longer to wash your hands and you end up using the same amount of water. They take a shower the water comes dripping out. People are flushing toilets 10 times, 15 times. So, the EPA is looking at this very strongly.” Trump’s reason some states are arid and others get plenty of water—“It comes down. It’s called rain,” he said decisively.

Earlier this year, Trump said that the noise generated by wind turbines “causes cancer” and added that he knows what he’s talking about because “I know a lot about wind.” Later this past month: “We have an economy based on wind. I never understood wind. You know, I know windmills very much. I’ve studied it better than anybody I know. It’s very expensive. They’re made in China and Germany mostly—very few are made here, almost none. But they’re manufactured tremendous—if you’re into this—tremendous fumes. Gases are spewing into the atmosphere. You know, we have a world, right? So the world is tiny compared to the universe. So tremendous, tremendous amount of fumes and everything. You talk about the carbon footprint—fumes are spewing into the air. Right? Spewing. Whether it’s in China, Germany, it’s going into the air. It’s our air, their air, everything—right? In addition to wind turbines causing cancer, he also said they create “bird graveyards.”

“We are so respected, you have no idea. How our nation has gone so far up in the eyes and the minds of the rest of the world.” After leaders of U.S. allies mocked the president he still insisted, “This country is so respected. And we were not respected four years ago. We were laughed at.” Since Trump took office, international support and respect for the United States to a turn for the worse—basically it collapsed in 2017.

This is how she got the job: Trump’s latest Press Secretary Stephanie Grisham: “I worked with John Kelly (former WH chief of staff) and he was totally unequipped to handle the genius of our great President.”

Reasons why Trump claims he's innocent...

The impeachment of Donald Trump is really quite simple. He violated the laws of the Constitution and his oath of office. Almost every day Trump and his lawyers will offer some lame excuse as to why Trump shouldn't be impeached:

Trump can't be prosecuted because he's the president and therefore immune to any criminal charges while in office;

There was no "quid pro quo" because Trump didn't specifically use those three words when asking Ukraine for a favor in return for their Congressionally authorized defense funds;

Trump didn't commit a crime by withholding Ukraine's defense funds because they eventually got their money;

The impeachment hearings are meaningless because Trump wasn't allowed to have his attorneys testify at those hearings even though they were invited;

He can't be accused of obstruction of justice by withholding White House documents because of executive privilege to privacy;

He can't be accused of obstruction of justice just because he told his executive personnel to ignore the House's subpoenas;

He can't be accused of obstruction of justice just because he demanded his agencies withhold documents requested by the House;

The House of Representatives cannot impeach him because they don't have that legal right;

And Trump claims he can't be impeached because he did nothing wrong.

One day after the House impeached Trump the White House was putting forth the argument that maybe the president wasn't *actually* impeached. They say because House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's decision to temporarily withhold articles of impeachment from the Senate could mean that the president hasn't actually been impeached.

The theory is that if Trump has been official impeached the Senate should already have jurisdiction because the Constitution gives the Senate "the sole power to try all Impeachments" indicating that the impeachment isn't formalized until the Senate receives the impeachment articles. However, the Constitution explicitly says the House of Representatives "shall have the sole Power of Impeachment."



RIP: The Junction Station commonly known as Reds where many a beer was quaffed and laughs were plenty.

Tribal sovereignty confusion reigns supreme

At a Supreme Court hearing a senior attorney from the Justice Department argued that the Five Civilized Tribes lost their sovereignty when Oklahoma became a state. Deputy Solicitor General Edwin Kneedler said Congress took away their status as "independent nations" by transferring their powers to another (state) government.

"Congress, as it always does in transforming a territory to a state, changed the territorial domain from the tribes to the state and then it vested the governmental authority over that domain in the state because that domain had become the states, the general governmental authority," Kneedler told the justices.

Hours later, the second highest-ranking official at the department, Rod Rosenstein, the Deputy Attorney General, said the Trump administration was committed to helping tribes exercise governmental powers on their territories. "The Department of Justice plays a unique role in the government-to-government relationship between the United States and Tribal nations." Rosenstein made his comments at a Native American Heritage Month event entitled "Sovereignty, Trust and Resilience."

The Supreme Court case, *Carpenter v. Murphy*, is being closely watched throughout Indian Country, but the Trump administration has disavowed authority over any crimes in the territories of the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw,

Muscogee (Creek), and Seminole Nations.

Although federal prosecutors handle crimes on reservations elsewhere, the Justice Department said doing the same on tribal lands in Oklahoma *would be going too far* according to Kneedler. "So the criminal jurisdiction concerns are really very serious, and the United States is very concerned about what would be a drastic shift in criminal jurisdiction," Kneedler told the justices.

Rosenstein, on the other hand, presented a more cooperative approach in his remarks, highlighting a program in which tribes can gain access to national criminal databases and another program that focuses on addressing the high rates of violence against Native women. "These initiatives demonstrate our department's steadfast commitment to improving public safety in Indian Country by promoting coordination among tribal, state, and federal law enforcement agencies."

How does one explain the Justice Department attorney's differences? John Tshsuda, Kiowa, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs at the Interior Department quoted Felix Cohen to explain how tribal sovereignty is viewed in Washington: "Like the miner's canary, the Indian marks the shift from fresh air to poison gas in our political atmosphere, and our treatment of Indians reflects the rise and fall in our democratic faith."

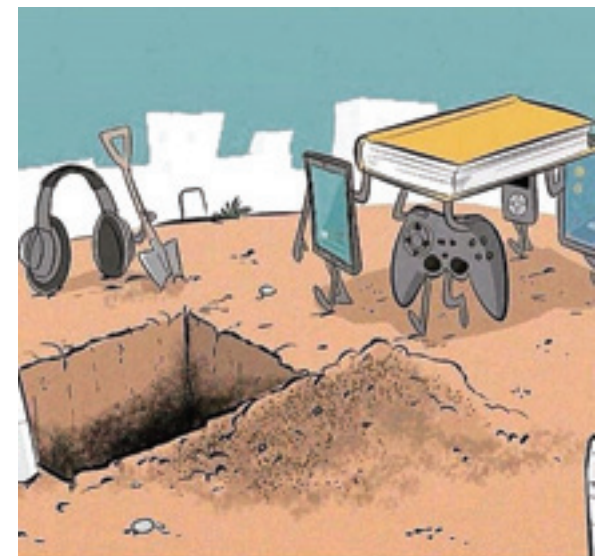
Editor's note: What?

Generation Z Can't Read

The nation's latest "report card" is not good. The results of the National Assessment of Educational Progress released on December 12 show that America's fourth and eighth grade students are losing ground in their ability to read literature and academic texts. Some 600,000 students were tested for their proficiency in reading and math. Two out of three students did not meet the standards set for reading proficiency.

The average eighth grade reading scores declined in more than half of the states compared with 2017, while the average fourth grade reading scores declined in 17 states. Math scores remained relatively flat.

Education Secretary Betsy DeVos called the result a "student achievement crisis" but dismissed calls to increase school funding to improve the worst performing schools. DeVos supports programs that allow tax dollars to follow children to schools of their choice, including private, religious, and charter schools.



She rejects the view that more money would help struggling schools.

In a related matter, DeVos finalized rules making it more difficult for students to cancel their school loans if they've been defrauded by for-profit colleges like Corinthian Colleges or Trump University.

Bears Ears Update

A federal judge sided with Ute, Navajo, Hopi, Ute Mountain Ute, and Zuni tribes who are opposing the Trump administration's plan to reduce the size of the Bears Ears National Monument in Southern Utah. The tribes and several environmental, business and academic groups are suing the Trump administration to keep the original 1.35 million acres granted by President Obama in 2016.

The Trump administration issued a proclamation on Dec. 4, 2017, cutting the size of the monument lands down to 201,876 acres, roughly 85% of its original size. Concerns are that the

area would be open to gas and oil development and that prompted three lawsuits, now combined into one, aiming to protect the archaeologically significant area from energy development. The Trump administration retaliated by trying to get the lawsuits thrown out.

U.S. District Judge Tanya S. Chutkan rejected the administration's attempts to stop the lawsuits from proceeding.

The fight over Bears Ears coincides with another fight over the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in also Southern Utah that President Bill Clinton declared 1.9 million acres would be protected and that Trump reduced three times in 2017.

Pyramid Lake Museum's Transcription Project

History Stories by Wesley Jim

Today is February 2, 2002 and today Wesley Jim, the language provider, will be talking about the lake and surrounding areas. These are the places he remembers. The lake is colored blue and the surrounding areas are in pink.

—Charlotte Harry

"Years ago, when I was probably 7 years old we lived under what is now called Marble Bluff, probably in the area of the fish ladder that is there now. And from there I would go on horseback, go across the river, down lower from us, and then I'd go on to Popcorn Rock. On the way I would gather grasshoppers to use for bait. And I would fish off of the rock at Popcorn. This is the area I'm talking about and this little area here is where the Popcorn Rock is located. It was probably about 18 inches to 2 feet out of the water and I used to stand on that rock and fish for these chubs that were in the lake. Then I would return home. My first trip out there I came back with a little less than a half sack of fish.

When I got home, my grandfather told me, he says, 'we're gonna go through ceremony that will, in the future, help you in your hunting where the game will be plentiful, you will always find game, wherever you hunt.' And he taught me respect. He taught me respect for the animals. He says, 'don't waste it. If you wound an animal that you want, don't just let it go. You follow it and you catch up and you bring it home.' So these are the things that I remember.

And the ceremony consisted of - he built a fire and he cooked the fish over that fire. And he gathered some sagebrush, limbs with the leaves on it, and he laid them on the floor, and he put the fish on top of that until he could pray. He had me jump from east to west and from south to north. Then he would pray with the sagebrush and water. And he would comb my body from my head to my foot - pray that I'll be successful in all my hunts - what ever I go after will be plentiful. And he always told me to respect what I'm doing.

And he also told me, he sat me down and he told me about - he says, 'If you ever get married, and your wife is in the family way,' and he said, 'you be sure and find some tules and you make a belt out of it. And you wear that belt when you go fishing or when you go hunting.' He said, 'Friends that know your family, will recognize you as a true hunter if you wore your belt. If not, everybody just gonna leave and go home because it cause the fish to go down deep and nobody will catch anything. Just like the game, you will not see what you are going to hunt.' So those things I have been told and I really believed those things.

When I was in Schurz, Wilson Christenson and I used to go fishing a lot down at Walker

-Walker Lake. This one day he happened to see my belt and he says, 'What's that you got on?' You know, he never heard the history behind it. He laughed at me so we sat down there and I explained to him what I wore that for. Then he was more serious about it. Then he believed what I was telling him, that if I came down to fish with you and I don't wear this, the fish will go down deep and we'll never catch any fish. And when I had that belt we always had luck. We always caught fish and what I've been told by my grandfather, it stayed with me throughout all these years.

And when I started to go to the language get togethers we have, it seem like everything started to come back. And that was how I was raised - I was raised to pray before whatever I go out to hunt and to pray before I go onto that lake. You pray that the water will not get rough and that it will take you out and it will bring you back home safely."

"A long time ago, our old people lived at a place called Nugent and one day Abe's grandfather decided to come to Nixon on horseback and his son wanted to come with him. So they left Nugent early in the morning, probably around 3 o'clock and they stopped at 7-Mile Spring to water their horse in order to continue to Nixon. After they stopped there they continued on, coming this way to Nixon. And they got to a point where his son, who was then about 8, 9 years old, and each time the horse would take a step, the boy would say, 'No, don't go there. There's something bad going on at that hill in front of us.' He could see the flames from the rifle shot that was shot from the soldier's guns. They were having battle with the warriors, and I don't know what kind of weapon the warriors had - I always wondered why the soldiers attacked our people, the native people here that lived here in the Pyramid Lake area. I don't know whether it was to annihilate them or what - I never did know that. But as they continued, all the activities that was going on at that sand hill area had ceased and the soldiers were on their way back to Churchill.

They had a command post there and their buildings were made out of adobe. The Paiutes called that - they lived in mud huts but it was really adobe and the remnants are still there. Some walls are still standing up and they have a little museum there but it doesn't say anything about these skirmishes that occurred against the Indians here. And then as time went on we heard more stories about how the mothers and fathers were hid, or the grandparents were hid, in some of the caves and left there so that they wouldn't be seen by the soldiers. And when everything was over then the father would go and take

them back home to where they lived.

And later that boy who was able to see at a distance, he later became an Indian doctor and that is why he could see at such a distance, because he had that special power to foresee whatever is happening but his father couldn't see what was happening there - that was about 7 or 8 miles from where he was, he could see that distance and like I say, he had the power to be an Indian doctor."

"When I was a little boy my grandfather would always invite me to go to the river when the fish were spawning, coming up the river. We would make a blind and sit behind it and wait. Wait for the male fish to come and fertilize the egg of the female which is already in its nest. The way they make their nest, they take their body and they go back and forth, make a little indentation in the sand that's where the egg is laid. The male fish come from the deeper part of the river and always came ahead of the female. It's ahead of the female, probably 6 to 8 inches and it would let out the milk from the male fish on to the fish eggs that are laid by the female in this nest. Then the milk would cover that, the eggs, to fertilize it. Then the male fish would make its tail go back and forth like that to stir up the sand. The sand usually covered the eggs completely over. And that's the way the eggs stayed there until hatching time.

After they hatch, the little fish return to the lake, 'course they don't all get there because of the seagulls and pelicans. But those fish are so tiny and they match the sand in the water - that they're hard to see - but still the seagulls and pelicans - they stay at where the river goes into the lake. After they get done with their spawning, after the fertilization process is complete, then my grandfather would spear the male and that's all he would get - the male fish - and he would get one fish and that would be enough for maybe a day or two and we would go home with it. That's what I've seen when I was a young boy. I would go with him and get behind this blind and stay there. Usually when they're spawning they don't pay attention to any movement on the shore - they just do what they have to do to spawn. That's the way I remember my grandfather speared the fish.

After the little fish hatch, they return to the lake. But a certain amount of them do not reach the lake because of the birds - the gulls and pelicans, waiting. How they know I don't know, but nature had a great way of how the birds survive. So that how - when they used to spawn through the river, the fish were plentiful in the lake. I've seen that method

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of fishing and I still remember that today. I could see us walking down to the river and waiting for those trout like that. So it was really a time that I saw the natural spawning process of trout.

And I used to go horseback down to the lake and going into the water – for probably about a foot into the water – I would see these big fish swimming by. At that time I wish I had some kind of fishing equipment to catch these fish. I don't know if there were any spinning reels and rods at that time – there probably was, but we could've never afford it. I just wished I had something to fish with when these big fish would go by."

"Years and years ago, my old people lived at a place where they called Red Faced Mountain – just little below the Duck Hill. And my grandfather would go out from there in his boat and he would make one trip around the island which is now called Anahoe Island. He would make one trip around there, then he would come home usually with two or three fish that would last them for a while – I imagine they gave away some fish to other people there – but they shared – that was the way they shared at all times.

This one day he went out, he decided to go beyond the island. He went all around, he went around the pyramid – just how far he went on the other side of the pyramid is not known. But while he was out there, a strong wind came up and all he had was oars to propel the boat. So he couldn't return to his original place. So he decided to take his boat and pull it onto shore where it is nice and sandy and he stayed there. He slept there throughout the night and early in the morning he woke up to hear these two children playing on the shoreline. And he wondered to himself maybe some people came and their children are playing on the shoreline.

But when he lifted up his head to see where these children were playing, or what kind of children they are, whether they were Indian kids or white. He lifted his head and saw two little children playing by the shore. They had beautiful long hair. They had no type of clothing on them. They played around – they played around and then finally they quit playing and they went back into the water and he never saw them again. Before he put his boat in the water he went to the lakeshore to pray – he prayed and he wanted to see the tracks, if they left any tracks and he said he could see little footprints in the sand, along the shoreline.

And that is what he seen on one of his travels. So in that time there must have been creatures like that in the lake, we'll never know because we haven't been underwater, or seems no one else has observed these sightings. But he came back. After he put

Goodbye newspaper. Hello computer news!

Do you realize that I started in the newspaper production business 50 years ago? Back when most of you were toddlers who grew up to become adults with toddlers and grandtoddlers of your own.

In 1968, the Tribe's Community Developer, Beulah Fejardo, would drop by for a cup of coffee or a bowl of beans. One day she saw I had a small, black Smith Corona portable typewriter and she asked if I would type up her monthly report to which we both added some "jazz" to the report. I always looked forward to her visits because we had a lot of fun putting her report together. We giggled over stuff that would never go into her report and I will reserve those stories for my next life.

Then I noticed her reports were appearing in *The Native Nevadan*, the monthly newspaper for the Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada. She laughed and said her reports had become a popular item and the ITC wanted to publish them in their newspaper. She never let on that I helped her and I didn't say a word but the Director, Bob Hunter, suspected I was involved.

About a year later I was asked and agreed to edit the *Nevadan* printed at the Fallon Eagle Standard on an old linotype machine that would spit out metal letters reading backwards. The owner/operator would put the metal type in trays, proofread it and print the paper. For a normal person to read that metal type in the trays, one would have to hold it to a mirror to read it.

After three issues I moved the *Nevadan* to the Sparks Tribune Printing Company that used the offset equipment: phototype columns of type that were pasted up on layup sheets. Photos were stripped in after the sheets were made into negatives and then burned onto metal plates that went onto the press rollers. After hours of preparing those pages it took about 5 minutes to print 5,000 copies of an eight-page newspaper. The first issue the Tribune manager helped. The second issue I was on my own.

Over the years my experience with the *Nevadan*—writing, editing, typesetting, layup,

camera work, everything short of running the press, helped me with other Indian newspapers I became involved in producing. I stayed in the pre-press production field handling every type of item that would eventually be printed including magazines, books (including the beautiful *R.C. Gorman The Graphic Works*), fancy multi-page menus, and newspapers. For a math-impaired person, I quickly learned the formulas of the rapidly developing computerized equipment being used in the pre-press field.

With the development of personal computers where anyone could produce their own printed material without a print shop, so went the old ways of pre-press production. And with the development of the World Wide Web it was only a matter of time before the daily and monthly newspapers began to close up shop.

And so it is with the Tribe's newspaper. It was discussed earlier this year of the need for faster and immediate news be made available to the Tribe that a quarterly newspaper isn't designed for. It's a sign of the times.

I thank Della Hicks for asking me to produce your newspaper. It's been fun and I really enjoyed getting back into newspaper production. Computer production of a newspaper really isn't that much different than working in a print shop but it's a lot easier sitting on your tush at a computer than turning your feet into pepperoni pizza from standing long hours over a light table.

Even though I've sweated the deadlines, drank too much coffee, smoked too many cigarettes, and made up new cuss words when necessary, I still felt good when the newspaper was finished. I'll miss having an outlet for my favorite nemesis, the fake president and all his wonderfully inane utterances that he believes is quality leadership. I hate to see him go because I suspect that the vice president would be too spooky and boring to generate a laugh.

So, "turn out the lights, the party is over" and it was a great party—dangling participles and all. Thank you for inviting me.

—Carole Wright

his boat in the water, he came back to where they lived. And he came back and told the children and the elders that were with him. They asked him why he didn't come home and he told them he was caught in this storm, that he couldn't make it back so he stayed by this shoreline and he slept there. I don't know if he had any fish – they didn't mention that so that was one of the stories I have been told."

"This song that the old man, Jack Wilson, my wife's great grandfather, use this song to bring back the people that are gone – that have passed on. This song says they will travel on that milkyway back to earth and they will be on earth and there will no non-Indians present when they get here."

Mr. Jim's stories were transcribed from tapes recorded in 2002. The transcription was an Oral History Transcription Project made possible with a grant from the National Park Service's Digitization Project.

Billie Jean Guerrero, Director



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