CELEBRATING NATIVE ATHLETES

A CLOSER LOOK AT INDIGENOUS CUISINE

THE STATE OF TOURISM AND BUSINESS IN INDIAN COUNTRY

AND MORE!

Special Feature Issue
NATIVE AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH
Celebrating Indigenous athletes and best sports stories from 2023

Medicine game heads to 2028 Olympics

For years, the Haudenosaunee Nationals have been in the lead in asking for lacrosse to be an Olympic sport

By Kalle Benallie

The medicine game has reached the Olympics.

Lacrosse, along with four other sports, has been named an Olympic sport by the International Olympic Committee in Mumbai, India on Monday. The new additions will debut in 2028 in Los Angeles.

Los Angeles will be the sixth time lacrosse has been part of the Olympics, but the first time as a medal sport since 1908, according to USA Lacrosse. The Haudenosaunee Nationals Lacrosse Organization has been working for years to have the sport included in the Olympics. The game of lacrosse originates with the Haudenosaunee people and is the most revered tradition, regarding it a “medicine game” that can heal an individual, family or community.

“First and foremost, it’s our game. We are the originators of the sport,” Rex Lyons, former Nationals player, board member of the Haudenosaunee Nationals and president of the Haudenosaunee Nationals Development Group said. “We have an opportunity here to make positive progress.”
Indigenous artist Lucinda Hinojos is leaving her mark in Phoenix and opening doors for future Super Bowls

PHOENIX — Artist Lucinda Hinojos could be the beginning of a Super Bowl Indigenous lens.

The Phoenix-based creative is the National Football League’s marquee artist of Super Bowl LVI in Glendale, Arizona. Her work, including a massive painted mural, is part of the Super Bowl décor around Phoenix.

She is the first Chicana, Native artist to work with the NFL on Super Bowl theme art. Hinojos is Pascua Yaqui, Chiricahua Apache, White Mountain Apache, and Akimel O’Odham.

Hinojos and her team of artists were in the spotlight Tuesday in downtown Phoenix near the mural located at the northwest corner of Washington and Second streets.

The director of NFL Events was impressed by the mural and said it was “like nothing I’ve ever seen before.” Daphne Wood said event planning for the Super Bowl starts four years in advance. She said future Super Bowls will have more Indigenous partners.

“Yes, we are definitely always looking for opportunities to partner with the community to make it authentic to hear from the perspectives of the people of that land,” Wood said. “I don’t think this is the end of that partnership that makes things really special and unique.”

Usually, Super Bowl locations are announced a few years in advance. So far, the public knows of the next two locations. Next year’s Super Bowl is scheduled for Allegiant Stadium in Las Vegas and the 2025 big game is headed back to New Orleans and the Caesars Superdome.
Sen. Susan Webber, D-Browning, asked Michelotti why Native referees aren’t given the same opportunities to officiate tournaments.

“The meeting followed Lee Enterprises’ publication of a three-part series on the perception and consequences of biased refereeing in high school sports.

Sen. Susan Webber, D-Browning, asked Michelotti why Native referees aren’t given the same opportunities to officiate tournaments.

“We have refs with more than 30 years of experience, but very few that went up to tournament ranks,” she said. “Refs are saying, ‘Why are we being left out?’ … That’s the big question. That’s the big elephant in the room.”

Rep. Tyson Running Wolf, D-Browning, told Lee newspapers earlier this month that he was shocked that two master referees (the most experienced) in the Browning pool had never officiated a state tournament.

Michelotti responded that Montana High School Association (MHSA) has 800 basketball officials, 92 of whom are Native, across 36 pools. In the postseason, he said there are 380 opportunities for officials (48 at the state level, 200 at the district level and 132 at the divisional level).

“We have a process where every one of our schools votes for six to eight officials for divisional-, district- and state-level officials,” Michelotti said. “We tally the votes and use a process to go through and hire four to six officials from each.”
Major League Baseball Hall of Fame Johnny Bench, Choctaw, was also inducted into the American Indian Athletic Hall of Fame.

OKLAHOMA CITY – On April 28, Cherokee Nation citizen Sam Bradford was inducted into the American Indian Athletic Hall of Fame.

His accomplishments in football at the collegiate and professional level likely made him an easy choice for the 2023 class.

Bradford, born and raised in Oklahoma City, played many sports while attending Putnam City North High School.
ZACH WHITECLOUD, VEGAS GOLDEN KNIGHTS WIN STANLEY CUP

By Miles Morisseau
ICT The WEEKLY
November 2, 2023

The Sioux Valley Dakota Nation in Manitoba celebrated Whitecloud’s success with a watch party and fireworks *Correction

SIOUX VALLEY DAKOTA NATION — It was a celebration inside the Veterans Hall on the Sioux Valley Dakota Nation in Manitoba as the community gathered to cheer on local hero Zach Whitecloud and his Las Vegas Golden Knights. Vegas scored twice Tuesday in the first period and never took the foot off the gas, winning 9-3 over the Florida Panthers to become the 2023 Stanley Cup champions.

Around 1,500 miles away in Nevada, Whitecloud hoisted the Stanley Cup as his team won the series 4 games to 1.

“This is a monumental moment for our community,” Wakpa Mckay said to ICT. “This is the first time that this is going to happen to Sioux Valley Dakota Nation to have the Stanley Cup in our community. It’d be awesome to see it at the powwow, you know, if they brought it in the grand entry.”

Around 300 people filled the hall to watch the game on two big TV screens and a glitzy party atmosphere with all tables covered in black or gold, balloons, cake and cupcakes, placards reading “Go Vegas Go” and jerseys and T-shirts with the team logo and the Whitecloud name on the back. The kids were in the bouncy castle and the fireworks were set to blow.

“It’s been fantastic for our community. He is setting an example that anything is possible and being an inspiration for our young people,” Chief Jennifer Bone told ICT. “Never give up on your hopes and dreams and to work hard for what you want because anything is possible.”

Sioux Valley Dakota Nation Council member Michelle Rosmus has her car painted with Go Knights Go and Whitecloud #2 signs. “I can’t imagine what he’s going through right now, the emotions that his family is going through,” she said to ICT. “All of us are feeling that in the community and we are all just very proud.”
Author Traci Sorell and illustrator Arigon Starr bring the 1911 World Series to life

It was dubbed the Indian World Series, with everything you’d find at a World Series today.


The two Indigenous players in the midst of that storied game in 1911 — pitcher Charles Bender and catcher John Meyers — are now featured in a new illustrated children’s book by acclaimed Cherokee author and poet Traci Sorell and Kickapoo illustrator/writer/musician/actress Arigon Starr.
Fencing has yet to catch on in Indigenous communities. Connor Poleyumptewa competes across the country in the sport.

PHOENIX — For teenager Connor Poleyumptewa, his favorite combat sport reminds him of a complicated and extreme version of the hand game rock-paper-scissors. He must be swift with his hands and feet, and even faster with his decision-making to have any shot at winning.

“There is no unbeatable action, everything has a counter,” he said.

Except, of course, Poleyumptewa has a blade and so does his opponent.

“It’s all about the mistakes that you make,” Poleyumptewa told ICT in a recent interview. “If you lose in a fencing bout, you can’t blame it on someone else, everything is on you, you did something wrong somewhere in there. Something about that constant need for self improvement really drew me in.”

On a Sunday morning in July, Poleyumptewa stood with friends. They were decked out in their fencing uniforms, biding their time for their next bout among the dozens taking place at a national tournament at the Phoenix Convention Center. Yet, the teenager stood alone, figuratively.

Fencing is an international sport. It’s popular in many places. It has yet to catch on in Indian Country, or among Native youth like basketball, football or hockey.
The United States won gold and Canada won the silver medal.

UPDATED: The men’s lacrosse team beat Australia in Saturday’s third place game

UPDATE: July 3

The Haudenosaunee Nationals won its third bronze medal Saturday, defeating Australia 11-6 in San Diego on the final day of the 2023 World Lacrosse Men’s Championship.

It is the third consecutive world championship tournament in which the Nationals have taken third place.

The score was tied 2-2 at the end of the first quarter and the Nationals separated themselves in the second quarter for good, scoring four goals in the frame to Australia’s one.

The team was led by Lyle Thompson and Austin Staats, each scoring three goals a piece.

Staats had a spectacular tournament, scoring 30 goals and amassing 38 points in eight games, the most in the tournament.

Staats' performance earned him the best attacker of the tournament award as well as being named All-World attack and All-World team honors. Defensemen Jacob Piseno was also named to the All-World team as well as being named Most Outstanding Defensive Player.

The United States won gold and Canada won the silver medal.
The popular basketball tournament brings more than 140 Indigenous teams to the Phoenix Valley to hoop and to learn

PHOENIX — Over a cup of coffee, more than two decades ago, the idea for a national Native basketball tournament for high school students was born.

GinaMarie Scarpa remembers those days well. Scarpa, along with Phoenix Suns legend Mark West and friend Scott Podleski worked together to create the Native American Basketball Invitational.

Since 2003, the tournament, known by many as NABI, has taken place in the Phoenix Valley each summer, save for a COVID-19 year in 2020 when most things were shut down, and has brought in thousands of Native athletes and plenty of dollars to the area. It has grown in numbers as well in opportunity. And this year marks 20 years.

NABI is a “big production,” Scarpa said. She is Mexican Indigenous and is the NABI’s president, a position she has held since year two. She said it’s a yearlong undertaking and her focus is partnership development and sponsorship.

“This is our 20th year so it’s a big celebration, of course,” Scarpa told ICT.

“We use rezball and the love of the game for our Indigenous youth to provide a top notch basketball tournament,” she added.

NABI week officially tips off on Tuesday with 144 boys and girls teams starting pool play in several area gyms. Teams come from 120 Native nations.
Analyss Benally is an example of Native basketball talent relocating to far-away countries to keep their basketball dream alive.

The Balkans in southeastern Europe is quickly becoming a second home for Navajo basketball player Analyss Benally.

First it was a professional contract in Romania, then Albania and now Kosovo for the 25-year-old.

Benally grew up in Shiprock, New Mexico, on the Navajo Nation and spent her high school years in Kansas before taking her basketball talents to San Jose State University in California.

Now, she’s set for her third year as a professional basketball player overseas. Benally starts preseason in September and the regular season will likely stretch into late March or early April.

“I do know a little bit about the team, a little about the coach, nothing too crazy,” Benally told ICT in a recent Zoom interview from Farmington, New Mexico. “But as long as I’m improving in my stats and making sure I’m comfortable and have some team chemistry, then I should be just fine.”

Benally is another example of Native basketball talent relocating to far-away countries to keep their basketball dream alive. Jude Schimmel played professionally in Spain briefly in 2017. The Umatilla basketball star played college basketball at the University of Louisville.

Lakota Beatty, Caddo Nation, is playing professional basketball in the Netherlands. She played college ball for Oral Roberts University.
On the ICT newscast with Aliyah Chavez from Wednesday, August 9, a look at Indigenous athletics. From a new and accessible sport exciting Native elders to a soccer star who is the focus of a documentary. A Lakota doctor’s climb to the top of Mount Everest is for a cause.

Plan your event with Indigenous experts

ICT’s Speakers Bureau offers top Indigenous talent who bring expertise in media coverage of Indigenous issues and journalism. Book one of our speakers for your next conference or event today. All speaking fees are contributed to our nonprofit operations fund.
Harbor Hill
A ROSE COMMUNITY

NOW LEASING
Senior Income-Based
Studio & 1-Bedroom Apartments

- Most Utilities Included
- $0 Application Fee
- Emergency Maintenance
- Centralized Laundry
- On-Site Parking
- Community Room

5613 2nd Ave, Brooklyn 11220
📞 (909) 258-4541 TTY 711 HarborHillBK.com

This is an income-restricted elderly (62+) admission preference community.
Celebrating tourism in Indian Country

Canoe Journey 2023: ‘This is a reawakening’

Organizers estimated 11,000 people gathered at Muckleshoot to share songs and dances for days after 120 canoe families landed at Alki Beach in Seattle

By Nika Bartoo-Smith, Underscore News + ICT

A sea of tents, RVs, vans and cars covered the grass in front of the newly constructed Muckleshoot Community Center on Monday morning. Outside, a ring of vendors sell their wares — huckleberry lemonade, beadwork, fry bread, turquoise, colorful scarves and more.

Inside, bleachers in the auditorium were packed as Canoe Journey protocol officially began.

As hosts, representatives from the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe welcomed hundreds of canoe pullers and thousands of tribal community members into their home.

“For me, I feel a lot of pride because we know that these traditions, these teachings — like mutual respect for other tribes — are going to carry on,” said John Daniels Jr., Muckleshoot tribal council member, treasurer and chairman of the culture committee. “There were ancestors that put their lives on the line. They could have just assimilated but they said ‘I’ll die before I let them take our culture, our traditions.’”
Alaska's capital wonders what will happen as its magnificent glacier recedes

JUNEAU, Alaska — Thousands of tourists spill onto a boardwalk in Alaska’s capital city every day from cruise ships towering over downtown. Vendors hawk shoreside trips and rows of buses stand ready to whisk visitors away, with many headed for the area’s crown jewel: the Mendenhall Glacier.

A craggy expanse of gray, white and blue, the glacier gets swarmed by sightseeing helicopters and attracts visitors by kayak, canoe and foot. So many come to see the glacier and Juneau’s other wonders that the city’s immediate concern is how to manage them all as a record number are expected this year. Some residents flee to quieter places during the summer, and a deal between the city and cruise industry will limit how many ships arrive next year.

But climate change is melting the Mendenhall Glacier. It is receding so quickly that by 2050, it might no longer be visible from the visitor center it once loomed outside.

That’s prompted another question Juneau is only now starting to contemplate: What happens then?

“We need to be thinking about our glaciers and the ability to view glaciers as they recede,” said Alexandra Pierce, the city’s tourism manager. There also needs to be a focus on reducing environmental impacts, she said. “People come to Alaska to see what they consider to be a pristine environment and it’s our responsibility to preserve that for residents and visitors.”

The glacier pours from rocky terrain between mountains into a lake dotted by stray icebergs. Its face retreated eight football fields between 2007 and 2021, according to estimates from University of Alaska Southeast researchers. Trail markers memorialize the glacier’s backward march, showing where the ice once stood. Thickets of vegetation have grown in its wake.
The grant will allow them to change that.

The Pennsylvania Tourism Office, in partnership with Lehigh University’s Institute for Indigenous Studies and with input from federally recognized tribes, will develop a plan to highlight the state’s Indigenous stories, culture and history through a grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission.

BETHLEHEM, Pa. — Pennsylvania’s absence of federally recognized tribal nations means there’s been an incomplete picture of its Native American culture and history, officials said as they announced a grant-funded program designed to change that.

The Pennsylvania Tourism Office, in partnership with Lehigh University’s Institute for Indigenous Studies and with input from federally recognized tribes, will develop a plan to highlight the state’s Indigenous stories, culture and history through a grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission.

Pennsylvania is behind other states in its consideration of Indigenous culture and history, compared with Midwestern states, said Jason Hale, a researcher from the Institute for Indigenous Studies, Lehigh University. Hale is from the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation near Mayetta, Kansas.

The grant will allow them to change that.
National Park Service wants to remove the horses, despite their popularity with visitors and with N.D state leaders.

BISMARCK, N.D. – The beloved wild horses that roam freely in North Dakota’s Theodore Roosevelt National Park could be removed under a National Park Service proposal that advocates say could sever a cultural link to the past.

Visitors who drive the scenic park road can often see bands of horses, a symbol of the West and a sight that delights tourists. Advocates want to see the horses continue to roam the Badlands, and disagree with park officials who have branded the horses as “livestock.”
The mountain was previously named after former territorial governor, John Evans, who authorized the Sand Creek Massacre

After a nearly three-year-long dispute to change the name of a mountain in Colorado, the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes received a final decision from the U.S. Board of Geographic Names Friday that concludes the tribe’s fight for historic accountability and healing.

Mount Evans, named after the second governor of the Territory of Colorado, John Evans, will be renamed Mount Blue Sky after the Domestic Names subcommittee under the U.S Board of Geographical Names voted 15-1 with 3 abstaining at the Council on Geographic Names Authorities conference in Portland, Ore., on Friday, Sept. 15.

The name-changing proposal was first introduced in November 2020 by the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes, the Wilderness Society and the Mestaa’hehe Coalition, which is a collective of Denver-area Indigenous leaders, representatives from the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes, and allies that successfully helped change the name of another mountain in the state that was once named for a derogatory term for a Native woman.

“I think I speak for all of us here that the board very much appreciates all the hard work that’s happened over the last couple of years. So many people have been involved in this process,” said Chris Hammond, a member of the Domestic Names committee. “And these things take time. While there are differences of opinion, I think there’s overwhelming agreement that the name has to be changed.”

Evans authorized the Sand Creek Massacre that occurred in 1864 in which volunteer soldiers traveled to an encampment of around 750 Cheyenne and Arapaho people. The soldiers opened fire, killing more than 200 women, children and elders, according to the National Park Service website.
The Museum of the Cherokee People is getting a new look to go along with its new name. The museum, formerly the Museum of the Cherokee Indian on the edge of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park in North Carolina, is now in the process of designing new exhibits, constructing a new collections facility and renovating the current facility.

Museum officials announced the new name and plans for construction and renovations on Monday, Oct. 9, along with a new logo and branding. The museum will remain open during the renovations.

Rebrand of the 75-year-old museum will reflect more contemporary exhibits and community involvement.
8-year-old is the first powwow royalty to represent the two-spirit community at Black Hills Powwow

RAPID CITY, S.D. — Eight-year-old Kamiliah Stewart danced onto The Monument floor Friday night, the heartbeat of the Black Hills echoing through the drum beats. As she did so, she simultaneously made history.

Stewart, Oglala Lakota, is the first royalty to represent the two-spirit community at the Black Hills Powwow, one of the Nation’s largest. Stewart was chosen by the two-spirit powwow committee during their inaugural powwow in June.

“This is a powerful, powerful breakthrough for this generation,” Monique “Muffie” Mousseau, a two-spirit elder, said. “The acceptance and understanding and equality is right here.”

This year’s Black Hills Powwow set records with 1,222 dancers registered on Friday night. The powwow was so large competitions ran until the early hours of the morning. During powwows as large as Black Hills Powwow, people from across the nation send royalty to represent their communities.

“Our motto is to come dance with us. And that's what we want to encourage, you know?” said Stephen Yellow Hawk, president of the Black Hills Powwow Committee. “Dance to that drum and get some of that good medicine. We just want to be inviting to everyone.”

The term "two-spirit" refers to a person who identifies as possessing both a masculine and feminine spirit and is used by some Indigenous people to describe their sexual, gender, and/or spiritual identity. Two-spirit is an umbrella term for what in Western culture may be referred to as the LGBTQIA community.
The Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks, once used by ancient Hopewell culture, became one of UNESCO’s World Heritage sites last month.

CHILLICOTHE, Ohio — For 400 years, Indigenous North Americans flocked to a group of ceremonial sites in what is present-day Ohio to celebrate their culture and honor their dead. On Saturday, the sheer magnitude of the ancient Hopewell culture's reach was lifted up as enticement to a new set of visitors from around the world.

“We stand upon the shoulders of geniuses, uncommon geniuses who have gone before us. That’s what we are here about today,” Chief Glenna Wallace, of the Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, told a crowd gathered at the Hopewell Culture National Historical Park to dedicate eight sites there and elsewhere in southern Ohio that became UNESCO World Heritage sites last month.

She said the honor means that the world now knows of the genius of the Native Americans, whom the 84-year-old grew up seeing histories, textbooks and popular media call “savages.”

Wallace commended the innumerable tribal figures, government officials and local advocates who made the designation possible, including late author, teacher and local park ranger Bruce Lombardo, who once said, “If Julius Caesar had brought a delegation to North America, they would have gone to Chillicothe.”

“That means that this place was the center of North America, the center of culture, the center of happenings, the center for Native Americans, the center for religion, the center for spirituality, the center for love, the center for peace,” Wallace said. “Here, in Chillicothe. And that is what Chillicothe represents today.”
A refurbishing effort in Eklutna will breathe new life into Anchorage’s oldest standing building, a simple Russian Orthodox log church dating from the era of Russia’s colonization of Alaska.

The Russian Orthodox church on the outskirts of Alaska’s biggest city is packed with treasures for the Christian faithful: religious icons gifted by Romanov czars, panels of oil paintings and jewel-studded incense burners. But outside the hand-hewn log sanctuary, dozens of miniature Alaska Native spirit houses sit by aging gravesites alongside Orthodox crosses poking from the cemetery grounds.

The narrow church with white-framed windows near Anchorage is a vestige of Russia’s nearly 150-year attempt to colonize Alaska and the Indigenous people who lived here. But over time, St. Nicholas Church became an important touchstone for Alaska Natives as well. The church lies within the Alaska Native village of Eklutna, and many are buried there.

Now, an extensive, three-year restoration project that began this month is bringing more attention to the tiny church that is a window into a complex, and often-forgotten, chapter of Alaska’s unique history.

The Dena’ina Athabascan tribe supports the restoration and some tribal members turned out on a recent October day to watch the removal of the bell tower and to reminisce.

“With the restoration of the church, we can now once again walk where our ancestors walked, pray where they prayed,” said Charlene Shaginaw, whose grandfather was the last traditional chief in Eklutna and who recalls wandering through the church and among the spirit houses as a young child. “With the rebirth of the old St. Nicholas Church, it will nourish our spirits and our souls.”

The project is paid for by a $350,000 grant from the National Park Service. Preservationists hope it will spur further work not only to inventory the church’s religious icons but also the spirit houses in partnership with the tribe.
After nearly two centuries, the Salmon River Outpost has become a hub for Indigenous community members

Founded during the mid-1800s gold rush, the Salmon River Outpost is situated along a winding road in the mountains of Northern California. Once, it was a gathering place where miners and settlers bought supplies while pursuing a dream that had brutal consequences. One of only two grocery stores for miles, the store has served the rural community of Somes Bar for generations.

After nearly two centuries of contentious relationships between historical owners and local Indigenous communities, the dynamic has shifted. In July, Indigenous husband and wife duo Joe and Elly O'Rourke bought the Salmon River Outpost.

That’s thanks in part to a new program operated by the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians Economic Development Corporation. This grocery store is the first project to benefit from a new $73 million pot of federal money, intended to help small businesses in Indian Country that might not otherwise get the funding they need to flourish.

ATNI-EDC will oversee roughly a third of that money. The organization has cultivated a union of 25 tribal governments across the West working together to fund enterprises under the new State Small Business Credit Initiative Awards.

“We're glad to be the first Native owners of an original outpost,” Elly O'Rourke said. “We're happy to be running it and get it built back up to what our community needs.”
On the ICT newscast with Aliyah Chavez from Wednesday, June 28, the CEO of a tribal tourism association gives us an industry update. What does tribal self-determination mean for language revitalization? The Supreme Court disappoints the Navajo Nation and water rights activists.

Plan your event with Indigenous experts

ICT’s Speakers Bureau offers top Indigenous talent who bring expertise in media coverage of Indigenous issues and journalism. Book one of our speakers for your next conference or event today. All speaking fees are contributed to our nonprofit operations fund.
Celebrating Indigenous cuisine across Indian Country

Indigenous chef wins James Beard award

‘Sly Fox’ owner Sherry Pocknett named Best Chef Northeast

By Sandra Hale Schulman

Chef Sherry Pocknett — whose Sly Fox Den Too restaurant features traditional foods with the seasons — has become the first Indigenous woman to win a prestigious James Beard Award as best chef in the Northeast.

A semifinalist among 20 other chefs and one of four finalists, Pocknett, Mashpee Wampanoag, was honored at the James Beard Foundation’s annual awards ceremony in Chicago on June 5.

The Sly Fox Den Too, which opened in 2021 in Charlestown, Rhode Island, is named after her late father, former Mashpee Wampanoag Chief Sly Fox Vernon Pocknett.

Pocknett accepted the award in traditional regalia after finishing up a round of chemotherapy.

"I have cancer," she said at the ceremony. "I'm sure I'm not the only one in the room that does, but I'm almost through it. This honor is just unbelievable. It's something that I never even dreamed of. Thank you."
Navajo Mike’s offers six different hot and barbecue sauces

Michael John had an idea in the kitchen.

He worked as a chef for 15 years and always talked about the concept of a southwest-style barbecue sauce. Then the COVID-19 pandemic hit in 2020, the Arizona restaurant where John was working closed and he was out of a job.

Although the unfortunate circumstance opened a window for John. He had time to try what he had been thinking. He began making sauces and giving it to friends and family to try.

“I started it, made the first batch of it and it came out great. The second batch, it was perfect. So, then I started coming up with the logos, the labels, all of that, and then it started growing,” the Navajo Nation citizen said.

Navajo Mike’s has been operating in Tempe, Arizona since then.

“If that didn’t happen I don’t even know this would become a thing, honestly. Was it a blessing in disguise? I’m not sure, but I think so,” he said.

The making of the sauces required figuring out the base – commonly tomato – and gathering ingredients like sugars and blends of seasonings. Then you bring it up to temperature, blend it and bottle it.

His favorite sauce that he sells is the “Skoden” that diverts from the traditional tomato base to a mustard base, golden-style sauce. The most popular and fan favorite of his sauces is the “Original” southwest style barbecue. Behind it is the “Diamondback juice” hot sauce that’s in the habanero, Fresno chili style. He offers three other sauces, notably the “Skinwalker Style” spicy southwest barbecue sauce.
Heirloom corn in a rainbow of colors makes a comeback in Mexico, where white corn has long been king

IXTENCO, Mexico — On the slopes of the Malinche volcano, Juan Vargas starts the dawn routine he's had since childhood, carefully checking stalks of colorful native corn.

For years, Vargas worried that these heirloom varieties — running from deep red to pale pink, from golden yellow to dark blue — passed down from his parents and grandparents would disappear. White corn long ago came to dominate the market and became the foundation of Mexicans' diet.

But now, the heirloom corn Vargas grows is in vogue. It accounts for 20 of the 50 acres on his farm in Ixtenco, in the central state of Tlaxcala.
Manitou Bistro is located in Renfrew, Ontario

A new restaurant in Renfrew, Ontario is getting great reviews.

The Manitou Bistro is serving up traditional First Nations dishes with a twist. On the menu is buffalo poutine, wild rice tacos and bannock pizza.

According to Suzette Foucault, the owner and chef, there’s already some favourites.

“Our top three sellers is the pow wow taco, which is bannock and chili – you know, the classic that we find at the pow wows, and we have our bison burger. It’s a 50 per cent bison, 50 per cent ground beef, on a nice pretzel bun with maple bacon and provolone cheese,” said Foucault.

Foucault’s father is French, and her mother is Algonquin with roots from both Pikwakanagan and Kitigan Zibi First Nations.

It’s the first time she’s taken on a business venture like this, but she said sharing First Nations cuisine is an opportunity to educate.
Two Lakota and Laotian sisters are launching a new food business to combine cultural foods and flavors

What began as a means of survival has turned into a labor of love.

Two Cheyenne River Lakota and Laotian sisters Mali Souksavath and Kahomy Weston are using their traditional and cultural knowledge to create unique dishes, combining hallmarks of both for their new business, Oyul Fusion-LaoKota Cuisine in Rapid City.

After spending time apart, the sisters came together in Rapid City and decided to put their degrees and experience in the food industry to work, making their own business, which is currently in its early stages with weekly pop-up food sales.

Because of Laos’ proximity to India and the spice trade, Laotian dishes are packed full of spice and flavor. The sisters combine these unique flavors with Lakota medicines and foods to create uniquely flavorful food.

Sticky rice with Lakota gabubu bread, ninja noodles, frybread balls, Čeyaka (wild mint) and more have become staples in their business, among other creative items. Another upcoming signature will be a sauce flight that highlights and embraces the different flavors of their dishes.

Growing up in Cherry Creek, Souksavath was one hour from the nearest grocery store. Taught by her grandmother, Souksavath quickly learned how to forage, butcher and cook using whatever she could get her hands on.

While also a means of survival, food is a way to come together as a community.
Acclaimed Nebraska chef is reaching out to share the benefits of Indigenous foods

BANCROFT, Nebraska — The Cultural Connections summer youth camp at the Neihardt Center seemed like any other camp on a late June morning.

Native girls and boys from elementary to high school were hustling and bustling with activities from Indigenous games to arrow-making to listening to a presenter talk about the parts and uses of a buffalo.

When lunch time arrived, the campers gathered outside to Native foods and learn more from the towering Indigenous chef wearing traditional clothing, including a gustoweh on his head.

It’s one of the things chef Anthony L. Warrior loves to do — to educate and promote Native American food revitalization and traditional food ways with Native communities.

“I was raised in kitchens with my mother,” Warrior told ICT. “My own health issues helped to motivate me to learn what we as Natives once had for health and wellness. I have always been inspired by history, so learning about how we as Natives sustained ourselves and our ways of life drives me to learn more about behaviors and customs linked to our ways of life…

“During my younger years, I witnessed many tribes that celebrated the food through dances, feasts, and spiritual connection,” he said. “In the last 20 years, I see the absences of that connectivity coming to a critical point of losing our attachment to our Mother Earth.”

Warrior, or Ma-te-yi-ma-pe-to, a citizen of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and also Absentee Shawnee of Oklahoma and Sicangu Lakota, is a celebrated chef and owner of Warrior’s Palate Catering and Consultation.
Chef Andrea Murdoch hopes those who eat her food take away the deeper knowledge of where it comes from and its ties to culture.

Chef Andrea Murdoch is busy in the kitchen of the Same Café in Denver — a pay-what-you-can restaurant run entirely by volunteers. She commonly uses the kitchen space when she needs an extra oven or two.

“Everything is a combination of Russian roulette and a Rubik’s cube in kitchens,” she said to a volunteer chef, laughing.

As volunteers take out pans and rip off pieces of parchment paper to cover them, a sweet smell wafts from the ovens. Murdoch is baking her famous light blue sugar cookies for an Indigenous Comic-Con event later that week.

“They look good, and they smell good too!” said one volunteer chef.

“And it supports Indigenous economies!” Murdoch yelled back.

But Murdoch — one of the Indigenous chefs that’s part of a new wave of Indigenous cuisine in Colorado and other parts of the Mountain West — doesn’t make cookies like other chefs. Instead of using flour, she’s utilizing Ute Mountain Ute cornmeal found in Southwest Colorado.

“Blue cornmeal is something that’s very specific to the Four Corners region of the U.S.,” she said. “You will not find this easily out on the West Coast, out on the East Coast.”
By D. Sean Rowley  
Cherokee Phoenix  
November 16, 2023

KANSAS, Okla. – On a recent afternoon under the shade of trees on a late summer day, Cherokee Nation citizens Rocky and Connie Carroll invited some friends to their home for a cookout.

They shared the bounty of their personal garden, grown in part from heirloom seeds from the Cherokee Nation Seed Bank. In particular, the Carrolls were serving corn, be it on the cob, as hominy, or ground into meal to coat nuggets of catfish caught out of Lake Eucha.

“It was the white eagle (dent corn),” Rocky said. “We got it from the Cherokee heirloom seed bank. We had our garden ready, and so we planted it. We had a good stand, and it was quality that we got. Just about every seed came up, around 80 percent or more.”

White eagle dent is a variation of blue corn and known for its yields. Stalks can reach 7 feet. The Carrolls’ were about 6 feet. The kernels are usually a mix of blue and white, though some ears can be entirely blue.

“There were two ears to every stalk, and kept them from cross pollinating,” Rocky said. “They did real good with that. We got some good consistent colors. We were glad for that.”

Maintaining genetic integrity is a top priority for the seed bank. Though the bank may have more seeds on hand for a given year, they grow into plants with rare traits that are usually not available off the shelf. On its website, the bank explains that the mature plants “represent centuries of Cherokee cultural/agricultural history.”

Cross pollination is always a concern.
A new pilot program announced this week aims to localize meat distribution, support small businesses and improve food distribution on reservations.

EAGLE BUTTE, S.D. – Since the near extinction of the buffalo mostly by White settlers, the animal has become a symbol of both Indigenous resilience and food sovereignty. Now, buffalo are central to a new pilot program to improve food distribution on Native land.

Millions of buffalo were killed for the expansion of the transcontinental U.S. railroad and to reduce a key food source of plains tribes. On Thursday, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced it is beginning to reconcile the government’s role in the near extinction by supporting buffalo ranchers, specifically Indigenous-operated small businesses.

“The conservation efforts by the tribes and others to restore the bison population since then have been very successful,” said Heather Dawn Thompson, USDA director of the Office of Tribal Relations and a citizen of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe. “The federal government has a role in ensuring that perhaps wrongheaded policy in the past is reversed. And so USDA is happy to be a part of the federal partnership and support the restoration of bison.”

The terms bison and buffalo are often interchangeable in and out of Indian Country.

On Oct. 12, the Agriculture Department announced the program with three Indigenous-operated buffalo farms and one non-Native company on the Cheyenne River, Rosebud, Lower Brule and Standing Rock reservations to improve food distribution on reservations, support small businesses and localize meat distribution.

“We’re just trying to feed people,” Troy Heinert, Sicangu Lakota and the Executive Director of the InterTribal Buffalo Council said.
Redefining food for the next generation

Chef Nico Albert Williams is passionate about duck eggs.

"We have such an idea of what traditional food is in Native communities, and a lot of times those foods are survival foods like fried bread, or foods that are ingredients that were brought to us through colonization, or through the food ration programs," said Williams. "Now the movement is to reconnect to ancestral foods as a way of healing.

Duck eggs are a part of that.

"Chickens are not indigenous to North America if our ancestors were eating eggs they would have been eating duck eggs," she said. "Ducks are an indigenous animal to our region and they were a food source ... so when I'm making traditional foods I like to substitute duck eggs."

The chef says they are more delicious and richer than chicken eggs, ideal for baked goods, custards and omelets.

"It's just a really exciting time as a chef as a Native chef specifically everybody in even in mainstream culture and in our native communities is looking for ways to feel healthier, to live longer, to live better lives, to increase our quality of life and it's just very beautiful to me that our ancestors have laid the groundwork for that.

Chef Williams talks about her work on the set of Killers of the Flower Moon, cooking for Leonardo DiCaprio. And why the story is so important.
On the ICT Newscast from Friday, November 3, it’s harvest season. It takes months to grow and seconds to eat. We speak to the winner of the best red chile in New Mexico. Can’t decide? It’s Christmas — the season of red and green chile. Plus, pine nut gathering in Idaho.

Plan your event with Indigenous experts

ICT’s Speakers Bureau offers top Indigenous talent who bring expertise in media coverage of Indigenous issues and journalism. Book one of our speakers for your next conference or event today. All speaking fees are contributed to our nonprofit operations fund.
Public Hearings: You Are Invited!

The Department of Defense is developing a new bomber aircraft, the B-21 “Raider,” which will eventually replace existing B-1 and B-2 bomber aircraft. The Department of the Air Force (DAF) intends to beddown B-21 aircraft as part of three basing decisions, Main Operating Base (MOB) 1, MOB 2 and MOB 3.

A Notice of Availability (NOA) has been published in the Federal Register announcing the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate the potential beddown impacts of MOB 2 or 3 at Dyess AFB, Texas or Whiteman AFB, Missouri is now available for public review. The Draft EIS evaluates the potential environmental impacts of the DAF's proposal to beddown the B-21 “Raider” bomber aircraft. The proposal includes infrastructure construction, demolition, and renovation activities; additional personnel to support the B-21 mission; and changes in aircraft operations at Dyess AFB, Whiteman AFB, and corresponding airspace units.

A copy of the Draft EIS is posted on the project website at www.B21EIS.com and hard copies are available at the following repositories near Dyess AFB and Whiteman AFB (for a full list of repositories, including additional libraries underneath associated airspace, please refer to the project website):

- Abilene Public Library
  202 Cedar St, Abilene, TX 79601
- Merkel Public Library
  100 Kant, Merkel, TX 79536
- Sweet Springs Public Library
  217 Turner Street, Sweet Springs, MO 65351
- Anson Public Library
  1137 12th St, Anson, TX 79501
- Boonslick Regional Library
  219 W Third St, Sedalia, MO 65301
- Trails Regional Library
  432 N Holden St, Warrensburg, MO 64093

The DAF will host a series of public hearings to allow members of the public to learn about the project and provide verbal public comments. The hearings will provide an overview of the Draft EIS, including a description of the project’s alternatives and the associated potential environmental impacts.

The public hearings will be held on the following dates from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Central Time:

- Tuesday, November 28, 2023
  University of Central Missouri, Elliot Student Union,
  Main Ballroom, 511 S. Holden St., Warrensburg, MO
- Thursday, November 30, 2023
  Knob Noster High School,
  504 South Washington Ave., Knob Noster, MO
- Tuesday, December 5, 2023
  Abilene Convention Center,
  1100 N 8th St., Abilene, TX
- Thursday, December 7, 2023
  Tye Community Center, 103 Scott St., Tye, TX
- Tuesday, December 12, 2023
  To dial in by phone, call 1-888-788-0099,
  Webinar ID: 859 6888 4000, Passcode: 208062
- Thursday, December 14, 2023
  To dial in by phone, call 1-888-788-0099,
  Webinar ID: 859 6888 4000, Passcode: 208062

To submit public comments electronically, please visit the website at www.B21EIS.com.

Public comments by mail should be sent to:
Department of the Air Force, c/o Leidos, ATTN: B-21 EIS; 12304 Morganton Hwy #572, Morganton, GA 30560

Inquiries regarding the proposal should be directed to:
Dyess AFB Public Affairs, (325) 696-4620; 7bwpa@us.af.mil; Whiteman AFB Public Affairs, (660) 687-5727; 509bw.public.affairs@us.af.mil

Public comments should be received or postmarked by January 5, 2024.

For more information, please visit the project website at www.B21EIS.com.
Thessalonica Court
A ROSE COMMUNITY
350 Saint Ann's Ave, Bronx, NY 10454
718-402-3200 | TTY 711
thessalonica-court.com

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS
Income Based Apartments
1, 2, & 3-Bedrooms
Celebrating Indigenous business across Indian Country

Tribes expand with new casino ventures

Indian gaming emerges from the pandemic with ‘historic revenue’

By Sandra Hale Schulman

From a guitar-shaped hotel on the Las Vegas Strip to a jazzed-up pit stop in the swampy Everglades and a new lakefront tower in North Dakota, tribes across the country are expanding their casinos and resorts after a slowdown caused by the pandemic.

There are reasons for all this activity. Billions of them.

Gaming revenue for 2022 was the highest in Indian gaming history with $40.9 billion, an increase of $1.9 billion that is about 5 percent higher than the historic 2021 numbers of $39 billion, according to a report released in July by the National Indian Gaming Commission.

“This historic revenue reflects the resiliency of many tribal gaming operations despite pandemic shutdowns, and that tribal gaming continues to rebound and remain strong,” commission Chairman E. Sequoyah Simermeyer, Coharie, said in a statement.
Indigenous-owned cosmetics company joins with visual artists as products go national

Rainbow palettes in colors of the sunset and sky come together with a pop of contemporary art in the vibrant Indigenous-owned cosmetics company, Prados Beauty, a growing enterprise that is drawing national recognition.

The New Mexico-based brand has been selected to appear in more than 600 JCPenney stores across the United States by the end of 2023, and the national retailer has dubbed owner Cece Meadows, Xicana, Yaqui and Comanche, a “beauty entrepreneur.”

Prados is currently the #1 selling beauty brand in the chain’s color category. The word “prados” means meadows in Portuguese.

Its products were also featured in several fashion shows during Santa Fe’s Indian Market this year, and the company has hosted several pop-ups across the country.

And after collaborating creatively with artist/filmmaker Steven Paul Judd, Choctaw, Meadows is broadening her reach with a new collaboration with Blackfeet fashion designer Lauren Good Day.

“I feel like we offer a different experience that a lot of beauty brands don’t get, and I’m so thankful for that opportunity because it’s hard to be in retail,” Meadows told ICT. “I feel a responsibility to represent and to make sure that our stories are told accurately, not just for myself but for my friends and Native tribes, who we are as people, our issues and the things that are important to us. Our products have a depth and a story.”

The products are vegan, cruelty-free, gluten-free and highly pigmented. A generous 50 percent of the profits go to Meadows’ foundation, Prados Promise, and are dispersed to Indigenous communities, people in need, veterans, single parents, and children with special needs.
Garbage Tale Vintage is bringing sustainable, upcycled fashion to Rapid City and preparing for a showcase at Native Pop

RAPID CITY, S.D. — When Caitlin Hein, Sicangu Lakota from Mission, S.D., was in elementary school, she began to dream of being a fashion designer, so her great-grandmother bought her a Singer sewing machine at a yard sale.

Hein, 25, started off small, making clothing for her Build-A-Bear toys and dolls, but with time she upgraded to clothing. Despite her passion, Hein said she never thought a fashion design career was feasible, and initially began thrift shopping and upcycling as a hobby.

Read more here
Fifteen Lakota artists gathered at Racing Magpie in Rapid City to sell their creations during the first summertime Night Market

RAPID CITY, S.D. — In the peak summer heat, 15 Lakota artists gathered at Racing Magpie in Rapid City to sell their creations during the first summertime Night Market from three to eight on Saturday, July 22.

This year’s Night Market included a free screen-printing demonstration, live music, food trucks and a screening of “Mináǧi kiŋ dowáŋ: a Zitkála-Šá opera,” accompanied by a documentary about the making of the opera film.

Organized by Duwana and Lori Two Bulls, both Oglala Lakota, and hosted at Racing Magpie, this was the first time there had been a summer Night Market. Usually, the market is hosted in the spring and winter.

“We decided to try our hand in the night market this year because they’re so popular around the country,” Duwana Two Bulls said.

The Two Bulls family is full of artists, including beadworker Molina Two Bulls and her eight-year-old daughter Bobbi, both of who sold creations alongside several members of the family at the Night Market.

As the youngest artist vending at the market, Bobbi is just starting out as an artist.
The return of the Columbia River Indian Fisher’s Expo provided training and resources to help tribal members improve their fishing practices.

Standing in a circle, tribal youth opened the Columbia River Indian Fisher’s Expo with a traditional Umatilla prayer song.

Open to Nez Perce, Umatilla, Warm Springs and Yakama tribal members, the event provided resources designed at addressing issues unique to fishing in the Columbia River. This year marks the return of the expo, hosted by the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC), for the first time in five years.
The Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska is building a foreign trade zone to make money and create jobs for tribal citizens.

A tribe that has land in Kansas and Nebraska is hoping to make money by taking advantage of federal rules related to the import and export of foreign and domestic goods.

The Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska plans to establish a foreign trade zone in Missouri northeast of its reservation straddling Kansas and Nebraska. The tribe chose the location because of its proximity to an interstate, as well as rail, water and air transportation routes.

“Tribes have been utilizing our trade routes for hundreds of years,” said tribal Chairman Tim Rhodd. “Through this zone, we’re able to connect with other tribes and strengthen intertribal trade, even looking at Indigenous trade with global partners as well.”

A foreign trade zone is a designated area within the United States where foreign and domestic goods are treated as if they had never entered the country. Companies that import goods into a foreign trade zone aren’t required to pay tariffs, which is a type of tax, on those goods.

Once the goods imported into a trade zone are moved out of the zone and onto U.S. soil, those goods are then taxed. But if a company moves goods from a trade zone to another trade zone or to another country, it will never have to pay a tariff on those goods.

Companies can also use foreign trade zones to reduce the amount of tariffs that they will have to pay once they move goods onto U.S. soil. They can do this by transforming an imported raw material inside the trade zone into a product that is taxed at a lesser rate than the raw material once it leaves the zone.
The Oklahoma Supreme Court announced Monday that it would not hear a case brought by a conservative nonprofit against House Speaker Charles McCall, R-Atoka, and Senate President Pro Tem Greg Treat, R-Oklahoma City. The lawsuit questioned whether lawmakers violated state law.

In a 6-3 decision, the Oklahoma Supreme Court did not issue an opinion explaining why it refused to consider the case.

Legislators still face a legal challenge from Gov. Kevin Stitt

OKLAHOMA CITY — Oklahoma lawmakers’ decision to extend tribal compacts without the governor’s blessing withstood its first legal challenge after the state’s highest court refused to hear the case.

The Oklahoma Supreme Court did not issue an opinion explaining why it refused to consider the case.

The Oklahoma Council of Public Affairs’ lawsuit alleged that lawmakers’ decision to extend tribal tobacco compacts through Senate Bill 26X was unconstitutional in part because the bill was considered during a “budget-related special session,” originated in the wrong chamber and passed without the required supermajority needed to raise revenue.

Legislators still face a legal challenge from Gov. Kevin Stitt
Toptana Technologies is a first-of-its-kind Indigenous-owned Internet infrastructure and technology company focused on bringing connectivity to unserved and underserved communities.

The Quinault Indian Nation in Washington is working to remediate the effects of the digital divide affecting tribal communities and rural areas.

**Toptana Technologies** is a first-of-its-kind Indigenous-owned Internet infrastructure and technology company focused on bringing connectivity to unserved and underserved communities. Toptana and the tribe are aiming to bring the first subsea cable landing and backhaul station to Washington in over 20 years with the goal of bringing connectivity to rural populations across Washington and Oregon. The project will run along I-5 offering efficient interconnection from the Olympic Peninsula to Seattle and Hillsboro, Oregon.

As a coastal tribe facing decreasing population numbers and graduation rate declines – the tribe is now spearheading an effort to bridge the digital divide and connect rural communities in the Pacific Northwest with limited to no internet access.

Tyson Johnston, self-governance director and former vice president of the Quinault Indian Nation, said not only is rural America underserved, but Indian Country, in particular, is at times even more underserved.

“As we’ve moved forward, in this modern day time, having Internet access is essential for our economies, so we could have better access to health care resources, having better access to educational resources,” he added.

Toptana works on the middle mile of internet connectivity. Johnston said that “essentially gets the backbone of Internet to these areas that are unserved.”
The Red Lake Nation will begin selling recreational marijuana to both tribal and non-tribal members starting Aug. 1

RED LAKE, Minn. — The Red Lake Nation’s tribal council voted on Tuesday to legalize recreational marijuana and begin selling it — to both tribal and non-tribal members — on Aug. 1.

The move could make Red Lake Nation the first entity to operate a recreational dispensary in the state and gives the tribe a significant head start in the green rush to claim a piece of the projected $1.5 billion market.

While possessing recreational marijuana will become legal across Minnesota on Aug. 1, retail locations aren’t expected to open for another 12 to 18 months because state officials must first establish a dispensary licensing system.

The Red Lake Nation is well-positioned to launch a tribally run cannabis dispensary. The tribe already cultivates and dispenses medicinal marijuana on the reservation, having legalized medicinal marijuana through referendum in 2020.

The tribe’s medicinal marijuana dispensary, NativeCare, will begin selling recreational marijuana, said Sam Strong, Red Lake Nation tribal secretary. Minnesotans older than 21 will be able to purchase cannabis at the store in limited amounts.

Although Red Lake has an advantage in opening the first dispensary, it won’t be convenient for most Minnesota consumers. The Red Lake reservation is located more than 30 minutes from Bemidji, around three hours from Moorhead and Duluth, and four hours from the Twin Cities. Red Lake could also open dispensaries on tribal land near Thief River Falls and Warroad.
Tribal chair says Margaritaville hotel brought ‘spirit of the potlatch’ to tribal enterprise in Oregon

Singer-songwriter Jimmy Buffett lived some 3,200 miles from the homelands of the Coquille Tribe in southwestern Oregon, but he likely would have felt at home there.

There’s the vibe. Buffett, the multiplatinum-selling artist and creator of the Margaritaville business enterprise who died Sept. 1 from a rare form of skin cancer, would have fit right in with the Rogue River, the valley wineries, and the music and live theater scene.

Buffett performed six times in the last 25 years in Portland, a four-hour drive north, and a three-hour drive west would have gotten him to the rugged shorelines, beach towns and lighthouses of the Oregon Coast.

And there are the values he shared with the Coquille people — the sharing of wealth, an entrepreneurial spirit and environmental stewardship.

So when the opportunity presented itself for the tribe to partner with Buffett’s brand, Margaritaville, in building a hotel here — Compass Hotel by Margaritaville — Coquille Tribe leaders saw the project as a good fit.

“One of our folks was at a conference and got talking [to a Margaritaville representative] and a little light bulb went on,” said Ray Doering, director of public affairs for the tribe’s Mith-ih-Kwuh Economic Development Corporation, also known as Tribal One.
On the ICT Newscast from Monday, May 22, trade with Native businesses could soon move internationally based on a new partnership. May is Mental Health Awareness Month. Hear about a recent summit held in Nevada. And meet the author of a new book that explores Indigenous peoples' lack of access to the American Dream.

Plan your event with Indigenous experts

ICT’s Speakers Bureau offers top Indigenous talent who bring expertise in media coverage of Indigenous issues and journalism. Book one of our speakers for your next conference or event today. All speaking fees are contributed to our nonprofit operations fund.

THE WEEKLY
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

MARKET ANALYSIS AND FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR THE CONVENIENCE STORE, TRAVEL CENTER AND RV PARK

Requested by:
The San Carlos Apache Tribe Public Recreation Services Authority

Proposals due no later than January 15, 2024

Contact:
Raylene Stevens, Executive/Recording Secretary, to the Board of Directors and Chief Executive Officer
777 Geronimo Springs Blvd.
Cutter Industrial Park
San Carlos, AZ 85550
Office: (928) 475-7800, Ext. 3665

Submit Proposals to:

Mail Delivery:
The San Carlos Apache Tribe Public Recreation Services Authority
P.O. Box 1210
San Carlos, AZ 85550

ATTN: Raylene Stevens

Hand Delivery:
The San Carlos Apache Tribe Public Recreation Services Authority
777 Geronimo Springs Blvd.
Cutter Industrial Park
San Carlos, AZ 85550

ATTN: Raylene Stevens
Native American Heritage Month: Arts & Entertainment special

Celebrating Indigenous arts & entertainment across Indian Country
‘Killers of the Flower Moon’ opens across US (finally!)

*Powerful Osage drama already generating Oscar buzz, praise for authenticity*

By Sandra Hale Schulman, Special to ICT

Spellbinding, heartbreaking and exhaustingly researched, director Martin Scorsese’s long-gestating epic look into the mass murders of the Osage over oil rights in the 1920s opens Oct. 20 in wide release across the United States.

Even getting the story to the big screen was not without drama – requiring a rewrite of the entire script, a change in the lead role from hero to villain for one of the movie’s biggest stars, recreation of a 100-year-old town, the hiring of dozens of Osage extras, a pandemic shut down, and finally a premiere at the Cannes Film Festival in France to rave reviews and a nine-minute standing ovation.

Is it worth the hype? The 3½ hour, $200 million answer is yes.

This is a director at the top of his game who humbly realized the story he originally meant to tell — about the White savior FBI coming into town to find the killers and clean up the murders — wasn’t the story he wanted to tell.

“After a certain point, I realized I was making a movie about all the White guys,” Scorsese said in an interview with *Deadline*. “Meaning I was taking the approach from the outside in, which concerned me.”
After its first season, “Reservation Dogs” won a 2022 Peabody award, 2022 Television Academy Honors award, 2022 Independent Spirit Award for Best Comedy Series, was an American Film Institute Awards Honoree, and won Best Breakthrough Series at the 2021 Gotham Awards and is Emmy nominated.

“We had a little screening of the finale with the Muscogee Creek Nation here,” Harjo told ICT by phone on Thursday. “We showed it to some community members, so I watched it there with them. There were a lot of tears. The funeral of Fixico seemed to be a better way to go, though.”

“I think the funeral is beautiful because it's the illustration of how community works. I wanted to show that in the show, not talk about it so much, have it play out in front of you. And you know, everything you see in the series family is exactly what we do when someone passes. So yeah, I just wanted to share that bit of reality, but also show how community works and taking care of community being enacted out by the characters.”
Wilma Mankiller was the first woman to serve as principal chief of the Cherokee Nation, a fierce advocate for Indigenous communities, and a winner of the prestigious Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1998.

Now Mankiller, who died in 2010, is getting her own doll. Mattel, the Barbie doll maker, unveiled its latest incarnation on Tuesday, Nov. 7, with Mankiller as the first real-life Native woman to be featured in the Barbie “Inspiring Women” series.
On Thursday night, the cast celebrated its 100th performance of the show since it launched.

In short, the Indigenous twist of the 1950’s musical “Grease” delivered. So much so that extra shows were added by the Santa Fe Playhouse to meet the demand. The roughly 75-minute show ran from Wednesday, Aug. 16, through Sunday evening with nine performances over the five days.

The playhouse brought “Bear Grease” to town during the week that coincided with one of the busiest weeks of the year in New Mexico’s capital. The nearby Santa Fe Indian Market was taking place, and it routinely draws thousands of visitors to downtown.

On Thursday night, the cast celebrated its 100th performance of the show since it launched.

“This was only supposed to be a weeklong show, one week of it and it sold out in less than 15 minutes and two years later, here we are performing for you,” Lightning told the crowd after Friday’s early show.

“As a child actor, I never saw anything like this when I was a child, a joyful Indigenous representation on stage,” she added.

“Bear Grease” features 10 Indigenous actors in roles that would make actors John Travolta and Olivia Newton-John smile.

The show is simply Indigenous. It has Indigenous humor, Indigenous fashion, Indigenous dance, even Indigenous languages and beadwork.
Robertson was from the Six Nations of the Grand River in Canada and a fixture in the rock industry for decades, playing alongside other rock legends *Updated

Legendary Indigenous musician and songwriter Robbie Robertson, who defined a genre of music before it even had a name, died Wednesday, Aug. 9, in Los Angeles at 80.

His publicist Ray Costa stated that Robertson died “after a long illness.”

“Robbie was surrounded by his family at the time of his death, including his wife, Janet, his ex-wife Dominique, her partner Nicholas, and his children Alexandra, Sebastian, Delphine, and Delphine’s partner Kenny. He is also survived by his grandchildren Angelica, Donavan, Dominic, Gabriel, and Seraphina,” the Robertson family posted to social media.

As lead guitarist and songwriter for The Band, Robertson, who is from the Six Nations of the Grand River in Canada, reshaped American music with such classics as "The Weight," "Up on Cripple Creek" and "The Night They Drove Old Dixie Down."

The Band created the blueprint for everyone from Bruce Springsteen to R.E.M to Mumford and Sons. In recent years the term Americana has encompassed every rock-n-roll and country music sound that blends contemporary and traditional roots music from blues to bluegrass with virtuoso playing and gorgeous harmonies.

Stevie Van Zandt, of Bruce Springsteen’s E-Street Band, posted, “RIP Robbie Robertson. A good friend and a genius. This Band’s music shocked the excess out of the Renaissance and were an essential part of the final back-to-the-roots trend of ’60’s. He was an underrated brilliant guitar player adding greatly to Bob Dylan’s best tour and album.”
Documentary filmmaker Ken Burns examines the dark history and ongoing recovery of the buffalo in a new series for PBS

In a sweeping two-part, four-hour film, master documentary filmmaker Ken Burns tells the story of the near-extinction and Indigenous-fueled return of the American buffalo, an animal that transcends mere existence and rises to spiritual being for Native communities.

Premiering on PBS on Oct. 16-17, the series, “The American Buffalo,” takes viewers on a journey through more than 12,000 years of North American history and across the continent’s vast landscapes, tracing the mammal’s evolution, its significance to the Great Plains and its relationship to the Indigenous people of North America.

Be warned, however: This is not an easy film to watch, particularly the first two hours, which initially are filled with the communal relationship Native people had with the buffalo but then devolve into a mass-slaughter horror show.

Burns told ICT he still gets emotional when he watches it, but he knew he couldn’t tell one story without the other.

“We think the story of this animal is also the story of many aspects of American history, not the least of which is the story of the buffalo’s 12,000-year sacred relationship with Native peoples and then what happened when White Europeans, White Americans, came onto the scene and almost completely severed that in fewer than 100 years,” Burns told ICT by phone recently.

“The bald eagle is our national symbol, but in large respects, our national mammal, the largest land mammal in North America, is more important to who we are because it touches on much more of our story.”
'Seeing the way hip-hop was being used by other communities made me realize my talents could be put to use to express myself and create more awareness about the struggles we face as Indigenous people' 

Cherokee citizen Gary Paul Davis, known professionally as “Litefoot,” said the struggle was real when he began his career in hip-hop as an Indigenous rapper in the early 90s.

The actor, filmmaker and rap artist said he was offered a major record deal early in his career but the label didn’t want him to talk about his culture in his music. He turned it down and decided to create Red Vinyl Records and worked two full time jobs to fund it into success.

“Red Vinyl wasn’t just about me, it was to create a launch pad for other up-and-coming Indigenous musicians, others who like me, had the door shut in their faces,” Litefoot said in an email.

He said rap back then was thought to be a passing fad and had a lot of negativity attached to it. Some in hip-hop pulled no punches, using the art form and the culture as a no-holds-barred way of showcasing the troubles of their lives. Often those messages have been met with fear or disdain in the mainstream. When N.W.A. came “Straight Outta Compton” in 1988 with loud, brash tales of police abuse and gang life, radio stations recoiled.

Hip-Hop was mainly done by Black artists, and law enforcement have had a contentious relationship over the years, each eyeing the other with suspicion. There’s been cause for some of it. In some forms of hip-hop the ties between rappers and criminal figures were real, and the violence that spiraled out, as in high-profile deaths like that of Tupac Shakur in 1996, The Notorious B.I.G. in 1997, sometimes got very bloody. But in a country where Black people are often looked at with suspicion by authority, there have also been plenty of stereotypes about hip-hop and criminality.
Growing up seeing his family sew works of art, Jacob Wallis knew he wanted to bring his mom and aunts the recognition, and economic opportunities, for the beautiful designs they create.

Kicking off the second annual Northwest Native Fashion Show at the Northwest Native Economic Summit, a model wearing a lacy black cloak that obscured her face walked slowly down the runway, smudging the audience, as a video showing images of the earth played on a big screen in the background. Smoke filled the room and sounds of a storm cracked through the air as a projected voice introduced this year’s theme, “Revolvelution.”

While some might call the 13 Native designers at this year’s show “emerging designers,” summit and fashion show co-organizer Casey Pearlman, Iñupiaq, clarified that many of these women have been making clothing for family and friends for years. Speaking of designer Dorothy Cyr, Pearlman said: “It’s not her that’s emerging, it’s support for her that’s emerging.”

Growing up seeing his family sew works of art, Jacob Wallis knew he wanted to bring his mom and aunts the recognition, and economic opportunities, for the beautiful designs they create.

Wallis, business services manager at Nixyaawii Community Financial Services, teamed up with Pearlman to launch the Northwest Native Fashion Show, a collaboration between Nixyaawii Community Financial Services and the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians Economic Development Corporation (ATNI-EDC).
New HBO documentary series offers inside look at Navajo training academy

Navajo Police Officer Antwan Gray has been first on the scene of a massive car wreck. He’s seen strangers open fire around a group of children. And he’s tried to de-escalate rising domestic tensions before they end in violence.

Sometimes his hands shake and adrenaline rushes through him.

But he knows it’s an important job.

“I just told my wife, ‘If it gets to that point, I will take a bullet for somebody,’” Gray says in a new documentary series about the Navajo Police Training Academy. “And she just asked me, ‘Why would you do that?’

“And I said, ‘Because, you never know. It could change somebody, and I have faith that things can change. I’ve seen it.’”

Gray is among a new class of officers featured in the HBO three-part series, “Navajo Police: Class 57,” which followed Gray and other recruits through a grueling year at the groundbreaking Navajo training academy.

With unparalleled access, the series gives viewers an inside look at the only in-house police academy in the country for a tribal nation, on the largest reservation in the United States. Officials estimate they need an additional 300 or so officers to cover the vast territory, which stretches across four states.
On the ICT Newscast from Friday, November 24, artist John Isaiah Pepion about his ledger art. Poet and founder of NDN Girls Book Club, Kinsale Drake, joins us in our studio for an exclusive reading. And for the 50th anniversary of hip-hop, Indigenous music makers talk about the next 50 years.

Plan your event with Indigenous experts

ICT’s Speakers Bureau offers top Indigenous talent who bring expertise in media coverage of Indigenous issues and journalism. Book one of our speakers for your next conference or event today. All speaking fees are contributed to our nonprofit operations fund.
ENVIROMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Public Hearings: You Are Invited!

The Department of Defense is developing a new bomber aircraft, the B-21 “Raiders,” which will eventually replace existing B-1 and B-2 bomber aircraft. The Department of the Air Force (DAF) intends to beddown B-21 aircraft as part of three basing decisions, Main Operating Base (MOB) 1, MOB 2 and MOB 3.

A Notice of Availability (NOA) has been published in the Federal Register announcing the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate the potential beddown impacts of MOB 2 or 3 at Dyess AFB, Texas or Whiteman AFB, Missouri is now available for public review. The Draft EIS evaluates the potential environmental impacts of the DAF’s proposal to beddown the B-21 “Raiders” bomber aircraft. The proposal includes infrastructure construction, demolition, and renovation activities; additional personnel to support the B-21 mission; and changes in aircraft operations at Dyess AFB, Whiteman AFB, and corresponding airspace units.

A copy of the Draft EIS is posted on the project website at www.B21EIS.com and hard copies are available at the following repositories near Dyess AFB and Whiteman AFB (for a full list of repositories, including additional libraries underneath associated airspace, please refer to the project website):

- Abilene Public Library
  202 Cedar St, Abilene, TX 79601
- Merkel Public Library
  100 Kent, Merkel, TX 79536
- Sweet Springs Public Library
  217 Turner Street, Sweet Springs, MO 65351
- Anson Public Library
  1137 12th St, Anson, TX 79501
- Boonslick Regional Library
  219 W Third St, Sedalia, MO 65301
- Trails Regional Library
  432 N Holden St, Warrensburg, MO 64093

The DAF will host a series of public hearings to allow members of the public to learn about the project and provide verbal public comments. The hearings will provide an overview of the Draft EIS, including a description of the project’s alternatives and the associated potential environmental impacts.

The public hearings will be held on the following dates from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Central Time:

**Tuesday, November 28, 2023**
University of Central Missouri, Ellicott Student Union, Main Ballroom, 511 S. Holden St., Warrensburg, MO

**Thursday, November 30, 2023**
Knob Noster High School;
504 South Washington Ave., Knob Noster, MO

**Tuesday, December 5, 2023**
Abilene Convention Center;
1100 N 6th St., Abilene, TX

**Thursday, December 7, 2023**
Tye Community Center, 103 Scott St., Tye, TX

**Tuesday, December 12, 2023**
To dial in by phone, call 1-888-788-0099,
Webinar ID: 659 6965 4000, Passcode: 206062

**Thursday, December 14, 2023**
To dial in by phone, call 1-888-788-0099,
Webinar ID: 659 6965 4000, Passcode: 206062

To submit public comments electronically, please visit the website at www.B21EIS.com

Public comments by mail should be sent to:
Department of the Air Force, c/o Leidos, ATTN: B-21 EIS; 12304 Morganton Hwy #572, Morganton, GA 30560

Inquiries regarding the proposal should be directed to:
Dyess AFB Public Affairs, (325) 696-4820; 7bwpa@us.af.mil; Whiteman AFB Public Affairs, (660) 687-5727;
509bw.public.affairs@us.af.mil

Public comments should be received or postmarked by January 5, 2024.

In the event of a government shutdown, please refer to the project website at www.B21EIS.com for any potential updates to the public hearing schedule.

For more information, please visit the project website at www.B21EIS.com.