

Journal #2615

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6.18.12

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Native culture comes alive at annual powwow with dance, dress and dazzle

By [Teri Vance](#) tvance@nevadaappeal.com

As Paula Plympton braided her daughter's hair at the Stewart Father's Day Powwow on Saturday, she reflected back over the years.

“I made her first dress for her when she was 2 years old,” Paula said. “She's just a natural dancer.”

Now 19, Daisy Nuanes of Reno has learned all forms of traditional Native American dance, but focuses on jingle dancing.

“Jingle dress is a healing dress,” Daisy explained. “I dance jingle to help heal my family. I don't go out there to compete; I go out there to bring joy to people when I dance.”

And, Paula said, it works.

“When you watch her dance, it's very special,” she said. “Just watching her makes you feel better.”

Daisy was one of about 300 dancers to perform in the three-day competition at the annual powwow held at the former Stewart Indian School in Carson City.

“It's wonderful,” said Sherry Rupert, executive director of the Nevada Indian Commission. “We grow and grow every year. It just keeps getting better and better. It's amazing to me.”

She said a record number of alumni from the old Indian boarding school also attended, coming from as far away as Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Arizona.

Vendors also traveled great distances to peddle their wares, which included food, such as Indian tacos and hot dogs, along with Native crafts like silver, beadwork, leather and paintings.

Werika Tatsiu, of the Huichol tribe from Jalisco, Mexico, visits reservations throughout the Western United States selling his beadwork.

It was his first time setting up a booth at the powwow.

“The Washoe and the Paiute people are friendly,” he said. “They're hospitable.”

Nanabah Kadenehii, 10, from Big Mountain, Ariz., started learning hoop dance just this year but hopes to make it to the National Hoop Dancing Championships in February.

“I'm having fun with it,” she said. “And it's good exercise.”

To help her raise funds to get to the competition in Phoenix, a blanket dance was held, during which a blanket is placed in the center of the area. While she danced, spectators placed money on the blanket.

Her father, Jimmy, is proud to see his daughter learning the same dance he danced as a child. But he doesn't have any advice for the novice.

“She doesn't need no tips,” he said. “She's catching on real quick.”

The powwow continues today, with the Grand Entry, or a parade of the dancers as they enter the arena, at noon.

Pics/video at <http://www.nevadaappeal.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2012120619877>

Water of our Forefathers

Ever wondered how Southwestern farmers watered their fields back in the day? Well, wonder no more. Join us for another thought-provoking Salon as we welcome Melissa Kruse-Peebles, Seed Collections Manager at Native Seeds/SEARCH and PhD candidate in Anthropology, for an exploration of the water harvesting practices of ancient farmers in the Southwest. Melissa will walk us through 6,000 years of agricultural history in the region, focusing on the water harvesting and retention strategies employed and how to integrate them into your own garden or farm.

"Ancient and Traditional Water Harvesting in the Southwest" with Melissa Kruse-Peebles

Monday, June 18, 2012 5:30 - 7:30 am FREE!
NS/S Retail Store, 3061 N. Campbell Road

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**Amber Waves**

Mark the first day of summer with a visit to the new Heritage Garden at the Tubac Presidio State Historic Park and learn about crops historically grown by Native Americans and Spanish settlers in the Southwest. There will be informal presentations, educational displays, heritage food products and books, food samples and more on the shady patio in the museum courtyard.

The event is inspired by the [Heritage Grain Collective](#) (of which Native Seeds/SEARCH is a participant) recently formed through a generous grant from USDA Western SARE . From 10 am to noon, a panel of guest speakers will give a presentation on this historic collaboration. Panelists will include NS/S co-founder and nature writer Gary Paul Nabhan, NS/S Director of Conservation Chris Schmidt, and Jeff and Emma Zimmerman of Hayden Flour Mills in Tempe, among others.

**Wednesday, June 20, 2012    10 am - 12 noon**

Where: [Tubac Presidio State Historic Park](#), 1 Burruel Street, Tubac, AZ  
Tickets: \$7.50 adults, \$2 youth 7-13, children free  
Contact: 520-398-2252, [info@ths-tubac.org](mailto:info@ths-tubac.org)

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**Janine Winnemucca**

**HASKELL MORNING:** So, I sat my buffet style platter of institutional a.m. grub on a the table and went to get my juice. Upon my return there were two purple and black dressed athletic fellas @ my table; then another arrives; and another; and another until one of them pulls an additional table to suffice what obviously appeared to be a team table.

Couldn't resist and asked, "so you guys the football team or the track team?" In their husky of voices, "football." I said, "oh, I went to school with your coach here 20 years ago." One says, "Snyder?" I nodded. After a moment of silent math, another one chimes in and says, "that was when I was born."

It feels good to be back in one's old stomping grounds. This time with focus and drive, I will leave this institution with purpose and professional preparedness. ONWARD HASKELL!

(I'm @ Haskell for an intense 6-week Climate Change internship; it is a stepping stone into graduate school. They have us in the dorms. There is other researchers in other programs here; summer institute of learning.)

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"Plans to protect air and water, wilderness and wildlife are, in fact, plans to protect man." ~Stewart Udall

"How am I going to live today in order to create the tomorrow I'm committed to?" ~Tony Robbins

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**Ecoliteracy - Garden Habitat Program**

By **Ashley Hennefer**    [ashleyh@newsreview.com](mailto:ashleyh@newsreview.com)    published on **06.14.12.**

For more information about the Garden Habitat Program, visit [www.urgc.org/home/for-schools](http://www.urgc.org/home/for-schools) .

**If summer school meant being outside, playing with bunnies and chickens, planting seeds and cooking, perhaps it wouldn't have such a bad reputation.** This week, this kind of summer school starts at Urban Roots Garden Classrooms.

Urban Roots has had a busy year setting up its farm and class space on West Fourth Street and launching its Garden Habitat Program, a collaboration with schools in the Washoe County School District in which students and parents will help to establish a school garden, and teachers will use the garden to teach. The program will start officially in the fall, but Urban Roots has been planning the curriculum and logistics for more than two years, according to development coordinator Lauren Gonce.

“A lot of teachers are excited at the idea of having a garden at their schools, but they are just so busy that it can become an overwhelming project,” she says. “We’ve been putting together a program that lets them use the garden with their students without having to worry about maintaining it too.”

Currently, 10 schools have applied to the program, but Gonce says that they plan to accommodate more next year if the program is successful. Four schools—High Desert Montessori, Hug High, Mount Rose Elementary and Heart to Hand—are the first to be accepted.

Once a school is accepted into the program, Urban Roots will survey the school's site to plan for the garden, which will be led by two school garden coordinators—parent volunteers. Teachers will then work with Urban Roots' education specialists on curriculum integration.

“Teachers used to say to us, ‘It sounds great, but I just can't take this on,’ but now we provide them with every resource,” says Gonce.

Gonce also says much of the appeal is the link between gardening and different content areas, including science, math, social studies, physical education and culinary arts. Teachers will also have access to a blog to document their students' progress.

“A few schools have had pilot programs, and it has gone really well,” Gonce says. “Now that we have a space to test out ideas, we can better help teachers.”

The Fourth Street farm space is fairly new to Urban Roots. Since March, much of the farm has been planted, including an herb spiral garden, apple trees—whose branches will eventually grow together to create a place for kids to sit underneath—and a mini-berry forest, where all berries will be edible to let kids “forage.” There's also a bunny, two chickens and many lizards and other critters that scamper around the plants. A cooking station will be available next to a vegetable patch, and a hoop house will keep plants growing year-round. A geodesic dome and a few solar-powered offices provide covered space, and the solar panels will keep the entire operation off the grid, according to Gonce. She says that most of the structures will be plant-based, including the apple grove and an in-progress green fence made out of vines. Composting and beekeeping sections are also in the works.

“It’s just a great place for kids to come and explore,” she says. “It’s really nice for anyone to be here, including adults.”

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### **CDWR to stop buying power from Nevada coal plant** Reuters

The California Department of Water Resources (CDWR) planned to stop buying power from a coal plant in Nevada next year as part of the state's plan to cut greenhouse gas emissions.

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### **EPA builds Clean Water Act framework** Western Farm Press

The EPA issued a new framework to help local governments meet their Clean Water Act obligations. The Integrated Municipal Stormwater and Wastewater Planning Approach Framework assists EPA regional offices, states, and local governments to develop voluntary storm and wastewater management plans and implement effective integrated approaches that will protect public health by reducing overflows from wastewater systems and pollution from stormwater. In developing the framework, the EPA worked in close coordination with a variety of stakeholders, including publicly owned treatment works, state water permitting authorities, local governments, and nonprofit environmental groups.

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### **Owens Dry Lake dispute pits LA, eastern Sierra against each other**

Molly Peterson, Southern California Public Radio

Hundreds of miles north of Los Angeles is Owens Lake: thousands of its neighbors have a stake in a lingering fight over air pollution there. So do customers of the LA Department of Water & Power.

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### **Southwest Tribes Struggle With Climate Change Fallout**

Lee Allen, Indian Country Today

If you like scary, suspense-filled stories and will get the chance to read only one book this fall ... may we suggest the spine-tingling *Assessment of Climate Change in the Southwest United States*?

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From delanceyplace.com: In today's encore excerpt - even in the sparsely populated and violent world of the American frontier, the settlers acted to have some semblance of law and justice.

In 1810, 24 year old **David Crockett**, -- later a Congressman from Tennessee and hero of the Alamo -- was newly married and about to move away from his wife's parents to find better hunting grounds, when he was exposed to harsh incidences of this justice:

"Before Crockett could move, a crisis erupted on Polly's [his wife's] side of the family that required urgent attention. One of Polly's five brothers, John Finley, who had wed Nancy Barnes, a local girl, on June 18, 1811, found himself at the center of an embarrassing legal action

that threatened his reputation, livelihood, and perhaps even his life. His dilemma stemmed from gossip circulating the settlements and crossroads of Jefferson County that, in October of 1810, Finley had sexual intercourse with a mare, owned by William Bradshaw."

"Such a 'crime against nature' was considered to be as detestable as any offense, and in many places if judged guilty the resulting punishment could mean execution. Respect for law and order demanded harsh consequences. As early as 1792, the first criminal indictment was recorded in Jefferson County, when a man named Reuben Roach was found guilty of stealing three yards of linen and three yards of royal ribbon. He received ten lashes on his bare back at the public whipping post. A few years later, Jesse Jeffrey was convicted of horse theft, a crime that often ended on a gallows. Instead, the sentence handed down ruled that the man 'should stand in the pillory one hour, receive thirty-nine lashes upon his bareback well laid on, have his ears nailed to the pillory and cut off, and that he should be branded upon one cheek with the letter H and on the other with the letter T, in a plain and visible manner.' Some citizens thought that hanging would have been a more humane punishment.

If stealing a horse could get a person strung up, or whipped and mutilated, the Finley family shuddered to think what the punishment would be for 'buggery of a horse.' ...

"John Finley [countersued] in 1811 by filing a case of slander against Finley's three accusers -- David Givens, Richard Grace, and William Bradshaw, owner of the horse allegedly made 'victim' by Finley. Legal proceedings continued for quite sometime as both sides made their case before judge James Trimble. ... The sordid Finley proceedings finally concluded with Judge Trimble finding for [Finley]. John Finley never received what he considered his just due after the trial. He died in 1814, and it was not until the following year that two hundred bushels of corn were paid as retribution to his heirs, William and James Finley....

"[In another instance, a neighbor named] Russell Bean had delivered a cargo of his handcrafted guns to buyers in New Orleans, where he then remained for two years, engaging in cock fighting, horse racing, foot races, and other pleasures. When he got back to Jonesboro [Tennessee] and walked into his cabin, Bean was shocked to find his wife, Rosamond, nursing an infant. Outraged at this blatant act of infidelity, the swaggering Bean swigged down some fresh whiskey and decided to mark the baby so he could then distinguish it from the eight children that he had fathered.

Bean yanked out his hunting knife and sliced off the baby's ears. For such a horrific deed, Bean was fined, imprisoned, and branded on the palm of his hand, as was the custom. To show his distain for such

treatment, Bean bit out the brand from his hand and spit the flesh on the floor.

"Though divorce was an infrequent occurrence in those days, the stricken Rosamond soon divorced Bean."

Title: David Crockett: Lion of the West Author: Michael Wallis  
Publisher: W.W. Norton & Company  
Date: Copyright 2011 by Michael Wallis Pages: 83-84, 96  
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Nevada will receive \$23.9 million in federal funding through the Payments In Lieu of Taxes program this year — \$119,008 of it for Carson City. (Nevada Appeal)

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### [Thirsty? New water documentary serves it up straight](#)

**Pat Morrison, Los Angeles Times**

Especially here in California, we hear the tocsin sounding about "drought, drought, drought," and yet we look out and there is the wet, azure Pacific Ocean. How is that for cognitive dissonance? The taunting paradox drove sailors mad; in Coleridge's "[Rime](#) of the Ancient Mariner," the seamen bemoaned, "Water, water, every where, Nor any drop to drink."

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### **Oldest confirmed cave art**

<http://world.einnews.com/article/100834634>

As cave art goes, it doesn't look like much: a single red dot, hidden among a scatter of handprints and drawings of animals on the wall of [El Castillo cave](#) in northern Spain.

But this red dot is at least 40,800 years old, making it the oldest known piece of cave art in Europe. At that time modern humans had only just migrated out of Africa, raising a tantalising possibility: that the dot was drawn by a Neanderthal. If that's the case, our extinct cousins may have had the rudiments of written language.

While cave art is common throughout western Europe, the oldest dated examples are those in [Chauvet cave](#) in France, which have [controversially been dated to between 35,000 and 30,000 years ago](#).

But many other pieces of cave art have never been dated. Standard radiocarbon dating only works when paintings were made using organic material like charcoal. Anything drawn with minerals like ochre, or just carved into the wall, can not be carbon dated.

### **Uranium age trick**

Now, [Alistair Pike](#) of the University of Bristol, UK, and colleagues have come up with a partial solution that will put a minimum age on some previously un-datable paintings.

As water seeps through rock and dribbles over the cave surface, it leaves behind a thin layer of calcite. This contains radioactive uranium, which slowly decays into thorium at a known rate.

So, by measuring how much uranium has decayed into thorium, Pike figured he could determine the age of the calcite layer.

If the calcite overlays a painting, it will provide a minimum age for that art.

In El Castillo, the red dot lay beneath the oldest dated calcite layer. Others came close: a red hand shape on the same wall was at least 37,300 years old and a symbol that looks like the number "1" in the nearby Altamira cave was at least 35,600 years old.

The result makes these drawings the oldest known pieces of cave art in the world – so far. Pike is already examining art in other European caves to see if he can top his latest find.

Some Australian rock art apparently depicts [birds that have been extinct for 40,000 years](#), but most of it has [not been chemically dated](#).

### **Neanderthal artist?**

The Spanish cave art is so old that it may not have been painted by modern humans. *Homo sapiens* arrived in Europe sometime between 42,000 and 40,000 years ago – right around the minimum age of the art. Yet Neanderthals had already been on the continent for tens of thousands of years. So who did the painting?

The fact is we don't know. If modern humans were the artists, they either brought the practice with them from Africa – but left little trace of it there – or developed it incredibly quickly once they reached Europe. Pike suggests that humans changed their culture rapidly when they started competing with the Neanderthals. Cave art, he says, was a by-product of these changes. "That would explain why it happened so quickly," he says.

The other possibility is that the paintings were done by the Neanderthals. The paintings could have been made thousands of years before they were covered in calcite. If so, Neanderthals are the only plausible candidates.

That might not be such a stretch: Neanderthals [used crayon-like pigments to draw on themselves](#) and [even made simple jewellery](#). And there is other, indirect evidence that European caves were adorned around the time modern humans got there. Earlier this year, a team led by [José Luis Sanchidrián Torti](#) of the University of Córdoba, Spain, claimed that cave paintings found in the south of the country, near Malaga, [were over 42,000 years old and therefore drawn by Neanderthals](#). The team dated nearby charcoal pigments, not the paintings themselves, and have not published their data.

There's a third possible explanation, says [April Nowell](#) of the University of Victoria in British Columbia, Canada. Neanderthals may have mimicked the drawings produced by modern humans, without understanding what they meant.

### **What does it mean?**



Although [dramatic drawings of large animals](#) tend to be the focus of attention, most cave art consists of simple symbols like the ones Pike studied. Nowell and her colleague Genevieve von Petzinger have found the same symbols drawn all over the world, so they [may represent an early form of written language](#). Could this mean Neanderthals were able to write? Only the discovery of similar, but older symbols will say for sure.

If you find Neanderthals writing hard to believe, get this: an alternative interpretation of the hand stencils suggests they are the leftovers of early religion.

[Paul Pettitt](#) of the University of Sheffield, UK - one of Pike's collaborators - has just completed an extensive study of the hand stencils, which are found in El Castillo and elsewhere.

His as-yet-unpublished data shows the symbols tend to be placed in places that are difficult to reach. "One involves a climb up a slippery stalactite," he says. Others are found up chimneys. "They seem to be marking passages off the main areas," Pettitt says. One interpretation is that they are signposts, perhaps saying "do not go this way".

They may have a more profound meaning. Pettitt found that they were often placed over cracks in cave walls, or right next to them. Such cracks, he says, may have been seen as gateways to a supernatural world. He points out that caves are often associated with the supernatural, in part because they are dark and quiet, and people's sense of time is altered if they spend time in them.

Similar ideas have been put forward by Jean Clottes, who excavated Chauvet, and David Lewis-Williams of the University of Witwatersrand in South Africa. They have linked cave art with shamanism, and suggest that early humans saw the cave wall as a veil between this world and the next.

"I would have to see Pettitt's study and see what the stats are like," Nowell says. "I can think of many examples of hands not near cracks," she adds, and it is also impossible to determine the symbols' meaning. "But these are things that have been said in one form or another before and no one has been able to test for meaning scientifically."

Whether or not the use of caves as religious sites goes right back to the arrival of humans in Europe, for now, remains shrouded in history.

Journal reference: [Science](#), DOI: 10.1126/science.1219957

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## **New Report Projects Water and Rate Savings for Nevadans**

Public News Service-NV

<http://www.publicnewsservice.org/index.php?/content/article/26935-1>

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(06/15/12) LAS VEGAS - A new report projects big savings in dollars and much-needed water for Nevadans in return for retiring the Reid Gardner Coal-Fired Power Plant by 2013.

Former Nevada Public Utility Commissioner Tim Hay says the independent study produced by

the Sierra Club says ratepayers could have saved in excess of \$120 million had the plant been shut down sooner, but he says there are still plenty of savings in return for retiring the plant by 2013.

"The savings to ratepayers is about \$60 million; the savings in water is a little bit in excess of 8,000 acre feet."

That savings represents about 6 percent of residential water use in the Valley for an entire year, Hay says. The estimated rate savings over 20 years for Nevadans are conservative, he says, because the study did not factor in all of the potential costs to keeping the old plant running until 2023.

"You never really can project accurately what the maintenance costs are going to be, because you could have a catastrophic failure at a 50-year-old plant pretty easily - so the savings could easily be greater than what we've estimated."

Hay says the plant uses old and dirty technology which has saddled the neighboring Moapa Tribe with major negative health impacts for more than four decades.

"The health impacts from coal ash and airborne emissions just were not that well understood, and since the tribe is in such close proximity to it, generations of tribal members have been impacted- and it's time to kind of relieve them of that burden."

California announced this week that its state water authority would stop buying energy from Reid Gardner next year because the state wants to cut greenhouse-gas emissions.

The "Special Report for Nevada Ratepayers" was presented Thursday to the Utilities Commission, which is investigating the lifespan of the coal-fired power plant. The report is online at [nevada.sierraclub.org](http://nevada.sierraclub.org).

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### **Jessica Yu's 'Last Call at the Oasis' made her a water activist**

Jessica Yu's 'Last Call at the Oasis' is a feature-length documentary on water waste, water quality and water manipulation around the world. Making the film turned her into a water activist.

#### **Pat Morrison, Los Angeles Times**

If you want to say that Jessica Yu burst onto the film scene in 1993 with her short "Sour Death Balls," you'd be almost literally right. The film is almost 10 minutes of people trying to handle the disgusting confection. Yu's work wins accolades, including a short-[documentary](#) Oscar for "Breathing Lessons," about a writer who spent most of his life in an iron [lung](#). Now she's brought her California chops to bear on "[Last](#) Call at the Oasis," a feature-length documentary on water waste, water quality and water manipulation not just here — where more than half of our drinkable public water goes to water lawns and plants outside our homes — but the whole, not-so-wet world over.

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**REGION: Engineering students win competitions, grant** [The Californian](#)

Students from UC Riverside have won two recent design competitions for a method they developed using sunlight and a lens found in old big-screen televisions to make water safe to drink, a university spokesman said Tuesday.

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**Klamath dam survey inspires bill amendment** John Bowman, Siskiyou Daily News

The U.S. House of Representatives on June 6 passed an amendment to the Energy and Water Appropriations bill that would ban the Bureau of Reclamation and other federal agencies affected by the bill from offering cash incentives to citizens for the completion of surveys.

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**Threat to Single-Celled Plants That Support All Life**

*Christopher Cousins, Bangor Daily News*

"In 2007, the reproduction rate of phytoplankton in the Gulf of Maine decreased suddenly by a factor of five - what used to take a day now takes five. Such a change in organisms at the bottom of the planetary food chain and at the top of planetary oxygen production could have disastrous consequences for virtually every species on Earth."

[READ MORE](#)

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**Capsules: New Colon Cancer Test Holds Promise For Alaska Natives; USDA Estimates Cost Of Raising Children**

Now on [Kaiser Health News'](#) blog, Alaska Public Radio Network's Annie Feidt, working in partnership with KHN and NPR, reports on [the promise of a new colon cancer test](#): "Alaska Natives are twice as likely to get colon cancer and die from the disease than the white population in the United States. When Mayo Clinic doctor David Ahlquist took a trip to Bethel, Alaska in the mid-1990's that startling statistic caught his attention" (Feidt, 6/14).

Also on the blog, David Schultz reports on how [health care expenses add to the costs of raising children](#): "The USDA released its annual report Thursday on how much it costs to raise a child. The grand total for a child born in 2011 is \$234,900 — \$295, 560 if inflation is factored in — for all child-related expenses, from birth to age 17. That's a 3.5 percent increase over last year" (Schultz, 6/14). Check out what else is on the [blog](#).

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**SCHOOL CHIEF ENVISIONS DAY WHEN BEST TEACHERS GET PAID \$200,000**

Nevada's new schools superintendent hopes for a time when the state's best teachers will earn \$200,000 a year and top college graduates will choose teaching over professions that are traditionally more lucrative.

<http://erj.reviewjournal.com/ct/uz3688753Biz13654628>

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**American Indian tribes alarmed by IRS tax audits - Yahoo! News**

<http://finance.yahoo.com/news/american-indian-tribes-alarmed-irs-tax-audits-193358654.html>

John Yellowbird Steele, chief of the Ogalala Sioux Tribe, said the Internal Revenue Service is failing to recognize tribal sovereignty by trying to tax government-funded assistance such as housing, school clothes and burial aid that tribes give their members.