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Fight for Lakota's Sacred Pe' Sla Brings Miracles

Huffington Post 08/23/2012

An amazing idea took hold in the last few weeks. People from around the world decided that they could [do something](#) to right a terrible wrong that has existed for hundreds of years here in the United States. No one possessed the millions of dollars it would take to accomplish this, but 4,991 people offered pennies, dollars, Euros, and when they had nothing, took the time to write to the "Last Real Indians" with their prayers. And prayer can be uplifting, inspiring and the source of miracles. There just might be a miracle happening in the sacred lands of the Black Hills in South Dakota, where the Sioux Nation is fighting to save its most sacred site, the genesis of all of its creation stories, [Pe'Sla](#).

Black Hills Permission Credit: NASA/Goddard Space Flight Center Scientific Visualization Studio (an incredible perspective sdc)

Gold was discovered in the [Black Hills](#) in 1849, and General George Armstrong Custer led an exploration party there in 1874. The Fort Laramie Treaty of 1851 gave the Sioux land and protection from the encroachment of settlers. It was their land to begin with, but this is the sad history of indigenous people. The treaty was immediately broken when payment of reparations by Congress was reduced a year after the signing. A new treaty was offered in 1868 after Chief Red Cloud attacked a supply train using the Powder River road, but Red Cloud objected to restrictions on native hunting grounds. In 1877, the United States took away all of the land originally granted by treaty, established reservations, and allowed the government to put roads through the reservations for settlers to use in the gold rush. A hundred years later, a 1980 U.S.

[Supreme Court ruling](#) awarded more than \$100 million to the Sioux Nation for the Black Hills. Since the land was taken by force, the tribes will not accept the money. They maintain that it was never for sale and that they will never sell it.

Pe' Sla on the auction block. Credit: [lastrealindians](#)

This Saturday Aug. 25, 1,942.66 acres of the Black Hills, sold in five tracts of land, will be auctioned off to the highest bidder. Leonard and Margaret Reynolds own the land. If sold, it is highly likely that Pe' Sla will be opened up for development, with the State of South Dakota building a road directly through it. The Reynolds have been commended by the Lakota for consistently giving access to the sacred sites and for preserving the land during their time of stewardship.

Two weeks ago, the sale of Pe'Sla seemed inevitable, but 4,991 people on the fundraising site and 2,100 people on Facebook are saying "no," that this sale is not morally or spiritually correct. Good people from around the world are standing up and saying that the robbery of native sacred land must stop. The moral line has been drawn in the sand because of the *idea* that good people can stop this and return the land to the Lakota.

Sarah Jumping Eagle, a pediatrician and member of Lastrealindians, wrote about the importance of the public campaign to raise \$1,000,000. The total now stands at \$234,000. Some of that was raised on reservations. The Turns Around Wacipi (pow-wow) Blanket Dance held at the home of the Fort Peck Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes in Poplar, Montana, raised \$150 -- money from the poorest of the poor, trying to buy back what was stolen from them.

Our Pe' Sla Campaign team goal of \$1 million is intended to supplement the contributions of the 7 Council Fires of the Great Sioux Nation. Yet, we also know that most of the bands of the Great Sioux Nation are made up of communities that are currently living in the poorest counties in the nation. What if your church was for sale? What if Bethlehem or Jerusalem or your Mosque was threatened by destruction or an auction? What would you do? Help us save our sacred lands!! Pe' Sla! The Center -- The Heart of All That Is!

The Wakpala of South Dakota, on the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation, raised \$300.03 with a blanket dance during their traditional Wakpala Wacipi. "The elders in the community, the Uncis and Lalas (Grandmas and Grandpas) were brought to tears to see their children and grandchildren working to get our sacred lands back," reports Chase Iron Eyes of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe.

International media is beginning to pick up on this story. You can read about it in the [Guardian](#), the [Associated Press](#), and on CBS and ABC news. In addition, the Lakota have gained a powerful ally in the United Nations High Commission on Refugees (UNHCR), which issued a [statement from Geneva](#) yesterday.

The United Nations Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples, James Anaya, urged the United States Government and the local and state authorities in South Dakota to address concerns expressed by the Lakota, Dakota and Nakota peoples about the pending sale of Pe' Sla.

United Nations Special Rapporteur James Anaya on Democracy Now!

"The views and concerns of the Lakota, Dakota and Nakota peoples need to be considered regarding any private or government activity that would affect their right to continue to maintain their traditional cultural and ceremonial practices associated with Pe' Sla," Anaya stressed. Anaya is a Regents Professor and the James J. Lenoir Professor of Human Rights Law and Policy at the University of Arizona. As Special Rapporteur, he is independent from any government or organization.

After much consideration, Rosebud Sioux Tribe has now allocated \$1.3 million. Chase Iron Eyes says, "While this is exciting and makes us as a team hopeful, the possible purchase price of all 2000 acres of Pe' Sla available for purchase is possibly \$6 to \$10 million dollars."

Still, this puts the Lakota in the position of buying back their own land, and there is something about it that does not feel right. Worse is the thought of the children of the poorest of the poor raising pennies by blanket dances at pow wows. It is admirable and inspiring, but one cannot feel happy that those from whom we have taken so much have to sacrifice all that they have to remain connected to their creation stories. Their stories are all that they have. How can you purchase a story that is so connected to the land? White culture cannot resonate with this association between self and the landscape.

Winona La Duke, native activist and scholar, writes about the irony of the reclamation of sacred lands in "[Recovering the Sacred](#)."

At stake is nothing less than the ecological integrity of the land base and the physical and social health of Native Americans throughout the continent. In the end there is no absence of irony: the integrity of what is sacred to native Americans will be determined by the government that has been responsible for doing everything in its power to destroy Native American cultures. How would the Lakota "feel" if Pe'Sla were destroyed?

"It would be a pain that it is difficult to describe." Sarah Jumping Eagle says. "It would only be comparable to another [Wounded Knee Massacre](#), or to having one of my relatives killed in front of me. When we say 'Mitakuye Oyasin,' it is a prayer and it is a way of life."

For Sarah Jumping Eagle and other Lakota, Pe' Sla is their relative and should be treated as such.

When one looks at the NASA photo of the Black Hills from space, it does look like a heart. The people say this is the eagle's point of view, the Heart of All That Is; the source of lifeblood for the tribes.

Update: A [message on the auction house's website on Thursday afternoon says the land sale has been cancelled at the owners' direction. The auction house said they had no comment.](#)
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/georgianne-nienaber/pe-sla-lakota-auction_b_1823451.html

[adherence-to-native-american-traditions-help-native-american-youth-avoid-drugs-and-alcohol/](#)

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Promote your business/organization at the NCET Entrepreneur Expo
Downtown Reno Ballroom
September 14, 2012 - 10 am - 5 pm
Open to the Public - F R E E to Attend

The NCET Entrepreneur Expo offers many cost-effective ways for you to reach new customers and clients:

Exhibit: We expect 1,000 - 1,200 people to attend the 7th annual Expo and we've moved to the larger Downtown Reno Ballroom. New for 2012, each exhibitor receives an 8' x 10' booth, Booths are \$350, or \$150 for nonprofits and governmental agencies.

Advertise: Our full-size Expo program will reach 1,000 - 1,200 business owners and entrepreneurs, and ads start at just \$100 for NCET members. Please note that we must receive your ads and payments by Friday, Aug 24. Ad info [here](#).

Sponsor: We'll promote your business in weekly emails sent to 14,000 of Northern Nevada's top business owners, investors, educator, community leaders and many, many more. Sponsorship info [here](#).

And, all of the Expo proceeds support NCET's programs such as the Governor's Cup College Business Plan Competition.

Thanks in advance for your support, and see you at the Expo!
Dave Archer, President and CEO, NCET

Entrepreneur and founder of The Body Shop Anita Roddick once said: "Nobody talks about entrepreneurship as survival, but that's exactly what it is and what nurtures creative thinking."

The first few years of small business ownership are undoubtedly the toughest, a huge test of entrepreneurial character. And data proves that getting it right is as challenging as ever. According to the [SBA Office of Advocacy](#) (PDF), the survival rate for new employer firms stacks up as follows:

- Seven out of 10 new employer firms survive at least two years
- Half survive at least five years
- A third last 10 years
- A quarter stay in business for 15 years or more

So, what strategies and tactics can you employ as you venture through the early years of business ownership? Below are some year-by-year approaches to consider:

Year 1 – Be Prepared for the Unexpected

Whatever your field of business, one of the first things you'll probably encounter in your first year is that things rarely go as planned. While you can do a lot to set up your business carefully (like these [10 Steps to Starting a Business](#)), be prepared for the unexpected.

You may find you need to diversify your product line or that your true niche is something else. Maybe demand for your product goes through the roof and you can't cope or you find your suppliers aren't as reliable as you'd hoped.

Predicting shifts in market forces and business strategy isn't easy, but you can prepare by having a plan and sufficient cash reserves to allow adjustments to your year one strategy. Many of us put off [writing a business plan](#) until we need to secure financing. However, a well-prepared plan that is revisited often will help you steer your business on its course, and help you navigate bumps in the road. Try to think of your business plan as a living, breathing project, not a one-time term paper.

SBA guest blogger and planning expert Tim Berry calls this the "plan-as-you-go" approach and he offers advice in these two blogs: [10 Quick and Easy ways to Start Planning Better](#) and [4 Steps to Keep Your Business Planning Simple and Useful](#)

Part of your planning strategy should focus on maintaining cash flow and having reserves. The following tips from [SCORE](#) offer good advice for building a six month cash reserve:

- Add up all your monthly expenses, so you know what your true personal expenses are.
- Still in a day job? Set aside five percent of your net pay each paycheck and build savings.
- Sound like too much? Start with a goal of setting aside \$100 week equals \$5,200 a year, a nice cushion.
- As an entrepreneur, you want to be sure that whenever you take a cash draw from the company, you set aside money to pay taxes. Don't be surprised by a nasty tax bill.
- Start now. The most important thing is to create a habit of saving each week.

Year 2 – Reflect On and Advocate Your Business

At the end of year one, reflect back on your first year in business – your successes, failures and shortcomings. What would you have done differently? For tips on how to take stock of your business performance, read [Taking Stock of the Business Year - How to Conduct a Year-End Review & Plan for the Year Ahead](#).

Year two is also the time to **work ON your business, as opposed to working IN it**. Becoming a fulfilled and successful business owner involves positioning yourself as a true advocate for your business, not just a salesperson. Some of the most successful brands in the world are where they are today because the entrepreneur behind the brand is out front advocating its products, its successes, and its core values – think Richard Branson or Steve Jobs.

Becoming an advocate isn't difficult, but it involves relinquishing control of some day-to-day business operations that you have gotten used to as a startup. This blog offers more tips: [Five Tips for Building your Small Business Brand Using its Best Advocate - You!](#)

Year 3 – Grow your Formula

Year three is often when small business owners really feel they've found a formula and a niche that works. Business fluctuations still happen, but by now you likely have a good view of your financial projections, so you can better prepare for market and seasonal fluctuations.

If your niche is working for you, keep focused and stay true to it. Stay customer-centric, look for opportunities to grow in that niche, and refine your business and marketing strategy to stay ahead of the curve.

BIA Document Library

Frequently Requested Documents

- [Guide to Tracing Your American Indian Ancestry](#)
- [Tribal Leaders Directory](#)
- [FR Notice - Indian Entities Recognized and Eligible to Receive Services From the US BIA](#)
- [FR Notice - Indian Child Welfare Act; Designated Tribal Agents for Service of Notice](#)
- [Certificate of Degree of Indian or Alaska Native Blood Application and Instructions](#)
- [Form BIA 4432 Verification of Indian Preference for Employment in the BIA and IHS](#)
- [BIA Regional, Agency, and Field Offices Map](#)
- [Indian Affairs Job Vacancy Announcements](#)
- [American Indian Population and Labor Force Reports](#)
- [Scholarships and Grants](#)
- [Indian Affairs FY 2013 Budget Justifications and Performance Information \(Green Book\)](#)
- [Indian Affairs FY 2012 Budget Justifications and Performance Information \(Green Book\)](#)
- [Indian Affairs FY 2011 Budget Justifications and Performance Information \(Green Book\)](#)
- [Parts 81 & 82 Draft Regulation Comments](#)
- [Liquor Ordinances – Alphabetically](#)
- [Liquor Ordinances – By Publication Date](#)
- [2011 Progress to Empowerment Agenda](#)

Most Recently Added Documents

[2011 - Notice: Res Proclamation - Lot 32, Addition to Bay Mills Indian Reservation](#)

FR Notice published 1/13/2011. Corrected version of original Notice reposted on the RACA website (original was missing page 2).

[2012 - Renewal of Agency Information Collection for Water Delivery and Electric Service Data for Operation of Irrigation and Power Projects and Systems; Request for Comments](#)

[DFWFM Job Listing - August 20, 2012](#)

[Indian Entities 2012-08-10.pdf](#)

[8-16-12 Reservation Proclamation - Pueblo of Laguna](#)

[August 14 DFWFM Call Notes](#)

[59 IAM 3-H: National Environmental Policy Act Handbook](#)

Provides guidance for preparing documents required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations implementing NEPA for BIA actions. This is an update to the 2005 version.

[DFWFM Job Listing - August 14, 2012](#)

[2012 - Notice of Approved Tribal-State Class III Gaming Compact between the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians and the State of NC](#)

[2012 - Notice of Advisory Board for Exceptional Children Meeting \(September\)](#)

[2012 - Indian Entities Recognized and Eligible to Receive Services from the BIA DFWFM Job Listing - August 10, 2012](#)
[Testimony of Michael Black, Before House Subcommittee on AIANA, U.S. House of Representatives on Indian Lands: Exploring Resolutions to Disputes Concerning Indian Tribes, State and Local Governments, and Private Landowners Over Land Use and Development](#)
[2012 - Notice of Final Agency Determination for Land Acquisitions: United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians of Oklahoma](#)
[DFWFM Job Listing - August 6, 2012](#)
[2012 - Notice of Intent to Prepare an EIS for the Moapa Solar Energy Center on the Moapa River Indian Reservation, Clark County Nevada](#)
[Wildland Fire Boot Memo](#)
[2012 - Notice of Tribal Listening Sessions on Sacred Sites on Federal Lands](#)
[2012 - Notice of Indian Child Welfare Act: Designated Tribal Agents for Service of Notice](#)
[ListPetByState073112](#)
[Diamond Fire Factual Report](#)
[StatusSummary073112](#)
[NumLetsReceived073112](#)
[NumPetByState073112](#)
[2012 - Notice of Approved Tribal-State Class III Gaming Compact Between the Oglala Sioux Tribe and SD](#)

<http://www.bia.gov/DocumentLibrary/index.htm>

Calendar of Events

8/28/12 [Listening Session: Sacred Sites](#)
Tuesday, August 28, 2012, 9:00 am – 12:00pm, Bureau of Indian Affairs, 911 Federal Building – Auditorium, 911 NE 11th Avenue, Portland, OR 97232, (503) 231-6702 [Read More](#)

9/11/12
[Laverdure Praises DOI-DOJ Tribal Court Trial Advocacy Training Program for Enhancing Practitioners' Trial Skills](#) [September 11-13, 2012, Great Falls, Mont.](#)
[Read More](#)

9/27/12 [Meeting: Advisory Board for Exceptional Children](#)
Thursday September 27, 2012 - Friday September 28, 8:30a.m. - 4:30p.m., 1849 C St. NW, Room 3624, Washington, DC 20240, Phone: 202-208-6123 [Read More](#)

10/2/12
[Laverdure Praises DOI-DOJ Tribal Court Trial Advocacy Training Program for Enhancing Practitioners' Trial Skills](#) [October 2-4, 2012, Seattle, Wash.](#) [Read More](#)

10/19/12
[Comments Due: Renewal of Agency Information Collection for Water Delivery and Electric Service Data for the Operation of Irrigation and Power Projects and Systems](#)

[DATES: Submit comments on or before October 19, 2012. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Yulan Jin, 202-219-0941. Read More](#)

10/23/12

[Laverdure Praises DOI-DOJ Tribal Court Trial Advocacy Training Program for Enhancing Practitioners' Trial Skills October 23-25, 2012, Chinle, Ariz. Read More](#)

<http://www.bia.gov/Calevents/index.htm>

*(Repeating) I do not like to use these pages for my personal opinions/soapboxes, but **“inexplicable”**? Maybe our political pundits/journalists need to read the state constitution and/or territorial debates, etc., etc. Blathering public opinion not based in fact is more than a public disservice. That one little word can obliterate the truth is powerful.*

I find that sadly, this is happening in Indian Country also. Many young people (who will become elected officials (if not leaders) are woefully ignorant of their tribe’s legal history. They have never read their essential treaty, executive order, or legislation, never read the IRA or the saga of the formation/adoption of their tribal Constitution and or By-laws. Thus pronouncements and politics are being played on a false foundation.....and, in ignorance, their rights will disappear. sdc

“Those that don’t know their history are doomed to repeat it.” Santayana

Off road

LVRJ EDITORIAL - 8.22.12

The federal government **inexplicably** controls more than 85 percent of the land within Nevada's boundaries.

This predictably has led to conflict between federal and local officials concerning land use. Many of those disputes have played out in remote northeastern Nevada's Elko County, where commissioners have contested federal road-use restrictions on national forest lands.

But now the fight has spread to the Reno area, where the Pacific Legal Foundation has sued to overturn a new federal "travel management" plan on lands in the Sierra just west of The Biggest Little City in the World.

"We are filing this lawsuit to stop the U.S. Forest Service from illegally padlocking vast areas of the Tahoe National Forest and blocking the public from enjoying responsible recreational use of public lands," Brandon Middleton, foundation attorney, said in a statement.

Green groups, of course, counter that the federal regulations don't go far enough to limit off-road vehicle activity that they maintain damages the environment.

Restrictions on recreational uses of federal land have multiplied exponentially in recent decades. In areas around the state, miles and miles of land and roads that locals once regularly used and frequented have been declared off limits.

"Basically, the Forest Service is deviating from its congressional mandate for multiple use," Carl Adams, a Reno resident and off-road enthusiast, told The Associated Press. "They're substituting a self-defined agenda of preservationism. The entire process is a farce. It's clear the Forest Service doesn't want the public in the forest."

To the extent that the Pacific Legal Foundation's lawsuit calls attention to this trend, the state will be better off. But ultimately, this conflict will be solved only when Nevada regains control over the vast majority of its own territory, now managed from far-away Washington, D.C.

From the Reno Gazette Journal..... a way to publicize tribal event/place/passion. sdc

***Winner of the "What's Your Passion?" Photo Contest receives two tickets to every public concert at the Reno Events Center for a year - from November 1, 2012 to October 31, 2013. In addition, the winner will receive two season passes to the Reno Bighorns home, regular season, games for the 2012-13 season. Tickets are non-transferrable and have no cash value. Winner will be selected and notified before October 1, 2012.**

Feds issue a report on sage grouse conservation efforts The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has issued a draft report officials say is designed to conserve the greater sage grouse "while maintaining a robust economy in the West." [Click here to read the full story...](#)

Obama in North Las Vegas: What happens in the classroom matters
LAS VEGAS REVIEW-JOURNAL Aug 22, 2012

President Barack Obama began his speech to a crowd at Canyon Springs High School in North Las Vegas by extolling the virtue of education and of teachers.

"There's nothing more important to our country's future than the education that we give to our children," Obama said on the campaign stop. "It is central to the very idea of America. if you're willing to study hard and you're willing to work hard here in America, you can make it if you try."

About his opponent, Republican Mitt Romney, he said, "Gov. Romney says we've got enough teachers. We don't need any more. The way he talks about them, he seems to think they're a bunch of nameless, faceless bureaucrats."

Obama said that Romney would cut American's investment in education by nearly 20 percent.

"He's doing it to pay for a new 5 trillion dollar tax cut that's weighted toward the most wealthy Americans," he said. "How many teachers jobs are worth another tax cut for millionaires and billionaires?"

Obama said he wanted to make college more affordable to more Americans, and to ensure that states would have the money to hire and retain more teachers.

When the enthusiastic crowd booed Obama's reference to Republicans in Congress, he told them "Don't boo - vote."

Obama said the airwaves would be glutted with Republican ads blaming Obama for problems with the economy, ads that make it appear "you can't compete with some rich guy writing a \$10 million check," a reference to Republican donor and Las Vegas casino mogul Sheldon Adelson. He suggested those in the crowd respond by registering to vote with staffers stationed at the rally.

'Moving Camp' helps Native American college students settle in

• By [MARTIN KIDSTON](#) of the Missoulian

When the starry-eyed freshmen and older nontraditional students gathered Wednesday at the Payne Family Native American Center for orientation, they may as well have been strangers on the street.

By the end of the morning, however, the University of Montana's newest group of Native American students had made new friends and settled some frazzled nerves, just in time for the start of fall classes next week.

Carmaleta Bird In Ground, a Crow elder who sat among them, signed up for writing and several classes in Native American studies. Not only is she a grandmother twice over who started but never completed college, she also speaks Crow, the language of her people, and she's happy to demonstrate her skills.

"My parents spoke Crow, my grandparents, my siblings," she said. "I've been talking Crow to my daughter's kids. I'm hoping they would at least understand it and keep it."

Bird In Ground gave a traditional prayer in Crow on Wednesday to kick off the fourth annual "Moving Camp" orientation for this year's incoming class of Native American students.

The class has grown in size over the years, making UM a far different place than when Steward Schildt first arrived at campus from Browning several years ago.

"When I got here, only me and a handful of other Indian kids from Browning came to school here," he said. "I come back and see this new building and these new services. It makes it so much easier for these kids to transition into college."

Schildt said it may be cliché, but it's not easy leaving the reservation. Yet in the past few years, he said, it's become more common to hear other Native Americans discuss the possibility of attending college and following through with their goals.

He sees it as a positive trend and one that continues growing each year. He's pleased with the ongoing changes taking place at UM, from the new Payne Family Native American Center to the school's growing American Indian Student Services.

"I can't believe how many kids just from Browning are going to school now," said Schildt. "When I graduated, it was a totally different kind of climate. Now, at least in Browning, Indian kids have accepted that other Indian kids are going to go to college."

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**Fredricka Hunter**, director of American Indian Student Services, said about 250 new Native

American students were admitted to UM this year. Not all will attend, but about 130 are expected to start classes Monday.

Hunter and her staff look to make the transition to college, both culturally and academically, as easy on students as possible.

“They’re coming from a very tight-knit community and we want to provide those support resources to them,” Hunter said. “Just navigating campus can be difficult – the registration, the financial aid. You don’t know the process and sometimes you miss the deadlines and timelines.”

UM President Royce Engstrom welcomed the students to campus, accompanied by members of his administrative Cabinet, including the dean of students, the vice president for student affairs and the provost.

Engstrom said as many as 700 Native Americans attend the university at any given time, making it the largest gathering of Indian students in the state. He named student success as the university’s primary goal.

“This is such an exciting time of year,” Engstrom told the group. “This university thrives on diversity of thought and student ideas. We’re delighted to have people who can bring different voices to the table.”

Arriving at campus to face their first semester at UM filled some with angst, including Donelle Williams, a Montana State University-Northern transfer student from Fort Belknap.

But Wednesday’s “Moving Camp” for Native Americans included anxiety-easing sessions on handling money, community life, student services and activities aimed at team building.

After a session of games on the Oval, the students were more at ease, even if their parents were not, including the mother of John Marshall.

“It’s just the distance, but he has a friend from town that’s going to be a sophomore here, and that’s a little anxiety relief right there,” said Barbara Marshall, whose lineage ties her family to the Muscogee Creek Nation in Oklahoma.

“He chose Montana based on an interview he had at a college fair,” she added. “He’s into the outdoors and wanted to go out of state.”

Reporter Martin Kidston can be reached at 523-5260 or at [martin.kidston@missoulian.com](mailto:martin.kidston@missoulian.com).

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