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US overhauls process for recognizing Indian tribes, stirring concerns for new casino rush

Michael Melia, Associated Press 21 hours ago [PoliticsSocietyConnecticut](#)

KENT, Conn. (AP) -- His tribe once controlled huge swaths of what is now New York and Connecticut, but the shrunken reservation presided over by Alan Russell today hosts little more than four mostly dilapidated homes and a pair of rattlesnake dens.

The Schaghticoke Indian Tribe leader believes its fortunes may soon be improving. As the U.S. Interior Department overhauls its rules for recognizing American Indian tribes, a nod from the federal government appears within reach, potentially bolstering its claims to surrounding land and opening the door to a tribal-owned casino.

"It's the future generations we're fighting for," Russell said.

The rules floated by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, intended to streamline the approval process, are seen by some as lowering the bar through changes such as one requiring that tribes demonstrate political continuity since 1934 and not "first contact" with European settlers. Across the country, the push is setting up battles with host communities and already recognized tribes who fear upheaval.

In Kent, a small Berkshires Mountains town with one of New England's oldest covered bridges, residents have been calling the selectman's office with their concerns. The tribe claims land

including property held by the Kent School, a boarding school, and many residents put up their own money a decade ago to fight a recognition bid by another faction of the Schaghticokes.

Members of the state's congressional delegation also have been in touch with the first selectman, Bruce Adams, who said he fears court battles over land claims and the possibility the tribe would open its own businesses as a sovereign nation within town boundaries.

"Everybody is on board that we have to do what we can to prevent this from happening," he said.

[View gallery."](#)

The new rules were proposed in June by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, which invited public comment at hearings over the summer in Oregon, California, Michigan, Maine and Louisiana. President Barack Obama's administration intends to improve a recognition process that has been criticized as slow, inconsistent and overly susceptible to political influence.

Federal recognition, which has been granted to 566 American tribes, is coveted because it brings increased health and education benefits to tribal members in addition to land protections and opportunities for commercial development.

Tribes have been pushing for years for Congress or the Interior Department to revise the process.

"I am glad that the Department is proposing to keep its promise to fix a system that has been broken for years, leaving behind generations of abuse, waste, and broken dreams," wrote Cedric Cromwell, chairman of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe in Massachusetts, which was recognized in 2007.

The new rules will create tensions for host communities and some recognized tribes, according to Richard Monette, a law professor and expert on American Indian tribes at the University of Wisconsin. Tribes along the Columbia River in Washington state, for instance, will be wary of a new tribe at the river's mouth gaining recognition and cutting into their take of salmon. Tribes elsewhere fear encroachment on casino gaming markets.

"This is a big issue throughout the whole country," Monette said.

The salmon-harvesting Muckleshoot Indian Tribe in Washington state argues the new rules seem to lower the threshold for recognition. Tribal chair Virginia Cross wrote to the Interior Department that the changes, if approved, would lead to acknowledgment of groups of descendants who "have neither a history of self-government, nor a clear sense of identity."

In Connecticut, recognition has meant an entry into lucrative gaming markets. Russell, 67, said his 100-member tribe wants its own casino but not on its 400-acre reservation ringed by the Appalachian Trail. A business consultant for the tribe, Bill Buchanan, said it has spoken with potential investors and, assuming it wins recognition, would like to swap some land, team up with one of Connecticut's bigger cities and perhaps build a casino along a highway.

[View gallery."](#)

A rival faction of the tribe, the Schaghticoke Tribal Nation, is hoping the new rules breathe life into its own parallel bid for recognition. The larger STN had the backing of Subway founder Fred DeLuca, who was interested in building a casino in Bridgeport, and it won recognition in 2004. But that decision was reversed after state officials argued the tribe had gaps in evidence related to its historical continuity.

U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal said Connecticut's congressional delegation is united against changes that he said would have far-reaching ramifications for several towns and the entire state.

"Our hope is we can dissuade officials from proceeding with a regulatory step that would be very misguided because it would essentially eviscerate and eliminate key criteria," Blumenthal said.

Supporters of the rule change say it helps to remove unfair burdens. Judith Shapiro, an attorney who has worked with several tribes on recognition bids, said some have lost out because records were lost or burned over hundreds of years, and any tribe that was still together by 1934 had overcome histories of mistreatment and pressure to blend in with mainstream society.

But Nicholas Mullane, the first selectman in North Stonington, Conn., questions whether a Connecticut tribe whose members have played in the local little league and joined local churches should have the same standing as others. He is preparing to fight a renewed recognition bid by the Eastern Pequots, who have a small state-issued reservation in town.

"It's not like somebody in the West where you have a huge reservation and a government and they meet regularly," he said.

The Schaghticoke reservation dates to the mid-1700s, but it has been carved up to a tenth of its original size. As recently as 1960, Russell said, the town fire department would come out to burn down homes on the reservation when tribal members died to prevent others from occupying them.

When Russell's own house burned down in 1998, however, the townspeople from across the Housatonic River helped him to rebuild. Russell, who grew up hunting and fishing on the reservation, said if the tribe wins recognition it can work something out with the town on the land claims.

"That's what I want them to understand," he said. "We're not the enemy."

2013 Nevada Broadband Summit: Learning in the Digital Space

[Registration Now Open!](#)

Registration is now open for Nevada's third annual [Broadband Summit](#) taking place November 18 in Reno!

The event, called Learning in the Digital Space, will bring national, state, county, and local leaders together to discuss broadband expansion and the critical role technology is now playing in education.

The one-day meeting will take place at the University of Nevada, Reno. The summit is being co-hosted by nonprofit Connect Nevada and the governor's Nevada Broadband Task Force.

In addition to speakers and interactive panels, there will be several opportunities for attendees to interact directly with grant awardees, providers, and stakeholders through Q&A and direct conversations.

Please forward this email to anyone you think might be interested in attending and we will update you as details of the event become available.

Thanks for your contribution to ensuring a bright future for Nevada through technology. We look forward to seeing you in Reno in November!

Regards, Lindsey Niedzielski (775) 343-9600

"Don't expect life to be fair. Just be better." Eddie Robinson

PUEBLO OF LAGUNA RESIDENT RECEIVES NATIONAL COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AWARD

(Dallas – August 21, 2013) - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has recognized Amy Garcia of the Pueblo of Laguna as the winner of the national 2013 Citizen Excellence in Community Involvement Award. This annual award recognizes outstanding achievements in environmental protection and community-involvement leadership during Superfund cleanups. Superfund is the federal program created by Congress to address the country's abandoned, uncontrolled hazardous waste sites. Ms. Garcia's leadership has greatly helped EPA's cleanup of the Grants Mining District, an area about 70 miles west of Albuquerque, NM where contamination from former uranium mining is common. The affected area includes not only former mines but many private homes as well. To clean up these homes, EPA needed to obtain access agreements from residents. Ms. Garcia was instrumental in helping EPA obtain access to start cleaning up the contamination on more than 500 residential properties in the Pueblo of Laguna villages. She ensured EPA and its contractors worked in a manner consistent with tribal customs, protocols and procedures. Her role as a liaison between EPA and the Pueblo greatly improved the success of EPA's cleanup by keeping tribal members and homeowners informed during every step of the assessment and cleanup process. More info on Superfund community involvement: <http://www.epa.gov/superfund/community/>. More on EPA Region 6: <http://www2.epa.gov/aboutepa/epa-region-6-south-central>

INTERIOR'S LAND BUY-BACK PROGRAM FOR TRIBAL NATIONS LAUNCHES WEBSITE

(Cherokee One Feather, Aug. 15, 2013)

The Department of the Interior recently announced the launch of a new, comprehensive resource for Indian landowners and tribal governments seeking information about the Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations (Buy-Back Program). The website, <http://www.doi.gov/buybackprogram>, will serve as a one-stop-shop for visitors interested in timely and regularly updated information about the Buy-Back Program. The new website includes extensive "Frequently Asked Questions" and information to assist individual landowners and tribes in gathering information about how they can participate in the Buy-Back Program and understand the valuation and sale process. Visitors can also get information about the Education Scholarship Fund for American Indians and Alaska Natives. The Buy-Back Program will contribute up to \$60 million from land sales to this fund, which will be controlled by a board of trustees nominated by tribal governments. The fund will be administered by the American Indian College Fund in Denver, with 20 percent allotted to the American Indian Graduate Center in Albuquerque, NM.

NATIVE AMERICAN CHARTER SCHOOL FINDS HOME ON INDIAN SCHOOL CAMPUS

(Albuquerque News Journal 8/24/13)

The Albuquerque Indian School, a controversial school and part of a system of 60 schools with approximately 6,200 Indian students created by the federal government to assimilate Native American students, closed in the '80s. But it's about to experience a resurgence when, this coming week – more than three decades later – it reopens with about 380 Native American students of a free charter school restarting the learning process in Building 232, the school's only remaining structure. Officials at the Native American Community Academy (NACA), which will take over the building near 12th and Indian School, say that starting afresh on those grounds represents a chance for transformation. Said Canfield, whose grandparents years ago taught English and auto mechanics at Albuquerque Indian School: "Bringing NACA in allows us to bring education back on our property, and educate our native kids." Read more at <http://www.abqjournal.com/252775/news/native-american-charter-school-finds-home-on-indian-school-campus.html>

INTRODUCTION TO PROJECT LEARNING TREE: PREDATORS!




FOR REGISTRATION CONTACT JENNIFER CASSADY
775.354.3155 JENCASSADY2@GMAIL.COM





Explore our local predators, study our watershed, and get your hands dirty in this exciting workshop. We'll visit local bats, discover life in the river, investigate food webs and talk citizen science.

Designed for educators, we will use Project Learning Tree's curriculum to help cultivate your outdoor classroom and help you seize the teachable moments nature provides.

Families are welcome to join.

.5 Nevada Department of Education CEU provided (Must attend both sessions for credit)

The cost of \$25 includes curriculum guide

FRI 8/16/13 4-9:00 PM AND SAT 8/17/13 4-8:00 PM

Friday night we will meet at Rock Park in Sparks. After a few activities we will make our way down the river path about a mile to the McCarran Bridge. Saturday's session will be held at Oxbow Nature Study Area.



HOPE scholars from Canada met with Navajo lawmakers in the Dine Nation's capital to talk about current issues and culture of the Navajo people. A press release from the Navajo Nation Speakers office said Council Delegates Jonathan Nez, Jonathan Hale, and Edmund Yazzie all met with the students. Hale encouraged the student to preserve their language, encouraged the student to preserve their language, , "Being able to speak your language is a blessing, but sometimes those teachings are not handed down," adding "It's important to exercise your language, especially in your local government because it's your families that will benefit from your community moving forward." he said. The group leader Mario Swampy also express his gratitude for the visit and said the student are being 'empowered' to one day

become leaders in their community. The HOPE scholars group makes up student from four different tribes in Canada.

Great Basin Community Food Co-op

www.greatbasinfood.coop

Local Foodshed This map shows the location of the local farms that supply the Great Basin Community Food Co-op. The GBCFC defines locally produced goods as those sourced from within our Foodshed. Our Local Foodshed is based off of the three closest river systems and their watersheds/drainages: The Truckee River, The Carson River, and The Walker River. In the bottom left hand corner of the map, there is a miniature version displaying concentric circles which indicate where the 100, 150, and 200 mile radii lie.

When something is unavailable from our Foodshed, we source the item from as close as possible. We believe that if we are good stewards of our watershed, utilize sustainable growing practices, and produce the goods that are needed to sustain life from within our watershed, we

will find ourselves to be living in a healthier ecosystem and that our community will be better nourished. By providing more sustenance at home for ourselves, we simultaneously reduce the tendency to exploit the watersheds of other locales and peoples.



Download a high-quality version of the GBCFC Foodshed Map: [PDF](#) | [JPG](#)

See also:

- [Product Buying Guidelines](#)
- [Purpose Statement and Goals](#)

<http://www.rgj.com/article/20130831/LIV04/308310012/Lost-City-Farm-Midtown-Reno-makes-progress-its-first-year>

<http://www.greenamerica.org/greenbusiness/interviews/articles/201309-Food-for-Thought-organic-Fair-Trade.cfm>

New interstate freeway could mean riches for Las Vegas, but it'll cost you

www.lasvegassun.com

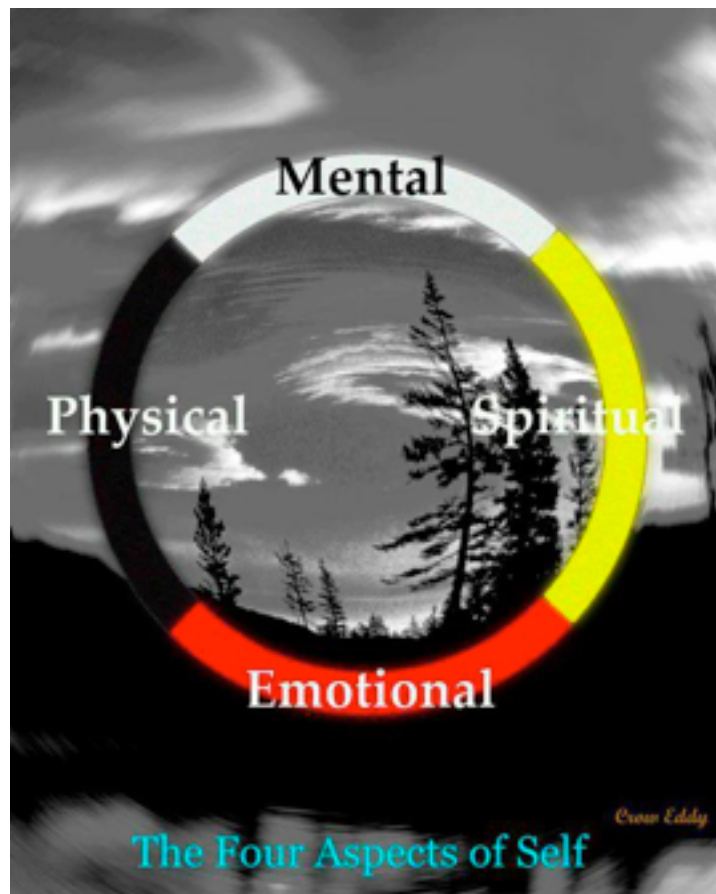
The envisioned Interstate 11 corridor could make Las Vegas a transportation hub where freight would move to and from other major cities on interstates 15 and 11. Boosters for the project say building I-11 would immediately bring construction jobs to Nevada. But higher gas taxes are needed to fund it...

Negative Emotions Are Key to Well-Being

Feeling sad, mad, critical or otherwise awful? Surprise: negative emotions are essential for mental health

By [Tori Rodriguez](#)

<http://www.scientificamerican.com/article.cfm?id=negative-emotions-key-well-being>



Stoney Creek Singers Lumbee Spring Powwow 2013

Contest Song an incredibly fascinating distraction. Explore at your own peril.

[The Best Map Ever Made of America's Racial Segregation | Wired](#)

www.wired.com

[Drawing on data from the 2010 U.S. Census, the map shows one dot per person, color-coded by race. That's 308,745,538 dots in all.](#)

[Tramway planned for Machu Picchu's 'sister city'](#)

LIMA, Peru (AP) - The ruined city known as the "cradle of gold" was once a mountaintop refuge of Incan royalty, with elegant halls and plazas much like those of fabled Macchu Picchu just 30 miles (50 kilometers away). Yet only a handful of tourists visit each day, those willing to make a two-day hike to reach its majestic solitude. That is about to change: The national government has approved what will be Peru's first aerial tramway. Bridging the deep canyon of the Apurimac River, it will m...

Nuui Cunni Company Background & Description

The Council is made up entirely of volunteers tribal members that devote much time and talents to developing the facility into a place of special interest. Pictured above from left to right: Virginia Apalatea Dunning (council member), Ramon Ellerman (council member), Patricia Malone Henry (Chair), Dane Liebel (Vice-Chair), Dorothy Malone Denson (Secretary), Arlene Apalatea Bonner (Vice-Chair), Marilyn Apalatea Olsen (Treasurer), Bud Malone (council member).



2600 Hwy 155 Lake Isabella,
California 93240 United States [map](#)
(760) 549-0800 (760) 379-4350 Fax www.nuucunni.org

[Year 2060: Education Predictions](#)

www.khanacademy.org

Read "[11th Annual CitiesAlive Green Roof and Wall Conference: October 23-26, 2013 at the San Francisco Marriott Marquis](#)," by Rebecca Black, Director of Business Development, Green Roofs for Healthy Cities. [8.2.13]

Did you know that the eagle seal on the back of the dollar bill is actually taken from a centuries old seal of the 6-Nations of the Iroquois? #NativeFacts

40 Maps That Will Help You Make Sense of the World twistedifter.com

If you're a visual learner like myself, then you know maps, charts and infographics can really help bring data and information to life. Maps can make a point resonate with readers and this c...
[http://www.upworthy.com/meet-the-defiant-nuns-who-are-taking-names-and-fighting-back-5?
c=upw10](http://www.upworthy.com/meet-the-defiant-nuns-who-are-taking-names-and-fighting-back-5?c=upw10)

BIG TIME CELEBRATION

CHAW SE INDIAN GRINDING ROCK STATE PARK

SEPTEMBER 28TH& 29TH

[CHAW SE 2013 blackwhite.pdf](#)

[CHAW SE 2013.pdf](#)

2013 AASLH Online Conference

September 19-20, 2013

Can't come to Birmingham but still want to attend the AASLH Annual Meeting? [Register for the Online Conference](#) and attend six hot topic sessions from the 2013 Annual Meeting.

These are not just reruns of the sessions! Speakers have reworked their presentations for the online audience. See slides, ask questions, and interact online with speakers and the virtual audience in these live broadcasts from Birmingham. Take home real ideas and solutions to help you Do Good History!

[Download the full schedule and registrations form.](#)

Don't miss these great sessions!

The Continuum of Excellence and How Your Museum Can Be Part of It

Learn how your institution can take part in the Continuum of Excellence and how AASLH and AAM are working together for history museums to move between the StEPs, MAP, Core Documents Verification, and Accreditation programs.

Recruiting, Orienting, and Engaging Board Members

This session led by museum trustees with decades of board experience will help you build an effective and engaged board. The board/director partnership is critical and it begins with having the best board possible.

Small Museums, Big Impact!

In this session, representatives from three small museums will discuss the challenges faced by their institutions, and the changes they made to confront those challenges completely transforming the way their institutions work.

Managing Change: The Keys to Successful Transitions within Historic Organizations

Whether transitioning jobs, projects, leadership, or starting from scratch to create a whole new entity, managing change can provide seemingly insurmountable challenges. Learn how to employ key strategic and practical steps to help you handle any type of transition or change.

Volunteers: Ordinary People, Extraordinary Change

Discover how three organizations have re-worked their volunteer programs. Creating a mutually beneficial relationship: expanding the role of volunteers by giving them greater responsibility and matching jobs to specialized skills; opening their volunteer program to younger and different people; and bringing about the institutional shift necessary to support these changes.

Working with Community to Address Things that Matter Locally

Is your history organization interested in taking on an exhibit or program that addresses a community issue? How do you involve the community? What angle do you take? What is the impact? Learn how three members of the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience launched dynamic, collaborative programs that address critical local issues.

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Questions? [Contact Terry Jackson.](#)

Members

Nonmembers

- \$55 Individuals
- \$105 Individuals
- \$95 Group
- \$145 Group
- \$115 Group, multiple log ins
- \$175 Group, multiple log ins

[Register Online Now!](#)

Join AASLH and receive membership pricing
for the Online Conference!

<http://www.takepart.com/article/2013/08/28/just-do-it-green-nike-builds-store-out-trash?cmpid=tp-ptnr-upworthy>

[Color footage of atomic bomb tests in Nevada - Soldiers being exposed to high levels of radiation](#) www.youtube.com

Please like my video, it only takes a second. Visit my youtube channel at <http://www.youtube.com/user/ricsil2037> and subscribe. Color footage of atomic bomb ...

<http://www.upworthy.com/a-bunch-of-young-geniuses-just-made-a-corrupt-corporation-freak-out-big-time-time-for-round-two-am2-32b>

Radio Station KYAY Is Lifeline For Apache Tribe npr September 03, 2013

In eastern Arizona, there's a tiny, 1900 watt radio station that's marking its first year on the air. KYAY is licensed to and owned by the San Carlos Apache Tribe. For many of the isolated reservation's 13,000 or so residents, it's the outlet for community information, news and a lot of entertainment.

<http://www.npr.org/2013/09/03/218455207/radio-station-kyay-is-lifeline-for-apache-tribe>

