

## ***Journal #3049 from sdc 2.14.14***

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*Congrats to Big Pine Paiute Sage Romero*



**Guess Bugs will be  
a lot of necks.....**

**checking**

**The Native American Rights Fund (NARF) has joined with a coalition of other national Native organizations in requesting that the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) Civil Rights Division launch an investigation into the unlawful treatment of American Indian and Alaska Native children in private adoptions and public child welfare systems.** NARF joins with the [National Indian Child Welfare Association](#) (NICWA), the [National Congress of American Indians](#) (NCAI), and the [Association on American Indian Affairs](#) (AAIA) in asking DOJ to take a stronger role in enforcing compliance with the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978 (ICWA), a piece of landmark legislation passed to offset the cultural bias Congress found in state child welfare and private adoption systems that resulted in the unwarranted removal of nearly one in three Native children from their families.

NICWA Executive Director Terry Cross presented the letter on behalf of the four organizations during a meeting with DOJ hosted by Acting Attorney General for Civil Rights Jocelyn Samuels. The organizations assert, “There is no question that where ICWA is applied, it has been integral to keeping countless Native American families together.” However, the letter continues, “It is well known that there is minimal federal oversight over the implementation of, and compliance with, ICWA.” The letter cites commonly reported infractions such as transporting Indian children across state lines in order to sidestep ICWA, the disregard of ICWA's placement preferences, adoption attorneys encouraging circumvention of the law, and judges denying tribes a presence during child custody proceedings, among others. “These stories highlight patterns of behavior that are, at best, unethical and, at worst, unlawful,” the letter states. “Although these civil rights violations are well-known and commonplace, they continue to go unchecked and unexamined. So long as this is the case, Native children and families will continue to be victims of the very systems designed to protect them.”

[Read the letter](#) and [recent press](#) here.

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## **Who Were the Monuments Men?**

The Monuments Men were a group of men and women from thirteen nations, most of whom volunteered for service in the newly created Monuments, Fine Arts, and Archives section, or MFAA. Most had expertise as museum directors, curators, art scholars and educators, artists, architects, and archivists. Their job description was simple: to save as much of the culture of Europe as they could during combat.

These men not only had the vision to understand the grave threat to the greatest cultural and artistic achievements of civilization, but then joined the front lines to do something about it.

[Learn More](#) <http://www.monumentsmen.com/>

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**[Nation's Parents Release Annual Ranking Of Top 50 'Perfectly Good' State Schools](#)**  
[theonion.com](http://theonion.com)

[The list includes dozens of totally fine schools where students can learn all the same things they'd learn at one of those expensive colleges on the East Coast.](#)

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## **[Many Languages, One America: 25 Proud Bilingual Children](#)** [incultureparent.com](http://incultureparent.com)

[The voices of 25 bilingual children in the U.S., where one in five kids speak a language other than English at home. So if you want to know the language America speaks, it's English and 300 other languages. #ispeakamerican](#)

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## **[Nevada's school funding formula among culprits for latest 'F' grade on education](#)** [lasvegassun.com](http://lasvegassun.com)

[Education researchers looked at several indicators to determine whether a state provides school funding fairly, and they found that Nevada does not.](#)

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## **[The Dust Bowl Returns](#)**

By BLAIN ROBERTS and ETHAN J. KYTLE

[What happens when America's fruit basket becomes a desert?](#)

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## **[Federal Water Tap, February 10: Budget Bill Muddles U.S. Foreign Policy for Large Dams](#)**

### **Geothermal Energy's Water Concerns**

Water consumption and potential contamination of aquifers used for drinking water are two areas of concern for geothermal energy development, particularly in the water-scare American West, the region with the highest geothermal resources, according to [a report from JASON](#), an independent group that advises the U.S. government on defense, science, and technology.

Geothermal systems using a cooling tower consume more water more unit of energy than gas, coal, or nuclear power plants, according to figures in the report, which was prepared for the Energy Department.

“Water availability can be a significant factor in operating geothermal plants in areas of water scarcity, and could become a limiting constraint for [enhanced geothermal systems] at scale,” the report states.

Meanwhile, the Energy Department announced [a \\$US 3 million research project](#) to produce better maps of sites with geothermal potential. Better maps would improve the success rate when drilling wells and reduce energy development costs.

### **Missouri River Degradation**

The Missouri River is cutting into the river bed in its namesake state, dropping the height of the river and undermining drinking water intakes, road and railway bridges, pipelines, and levees. The Army Corps of Engineers will assess options for counteracting the river bed's degradation and review the environmental consequences of those options.

The study will focus on roughly 85 kilometers (53 miles) of river in the Kansas City metropolitan area. The public can submit comments regarding the scope of the assessment by March 31, using [this form](#). The draft environmental impact statement is expected by summer 2015.

## Raise the Dam?

The Army Corps of Engineers will assess the environmental effects of a proposal [to increase the height of Folsom Dam](#), northeast of Sacramento, California. Raising the dam by 1.1 meters (3.5 feet) would allow the reservoir to hold more water, helping to control floods. Public comments on the scope of the review are due March 9 and can be submitted to [Tyler.M.Stalker@usace.army.mil](mailto:Tyler.M.Stalker@usace.army.mil).

## Hazardous Waste

Tracking the movement of hazardous waste from where it is produced to where it is stored will soon be done electronically, a change in reporting that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will phase in over the next several years according to [a final rule](#) published Friday. Ordered by a 2012 federal law and discussed for at least a dozen years, the e-Manifest system is not yet ready for operation. The EPA will set compliance dates once the Internet-based reporting system is functioning.

## The Post Office Banks on the Poor By MEHRSA BARADARAN

A new plan would raise cash by offering financial services.

## Lawmakers Press N.F.L. on Name Change for Washington Redskins

[nytimes.com](http://nytimes.com) In a letter to the National Football League commissioner, Senator Maria Cantwell and Representative Tom Cole mentioned the league's tax-exempt status.

## Untitled — Winnemucca Lake (dry) Nevada, oldest petroglyphs... theodoremeans.tumblr.com Winnemucca Lake (dry) Nevada, oldest petroglyphs in North America!

## Loika Kane What's on my mind? Valentine's Day

Love this picture—reminds me of the grandmothers. Something I have been thinking about for a while, the teachings of our Ancestors and their advice to “Know your relatives” because it was “taboo” among our people for anyone to go with their relatives. So as Valentine’s Day comes about this year, I thought it would be good to remind all of our people, young and old, of this teaching. Before you start dating, ask the all important question, “Who are your relatives?” It is important to



establish that you are not related to a potential boyfriend / girlfriend first. Ask your elder relatives if you’re related to this person’s family. Most of our families have one or more persons who keeps a family tree. Go back as far as you can with your lineage—parents, grandparents, great grandparents, great great grandparents. It is best to find out before feelings develop. Ask questions. Get to know your friend’s family before getting serious. It is best to bring honor to

your families by not engaging in such behavior. Not judging. Just feel it is important to pass this teaching down to the People.

Photographer [Andy Gotts](#) is taking photos of celebrities and icons who want to take action to [#savethearctic](#). SHARE this photo and take action to save the Arctic now: <http://savethearctic.org/> — with [Roberta J Repasz](#), [Fatley Ertan](#) and [Christina Russo](#).



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### **Chad Smith's photo.**

Great News. I got an email that my book "**Leadership Lessons from the Cherokee Nation**" is listed as the Washington Post's Leadership Book of the Week.

"getAbstract is pleased to inform you that the McGraw-Hill Companies title, Leadership Lessons from the Cherokee Nation, by Chad "Cornassel" Smith is being promoted on The Washington Post website as Leadership Book of the Week:"

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/on-leadership/>

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### **New interactive map shows what Earth will look like when all the ice melts | The Raw Story**

[rawstory.com](http://rawstory.com)

[It's easy to forget how completely our view and understanding of the world is based on things that are in actuality always changing — and in the case of climate, changing rather rapidly. This new interactive map from National Geographic really drives...](#)

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### **Check out this circa 1950s footage from Indian City, USA** [powwows.com](http://powwows.com)

[From the Oklahoma Historical Society Film and Video Archives: Color film with audio of various Native dances including: The Snake dance, the Rabbit Dance, the Round dance, the Chief dance \(Kiowa\), the Hoop dance \(Navajo\), the Eagle dance, the Shield dance, the slow war dance, the war dance and Aztec...](#)

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## **Reclaiming the Range**

### **Black-footed ferrets reintroduced to tribal lands in the West**

<http://www.defenders.org/magazine/winter-2014/reclaiming-range>

The pickup full of chattering black-footed ferrets arrives at the rendezvous site on Fort Belknap Indian Reservation in Montana on a brisk October afternoon. For these 32 ferrets, captive-bred and raised in Colorado, life in the wild is about to begin.

One of the most endangered mammals in North America, the black-footed ferret once numbered in the tens of thousands across the Great Plains and valleys of the Mountain States—from southern Canada to northern Mexico. But habitat destruction for cropland, exotic diseases and widespread poisoning of their prairie dog prey nearly wiped out this masked mustelid by the late 1970s. Only 18 individuals survived in the wild in 1984 when federal biologists gathered them up for captive breeding in a last-ditch effort to save the species.

This day's relocation isn't the first at Fort Belknap. Earlier reintroductions here in 1997 and 1998 failed after disease decimated the ferrets and prairie dogs. Since then, prairie dogs have rebounded on about 1,000 acres.

"It's not enough space to maintain a ferret population for the long term," says Kylie Paul, Defenders' Rockies and Plains representative. "But we have great hope that as prairie dog colonies continue to expand so will the ferret population."

About 50 miles away at the Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge, where ferret reintroductions began in 1994, officials have found fewer than a half dozen ferrets, making success at Fort Belknap all the more important.

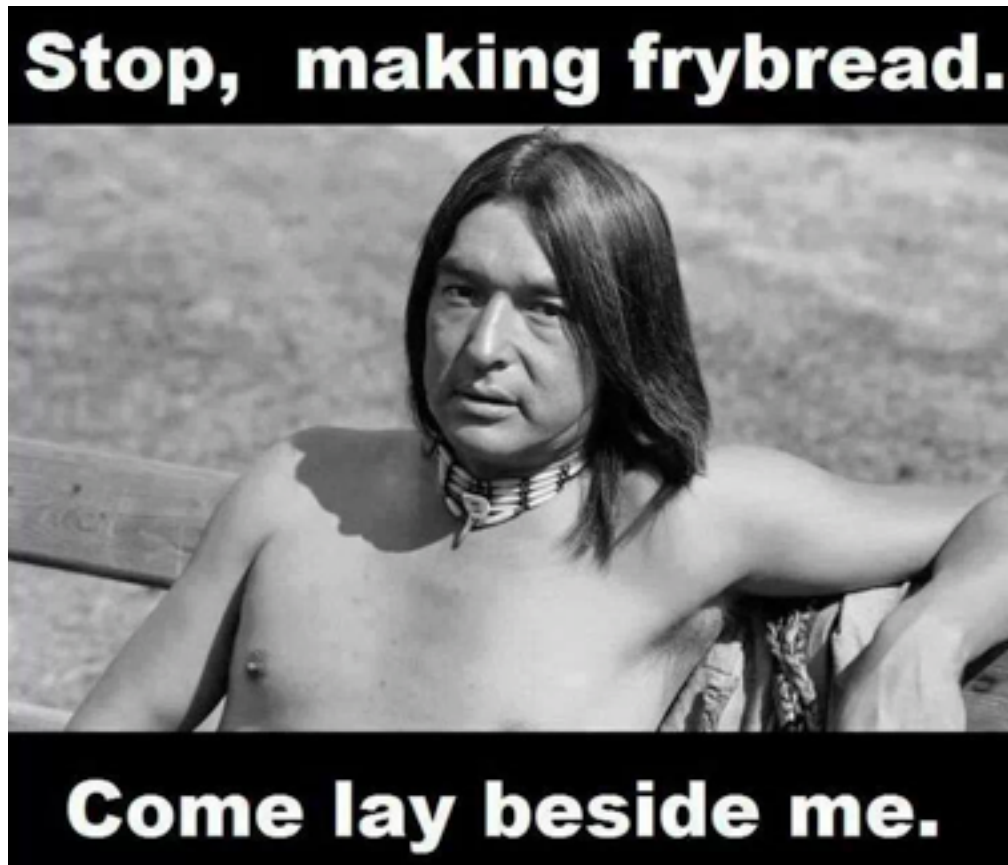
A healthy, sustainable black-footed ferret population requires more than 10,000 acres of prairie dog colonies. Ferrets not only prefer to prey on prairie dogs, but also claim prairie dog burrows for their own homes. That's why biologists and wildlife conservationists—including Defenders' Paul, Jonathan Proctor, Russ Talmo and Charlotte Conley—released these ferrets directly into or right next to active prairie dog burrows. "We want them to have the best shot at survival, so we'll show them right away where they'll have access to prey and shelter," says Proctor, Defenders' Rockies and Plains program director.

With prairie dogs missing from more than 95 percent of their former range and cattle ranchers continuing to poison them—claiming the prairie dogs compete with cattle for grass—the partnership with tribal members is crucial. "It takes the support of landowners, in this case the tribes, to allow sufficient prairie dog colonies to exist and serve as the prey for the ferrets," says Conley, Defenders' conservation associate working on coexistence issues. "Defenders' efforts usually begin by helping land managers take steps to prevent plague and protect prairie dogs from shooting and poisoning."

At Fort Belknap this summer, Defenders' staff also helped map active prairie dog colonies to see if enough existed on the reservation to reintroduce the ferrets. "We were delighted to find out that the reintroduction could go forward," says Proctor. "The protected prairie dog colony is in the

heart of the Assiniboine and Gros Ventre tribes' wild bison range, making this doubly exciting for those that want to restore some of the wild to the West."

Protecting the habitat of black-footed ferrets and prairie dogs also helps more than 130 other plants and animals on the prairie, such as sage grouse and burrowing owls.



In total, about 500 black-footed ferrets currently live in the wild, thanks to reintroduction successes in Arizona, Colorado, Kansas, New Mexico, Montana, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming and in Mexico and Canada.

To become a candidate for release, wildlife biologists expose captive-bred ferrets to prairie dog burrows and tunnels and watch to ensure the ferrets adapt to hunting in a natural setting. The animals are also subjected to the sounds of coyotes and hawks for the first time and monitored to confirm they react to their natural predators on the prairie.

"If these ferrets can get a foothold, it will mean a lot for more than just these ferrets," says Proctor. "It will mean the whole ecosystem is recovering."

### **Plummeting Population**

Drought and habitat destruction from energy development and agriculture are decimating a grassland grouse that once ranged widely beside bison, pronghorn and prairie dogs on the southern Great Plains.

In just one year, the lesser prairie-chicken's population has declined by 50 percent, according to a recent report from state wildlife agencies. Active breeding grounds—called leks—also suffered a

30 percent decline. This adds new urgency to protect the bird under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). "These birds are struggling in the face of accelerating habitat loss, a dangerously small population size, more frequent droughts and fragmented range," says Mark Salvo, Defenders' federal lands policy analyst. "The recent sharp decline is a clear indicator that their time is running out. Under the ESA, we can provide the prairie-chicken the help it needs while rewarding conservation efforts by landowners." The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service determined listing the species was warranted in 1998. A final decision is expected in March.

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*There are so many more not named but still remembered. No Justice No Peace.*

**February 14th, 9th Annual Strawberry Ceremony for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women** and those who have died Violent Deaths

WHAT: Gathering at Toronto Police Headquarters followed by Community Feast

WHEN: Friday Feb 14th at 12:30 pm

WHERE: 50 College Street

Three young Native women have passed away under violent circumstances in Toronto since the last February 14th National Day of Action.

Cheyenne Fox was 20 and a mother when she fell from the 24th floor of a condo last April. Terra Gardener was killed by a train only a few weeks later and Bella Laboucan-McClean fell from the 31st floor of downtown condo in July.

In Vancouver, the February 14th Annual Women's Memorial March is held on Valentine's Day each year to honour the memory of women from the Downtown Eastside who have died due to physical, mental, emotional and spiritual violence. Now in its 23rd year, the march brings courage and commitment to remember and honour murdered and missing women, and to end the violence that vulnerable women in the DTES face on a daily basis.

(Organizing Committee Media Release)

This will be the 9th year in a row that Native community members and their supporters in Toronto have been gathering at police headquarters. Initially to show support for the Vancouver neighbourhood upon

the arrest of Robert Pickton, the event has become an important space for grieving family members and community to honour their own missing and murdered love ones. Close to 70 women's names adorn signs and are printed on brochures handed out at the event, Native women from Ontario who have died violent deaths primarily over the last 30 years. In fact, one of the groups organizing the event, No More Silence has recently launched a community database documenting violent deaths of Native women nation wide. In partnership with Ottawa based Families of Sisters In Spirit and community partner, the Native Youth Sexual Health Network, the database, which is independent of government

funding, fills a gap left by the funding cuts and subsequent shut down of the Native Women's Association of Canada's Sisters In Spirit program.

Initiated by No More Silence in 2006, the gathering at police headquarters is now organized by a committee made up of community members and groups including the Native Youth Sexual Health Network, Maggie's Toronto and Sistering. It is endorsed and supported by a wide range of public interest groups, churches, unions, university groups and local agencies. Close to 900 people attended in 2013.

Marches will also be held in at least 10 other cities including Montreal, Sudbury, Thunderbay, Edmonton and Calgary.

February 14th Organizing Committee (No More Silence, Native Youth Sexual Health Network, Sistering, Maggie's Toronto)

**MEDIA CONTACTS:**

Audrey Huntley, No More Silence, 647-981-2918

Sheryl Lindsay, Sistering, 416-926-9762

Krysta Williams, Native Youth Sexual Health Network,

[kwilliams@nativeyouthsexualhealth.com](mailto:kwilliams@nativeyouthsexualhealth.com)

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Migwetch/Nia:weh/Thanks/Danke

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Hundreds of wild Yellowstone bison face needless deaths if Yellowstone National Park goes forward with a planned slaughter.

The killing may begin any day, and it has the potential to be the worst slaughter of wild bison since 2008, when 1,600 bison were sent to their deaths simply for roaming outside Yellowstone's boundaries.

**Defenders is pulling out all the stops to prevent this tragedy.**

**[Tell Montana Governor Steve Bullock to stop this debacle and let bison roam outside Yellowstone Park.](#)**

Yellowstone National Park officials plan to follow a long-standing agreement with Montana and capture bison that leave the park for shipment to slaughter. Though Park employees are doing the work, make no mistake that the blame for this tragedy lies with the Montana Department of Livestock, who simply won't tolerate wild bison outside the Park or allow bison numbers to grow beyond the arbitrary number of 3,000.

The Montana ranching industry claims that letting bison wander outside the park exposes cattle to a risk for a bacterial disease called brucellosis. But in reality, *there has not been a single documented case of bison transmitting the disease to cattle in Montana.*

The one person who can stop it is Governor Steve Bullock, who can prevent shipment of bison across Montana's roads to slaughterhouses, and who has ultimate authority over the Department of Livestock.

**[Urge Governor Bullock to stop this slaughter!](#)**

The common-sense alternative is clear: An expanded “tolerance zone” around Yellowstone National Park where bison would be allowed to roam. Yellowstone National Park, the Intertribal Buffalo Council, individual Tribes, Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks, Defenders of Wildlife and many other conservation groups support this expansion. The only agency blocking this solution is – once again – the Montana Department of Livestock. Governor Bullock must urge this rogue agency to get on board with this common-sense solution. Otherwise, any bison wandering outside the invisible borders of Yellowstone could be shipped to slaughter.

Yellowstone is home to one of the last genetically pure herds of bison left in North America. Up to 1,600 of this 4,600-strong herd could be killed under this appalling scheme, once again preventing the herd’s expansion and setting back bison restoration.

Bison are icons of the American West. Slaughtered by the millions a century ago, bison were driven to the brink of extinction. Today we have an opportunity to reverse this national wildlife tragedy. We cannot let fear and ignorance rule the day.

[With your help, we can prevent the killing. Please take action now.](#)

Sincerely, **Steve Forrest**, Senior Representative Rockies & Plains Defenders of Wildlife

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[SolarCoins are cryptocurrency for the sustainability crowd](#) BY SARAH LASKOW

To earn installments of this newly created currency, you actually need to produce energy through solar panels

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Extract:

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

February 12, 2014

## REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT ON SIGNING EXECUTIVE ORDER

Now, it’s been just over two weeks since I delivered my State of the Union address, and I said this year would be a year of action, and I meant it. Over the past 14 days I’ve ordered an across-the-board reform of our job training programs to train folks with the skills that employers need, and then match them up with good jobs that are ready to be filled right now.

I’ve directed the Treasury to create something we’re calling “MyRA” -- sort of like an IRA, but it’s MyRA. And that’s a new way for Americans to start saving for retirement. And you can start with as little as \$25, \$50 and start building up a little bit of a nest egg and get tax benefits for doing it so. (*Hmmmmmmmm sounds like the former RSIDIC program.*)

We’ve rallied the leaders of some of America’s biggest high-tech companies to help us make sure that all of our kids have access to high-speed Internet and up-to-date technology in their classroom so that they’re learning the skills that they need for the new economy.

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[Lesley Williams](#)

**COBELL UPDATE:** (yee) there still a bunch of people listed as whereabouts unknown and a lot of them are facebook friends... so if you go to this link <http://www.indiantrust.com/unknown>

[Cobell v. Salazar Class Action Website indiantrust.com](#)

[Cobell v. Salazar Class Action Lawsuit](#)

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**[Protestors rally for remains of history | Sierra Wave: Eastern Sierra News](#)**

[sierrawave.net](#)

[Protestors rally for remains of history](#)ByNews StaffonFebruary 12, 2014inGovDemonstrators at the Owens Dry Lake bed on Wednesday protested work on a dust mitigation site that is believed to contain many historical...

<http://www.sierrawave.net/28691/remains-of-history/>

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**[Yosemite Mono Lake Paiutes](#) with [Sage Andrew Romero](#)**

**Congrats to Big Pine Paiute Sage Romero** for being one of the 10 remarkable portraits of Native American project 562

<http://indiancountrytodaymedianetwork.com/gallery/photo/10-remarkable-portraits-native-america-project-562-153484>

