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Sicangu Scribe

Rosebud's Independent News Source



SWA Tenant Denied Entrance Into Annual Corporate Meeting



A tenant who resides in a unit managed by the Sicangu Wicoti Awayankapi, Inc. (SWA) was told to leave the 21st Annual Corporate Meeting. A local newspaper ad extended an invitation to “All Tenants, Board Members, Tribal Council and Interested Parties” to the meeting.

Broken Leg outlined the details of being denied entrance into the meeting on a Facebook video. The video was recorded outside of the Father Pauly Hall on a cell phone. The video has been viewed nearly 3,000 times.

“I came to the SWA corporate meeting,” Broken Leg stated. “But I was told there’s a permanent restraining order on me. I am choosing to remain civil about this, it never had to go this way. I do believe my civil rights have been violated.”

“I know there is currently no regulation to back this up but the board is in there right now and there’s really no way I can get to them to report what I believe are fraudulent actions,” he said.

“I am going to exclude myself, this is a civil court issue that is being brought into this public meeting. It should not have been brought here.”

“This is my time when I should have been able to report this to the public so they could have knowledge of the 174 evictions that have been taken place according to fraudulent court proceedings,” Broken Leg alleged.

The restraining order “is a civil issue between citizens of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe but right now they are making it a part of SWA. The Corporation is backing [the plaintiff] up, it’s a clear vio-

lation of my rights.”

“I support every citizen’s right to be able to complain and bring information forward,” Broken Leg told the small group of people who had gathered to listen to him. “I don’t support this when it infringes on the rights of others.”

“Right now, [the evictions of tenants] has been done fraudulently,” he alleged as he held up a folder of paperwork. “With this information I have proof but the current restraining order is stopping me from reporting it. The people could have their houses back.”

The meeting was attended by a record number of nearly 200 people. Many in attendance asked questions that were answered by various SWA staff members. However, questions regarding personnel and evictions were directed to the Board of Directors by former SWA Chief Executive Officer Cheryl Whirlwind Soldier.

The tribal council has served as the SWA board since 2014 after they suspended the at-large members. A new board was recently appointed. Members include Wilbur Smith Sr., Clayton Wright Jr., Trent Poignee, Shirley Spotted Tail and LaRaine Waln. Tribal council members serving on the board are Richard Smoky Whipple and Jim Leader Charge.

“It’s getting cold out here and [SWA is] still messing around talking about all these numbers that don’t mean anything. We as Lakota people demand justice, we demand rights. I’m not scared and I’m not intimidated by any of these things. The law must be upheld. I will not stand for these bully tactics,” Broken Leg said.



ABOVE: Richard Broken Leg is pictured with RPD Officer Roxanne Carter-Hunger in the entryway of the Father Paul Hall in Mission SD. Broken Leg was ordered to leave the Sicangu Wicoti Awayankapi (SWA) Annual Corporate meeting by Officer Carter-Hunger on Friday, September 22, 2017. Photo from Facebook.

LEFT: CEO Cheryl Whirlwind Soldier referred questions about evictions and personnel asked at the meeting to the newly seated SWA Board. Whirlwind Soldier’s employment contract was not renewed by the recently appointed SWA Board. Longtime SWA staffer Monica Hunger Moran was appointed Acting CEO until a replacement can be hired.

www.SicanguScribe.com

Cherry Todd Electric Coop will Resume Annual Meeting Oct 27

Cherry Todd Electric Cooperative members who didn't attend the Annual Meeting held in Valentine, Nebraska last month will have a second chance to cast a vote in the Director election.

A Rosebud Sioux Tribal Judge ruled on September 12, 2017 and ordered the Cherry Todd Electric Cooperative to have a second meeting in Todd County, South Dakota later this month.

The Court Order was issued after the Plaintiffs Rose Cordier and the Rosebud Sioux Tribe filed a petition in the Rosebud Sioux Tribal Court. Many Cooperative members also voiced concern about the Annual Meeting held in Cherry County, Nebraska citing the lack of transportation which hindered attendance.

Consequently, the majority of the Coop members are tribal citizens residing in

**Cherry Todd Electric Annual Mtg
Friday, October 27, 2017
2:00 pm, Fr. Paul Hall
Mission, SD**

You will be getting a new registration form in the mail. Watch for it and bring it to the meeting. You will need it to VOTE.

This meeting will give ALL CTE members the opportunity to hear the reports and vote for the Todd County seat on the board of directors.

Please plan on attending!

Todd County, South Dakota.

That is, the Cherry Todd Electric Cooperative is comprised of 3244 members. Todd County has 2,386 Cooperative mem-

bers which comprises 74% of the total membership. Mellette County has 575 Cooperative members which is 18% of the total membership. 155 Cooperative members are undesig-

nated and equals 5% of the membership. In addition, 128 members live in Cherry County, Nebraska making up 4% of the total membership. This information was provided by the Oyate For Fairness and Equal Representation (OFFER) Facebook page.

The second meeting is supposed to mirror the meeting held in Valentine, NE last month. Coop members who did not attend the first meeting will be allowed to cast a vote in the second meeting to elect one new director to serve a 3-year term on the board.

Candidates for the Cherry Todd Electric Coop Director seat are JR Reagle, Richard Schneider (incumbent) and Noah (Sandy) Tucker.

Current Cherry Todd Electric Coop Directors include Richard Schneider, Byron Stolzenburg, Justin Brickner, Whitney Meek, Dave Assman, Dan Val-

burg, Shawn Bordeaux and Kathleen Wooden Knife.

The meeting is scheduled to start at 2pm on Friday, October 27, 2017 at the Father Paul (St. Thomas) Hall in Mission, SD. Cooperative members will be receiving a new registration form in the mail. Please watch for this registration form and bring it to the meeting with you as it is needed to vote. If you voted at the September 13 meeting in Valentine, NE you cannot vote again.

This second meeting will give all Cooperative members the opportunity to vote and to hear the reports listed on the agenda. Please plan to attend this very important meeting.

For more information please call OFFER Coordinator Ronald Neiss at (605) 208-6136, Paula Antoine at (605) 828-0740, Rose Cordier at (605) 747-2381 or Dan Gargan at (605) 319-0339.

Former Rosebud Sioux Tribe Manager Guilty of Embezzlement

United States Attorney Randolph J. Seiler announced that two former directors of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe's Tribal Ranch appeared in federal court on September 26, 2017 in Pierre, SD with one defendant pleading guilty at his initial appearance. Patricia Elaine Jones and Stormy Halligan, both former directors of the Rosebud Tribal Ranch, were separately charged with Embezzlement and Theft from an Indian Tribal Organization.

Patricia Elaine Jones, 65, of Rosebud, SD, appeared in federal court on the indictment charging her with one count of embezzlement. The maximum term of imprisonment upon conviction is up to 5 years, a \$250,000 fine, or both, a period of supervised re-

lease, and a special assessment of \$100 to the Federal Crime Victims Fund. Restitution may also be ordered.

According to the indictment filed against Jones, between April 1, 2015 and March 31, 2016, Jones willfully and knowingly embezzled, misapplied, and converted to her own use more than \$1,000 of monies, funds, credits, goods, assets, and other property belonging to the Rosebud Sioux Tribe Ranch, an Indian Tribal Organization.

During his initial appearance, Stormy Halligan, 42, of Winner, SD, entered his guilty plea before US Magistrate Judge Mark A. Moreno. Halligan faces a maximum term of imprisonment of 1 year, a \$100,000 fine, or both, a period of 1 year of super-

vised release, and a special assessment of \$25 to the Federal Crime Victims Fund. Restitution will also be ordered.

According to Halligan's plea agreement, between April 1, 2015, and March 31, 2016, he willfully and knowingly embezzled, misapplied, and converted to his own use monies, funds, credits, goods, assets, and other property belonging to the Rosebud Sioux Tribe Tribal Ranch, an Indian Tribal Organization. Halligan pleaded guilty to a federal misdemeanor and has agreed to pay restitution.

The investigation is being conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Department of Interior, Office of Inspector General. Assistant US Attorney Jeremy J. Jehangiri is pro-

secuting the case.

The case was brought pursuant to The Guardians Project, a federal law enforcement initiative to coordinate efforts between participating agencies, to promote citizen disclosure of public corruption, fraud, and embezzlement involving federal program funds, contracts, and grants, and to hold accountable those who are responsible for adversely affecting those living in South Dakota's Indian country communities. The Guardians Project is another step of federal law enforcement's on-going efforts to increase engagement, coordination, and positive action on behalf of tribal communities. Led by the US Attorney's Office, the participating agencies include: Federal Bureau of

Investigation; the Offices of Inspector General for the Departments of Interior, Health and Human Services, Social Security Administration, Agriculture, Transportation, Education, Justice, and Housing and Urban Development; Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation Division; US Postal Inspector Service, US Postal Service, Office of Inspector General.

For additional information about The Guardians Project, please contact the US Attorney's Office at (605) 330-4400. To report a suspected crime, please contact law enforcement at the federal agency's locally listed telephone number.

St. Francis Woman is Regional Teacher of the Year & Candidate for SD Teacher of the Year

PIERRE, S.D. – Caitlin Bordeaux was named as one of South Dakota’s Regional Teachers of the Year for the 2016-17 school year.

Bordeaux is a computer science and multimedia teacher at St. Francis Indian School. She is a citizen of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe.

“It’s an honor to announce these Regional Teachers of the Year as part of Teacher Appreciation Week celebrations,” said South Dakota Secretary of Education Dr. Melody Schopp last May. “I commend them for the work they’re doing to help prepare all South Dakota students for college, career and life.”

A statewide panel of educators will select one of these regional finalists to represent the state as the 2018 South Dakota Teacher of the Year. The 2018 South Dakota Teacher of the Year will be announced Oct. 19, 2017, at the Systems Change Conference in Rapid City. That individual will be South Dakota’s candidate for the National Teacher of the Year Award.

The National Teacher of the Year Program began in 1952 and continues as the oldest, most prestigious national honors program that focuses public attention on excellence in teaching. The 2018 National Teacher of the Year will be announced during a ceremony in Washington, D.C., in spring 2018.



Shareholders Elect TLE Board Members

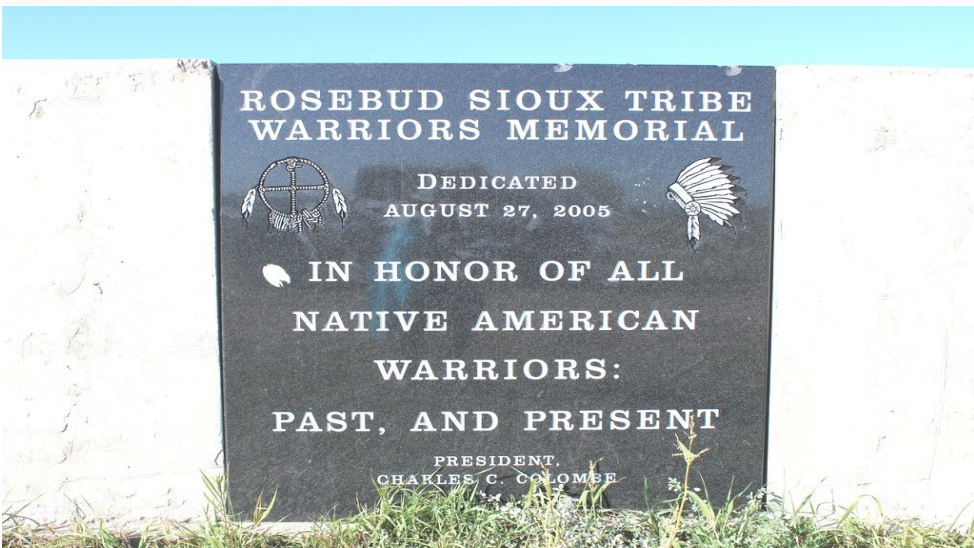
Tribal Land Enterprise (TLE) hosted an Annual Shareholders meeting on September 7, 2017. Wayne Frederick was elected as an at-large member to the TLE Board of Directors, he replaced Fern Bordeaux-Boltz.

Lisa White Pipe and Michael Boltz Sr. were elected as tribal council representatives to the TLE Board of Directors. The 3 new members were sworn in by Scott Herman, RST Vice-President.

Other TLE Board members include Sonny Farmer (Tribal Council), William Kindle (President), Linda Marshall (at-large) and Shawn Bordeaux (at-large), who serves as Board Chairman.

Shareholders heard a report on the 2016 TLE audit by a representative from Bland & Associates. Other reports by TLE staff were also given. Shareholders also asked for a special meeting to be called for the purpose of discussing the Prairie Hills Bar & Grill. The business was bought by the Tribe and is managed by TLE.

Many Aren't Aware of the RST Warriors Memorial



The late Charles C. Colombe served a 2-year term as the Rosebud Sioux Tribal President. On August 27, 2005, during Rosebud Fair, he dedicated a wall “In Honor of All Native American Warriors: Past and Present.”

The concrete wall has a granite center with elaborate carving. The “Rosebud Sioux Tribe Warriors Memorial” is located on the tribe’s fairgrounds. It is in an area south of the wacipi arbor where many camps are usually set up during the annual celebration. Since the Memorial Wall is in such an obscure place, it means many tribal citizens don’t know it is there.

The concrete looks to be somewhat deteriorating and it would probably crumble if it was moved. The granite center is going to remain sturdy for a long time. Perhaps when the concrete is no longer stable enough to resemble a wall, tribal officials will try to move it to an area where it is more visible to the public and visitors.

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Every Wednesday at 5:30pm

856-4515 or 828-2525

National Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Time for your mammogram?

healthfinder.gov



Help Fight the Fight!

Buche Foods and Gus Stops

are excited to announce that they are once again selling cases of water for the month of October with all of the profits being donated to help local cancer fighters. This money helps people in the towns and surrounding communities that have a Buche Foods/Gus Stop store.

This year \$2.22 from every case of water purchased for \$5.00 during the month of October will be donated to the cancer fund!

These funds will be used to help patients with their fight against any type of cancer. Last year GF Buche Co donated over \$10,000 to this fund, it's largest donation yet. From the inception of this event, almost \$25,000 has been added to the cancer fund and has helped over 55 cancer patients.



Nake Nula Waun



Indigenous Peoples' Day

October 9, 2017

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5 Rosebud Sioux Tribal Citizens Chosen for Native Nation Rebuilder Cohort 9

St. Paul, MN – Native Governance Center and the Bush Foundation are pleased to announce that 25 citizens from 12 of the 23 Native nations overlapping North Dakota, South Dakota, and Minnesota have been selected for the ninth cohort of the Native Nation Rebuilders Program. Rebuilders consist of emerging and existing Native leaders looking to build leadership skills and nation building knowledge. With this newest cohort, 165 Native leaders call themselves Rebuilders.

Rebuilders chosen to participate include Rosebud Sioux Tribal citizens Laurie Bordeaux, Brian Dillon, Cante Heart, Tori Whipple and Tinka Duran.

“One of the most important roles of Native Governance Center is to nurture emerging leaders in Indian Country,” said Wayne Ducheneaux II, executive director of the Native Governance Center. “The key way in which we do that is our Native Nation Rebuilders Program, which creates homegrown jobs and career paths for people to work for, work with, and support Tribes in their efforts to advance governance.”

The Bush Foundation launched the Native Nation Rebuilders Program in 2009 in response to the guidance of Tribal leaders. In early 2016, the Bush Foundation transitioned delivery of the Rebuilders Program to the newly created Native Governance Center, a Native-led nonprofit that delivers nation building support to Tribes.

“Rebuilders have gone on from this program to support nation building projects in their home communities after gaining a deeper understanding of the tenets and strategies that will contribute to the long-term success of their governments, economies and people,” said Rebecca Stratton, Program Director at the Native Governance Center. “They learn about nation building and leadership in a cohort format, allowing them to form supportive relationships that will continue years into the future, and they develop tangible plans for themselves and their nations.”

Rebuilders will convene for four structured sessions during which they will also develop action plans to share knowledge with peers and their respective Tribal governments. The sessions involve partner organizations and individuals with expertise in nation building, organizing, and issues specific to Indian Country. National partners include the Native Nations Institute (nni.arizona.edu) and the Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development (hpaied.org).

The Rebuilders’ names and Tribal affiliations are listed on the [Native Governance Center website](#). The next round of applications for the tenth cohort of Rebuilders will be announced in the summer of 2018.



Rosebud Sioux Tribal Council & Constitutional Officers Contact Info

William “Willie” Kindle - Tribal President Scott Herman - Vice-President PO Box 430-Rosebud SD 57570 605-747-2381		
Linda L. Marshall Tribal Secretary	Wayne Boyd Tribal Treasurer	Edward Clairmont Sergeant-At-Arms

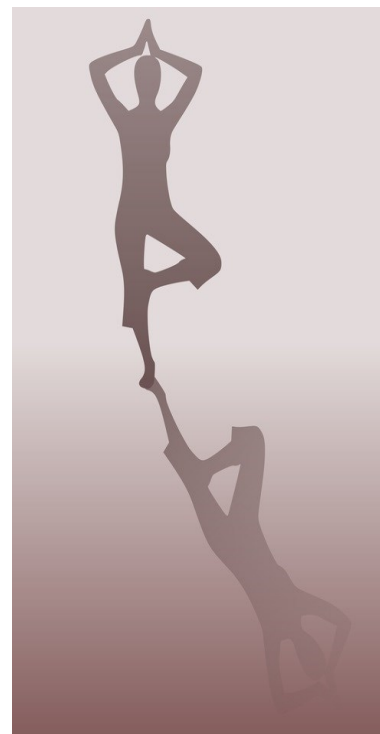
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BLACK PIPE COMMUNITY Russell Eagle Bear PO Box 22 Norris SD 57560	441-9884	PARMELEE COMMUNITY Eileen Shot PO Box 303 Parmelee SD 57566
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CORN CREEK COMMUNITY Arlene R. Black Bear PO Box 83 Norris SD 57560	319-1587	SOLDIER CREEK COMMUNITY Kathleen Wooden Knife PO Box 941 Mission SD 57555
GRASS MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY Rita Means POB 398 Rosebud, SD 57570	319-1224	SPRING CREEK COMMUNITY Lila Kills In Sight PO Box 854 Rosebud SD 57580
HE DOG COMMUNITY Royal Yellow Hawk PO Box 264 Parmelee SD 57566	319-1455	ST. FRANCIS COMMUNITY Michael Boltz, Sr. PO Box 19 St. Francis SD 57572
HORSE CREEK COMMUNITY Robert Rattling Leaf 229 Eagle Dog Street White River SD 57579	828-6577	SWIFT BEAR COMMUNITY James Leader Charge PO Box 76 White River, SD 57579
IDEAL COMMUNITY Shizue LaPointe 342 Adams Street Winner SD 57580	842-1227 840-9070	TWO STRIKE COMMUNITY Richard “Smokey” Whipple PO Box 426 Rosebud SD 57580
MILKS CAMP COMMUNITY Byron Andrews 29858 358 th Ave Bonesteel, SD 57317	441-9855	UPPER CUT MEAT COMMUNITY Lester Kills The Enemy PO Box 363 Parmelee SD 57566

Greetings to all yoga enthusiasts!

Welcome to the yoga corner. This month we will focus on how yoga can help calm and relax the digestive system through belly breathing, which creates a vital role in our metabolic process and also promotes a more centered self. Our bodies have an amazing ability to make the switch from fast (fight or flight) to slow (rest and digest) depending on our body’s ability to handle stress levels and difficult situations. Sometimes when we are not sleeping well or digestion becomes a problem, there are ways to help slow down the system - that’s where yoga comes in handy.

Belly breathing may be an exercise to help the body gain a successful digestion system. No one taught us how to breathe in childhood, we just belly breathed naturally. Now as adults we tend to breathe mostly in the upper chest. Poor posture, neck and shoulder tension, and stomach tightness all contributes to chest breathing (shallow breathing). When you inhale, the diaphragm contracts and moves downward and when

Yoga Corner



you exhale the diaphragm muscles relax and moves upward. Being aware of how your body is breathing may make all the difference in the world.

Tip of the month

Find a quiet place to sit down or lay down. Eyes may be opened or closed. Become comfortable for the next 10 minutes or so, with either a blanket or pillow and prepare to acknowledge the breath and how your body is breathing. Place one hand on the chest and one hand on the belly. If the hand on the chest remains relatively still, then you are engaging your diaphragm and actively belly breathing. This simple yet effect exercise initiates many wonderful actions in our internal environment. Healthy breathing is slow (about 12 breaths per minute).

The Supercali
Yoga Studio

Sexual Harassment in Your Workplace Must Not Be Tolerated

When Pte San Win (White Buffalo Calf Woman) appeared with the intent to bring ceremonial gifts to the Lakota people, she was initially disrespected by a man.

She first appeared as a white buffalo calf to a couple of men who were out hunting. She transformed into a beautiful young woman and the men approached her.

One of those men had inappropriate thoughts directed at her. She allowed him to come closer and he was engulfed in a cloud. When the cloud cleared, his hunting partner saw that he had been reduced to a pile of bones.

In Lakota culture, the story of the first visit by Pte San Win is told to remind us how sacred women are. Women are the backbone of our Lakota Tiospaye. And even though our people have lost a lot of cultural etiquette, we must always remember to respect Lakota women. The story of the man being reduced to a pile of bones illustrates the concept that Lakota women must be respected, even in thought.

The disrespect shown to Pte San Win in that first encounter with humans can be viewed as a form of sexual harassment. Even though the man did not outwardly say anything to Pte San Win, she knew his thought process and he paid the ultimate price for his disrespect.

Today, many of our Lakota women suffer from sexual harassment in the workplace. The majority of those who suffer this abuse at their places of employment don't report it because they fear retaliation. Whether you are male or female, you should not be afraid to report sexual harassment in the workplace because it is against federal law.

Lakota Women Are Sacred

I remember a time when I worked for a local school. A teacher filed a sexual harassment complaint because she was offended by the use of the F word. Most of the administrators laughed her complaint off. It was appalling to me.

According to the [Equal Employment Opportunity Commission](#), "Sexual harassment is a form of sex discrimination that violates Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Title VII applies to employers with 15 or more employees, including state and local governments. . . Prevention is the best tool to eliminate sexual harassment in the workplace. Employers are encouraged to take steps necessary to prevent sexual harassment from occurring. They should clearly communicate to employees that sexual

harassment will not be tolerated." <https://www.eeoc.gov/eeoc/publications/fs-sex.cfm>

On July 17, 2017 an Administrative Order was signed by Theresa Maule Rossow, who served as an Administrative Hearing Officer in a Complaint of Sexual Harassment filed by a tribal employee. The order does state that "the Defendant. . . did sex-

ually harass [the victim] . . . as is defined in the Rosebud Sioux Tribe Personnel Ordinance No 2007-09 in that he displayed sexually suggestive pictures via his [work] computer, made verbal comments of a sexual nature which caused [the victim] . . . a hostile, intimidating and offensive working environment." The defendant was employed in a manager position and was terminated from his job soon after the Administrative Order was issued.

RST Ordinance No. 2007-09 is more commonly referred to as the Tribe's Personnel Manual. An electronic copy is available on the Rosebud Sioux Tribe's website for the public to view.

The section on sexual harassment reads: "Sexual harassment is not tolerated at the RST. Sexual harass-

ment is an infringement on the employee's right to a reasonable, comfortable work environment and is a form of misconduct that undermines the integrity of the employment relationship. Sexual harassment refers to any verbal or physical conduct that is offensive to the reasonable man or woman and will not be tolerated regardless of the perpetrator or tar-

get of the harassing behavior.

"Sexual harassment includes, but is not limited to, repeated offensive sexual advances, request for sexual favors, the display of sexually suggestive pictures or objects in any workplace location including transmission or display via computer through email, social media (i.e. face book, twitter, etc.) texting, cell phones and any other verbal or physical or written conduct of a sexual nature when submission to such conduct is made a term of condition of employment (either explicitly or implicitly), or is used as a basis for employment decisions, or such conduct interferes with work performance or creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working environment.

"Any employee who

believes he or she has been sexually harassed, or who has knowledge of this type of behavior, is urged to immediately report such conduct (either verbally or in writing) or their immediate supervisor who shall report the complaint to the Human Resources Director. If the complaint is against their immediate supervisor, the employee should, in the first instance, address the complaint to the human resource director who shall report the complaint to the Tribal President. The complaint will receive prompt attention and investigation and appropriate disciplinary action will be taken by the immediate supervisor, in consultation with the Human Resources Director and/or the Tribal President. Whenever practical, the identity of the harassed employee will be kept confidential but, due to the nature of a sexual harassment complaint and the ensuing investigative requirements, such confidentiality is not guaranteed.

"No employee will be adversely affected in any term or condition of employment on account of bringing such a complaint, discussing it with RST managerial personnel, or cooperating in its investigation. No employee who brings a sexual harassment complaint shall be subject to any punitive action by the RST. However, for the protection of an individu-

al's reputation and career and the integrity of this policy and complain procedure, disciplinary action up to and including termination will be imposed against any employee who knowingly files a frivolous complaint or who knowingly provides false information."

If you are a victim of sexual harassment at your workplace, please do not be afraid to file a complaint with the appropriate official.

The tribe's personnel manual is a document approved by the tribal council. It is to be viewed as the law. You should also not suffer from on-the-job retaliation when you report sexual harassment.

Lakota women are sacred. Please take steps to make sure your co-workers understand that sexual harassment in any form is subject to discipline by tribal officials. Tribal employees need to understand that they can be terminated if the Administrative Hearing Officer determines they are guilty of sexual harassment.

If your daughter was being sexually harassed on the job, what would you do about it? Would you suggest she just put up with the harassment because she works with a department full of men? Or would you stand behind her complaint?

Remember, Lakota women are sacred even in thought.

Rosebud Sioux Tribe Personnel Policies and Procedures (Ordinance 2007-09) can be viewed online at

https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/ed1fef_616d7a10d1824695bb85a91bb4fcd9c0.pdf

Students from the Rosebud Sioux Tribe Participate in Indian Education Summit



Students from St. Francis Indian School participated in the Youth Day activities at the Annual Indian Education Summit held at the Pierre Ramkota. Shelby Little Shield was part of a student panel.

Following the panel discussion, an open microphone was made available to students in the audience. Some of the issues brought up by students attending public, tribal and off reservation high schools are outlined in the following paragraphs.

-We need more Lakota language, history and culture taught in our school. We also need more student involvement in school activities.

-We need more support from our school staff, faculty, administration and school board.

-There is no family support for many students, that is, education is not a priority for some family members. We have to help our families reset their priorities. Education should be at the top of the priority list.

-There is not a lot of student involvement at my school with extra-curricular activities.

-Our school doesn't have enough activities to interest students.

-Please help native people who don't live on the reservation. We are often treated like we are dumb at school. We aren't tapped for our full potential. A lot of native students are smart!

-I want more Native American students to join sports and stay with the program. Just because we are brown doesn't mean we are different.

-I want to see more students go to college. Every student can make it to college if we push them.

-I want more public speaking training in my school.

-Our school needs a support system, I'm a non-Indian student and I want to learn about Indian studies.

-Please encourage students to go to out of state colleges and universities.

-We need a mentoring program that helps students with public speaking.

-Attendance rates need to improve! Students need to be at school and get their work done.

-Don't just focus on athletes, please help every student pass and graduate.

-The Youth Council on my reservation helped me with public speaking, we need more of these on other reservations.

-Our school has probably the worse reputation in the state. Our students body is united but the school board, staff and administration make decisions that make us look bad.

-We are treated badly with no appreciation. It's awful. Our Native American club gets spit on.

-There needs to be more tutoring opportunities for students.

-There are too many Teach For America staff at our school. These teachers don't stay, they just come in the school to add experience to their resume.

-Our school doesn't have many electives due to funding issues. We'd like more access to college scholarships also. Please have college recruiters visit our school more often.

The Drum Group from Rosebud Elementary attended the Indian Education Summit and sang the Lakota Flag Song. They also engaged the crowd with a round dance song that everyone participated in. The singers also assisted with the closing ceremonies at the end of the event.

Keynote Speaker at the Luncheon on Youth Day was Hattie Kauffman. A citizen of the Nez Perce tribe, she was the first Native American reporter on national network news. She began her career in Minnesota and spent more than 20 years on television with ABC and CBS News. Her memoir, "Falling Into Place," was released in 2013.

She gave an inspiring address to those who attended the luncheon. She shared the hardships of her childhood growing up in Seattle, Washington. She talked about her parents who "drank, fought and then disappeared" leaving her and six siblings to fend for themselves.

"We did the things we had to do, we got tough, we survived," Ms. Kauffman told the attentive group of high school and college students.

She shared how, as a 17 year old college freshman, she volunteered to report news during a 5 minute radio spot as a representative of the American Indian Student Association at the University of Minnesota. "I was a baby college student when I first went on the radio." She spent the next 40 years in radio and television broadcasting.

She encouraged students to never be afraid to volunteer for an activity when asked to. "When you raise your hand to volunteer to do a little bit more, it can change the whole trajectory of your life. So do a little bit more in class, on a project or when you are researching. You never know where it's going to lead you when you raise your hand," she said.

PHOTOS (top to bottom)

- ⇒ Shelby Little Shield of St. Francis Indian School was a member of the Student Panel at the SD Indian Education Summit. (Photo by Vi Waln)
- ⇒ Bryton Whipple, SFIS Student Council President, spoke about how the Sicangu Lakota Youth Council are working to bring remains of children from Rosebud back from Carlisle Indian School where they are buried in a cemetery on Army land. He also said his experience as a mentor helped him to improve his public speaking skills. (Photo by Vi Waln)
- ⇒ The drum group of Rosebud Elementary sang the Lakota Flag Song and a Round Dance song. They also helped with the closing ceremonies of the 2017 SD Indian Education Summit. The flags representing all 9 of the South Dakota's Indian tribes are in the background. (Photo by Vi Waln)
- ⇒ Hattie Kauffman gave a very encouraging keynote address during the Youth Day Luncheon. Ms. Kauffman spent 40 years in public broadcasting. She served as a news anchor for CBS. A citizen of the Nez Perce tribe, Ms. Kauffman retired from her career as a broadcast journalist in 2012. Photo courtesy of the SD Tribal Relations Facebook Page.



PERSPECTIVE: College Officials Need To Protect Indigenous Students *By ViWaln*

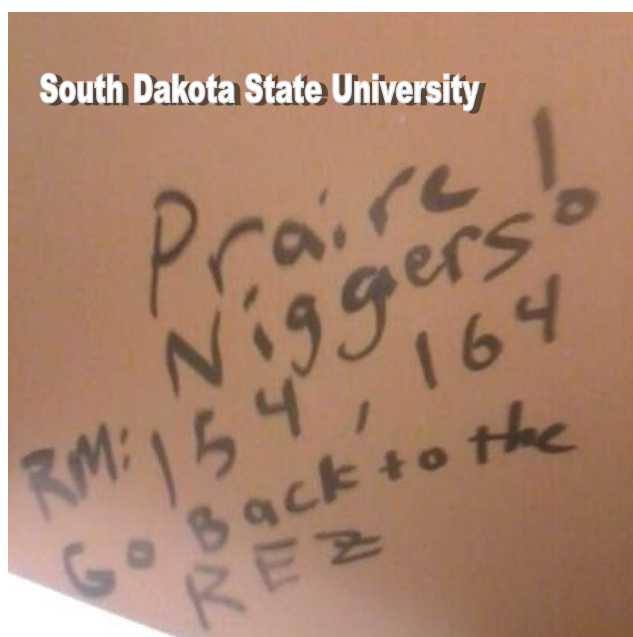
Last week I attended the Indian Education Summit in Pierre, SD. The highlight of the event was an entire day dedicated to youth. High school and college students candidly spoke out about the issues affecting them, both in a general assembly setting and in breakout sessions.

One breakout session focused on 3 Lakota students who are currently attending higher education institutions in South Dakota. They expressed frustration at not being prepared for some of their college courses. That is, they did not know how to write a research paper when they entered college.

I really identified with those 3 students because I went through the same thing when I enrolled in my first university level English class. It's very intimidating when you are sitting in a classroom filled with a majority of non-Indian students and they all understand what is expected of them. It's embarrassing when you realize your high school did not teach you what you needed to know to compete for the top grades. It sure doesn't do your self-esteem any good.

If students aren't armed with the skills they need to succeed in college, it's really no wonder many don't finish. The 3 college students who spoke at the breakout session were frustrated because they weren't taught how to write a research paper using an APA format. APA is short for the Ameri-

can Psychological Association. Most of the colleges and universities in this country require students to use the APA research paper format, so that sources are properly



cited.

The playing field is not level when you are a reservation high school graduate working to complete university level homework. These 3 students were all graduates of schools on South Dakota Indian reservations.

A lot of higher education professionals are currently looking for ways to retain their Native American students. But retention rates will not improve until the students are given the proper tools while they are in high school. Making sure students know how to write a research paper or an essay that is properly formatted, with correct spelling and grammar, is crucial for college success.

Arming high school students with the proper writing and study skills is only one part of the complex issue revolving around retention of

Native American college students.

In 2012, South Dakota State University investigated a racial slur written on a restroom wall in a dormitory. Now, 5 years

later, the same racial slur was written on a small white board on the door of a dorm room at a college in Sheridan, Wyoming. I became aware of this incident last week through a Facebook post written by Russell Rowland:

"Some people ask why more Native Americans don't go to college with all of that free Indian money they get (remember this is a myth), and this might be part of the reason. For most Natives, the pressure to stay at home and help with their families is tremendous, so if they take the huge step of going off to college, they often face abuse from their own. And then, as this freshman at Sheridan College quickly learned, they get to face this anonymous and clearly ignorant (wow, that spelling!) attack on their dorm room door. The racists in our country

have been emboldened by he of the small hands to say whatever they want, and it's wrong."

This week, another Facebook post written by Cody Hall appeared in my news feed. It read:

"Remember that incident last week at Sheridan College in which a racial slur was written on two young indigenous women's dorm room? Well another racial slur was written on their door over the weekend. The safety of these young women is in jeopardy and they need our help. They need us the people to rally behind them and help protect them. Call Sheridan College and demand these racist students who wrote these slurs be found and kicked out and demand a public video from the President be made and the safety for these young women. Sheridan College 307-674-6446 ext. 2308 Vice President."

It's very difficult to prepare our children and grandchildren for what they may experience when they attend college off the reservation. Academic skills can be improved when we put pressure on both our students and their teachers. There is no excuse for sending our young adults to a college without basic writing skills.

It's interesting to note that both writers of these racial slurs spelled prairie wrong. Maybe they weren't prepared for college either and decided to take it out on our Native students. In any case, they learned how

to call Native people that name by hearing someone else use the racial slur.

Consequently, it takes a skilled parent to explain why non-native people treat us badly. Many of us react in anger to these incidents. Certainly, the rage can be hard to control when it is our own precious child being called racial slurs. The mindset of non-Indian people is not something we can change. It's too bad many of these ignorant people are attending the same higher education institutions as our children.

I've learned that I can only change myself. I don't have the power to change how other people view our Native students. I believe it does go back to how they were raised. That is, racism is learned and our par-

ents are our first teachers. Someone taught those young people to use that slur.

I can't control how other people behave. I can only control how I react to their behavior. Prejudice is everywhere. The election of the 45th US President has not helped to improve race relations in this country.

However, we are responsible for ourselves and our family. We must find ways to teach our children how to deal with people who are inclined to commit hate crimes. I am all for Lakota students pursuing college degrees, but I am also concerned for their safety.

Sheridan College needs to take visible action to stop these incidents from occurring on their campus.



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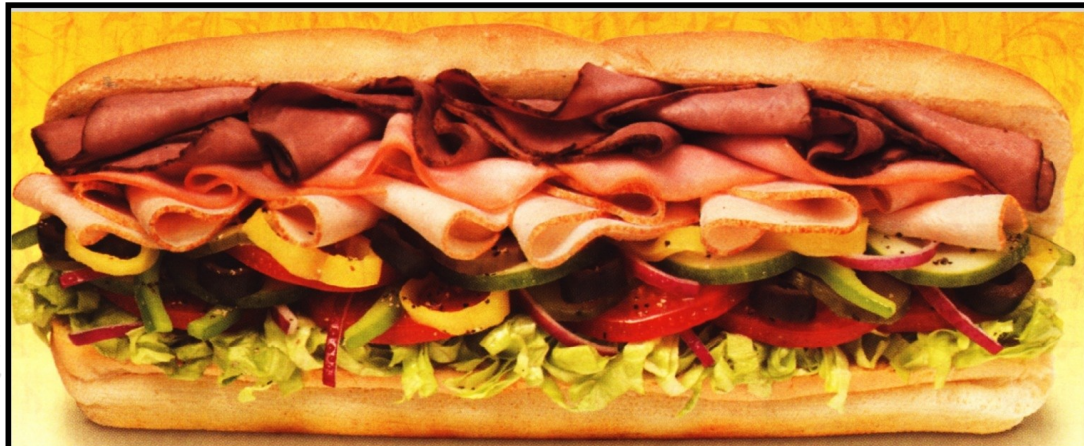
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