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LAKOTA TIMES

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Tribe cancels Secretarial Election

VI WALN
LT CONTRIBUTOR

ROSEBUD – The Rosebud Sioux Tribal Council reconsidered and rescinded Resolution 2022-298 to cancel an election to remove the Secretary of the Interior from the RST Constitution.

A memorandum from the RST Legislative Affairs was issued on August 28, 2024 and shared on social media following the tribal council action. The memo read in part: “the Rosebud Sioux Tribal Council

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Food distribution behind schedule

CONTINUED ON A2



OST Council commits \$1.65 million to school needs, increased travel \$285,000

WAKPAMNI LAKE – The OST Council Tuesday in Wakpamni Lake for their August regular session, with a vote of 15-1 approved taking \$1.65 million out of the General Fund to address deficiencies in school supplies and clothing and with a vote of 9-7-1 approved a \$285,000 increase in the travel budgets for both the Executive Board and tribal council.

Last year, the council

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Duplicity and Diplomacy

This is our final “dispatch” from the summer of 1874. In our first column, we cited Black Elk as evidence that Lakotan people knew what was going on in their treaty lands. During the weeks that followed, we found further proof that Lakotans engaged in a form of counter-surveillance, tracking the expedition’s movements into and out of Paha Sapa.

Lakotans practiced enormous self-restraint. Contrary to expectation, they refrained from making direct contact until after the expedition returned to Fort Lincoln at the end of August. According to a telegram that was published in the *Chicago In-*

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A delegation of headmen who traveled to Washington, DC, during the spring of 1875 and tried to convince the Government to honor the 1868 Treaty of Fort Laramie. From right to left, seated, are Spotted Tail, Swift Bear, and Sitting Bull (identified as an Oglalan, not the more famous Hunkpapan), with Red Cloud and interpreter Julius Meyer standing.]



International Teacher Numbers Grows

TOM CRASH
LT CONTRIBUTOR

THREE MILE CREEK - Last year there were 77 Filipino teachers in schools across the Pine Ridge Reservation, this year, at the current time, there are 89 international teachers according to the

OST Tribal Education Agency. Schools not using Filipino teachers include Mahpiya Luta, Kadoka, Oelrichs, Lakota Waldorf School and the Girls School.

“This summer we were able to do some professional development with about 120 teachers from reservation schools and we

stressed with all of the Filipino teachers that our office is there for them, we’re there to provide assistance,” said Dayna Brave Eagle, director of the Tribal Education Agency, “our office also had an opportunity to meet with sixth through eighth graders from Wounded

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5th Annual Backpack Giveaway

BRITTANY POOR BEAR
LT CONTRIBUTOR

On Friday, August 16, 2024, Hundreds of students and families gathered at the Journey Museum in Mni-luzahan, aka, Rapid City, South Dakota, for the 5th Annual NDN Collective Backpack Giveaway. Children in grades K-12 had the opportunity to receive a free backpack loaded up with NDN Collective swag including hoodies, t-shirts, headphones, water bottles, and school supplies. This event was held the Friday before the first day of class for Rapid City Area Schools (RCAS) and serves as a chance for students to prepare for the academic year ahead in a good way.

The backpack giveaway began in 2020 in

response to COVID-19 as a way to assist families in need of support during the pandemic. Since then, the event has grown to continue supporting Indigenous students and their education.

“It’s been amazing for me to see this grow from a simple backpack giveaway five years ago to this amazing back to school celebration. It really allows us to engage with our community in the best way possible, and that’s with direct interactions with each other,” said Alberta Eagle, NDN Collective Director of Operations. Eagle has been involved in the planning of this event since its inception, five years ago.

This year, NDN Collective provided more than 600 backpacks

CONTINUED ON A4





TRIBE CANCELS SECRETARIAL ELECTION

Continued from A1

passed a resolution to cancel the Secretarial Election. This is due to the inadequate voter registration deadline and limited time for educating the public about the proposed constitutional amendment.”

Resolution 2022-298 likely originated through a petition resolution, which was then “reaffirmed by the Rosebud Sioux Tribal Council in session on March 6, 2024 by a vote of fourteen (14) in favor, three (3) opposed and one (1) not voting.” The amendment, if passed by a majority of tribal voters, would have changed Article XI of the RST Constitution by removing all of Section 2 and replacing Section 1 as follows:

Section 1. This Constitution may be amended by a majority vote of the people of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe voting at an election called by the President of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe. The President of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe shall call an election upon proposed amendment or amendments at the request by resolution passed by three fourths (3/4) of the members of the Rosebud Sioux Tribal Council or upon petition of thirty (30) percent of the qualified voters of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe in an election conducted by the Rosebud Sioux Tribe Election Board in accordance with Rosebud Sioux Tribal law. Any amendment approved in such elections shall become effective upon cortication by the RST Election Board without requiring the approval or participation of the Secretary of the Interior.

The tribe’s Legislative Affairs staff presented community and online educational sessions on what would be on the ballot. Billboards were posted around the reservation and tribal citizens with a post office box received a mailer with information about the Secretarial Election.

The mailer encouraged tribal citizens to vote in the upcoming election to change the RST Constitution & By-Laws, Article IX by removing the required approval of the Secretary of the Interior and Secretarial Election to amend the RST Constitution. A vote “yes” would allow a “proposed changed to the constitution will be put on the ballot during Tribal elections.” A vote “no” would leave the process as is and “amendments will be sent to the Secretary of the Interior for approval. The BIA will conduct a special federal election for Tribal members to vote on proposed changes to the constitution.”

The RST Constitution can be viewed online at this link: <https://narf.org/nill/constitutions/rosebud-const/constitution.pdf>

In the past, Secretarial Elections have been conducted through the mail. Since these elections are conducted by mail, off reservation tribal citizens are included in the registration and voting process. There was no indication that tribal citizens living off-reservation would continue to have an opportunity to participate by mail in any future referendum elections if the Secretary of Interior approval requirement was removed from the RST Constitution.

While many tribal citizens residing both on and off the Rosebud reser-

Rosebud Sioux Tribe Communications
2 days ago · 🌐

****Cancellation of Secretarial Election****
(Resolution passed today, August 28th, 2024 during RST Council Meeting)

Date: August 28, 2024
To: RST Tribal members
From: RST Legislative Affairs
Re: Cancellation of Secretarial Election

****MEMORANDUM****

On August 28, 2024, the Rosebud Sioux Tribal Council passed a resolution to cancel the Secretarial Election. This is due to the inadequate voter registration deadline and limited time for educating the public about the proposed constitutional amendment.

Legislative Affairs will continue to educate the public about the Secretarial Election process and its potential outcomes if the voters choose to remove this process. It is important to ensure that all Tribal citizens have sufficient opportunity to register to vote and access to information regarding proposed constitutional amendments to ensure a fair and inclusive voting process.

Thank you to everyone who voiced your concerns during this election process and those who registered to vote within the short turnaround time!

Contact the RST Legislative Affairs Office for any questions or concerns at (605) 747-3185.

vation reported receiving forms to register for the Secretarial Election, others reported they did not receive a registration form. Secretarial Elections are not funded with tribal dollars, they are paid for by the Secretary of the Interior or Bureau of Indian Affairs.

The Secretarial Election scheduled for September 20, 2024 is now cancelled. For more information, please call the Rosebud Sioux Tribe at 605-747-2381.

DUPLICITY AND DIPLOMACY

Continued from A1

ter-Ocean newspaper on September 10, 1874, a delegation of Lakotan headmen traveled to Bismarck and spoke with Custer directly. Running Antelope from the Hunkpapan Oyate and Fire Heart from the Sisasapa Oyate were accompanied by about twenty-five warriors, and they “strongly protested against violation of the treaty of 1868 by white men going to the Black Hills.”

The self-discipline of Lakotans stood in stark contrast to the behavior of expedition soldiers. Over and over again, we have seen indications that they were spoiling for a fight. And as we described in our column on July 24, when the expedition did come across an unsuspecting camp of Lakotans in the Black Hills, they took several hostages, in-

cluding One Stab, Slow Bull, and Long Bear, whom they shot while he tried to escape.

Even before the expedition had come to an end, newspapers were already touting the scenic beauty and mineral richness of the Black Hills. Shortly thereafter, the United States Land Office teamed up with railroad companies to create advertisements that enticed settlers to colonize Lakotan treaty lands. Many of these publications included maps that were drawn using data collected by the expedition cartographer William Ludlow and showed the most practical route into the Black Hills.

How did Lakotan people respond to the influx of settlers into their treaty lands? Yet again, they turned to diplomacy. Only a few months

later, in May 1875, a delegation of headmen traveled all the way to Washington, DC, where they met with the Secretary of the Interior, Columbus Delano.

Spotted Tail and Red Cloud tried to protest the continued violation of their treaty. In response, Delano made an astonishing argument. He claimed that the United States was too weak to uphold its treaty obligations. According to a transcript in the National Archives, Delano said, “As long as the white people think there is gold and silver [in the Black Hills], their anxiety to go there will be so great that we cannot suppress or stop it.” Delano continued by saying “I want you to consider our trouble in preventing white people from going there ... if men are killed, and war

ensues ... there will be suffering on all sides.”

This was a cunning tactic. Having deliberately engineered a gold rush, the United States turned around and claimed that its hands were tied, that it could not prevent miners from settling the Black Hills.

Spotted Tail responded by saying that “I respect the treaty which has been made, and I do

not like it at all, because white men are allowed to come and locate in our country, and if any trouble is made,” he added, “it is the fault of the white man and not of the Indians.”

At every turn, we have seen the same pattern play itself out. Lakotans knew what was going on in their treaty lands. They did not like what they saw, but they still tried to honor their

treaty. For that, they were met with deception and violence.

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The Center for American Indian Research and Native Studies (CAIRNS) is an American Indian-controlled nonprofit research and education center founded in 2004 and located in the Lacreek District of Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota.

5TH ANNUAL BACKPACK GIVEAWAY

Continued from A1

to students and 1,200 shirts or hoodies along with various school supplies based on lists from RCAS. Over the last five years, NDN Collective and our partners have given out more than 3,000 backpacks to local Indigenous students.

Events such as the annual Backpack Giveaway embed the unwavering commitment by Indigenous communities and partners to Indigenous youth in ensuring they thrive despite systems that actively work against them.

This year’s event comes a few months after the US Department of Education and Office of Civil Rights found that Rapid City Area Schools often and regularly discriminate against Native American students. Further, RCAS Superintendent Nicole Swigart is quoted in the resolution letter as making racist and inaccurate comments about Indigenous families and education.

As a result of her racist commentary, Swigart was placed on

30-day leave and required to take cultural competency training. However, on Tuesday, August 13th, by a vote of 6-1 from the local school board, Swigart was relieved of her duties, effective August 16th.

“This victory is a community effort and is a testament to the impact of the unrelenting commitment towards ensuring the well-being of our children,” said Sunny Red Bear, NDN Collective Associate Director of Organizing.

This victory is further elevated by the continued community support witnessed at last Friday’s backpack giveaway event, where smiling youth not only had the opportunity to receive a free backpack, school supplies and swag, but could simply be kids, smiling, laughing and having fun – which certainly involved hopping into one of many onsite bouncy houses.

In addition, families were able to grab a free bite from a variety of local food trucks including, Mercys Tacos,

Dan’s Smokin Country BBQ, Malissa’s Frybread, and Tatanka Wings. Upbeat tunes could be heard by the DJ as several attendees enjoyed their meals and visited, while others perused the numerous local organizations and businesses who had tabled at the event.

If you couldn’t attend the event in person, perhaps you caught a glimpse of NDN Collective’s very own President and CEO, Nick Tilsen, hosting the Livestream of the event. Tilsen walked around the event, engaging with onsite attendees and viewers alike, who further amplified the importance of the day. One attendee was NDN Collective Local Organizer, Andy Ironshell, who took a moment to reflect on the significance of this year’s backpack giveaway.

“Oh man this is the glue. We’re all here, a lot of us haven’t seen each other maybe all summer. We’ve just been busy, ceremony, doing different things, maybe vacationing.

CONTINUED ON A5



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