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LAKOTA TIMES

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973 Residential school deaths

VI WALN
LT CONTRIBUTOR

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) — At least 973 Native American children died in the U.S. government's abusive boarding school system, according to the results of an investigation released Tuesday by officials who called on the government to apologize for the schools.

The investigation commissioned by Interior Sec. Deb Haaland found marked and unmarked graves at 65 of the more than 400 U.S. boarding

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LaCreek district breaks ground

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Lakota Funds and Rez Drones

Kyle, South Dakota — After more than two decades building two successful agricultural and commercial pest control companies, Seth Tausan, founder of Southpaw Aerial Company LLC, was ready to innovate. Excited about the possibility of using drone technology to advance his work, he reached out to Lakota Funds for the second time in his career. Once again, he was greeted by an enthusiastic team ready to support his business goals. Seth's newest Lako-

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Elk Horn Valley

This is our Week 6 (August 5-11) "dispatch" from an infamous 1874 expedition to find gold in Paha Sapa that took place exactly one hundred and fifty years ago. We mine the rich archive of documentary records that it produced to ask what it reveals about the region's Native inhabitants. To follow along online, go to <https://tinyurl.com/rwaffkbk>

The chief engineer and mapmaker for the expedition, William Ludlow, wrote on August 7, 1874, that "we passed over Elk Horn Prairie again." The first time the expedition had crossed that place was nine days earlier, on July 28. On that day, geologist Newton Winchell described it as a treeless, undulating plain upon which they found "a large stack of elk-horns, whence the Indians call it Elk-Horn Valley, a name

which is appropriately changed to *Elk-Horn Prairie*."

Frances Densmore, in *Teton Sioux Music*, states that "the elk is a favorite animal among the young men." She recorded a man named Shooter who dreamed of elks and who told her that they "are the emblem of beauty, gallantry, and protection." More specifically, Thomas Tyon, a translator for the physician and anthropologist James Walker, wrote that



"the Spirit of the Male Elk presided over sexual relationship."

There is a Lakotan narrative about a poignant romance that is tied to Elk Horn Valley. Long ago there was a young Lakotan

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Bear Creek powwow Returns

BRITTANY POOR BEAR
LT CONTRIBUTOR

After 12 years the Bear Creek powwow, Mato Wakpa Wacipi, will be held once again this year on August 16th, 17th, and 18, 2024. The powwow, which is located at Bear Creek, 7 miles north of Martin, South Dakota on Hisle Road.

Bear Creek powwow first started in 1962 and was held annually for over 40 years, the last powwow took place in 2013. When the first powwow started in the 60s, Emma and Dicky Bettelyoun wanted to honor their son Charles for graduating high school. Other community members also pitched in every year to help with the

powwow. Throughout the years, the Bear Creek community worked together to make sure the powwow ran as smooth as possible. They made sure that everything was taken care of, and that the grounds were well kept. "Bear Creek powwow was known as the best kept secret on the reservation. The powwow

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Oglala Nation overcomes heat, gun violence

TOM CRASH
LT CONTRIBUTOR

PINE RIDGE - On Friday night, the growing gun violence that has impacted families and communities across Pine Ridge Reservation over the last few years, reared its ugly head at the Pow wow grounds as Tom Thunder Hawk Sr. was shot four times around 9:30pm; in a move to preclude any further violence, the OST Pow Wow committee shut the Pow wow down early but planned to move forward with the many planned events over the weekend.

On Saturday, with an increased public safety presence and despite sweltering 100+ degrees, the Oglala Nation parade attracted over 100 floats, the scheduled rodeo went on and grand



2024 Oglala Nation Rodeo Royalty included: Miss: Dixie Heathershaw, Jr. Miss: Ramona Tibbitts, Lil' Miss: Sawyer Carlson. Photos by Dale Pine



2024 Oglala Lakota Nation royalty included Kadence Weston-Miss Oglala Lakota Nation, Baylee Bravo-Jr. Miss Oglala Lakota Nation and Georgianna Tsouhlarakis-Lil Miss Oglala Lakota Nation. Photos by Dale Pine

entries at 2pm and 8pm attracted 20 drums and nearly 400 dancers.

Thunder Hawk, with life threatening injuries, was rushed to the hospital where he underwent multiple surgeries to save his life, still facing multiple surgeries, Thunder Hawk succumbed to his injuries

midday on Sunday. In his memory, on Sunday evening, led by his family and carrying the arena Director's staff, a Francis Thomas "Tom" Thunder Hawk Sr. and community healing run started at the hospital's ER, continued to the Pow wow grounds, entering the east gate, and going left

out the west gate where Tom was shot and exiting out the east gate and onto the funeral home where prayers concluded the run.

Later Friday evening the shooter was placed in custody by the OST Department of Public Safety. Later on Saturday, threats to shoot up

the pow wow and a statement about catching a body for a friend spread like wildfire across the internet; later that same day, the person responsible for the posts had been arrested.

Sure the pow wow is the highlight of the annual Oglala Nation Fair,

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ELK HORN VALLEY

Continued from A1

woman, Tapun Sha Win, whose beauty brought suitors from near and far. One night, a young man with a strangely radiant aura about him persuaded Tapun Sha Win that he was the one for her.

While preparations were under way for their wedding, the charming stranger made a shocking announcement to the happy people of the village. He told them that he was from the Maghpiya Oyate, the Cloud Nation, and he asked their permission to take Tapun Sha Win back to his home in the sky. The people sadly consented, and the couple left on their long journey to the sky world.

There, Tapun Sha Win and Starman lived happily together. Soon she was pregnant with their child and then months later when it was nearing the time for her to give birth, she unwarily dug up a peculiar plant that looked like tinspila. When she pulled it from the surface of the sky world, there was a hole through which she could see her relatives on the earth below. She

missed them so much that she tied together everything she had into a long rope which she fastened off and dropped through the hole. Then she shimmied down the rope, only to discover that it was too short. She hung on as long as she could, but eventually lost her grip and fell to her death.

But miraculously her baby was born alive. Some boys found the body of Tapun Sha Win and the newborn boy, who they took back to their village. There he was named Fallen Star and raised by an elderly woman. When Starman discovered the sky hole and saw his wife's body on the earth below, he

walked away a short distance and, grief-stricken, he sat down and hasn't moved since. His Lakotan name is Wichaghi Owanjila, which is now known as the North Star.

Some people believe that Tapun Sha Win fell to her death at Elk Horn Valley. Amos Bad Heart Bull named that place Ghe Shla on his map. Today that valley is called Reynolds Prairie, named after the family

that homesteaded the area in 1876 when it was Ocheti Shakowian land, as stipulated in the 1868 Fort Laramie Treaty.

In 2012, a coalition of funders led by four Ocheti Shakowian tribes purchased nearly 2,000 acres of the valley from the Reynolds family. In 2016, at the request of the four tribes, the Bureau of Indian Affairs placed that portion of Elk Horn Valley back into federal Indian trust

status. The tribes celebrated the decision, while the state of South Dakota appealed it—and lost.

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



Tapun Sa Win, by Dyani White Hawk

LAKOTA FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

ANNUAL MEETING

Join us for our Annual
Lakota Federal Credit Union
Board Meeting

**Friday, September 20th, 2024
at 1:00 pm**

Meeting will be held at the Lakota Trade Center TBIC Conference room in Kyle, SD.

If you have any questions contact the Credit Union at (605)455-1515

605-455-1515 | WWW.LAKOTAFCU.ORG

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DRIVE SOBER OR GET PULLED OVER



DRIVE SOBER THIS LABOR DAY, AND EVERYDAY.

The Oglala Sioux Tribe Department of Public Safety and the OST DPS Highway Safety Division will be expanding their efforts to increase Enforcement to subdue drunk drivers during the Labor Day weekend beginning August 14, 2024 through September 2, 2024. Be responsible this summer when going to events, if you plan to drink it is important to also plan to have a sober driver. Driving while intoxicated not only puts your life in danger but the lives of innocent people and the law enforcement officers. Be a good relative and think of others before you decide to get behind the wheel while intoxicated. Have a plan whether you are driving, riding, or hosting, this Labor Day Weekend. 531 people died in car crashes during The Labor Day Weekend in 2021 so let's work together to lower the numbers, plan for the future not a funeral.

The OST DPS Officers and Troopers will be conducting checkpoints reservation wide, as well as, saturation patrols as an effort to bring drunk driving to an end. Please help the officers keep our highways safe, if you see a potential drunk driver report it to your local law enforcement by calling (605) 867-5111 or 911. It is vital that all of you make the right decisions and set examples for others in the community that drinking and driving is never ok. Our children are the future and they learn from the adults so let's set a good example by choosing not to drink and drive.



This message is brought to you by OST DPS, Highway Safety, BIA Indian Highway Safety Program, and SD office of Highway Safety