

\$1.25

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- Truth
- Integrity
- Lakota Spirit



# LAKOTA TIMES

INSIDE

- Sports - A4
- Voices - A6
- Cartoons - B2
- Holy Road - B5



## Proposed changes to Indigenous Standards

MAKENZIE HUBER  
southdakotasearchlight.com

The South Dakota Board of Education Standards will soon review proposed changes to the Oceti Sakowin Essential Understandings, a set of standards meant to introduce Native American culture, traditions and history into public schools.

The proposed changes are meant to make the standards "more navigable for teachers," Indian Education Advisory Council Director Fred Osborn told council members at their

CONTINUED ON A2



## He Sapa Vintage Opens

CONTINUED ON A3



## OST Petitions Deadline Aug 23

TOM CRASH  
LT CONTRIBUTOR

PINE RIDGE - Petitions for the 2024 OST Election became available on Monday August 5th at the OST Election Commission Office in Pine Ridge behind the Red Cloud building in the old Benefits Office, with one week in the books, two candidates had taken out petitions for OST President, no candidates for OST Vice President and 38 candidates for tribal council positions across all nine districts.

CONTINUED ON A2

## The Race Track

This is our Week 7 (August 12-18) "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>.

On August 14, 1874, the expedition traveled eastward through a series of narrow ravines and, in the words of William Ludlow, the expedition's Chief of Engineers, "we suddenly emerged from the hills into the encircling red clay valley" beyond which they could see "the open prairie."

The "encircling red clay valley" that separates the Black Hills from the surrounding sea of grass is called Kin Inyanka Ochan-

ku, or The Race Track. It is the topographic remnant of an epic race between all the animals of the Lakotan world.

According to James LaPointe, this race took place long ago, "in the first sunrise of time," before the Black Hills even existed. Back then, Lakotans could speak freely with all the animals and the spirits. But it was also a violent and chaotic time, without a clear sense of who could eat whom. The



great race was held "to bring peace and order to the world."

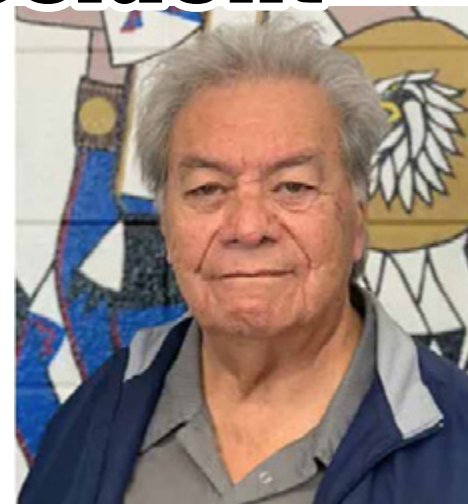
Animal messengers were dispatched to all the directions "to announce the great event." Another group of animals was "de-

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## Kindle named RST Acting President



Scott Herman has taken a job with Sinte Gleska University effective August 1.



RST Vice President Willie Kindle was appointed Acting President through Sept 3.

ROSEBUD - A resignation letter signed by Rosebud Sioux Tribe President Scott Herman was subsequently rescinded in a memoran-

dum appointing Vice President Willie Kindle as his replacement.

The RST Election Office Facebook page reported that on August

1 Herman "will take on a new role as the Vice President of Tribal Nations/Community at Sinte Gleska University

CONTINUED ON A4

## \$15M OST Budget Approved

TOM CRASH  
LT CONTRIBUTOR

MANDERSON - On Tuesday, July 30, the OST Council met in regular session at Wounded Knee District School in Manderson, with little or no discussion, the council voted 14 in favor, no one opposing, one abstaining and one not voting to approve the 2024 Indirect Cost Fund Budget of \$15,716,234.

In response to the drop in casino revenue, the council voted 10-5 to amend the casino ordinance reducing the district allocation from \$125,000 a month to \$50,000 per month with Pine Ridge and Medicine Root district receiving \$7,500 per month and the seven other districts, Wakpamni, Oglala, Wounded Knee district, Porcupine, Eagle



Nest, LaCreek and Pass Creek receiving \$5,000 per month. We've had a real problem getting the revenue back to where it used to, stated Garf Little Dog, Wounded Knee district council representative, we brought in new management and I don't think they are there on a regular basis. With a vote of 15-0, the council approved getting

debit cards for the managers of Prairie Wind and East Wind Casinos to expedite regular business transactions.

Jake Little, director of the OST Food Distribution Program reported to the council about their \$15.3 million grant that has allowed them to purchase more food locally including buffalo, beef, berries and timsi-

la, they've already spent 700-800,000 in local purchases and are working at ways to streamline the payment process. With a vote of 14-0-2, the council approved the raising of Little's salary so that it meets USDA standards to \$129,330 annually.

A resolution authorizing Thunder Valley CDC to apply for funds to design and build a youth shelter as a tribal organization and to negotiate with IHS to pursue construction related funding that complies with 638 process but doesn't use any tribal shares passed 16-0.

The council voted 14-0-2 approving the SDS priority listing for hydrant replacement in the Pine Ridge water system and rebuilding the hydrant pits in Wanblee; with a vote of 14-0-2 the council approved

contract for \$595,791 to provide new hydrants and gate valves for East Ridge and Moccasin factory neighborhoods in Pine Ridge; resolution approving contract of \$394,000 for new hydrants and gate valves passed 16-0; resolution approving Memorandum of Agreement for reservoir repair and modification in Potato Creek area in the amount of \$554,000 passed 16-0; resolution in support of the Martin IHS field office for a \$1.056 million contract for construction of water main east of Wanblee passed 15-0-1; resolution approving final drawdown of \$164,331 for Wounded Knee water system upgrades passed 15-0-1.

With a vote of 15-0-1, the council approved a contract with Hermanson Engineering for

CONTINUED ON A4





**OST PETITIONS**

*Continued from A1*

Candidates so far for OST President include Henry Whelan and Stephanie Cuny; candidates taking out petitions for tribal council included: Pine Ridge-Andrew Bear Shield, Lessanes Daus Rabbit, Richard Greenwald, Ramon Bear Runner, Julian Spotted Bear, George Dreamer Jr.(Inc), Derek Janis and Ella John Carlow(Inc); Medicine Root-Jeremy Rosales, Beau Little White Man, Ryan Jumping Eagle(Inc) and Austin Watkins Sr.(Inc); Wakpamni-Cedric Goodman Jr., Jane Little Hawk-Rodríguez, Jacqueline F. Siers(Inc), John M. Long, Sonia Little Hawk Weston(Inc) and Vincent Two Lance Jr.; Whiteclay-Lyle Weston, Debra Mousseau and Troy Little; Wounded Knee-James T. Adams, Kevin Yellow Bird Steele, Derek S. Cuny, David A. Kelly and Garfield Steele(Inc); Porcupine-Duane Gibbons, David Pourier(Inc) and Jordan Pourier; Eagle Nest-Marilyn Charging Crow, Sylvester Thomas, Jim Meeks(Inc) and Wesley Hawkins Sr.(Inc); LaCreek-Kimmie Clausen, Craig L. Dillon(Inc) and Thomas Dillon; Pass Creek-Nathaniel Waters and Consuelo Means.

All completed petitions need to be turned in by the end of the day on Friday, August 23 with candidates certified on September 6th. Polls open at 8:00am and close at 8:00pm on Primary Election Day October 8.

The OST Election Commission office is located in Pine Ridge, just north of the Red Cloud building in the old Benefits Office, they're open Monday through Friday, 8:00am to 4:30pm, for information call 605 867-1739, fax 605 867-136 or email at ostelection20@gmail.com. Karen Tiny Pourier chairs the Commission, Crynthia Clifford is the Vice Chair and Kande DeSersa is the Secretary/Treasurer.

**THE RACE TRACK**

*Continued from A1*

tailed to find suitable ground for a circular race track, and lay out a course wide enough and long enough so that the many animals who were expected could take part in the race." And yet another group established the rules, including criteria so that "every animal would have a chance, whether small or clumsy, weak or strong." The race would last until "the sun had risen and set for the hundredth time," when "the judges would choose the winners."

From the beginning, the race was a disaster. Weaker and slower animals "were trampled and crushed under the heavy hooves of the giant animals." The earth in the race course was pulverized to dust that "rose skyward, choking and obliterating the flying hordes of birds above, as they circled with the animal racers down below." Round and round the birds and animals raced and died. The earth trembled and shook and eventually the course "sank crazily under their combined weight" while the area within the race track bulged and rose skyward. Then suddenly, "with a thunderous roar, it burst open," spewing flames, dense smoke and debris that rained down on the racers and buried all of them under "smoldering ashes and lava."

It was a tragic ending to the epic race. But after the air cleared and the trembling earth calmed, there remained



Wakipa, by Keith BraveHeart, 2016

within the race course "a pile of broken rocks standing majestically high" that Lakotans called Paha Sapa, or Black Hills. Surrounding Paha Sapa is a "ledge-like row of hills" and within them "there is a depression or indentation" that "is what remains of the race track upon which that fabulous race was run." This is the "red clay valley" that Ludlow described.

One year after the reconnaissance expedition, the US sent a commission to negotiate the purchase of mineral rights in the Black Hills from the Ocheiti Shakowian Confederacy. Red Cloud,

the Oglalan leader and 1868 Fort Laramie Treaty signatory, told the commission: "Around the hills is a race-track, (trail,) and I sell to the Government inside that trail." But negotiations broke down, because Red Cloud and others demanded a very high price for the right to mine gold in Paha Sapa or to purchase the land outright. "I think those hills extend clear to the sky," he said, "and that is the reason I ask for so much."

In response, Congress passed the Act of 1877 to take the land within the Race Track, plus all of the remaining treaty reservation land beyond it that was east of what is now the Wyoming/South Dakota border and between the Belle Fourche and Cheyenne rivers. The federal government still has not paid for the land it took. Young Lakotans, however, continue a tradition of retracing the course of Kin Inyanka Ochanku in an annual run that commemorates the epic race that brought the Black Hills into existence.

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.

**PROPOSED CHANGES TO INDIGENOUS STANDARDS**

*Continued from A1*

Thursday meeting.

The updates include new appendices for teachers to access resources, a new map of South Dakota reservations, more Indigenous language usage throughout and more Indigenous language pronunciation guides, among other changes.

Osborn told council members that there were not significant changes made to the standards, and that he didn't believe any of the changes detracted from the standards. He said there "was a lot more teacher input" in the standards review.

One change, he added, was to change "resilience" to "strength" throughout the standards, to become more "current" and "empowering" for students.

Advisory council members questioned some extended descriptions in the standards, and questioned the use of photos in the standards. Many of the photos were of landscapes or animals rather than people, said council member Brian Wagner, who is the tribal education director with the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe. Members said they would

need more time to adequately review the changes before the Board of Education Standards' next meeting.

The standards are not required to be taught in public schools — something some council members have pushed to change in recent years. A 2023 survey from the state Department of Education said nearly two-thirds of South Dakota educators are teaching the standards, but some members of the council questioned the results since the number of respondents was less than a 2021 survey.

Lawmakers have introduced bills to require use of the Oceti Sakowin Essential Understandings in classrooms, but those efforts have failed in the Legislature.

The proposed changes are available on the state Department of Education website for public comment ahead of the Board of Education Standards' Sept. 16 meeting.

The new standards, if approved, will go into effect during the 2025-2026 school year.

# TWO CASINOS! 2X THE FUN!

SATURDAYS: AUG 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31

## XTREME CHA-CHING

HOT SEAT DRAWINGS 2X/HOUR • 615P-930P

\$250 SLOT PLAY

Earns 20 points day of promotion to be eligible for Hot Seats.

## OFFROAD FUN

PLINKO CASH HOT SEATS ON THE HOUR • 6P-10P

UP TO \$1,200

Hot seat winner will get three chips for the hot seat win.  
2 at \$200 2 at \$100  
2 at \$75 2 at \$50  
1 at \$400

PRAIRIE WIND CASINO & HOTEL  
OGLALA SIOUX TRIBE

9:30 PM

BARREL DRAWING

CHANCE TO WIN A SIDE BY SIDE

Earn 20 points day of the promotion. 50 points per barrel entry.

▲ WWW.PRAIRIEWINDCASINO.COM Pine Ridge, SD ▲

Management reserves the right to cancel promotions at any time. Management decisions are final. Must be present to win. Must be 21 years of age or older to participate. Not responsible for accidents, lost money or credits left on unattended machines. Must have a valid ID for redemptions and prizes. All player rewards are non-transferable/non-replaceable.

SUNDAYS IN AUGUST: 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, & 25<sup>th</sup>

85" TLC

## HOT AUGUST NIGHTS

\$26,000 GIVEAWAYS

Earn 25 points day of promotion for hot seats. 125 points per barrel entry.

Management reserves the right to change promotion at any time. Must be present to win. Must be 18 years of age or older to participate. Not responsible for accidents, lost money or credits left on unattended machines. Must have a valid ID for redemptions and prizes. Family members in the same household of Players Club/Cage employees are ineligible for hot seat and barrel drawings. All player rewards are non-transferable/non-replaceable.

OGLALA SIOUX TRIBE

www.EastWind.casino

Martin, SD

10:00 PM BARREL DRAWINGS  
4 WINNERS!

\$700 CASH - x3

85" TV + \$1,500 CASH - x1