



INDIAN COUNTRY TODAY

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E-Weekly Newsletter - June 13, 2018



Courtesy image

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In historic first, NE. farmer returns land to Ponca Tribe along “Trail of Tears”

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The land gifting ceremony and deed signing between farmers Art and Helen Tanderup, Ponca Tribe of Nebraska Chairman Larry Wright, Jr., and Ponca Nation of Oklahoma Councilwoman Casey Camp-Horinek took place on Sunday, June 10th, during an event that also included the 5th annual planting of sacred Ponca corn on the Tanderup farm.

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This is one of many news releases Indian Country Today publishes to its Press Pool. Submit your press releases and images to pressrelease@indiancountrytoday.com.

News Release

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The farm just north of Neligh has been in Art and Helen Tanderup’s family for generations, and the tract of land that was gifted back to the Ponca has for the past five years been used to restore the Ponca Tribe’s sacred corn to the indigenous people’s ancestral homeland, following a 137-year absence – after the Tribe’s forced removal from their lands by the U.S. government along the “Trail of Tears” route that also crosses the Tanderup farm.

The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska has been working, along with many Nebraskans who wish to preserve this sacred and culturally significant area, to establish federal and local protections and an official historical designation for the Ponca Trail of Tears.

“The bond between the Ponca and the Neligh area has been strong for over 140 years,” said Nebraska farmer and landowner Art Tanderup. “The compassionate burial of Little White Buffalo Girl and the recent Ponca remembrance of Sydney Loofe are historic. The Ponca and people of this community continue to build strong relationships as they work in collaborative efforts. It is only fitting that out of the tragedy of the Ponca Trail of Tears that a small piece of this historic Trail be transferred to them. It is also fitting that the land where we will plant our fifth crop of Sacred Ponca Corn be theirs as well.”

Read the rest of this story / News Release on Indian Country Today here - <https://goo.gl/oFbn13>



You can view the full photo album of events on Facebook [here](#).

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CTUIR is looking for a candidate with senior management experience and the desire to make a difference, inspire, and engage with tribal leaders and community.

The Executive Director is charged with the management of CTUIR governmental operations as directed by the CTUIR governing body, the Board of Trustees. The Executive Director is responsible for ensuring that the Tribal management, operational, fiscal, personnel and legal systems work effectively and efficiently to deliver governmental services. The Executive Director has the authority and responsibility to implement the legislative actions and annual budgets as approved and directed by the Board. The CTUIR government employs approximately 500 persons with an annual budget of approximately \$240 million.

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For Employment Application or Vacancy Announcement please visit the Tribes website at <http://ctuir.org/about-us/employment-opportunities> or call (541) 429-7180

The position closes June 29, 2018

Nike announces its newest N7 ambassador, professional volleyball player Lauren Schad



"I am humbled and honored to be a part of this tiospaye of talented and committed individuals, using sport to inspire and give back to indigenous communities ... I am excited to represent my tribe, family, and community in this new journey."

*Lauren Schad
Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe*

Story by Vincent Schilling

Nike N7 has just named the latest successful Native person to its roster of N7 ambassadors, professional female volleyball player and model Lauren Schad. Schad is a citizen of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe. She began playing at age 14, then played for the University of San Diego until her professional career began in 2016.

N7 ambassadors are athletes reflect the Native American and Aboriginal community and influencers who choose to use their voice to inspire future generations and to celebrate the power of native youth, Nike says.

In an emailed statement to Indian Country Today, Schad said she was thrilled to be the newest N7 ambassador.

"I just back from my Nike N7 visit and am even more excited to be working with the N7 team," she wrote. "The energy throughout the entire visit was extremely positive and inspiring. I am humbled and honored to be a part of this tiospaye of talented and committed individuals, using sport to inspire and give back to indigenous communities.

The pairing of my passion of volleyball and N7's mission of empowering youth has been a goal of mine since high school. I am excited to represent my tribe, family, and community in this new journey."



Schad also posted her excitement to social media, she wrote on Facebook: "HUGE NEWS!!!! Words cannot begin to describe the amount of emotions I'm feeling. I'm so beyond humbled and honored to announce that I am officially signed with the Nike N7 brand as an ambassador."

Nike N7 general manager Sam McCracken described Schad as a positive and successful example for Native youth. "It is a great time for Lauren as she has just signed a new deal to play pro in France. I must say that she is a very articulate young lady with an inspiring story that resonates with Native youth across the U.S. and Canada," said McCracken.

"She is a sharp young person and I think she brings a lot to helping Native youth to be a success in life. She is also a model who has worn designs from reputable designers such as Bethany Yellowtail and other designers. She brings a lot to the table to bring Nike N7 to the next level," he said.

Have a question about this newsletter? Reach out to associate editor Vincent Schilling at vschilling@indiancountrytoday.com.

You can also reach out to him on Twitter at [@VinceSchilling](https://twitter.com/VinceSchilling)

Michael Bucher: One Finger, One Thumb, One Amazing Music Man

Few people would have blamed Cherokee Folk Singer-Songwriter Michael Bucher if he gave up after losing three fingers ...

By Lisa J. Ellwood

Indian Country Today E-weekly Newsletter June 13, 2018

In 2015, I gave a musician friend of mine the nickname 'Django Mike' after a table saw accident in which he lost three of the fingers on his picking/strumming hand. My gesture was inspired by legendary Manouche-Romani jazz guitarist Django Reinhardt. Reinhardt developed his much-lauded unique style of playing using two fingers for solos and two severely injured fingers for chords because of a horrific fire accident. As it turned out, Django Mike also admired Reinhardt and, unknown to me, took the nickname as a sign he shouldn't give up.

Few people would have blamed award-winning Cherokee Folk Singer-Songwriter Michael Bucher if he gave up performing after the life-changing accident in 2015 that made him fear he would never play his guitar again.

A defining moment about his newly-acquired disability occurred two months into the musician's recovery when the bandages and stitches were finally removed from his injured right hand. "I felt liberated and free of the weight. I went grocery shopping. A simple joy I used to like to do. At the checkout I handed the person a \$10 bill. When she was ready to give me my change, without thinking, I put up my right hand to accept the change. I've been right-handed my entire life and did what I've always done as an auto response, put out my right hand," he recounted via email.

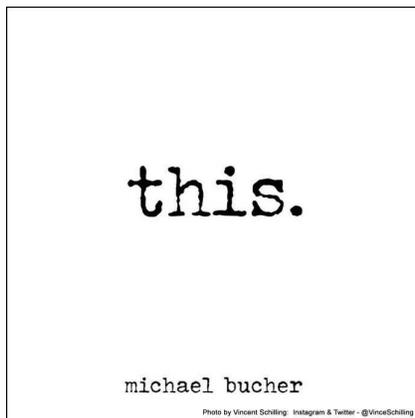
"When she looked at my hand she pulled back the change in her hand, with a simultaneous moan/gasp and look of absolute disgust. I was embarrassed, felt my face flush to a heat never felt before, apologized while putting my right hand in my pocket and extended my left hand. She dropped the change in my left hand, holding her hand several inches above mine, which allowed the coins to drop on the counter and floor. I left the coins there and exited, completely sick to my stomach. I'd like to add that there is a customary greeting among most males here, where upon greeting another, there's a right handed hand shake. Another dilemma for folks like me."

As painful as experiences like that have been for him, Bucher isn't one to be too resentful if he can help it. "It took me a long time to figure out and realize that most people aren't doing it on purpose, it's just human nature, and they're usually just as embarrassed as I am," he says.

After months of rehabilitation riddled by frustration and self-doubt and spending hundreds of dollars on guitar picks, he started to find musical sweet spot again thanks to a tacky adhesive that makes it possible for him to hold his guitar pick between his remaining thumb and middle finger. Practicing his old songs sowed seeds of optimism. Though concerned about audience reactions to his injured hand, he was keen to work on his next album and get back on stage. In May 2016, no one was more surprised than 'Django Mike' with what he'd accomplished. He was able to play the most technically difficult song he had written to date, "Dark Horse". He achieved another seemingly impossible post-disabled dream on October 1st 2017: he released his third album, 'this.' It includes songs on the difficulties of living a "normal" life, addiction, and cultural appropriation.

Recording the 12-track masterpiece that is 'this.' had its challenges from the outset – namely the guitar performance Bucher considers to be one of the most difficult pieces he's ever attempted, 'One Finger, One Thumb, One Take'. [Watch the video here.](#)

Read the entire article here - <https://goo.gl/1WkFiw>



Bucher's album "this." is available at michaelbucher.com, [Spotify](#), [CD Baby](#), [Amazon](#) and [iTunes](#).

Follow ICT Correspondent Lisa J. Ellwood on Twitter at www.twitter.com/lconicImagery



Minority Business Development offering more than \$11 million in grants

The Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) within the Department of Commerce launched a search for innovative ideas to benefit minority-owned businesses, from projects that increase access to capital to resources that increase disaster preparedness and relief. MBDA's Broad Agency Announcement (BAA) is designed to solicit proposals that will positively impact minority-owned businesses and the communities they serve.

Read the entire article and see details for applying here - <https://goo.gl/UtA7qj>

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* Subject to occupancy criteria

** Income guidelines subject to change

Interested persons may obtain an application

by one of two methods:

By sending a self-addressed envelope to:	Or Visiting the Management Office at:
Oceanview Heyson W/L 1044 Northern Blvd. – 2nd Fl Roslyn, NY 11576	249 Beach 15th Street, Suite L111 Far Rockaway, NY 11691
	Office Hours: Monday–Friday 9AM–4PM

Completed applications must be sent to the address shown on the application form via regular mail only, (no priority, certified, registered, express or overnight mail will be accepted).

Completed applications must be postmarked by August 31, 2018.

Applications postmarked after August 31, 2018 may be disqualified automatically. Applicants who submit more than one application may be disqualified. Qualified applicants will be required to meet income guidelines and additional selection criteria.

The Fair Housing Act Prohibits discrimination in the sale, rental, or financing of housing on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin. Federal law also prohibits discrimination on the basis of age. This apartment community does not discriminate on the basis of handicap/disability status. The management coordinates compliance with the non-discrimination requirements contained in HUD's Regulations implementing Section 504 (24 CFR part 8 dated June 2, 1988)

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#NativeVote18: How our votes in an election could actually increase Native representation

Primary results in North Dakota; A look at "first past the post" elections

By Mark Trahant

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Ruth Buffalo, Mandan Hidatsa Arikara, is one hard working politician.

It's always interesting to look at North Dakota, South Dakota and Montana. Why are the Dakotas so underrepresented while the Montana legislature has almost the same representation as it does in the population?

Remember this phrase: First past the post. We will get back to that after the news.

Most of the #NativeVote18 candidates running in primary elections Tuesday were unopposed and will move on to the ballot come November.

Ruth Buffalo, running in Fargo, North Dakota, will be one of two Democratic-Nonpartisan League nominees for the urban seat. She posted on Facebook: "I was the top Dem-NPL vote getter for the House of Representatives in District 27. I'm looking forward to speaking with all District 27 residents in the coming months." (A correction: Two candidates moved forward, so this was not a competitive race in the primary as we reported.)

When she says "all" that's a word to be taken seriously. Buffalo, Mandan Hidatsa Arikara, is one hard working politician. Two years ago she criss-crossed the state in a bid for the Insurance Commissioner. She was unsuccessful, but earned more votes than any other statewide Democrat in a Republican landslide year. This fall her Fargo district will be tough competition. It's been represented by a Republican and in the primary the two Republican candidates both had more votes than either Buffalo or her D-NPL colleague.

North Dakota ought to have more Native American representation; it's one of the top ten states for Native residents at 5.4 percent. Yet the representation amounts to one Democrat, Sen. Richard Marcellais, Turtle Mountain, and Rep. Wayne Trottier, a Republican, and a Standing Rock citizen. (If you are doing the math, that's 1.4 percent.)

It's always interesting to look at North Dakota, South Dakota and Montana. Why are the Dakotas so underrepresented while the Montana legislature has almost the same representation as it does in the population? All three states have rebukes for failing to protect Native voting. Most recently North Dakota tried to block a court ruling on the state's discriminatory voter ID law. (And just before an election.) As the Native American Rights Fund said: Changing the rules on the eve of the election would only have sowed confusion about what rules apply."

The practical answer is that Montana has better districts. Montana's legislative districts are drawn by a five-member independent commission. One of that commission's tasks is to make sure that Native Americans have adequate representation. On the other hand North Dakota's legislature draws its own district maps. Same in South Dakota.

Remember first past the post? This is a unique feature of American elections. Basically it means drawing narrow districts, then allowing multiple candidates (more than just Democrats and Republicans) and in November the winning candidate could take office with a minority of votes, somewhere less than 49 percent. Read the rest of this article here - <https://goo.gl/jnJ9tf>



Michael Bucher

One Finger, One Thumb, One Take

Album: "this."

MichaelBucher.com

"I don't think I'll ever pick up my guitar again without the thought of gratitude," says Michael Bucher after losing three fingers and learning to play the guitar again.

You can listen to Michael Bucher's flawless "One Finger, One Thumb, One Take" all-or-nothing performance on [YouTube](#).



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IndianCountryToday.com

PBS KIDS to Launch 'Molly of Denali,' with Alaska Native lead character

'Molly of Denali,' on PBS Kids is first nationally distributed children's series to feature Alaska Native lead character

News Release



PBS KIDS announced MOLLY OF DENALI, a new animated series that will debut nationwide in summer 2019 on PBS stations, the 24/7 PBS KIDS channel and PBS KIDS digital platforms. Produced by WGBH Boston, MOLLY OF DENALI is an action-adventure comedy that follows the adventures of feisty and resourceful 10-year-old Molly Mabray, an Alaska Native girl. MOLLY OF DENALI is the first nationally distributed children's series in the U.S. to feature an Alaska Native lead character. Molly helps her mom and dad run the Denali Trading Post, a general store, bunkhouse, and transport hub in the fictional village of Qyah, Alaska. Each episode follows Molly, her dog Suki and her friends Tozey and Trini on their daily adventures in Alaska, from fishing to building snow forts to delivering a camera to friends on a volcano via dog sled.

MOLLY OF DENALI is designed to help kids ages 4-8 develop knowledge and skills for interacting with informational texts through video content, interactive games, and real-world activities. A foundational aspect of literacy education, informational texts are designed to convey information, and include written words, images, and oral language. In each episode, Molly's life and adventures are enhanced, illuminated, and broadened by using and creating a variety of informational texts, including books, online resources, field guides, historical archives, indigenous knowledge from elders, maps, charts, posters, photos, and more. Molly also shares the information that she gathers through a vlog, offering short-form videos in which she shares aspects of her life in Alaska with kids in the lower 48 states and around the world.

"PBS KIDS programming is rooted in education and inclusion, and we are always looking for new ways to highlight the many different communities that make up America," said Linda Simensky, Vice President, Children's Programming, PBS. "With MOLLY OF DENALI, we're building on that commitment. We believe this series will provide more kids with the opportunity to see themselves represented in our programming and are excited to engage all kids with the culture and traditions of Alaska Native peoples." "WGBH is thrilled to work with PBS and CPB on this important initiative," says WGBH Executive Producer Dorothea Gillim. "Molly, her friends, and family are funny, relatable characters that resonate with kids everywhere. Alaska itself plays a key role in the episodes and offers a rich context to learn about informational text. We are grateful for the opportunity to partner with Alaska Native peoples and appreciate the support of our Alaskan public media colleagues."

One of the goals of the series is to bring Alaska Native voices into all aspects of the production, both on and off camera. WGBH Boston is developing the series with a working group of Alaska Native advisors and consultants; Princess Daazhrai Johnson, an Alaska Native producer and Fairbanks resident, is creative producer of the series. MOLLY OF DENALI will also feature Alaska Native voice talent in key roles, including the lead role of Molly, as well as Alaska Native scriptwriters. WGBH and its animation partner, Atomic Cartoons, will host Alaska Native interns for production and animation roles.

Thanks For Reading!

Indian Country Today E-weekly Newsletter

Indian Country Today

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