

# Utah Division of Indian Affairs

## Tribal Leaders Newsletter Report

June 10, 2008



The primary service provided by UDIA is **Information and Referral**.

This includes:

- General information about Utah's American Indians and tribes
- Presentations to various sectors: public, private, schools
- Publication and distribution of information
- Speaker's Bureau
- Web site: [www.indian.utah.gov](http://www.indian.utah.gov)

\*Division of Indian Affairs  
Powerpoint

### Comments from the Executive Director, Division of Indian Affairs:

Once again it is spring time in the intermountain west, even though our spring has been impacted with an abundance of late rain and snow storms. There are many good things happening in our Division. There are several projects such as the digitization project, the film projects "We Shall Return" and "Blackhawk", including developments in the area of repatriation of human remains. For the first time since 1999, remains have been removed from a state repository and placed in the State Burial Vault. More information on these projects is provided below.

On March 22, 2008, an "Eagle Release" took place at Camp Williams (Riverton Veteran's Memorial Cemetery). It was one of the most beautiful ceremonies I have ever attended. The golden eagle named, "Isis" was released following a ceremony. I would like to thank Ms. Patti Richards, wildlife rehabilitator, and the Utah National Guard for hosting this event and requesting my presence.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Forest A. Cook".

\*Eagle photo courtesy of Utah Murmurs

**U of U American Indian Resource Center (AIRC):**

The U of U Administration sponsored an Open House April 11, 2008 for the AIRC. Ms. Beverly Fenton (Ojibwa), AIRC director, organized this event at Center currently located within the Fort Douglas complex on the campus of the University of Utah. Following a prayer and presentation given by Arvol Looking Horse, 19<sup>th</sup> Generation Keeper of the Sacred White Buffalo Pipe, Senior Vice President Dr. David Pershing gave remarks. Ms. Fenton will be joined by another staff member that was recently appointed Dr. Octavio Villapando.

**Federal Communications Commission's Indian Conference, July 16-17, and Telecommunications Initiatives:**

The Federal Communications Commission will host its seventh ITI Regional Workshop and Roundtable on July 16 and 17, 2008, in Salt Lake City, Utah (ITI Salt Lake City). The workshop and roundtable will begin at 9:00 AM. and end at 5:00 PM each day and will address issues crucial to the development of telecommunications in Indian Country." The tentative location of the meeting is the Indian Walk-In Center with hotel accommodations at the Monaco Hotel.

This conference is being held as part of the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) Indian Telecommunications Initiatives (ITI), in cooperation with Native Public Media (NPM), the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), Native American Journalist Association (NAJA), and Native Voice One (NV1).

**FCC Digital Transition:**

Collaboration and coordination with the Indian community and other geographical areas and communities with high rates of analog viewers is important to the Commission's goal of ensuring that all consumers throughout the country are aware of the Digital transition. More importantly, consumers need to understand what specific steps, if any, they must take to continue watching television after the transition is complete, as required by law, on February 17, 2009.

**Tribal Leadership and Governance Conference:**

**The Native Nations Institute at the University of Arizona presents:**



## Nation Building:

Leadership, Governance & Economic Policy

*An Executive Education Seminar for Tribal Leaders*



*The Yarrow Resort Hotel & Conference Center  
Park City, Utah*

July 30-31, 2008

The Division of Indian Affairs is pleased to announce our sponsorship, in conjunction with American Express Community Development and The Northwestern Band Shoshone Economic Development Corporation of the Leadership, Governance, and Economic Policy Seminar for Tribal Leaders.

### **American Indian Digitization Project:**

The Division is currently entering into Memorandum of Agreement with the University of Utah American West Center and Marriott Library to initiate action under this project to digitize such historical documents as our recent history book, oral histories such as the Duke Collection, and numerous other research and historical documents. Both the Division of Indian Affairs and U of U Marriott Library have allocated funds for this project. The MOA has been signed off and is being processed in the state finance office.

### **THE INDIAN VOTE:**

An important initiative of the Division of Indian Affairs is to encourage Utah's American Indians to register and become an active voter on a regular basis. Register to vote:

**ROCKTHEVOTE@COM**



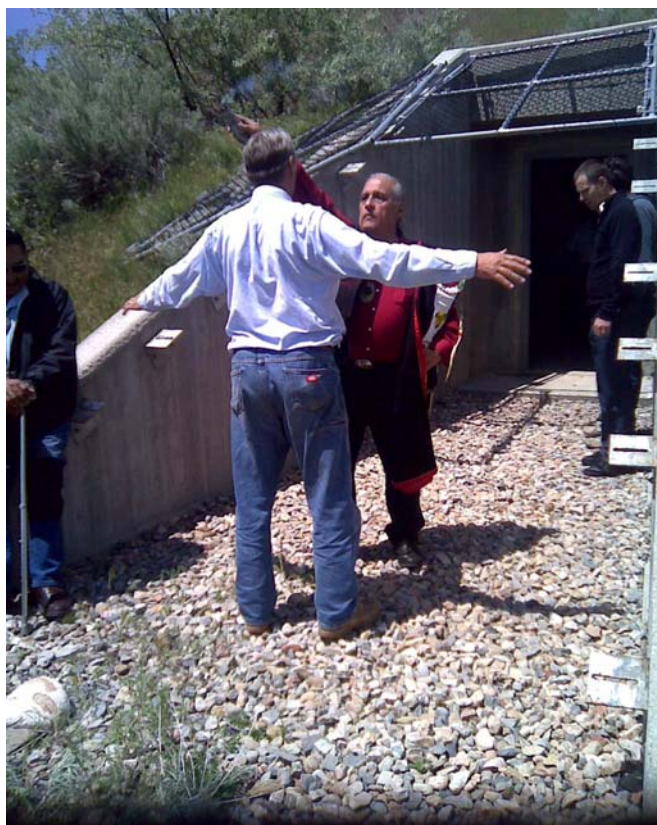
**Repatriation of Human Remains:**

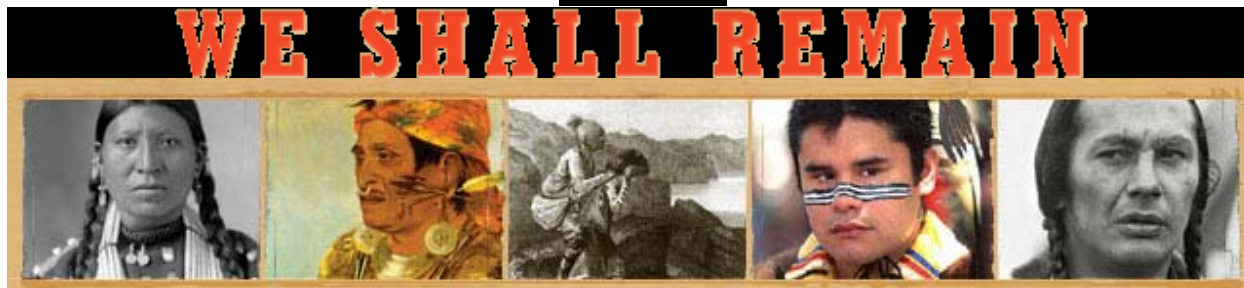
Although the republishing of administrative Rule 230 (R230) might not seem significant at first glance, it is a major accomplishment, considering that the Division of Indian Affairs has been trying to not only streamline but effectuate the decision making processes of repatriation for over a decade. The Rules now allow the State to inter and/or rebury ancient American Indian human remains if they are unclaimed. The new and improved Rule 230 will become official the first part of July 2008.



**Repatriation to Burial Vault:**

On Friday, May 30, 2008, the Division of Indian Affairs, working in cooperation with the Division of History, placed 25 human remains in the State Burial Vault. These are unclaimed remains, mostly older remains that have been stored in the basement of the Division of History Rio Grande Building. Both Leland Pubigee (NWB Shoshone) and Lacey Harris (Ute/Paiute) presided over the blessing ceremony prior to placement of the remains in the vault. The procedure went smoothly. Additional repatriations are being planned throughout the coming year.



**We Shall Remain:**

As you may recall the Utah Legislature appropriated the some of \$350,000 for this project. The funds were included in an omnibus bill appropriation that went to the Utah State Office of Education. We are in discussion stages now and are considering a memorandum of agreement as a means of moving the funds to the appropriate sources so that further progress can be accommodated under this project. The filming of the 30 minute histories of the tribes has begun. With the new appropriation in place, we can begin the development of the teacher guide which will include how to use the DVDs and how best use the Indian history text books that have already been published and hopefully digitized under the UDIA sponsored American Indian Digitization Project.

**Squaw Issue Again:**

In May, I sent an e-mail out to tribal leaders regarding an article featured in the Deseret News, "Squaw still Utah Moniker" dated May 12, 2008. So far this year the U.S. Board on Geographic Names has renamed 22 geographic features to eliminate the word "squaw" from locations throughout Arizona, Maine, Montana, South Dakota and Washington. The article states, "While squaw



is being edited out of names of geographic sites across the nation, there have been no formal proposals submitted to rename any of Utah's approximately 40 features that have the word in their official names, including Squaw Peak - Utah's most prominent listing, located on the south side of Provo Canyon." I recommended that Utah tribes introduce a resolution requesting that the use of the term be discontinued and removed from official Utah maps.

### **American Indian Youth Conference - April 12, 2008 at Spanish Fork High School:**

The Division of Indian Affairs was a proud co-sponsor of this year's American Indian youth conference. Approximately 600 Indian students were honored at this conference. Billy Mills, 1964 Gold Metal Winner, was the key note speaker. Mr. Mills gave a moving speech about his trials and the struggles he endured throughout his life. I would like to commend Dr. Harold Foster, USOE Indian Education Specialist, Eileen Quintana, Nebo School District, and all the other Title VII Project Coordinators for their outstanding work in sponsoring this conference.



### **Native American Summit**

Once again we remind you all of this year's Native American Summit, being held on **September 24 & 25**, in Vernal, Utah, at the Western Park Convention Center, and hosted by the Ute Tribe. It will continue last year's focus on economic development, education, and health issues. Progress continues with each of the committees assigned to these topics, with the addition of Jane Shock, from American Express's Center for Community Development, taking the role of Committee Chair for the economic development committee. We appreciate her efforts and look forward to this year's summit.

### **Sacred Images Exhibit:**

Lastly, I would like to call your attention to an American Indian exhibit, "Sacred Images" that has been showcased throughout the state at a number of public schools. This exhibit features the various rock writings found at various places throughout our state. The exhibit has been set up in the Paiute Tribal Office Building and will be featured throughout the week and during the Annual Paiute Restoration Powwow and Celebration.



\*Photo courtesy of The Chase Home Museum of Utah Folk Arts