

# Co-op Agreement Finalized For \$1.9B Native American Land Buyback Program

BY DIRK LAMMERS  
Associated Press

SIoux FALLS — The U.S. Department of the Interior has finalized the first cooperative agreement in a \$1.9 billion Native American land buyback program stemming from the settlement of a nearly 17-year lawsuit over more than a century's worth of mismanaged trust royalties, federal officials announced Monday.

The agreement reached with the Oglala Sioux Tribe of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota outlines the strategy and resources to be provided to tribal leaders for outreach and education. Department officials said they intend to make the first offers by the end of the year.

Bryan Brewer, the Oglala Sioux Tribe's president, said outreach workers are already out meeting with the people in the communities.

"I am hoping that we will be able to start buying the fractionated land that is out there with the money that is available," Brewer said in a statement. "We are also anticipating the first offer to be complete within the month."

Land fractionation was caused by the 1887 Dawes Act, which split tribal lands into individual allotments of 80- to 160-acre parcels, in most cases. Those allotments were inherited by multiple heirs with each passing generation, and there are now more than 92,000 land tracts with 2.9 million fractional interests. Of that number, more than 21,200 land tracts have 100 or more owners and many parcels have thousands of owners, according to the Interior Department.

Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said the Obama administration wants to reduce fractionation and implement the buyback program in a fair and equitable manner.

"Cooperative agreements give us an opportunity to work together, nation-to-nation, to ensure that the Program's implementation is tailored to the specific priorities of each tribe," Jewell said in a statement. "This agreement reflects a spirit of mutual respect and teamwork as we work together to address this opportunity."

The 10-year buyback program is the largest part of the \$3.4 billion settlement of a class-action lawsuit filed by Louise Cobell of Browning, Mont., in 1996 and finalized last year.

The Department of Interior said the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation is among the most fractionated in the United States, with land interests owned by various individuals including members of other tribes. Pine Ridge holds more than 6,000 tracts with nearly 200,000 purchasable fractional interests, which has made it increasingly difficult to manage the land for economic development and other uses, officials said.

## 30 Horses Rescued From Barn Fire

HICKMAN, Neb. (AP) — Authorities say 30 horses have been rescued following an early morning fire at a barn near Hickman.

The Lancaster County Sheriff's Office says the fire at the 13,600-square-foot Still Waters ranch shortly after midnight Monday. First responders were able to get the horses out of the arena and stables, which did not catch fire.

Omaha television station KETV says the front part of the barn and a tack room was fully engulfed in flames when authorities arrived.

Lancaster County Sheriff Jerry Wagner says investigators believe an electrical malfunction caused the fire. Damages are estimated at \$300,000.

## Gaps In Mental Services Investigated

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Nebraskans who suffer from a combination of intellectual, behavioral and mental-health problems aren't always receiving state services that could help them.

Lawmakers looked into the problem on Monday during a hearing at the Capitol, as they prepare for the 2014 session.

Some parents told lawmakers that their children qualified for services because of intellectual problems, such as a learning disorder, but weren't able to access state-funded mental health services.

Scot Adams, director of the state's Behavioral Health Division, says some states have addressed the problem by combining behavioral and mental-health services in state government. In Nebraska, they're split into different divisions within the state Department of Health and Human Services.

Adams says community service groups offer more flexibility with treatment, but aren't always as accountable.

## Officials Happy With Morrell's Plant

SIoux FALLS, (AP) — State officials say they're pleased with improvements made to wastewater treatment at the John Morrell meat processing plant in Sioux Falls.

The plant has spent \$10 million on upgrades after being cited for numerous wastewater violations in recent years. State environmental specialist John Miller inspected the plant and the upgrades in late September.

The upgrades were part of a settlement after Sioux Falls' largest employer was cited for being out of compliance with dozens of environmental rules for the treated wastewater it discharges into the Big Sioux River.

The *Argus Leader* reports that Kelli Buscher with the state Department of Environment and Natural Resources says recent violations have been limited.

## Appeals Ct. Reverses Abuse Conviction

SIoux FALLS (AP) — The U.S. Court of Appeals has reversed the conviction of an Eagle Butte man sentenced to nearly 11 years in prison for sexual abuse because jury instructions were incomplete.

Jerry Matthew Chasing Hawk was indicted by a federal grand jury in 2011 and found guilty for the August 2009 sexual abuse of an Eagle Butte woman in Fort Thompson.

Chasing Hawk appealed his conviction, arguing that the government did not prove his knowledge of the woman's incapacity at the time of the assault.

## Wild Card 2 Ticket Sold In Sturgis Worth \$6,000

STURGIS (AP) — A Wild Card 2 ticket sold in Sturgis is worth \$6,000 in the latest drawing.

State lottery officials say the ticket matched all five white ball numbers but missed the Wild Card to win the game's second prize in Saturday's drawing. The odds of winning it are 1 in about 127,000.

The winner has about six months to claim the money.

Wild Card 2 is played in the Dakotas, Montana and Idaho. The jackpot is at \$625,000 for Wednesday's drawing.

## School Apps Proving Popular In Some S.D. Communities

SIoux FALLS (AP) — Mobile apps launched by South Dakota school districts large and small are proving popular with parents.

ParentLink has been downloaded by almost 4,000 people in Sioux Falls since it was launched in August, the *Argus Leader* reported. The app provides school district news and information, sports scores, an email directory for staff and even lunch menus. App users also can sign up to receive a message on their phone when the district puts out an alert.

John Gruber, parent of an elementary school-age daughter, said he likes the convenience of being able to look up through the app what food the school is serving that day, to see whether he needs to pack a lunch for his daughter.

"The best thing about it is all the information is in one place," he said.

Sioux Falls is a city of about 154,000

people. In Harrisburg, a city of about 4,100, the school district also has launched an app, with similar features. It has more than 1,000 users.

"For us here in Harrisburg, it's really important," said Cindy DeWandel, district library coordinator. "We don't have a large community, we don't have what you would consider a local paper, so for us to get information to our parents and to our community members, we wanted to be proactive and get this out there as one of the avenues we have for people, especially people on the go all the time."

In Sioux Falls, parents also can download other apps that enable them to deposit money into lunch accounts and to view grades, attendance and missing assignments.

"To have all that accessibility on my phone for me, the parent of two young kids ... just the communications from the schools on events, it's really, really handy to have that all on my phone," school board member Kate Parker said.

## American Life In Poetry

# The Loneliness Of A Blind Date

BY TED KOOSER  
U.S. Poet Laureate

I don't remember ever having a blind date, but if I had, I suspect it would have gone just as the one goes in this poem by Jay Leeming, who lives in New York state.

### BLIND DATE

Our loneliness sits with us at dinner, an unwanted guest who never says anything. It's uncomfortable. Still we get to know each other, like students allowed to use a private research library for only one night. I go through her file of friends, cities and jobs. "What was that like?" I ask. "What did you do then?" We are each doctors who have only ourselves for medicine, and long to prescribe it for what ails the other. She has a nice smile. Maybe, maybe ... I tell myself. But my heart is a cynical hermit who frowns once, then shuts the door of his room and starts reading a book. All I can do now is want to want her. Our polite conversation coasts like a car running on fumes, and then rolls to a stop; we split the bill, and that third guest at the table goes home with each of us, to talk and talk.

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## Car Talk

# Giving Your Car A Facelift On A Budget

BY TOM AND RAY MAGLIOZZI  
King Features Syndicate, Inc.

**Dear Tom and Ray:**  
I have a 2000 Toyota Corolla. It runs really well, especially since it has 180,000 miles on it. However, the paint is coming off and it looks horrible. What is an economical way to get it painted? I think that the original paint would have to be stripped, so I realize that this adds to the cost. I plan to keep it for two more years (when I am done with university), so I am on a tight budget. — Karen

**TOM:** Have you ever heard of Rustoleum, Karen? Or Krylon?

**RAY:** Actually, there's not a great solution to your problem. A number of cars from this era experience this peeling paint syndrome, which we call "delamination." It typically occurs on the hood, the roof and the trunk.

**TOM:** The reason it happens is that, at that time, car makers were switching over to more environmentally friendly paints — paints with fewer volatile organic compounds.

**RAY:** The problem was, they didn't really know what they were doing with the new paints yet, and some of the paint jobs failed — catastrophically.



CAR TALK  
Tom and Ray Magliozzi

**TOM:** If you were lucky enough to catch it early, when you were still at least within shouting distance of your warranty period, you could make a good case to the manufacturer that it should repaint the car for you. But that's a harder case to make (successfully) when the car has been on the road for 14 years and has 180,000 miles on it.

**RAY:** Still, it's worth a try. You can go to your dealer and say: "Look, I bought a Toyota because they're supposed to last forever, and mechanically, it has lived up to that reputation. I love the car. But look at it ... does Toyota think it's normal or acceptable for paint to just peel off its cars

while they're still on the road?"

**TOM:** I doubt they'll respond by ushering your car right into the body shop and telling you it's on them. But if you acknowledge that it's an older car now, you can still ask them if there's anything they can do to help you get your car back into "presentable condition."

**RAY:** Maybe, if they're real humanitarians, they'll try to help you pay for part of the cost of a paint job.

**TOM:** But a paint job is likely to be several thousand dollars, Karen, because it does require removing the existing paint with a scraper or random orbit sander, which is very time-consuming work.

**RAY:** I think it's worth getting a few estimates. But I think you'll probably get sticker shock. And if you can't get financial help from

Toyota and don't want to make the investment yourself, then you can either live with it (which is what I'd do), or improvise something that might make the car look worse.

**TOM:** Personally, I like contact paper, Karen. That way, you can hide the delaminating paint and make an artistic statement at the same time! We wish you luck.

Get more Click and Clack in their new book, "Ask Click and Clack: Answers from Car Talk." Got a question about cars? Write to Click and Clack in care of this newspaper, or email them by visiting the Car Talk website at [www.cartalk.com](http://www.cartalk.com).

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