

Wabanaki Legal News

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A Newsletter of Pine Tree Legal Assistance

Fall 2018

Design selected for National Native American Veterans Memorial

A design by Cheyenne and Arapaho artist, Cheyenne Peace Chief and Marine Vietnam veteran Harvey Pratt has been selected for the first National Native American Veterans Memorial in Washington D.C. The memorial, called the Warriors' Circle of Honor, will stand at the National Mall on the grounds of the National Museum of the American Indian near the U.S. Capitol. Dedication of the monument is scheduled for late 2020.

Selection of the design marks a major step in the process that started almost 25 years ago when Congress passed legislation authorizing a memorial at the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington D.C. At that time, the museum itself had not even been built.



The multimedia artist Harvey Pratt's Warriors' Circle of Honor will incorporate an enormous, upright stainless steel circle.

The Native American Veterans' Memorial Establishment Act of 1994 noted that "Native Americans across the nation, Native Alaskans, and Native Hawaiians, have a long, proud, and distinguished tradition of service in the Armed Forces of the United States." The act also recognizes that "Native Americans have historically served in the Armed Forces of the United States in numbers that far exceed their representation in the population of the United States."

In 2013, Congress amended the law to allow construction of the memorial on any part of the museum's property, and to give the museum authority to raise funds for its construction.

In 2016, an advisory committee of Native American veterans began an 18-month process of consultations with Native American communities across the country. The goal was to solicit advice and insights, which led to guiding vision principles of culture, spirituality, sacrifice, place, valor, healing, and the legacy of those past and those to come and design principles of balance, inclusivity, respect, sustainability, endurance, accessibility, and interpretation of memorial elements.

This memorial project is sponsored by the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, Bank of America, Northrop Grumman, the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, Hobbs, Straus, Dean & Walker LLP, General Motors, Lee Ann and Marshall Hunt, the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community and the Sullivan Insurance Agency of Oklahoma.

Please see **Memorial**, Page 6

Repatriation of Native Remains and Sacred Burial Objects

A variety of federal and state laws provide legal protections for various aspects of Native American cultural heritage, with varying degrees of effectiveness and breadth. When it comes to the relocation or theft of human remains and sacred objects placed in graves, laws at the federal and state level have created processes for ensuring they are returned into the hands of the descendants of the dead or to Tribal, cultural representatives.

Many such objects and remains have been returned from museums to tribes and reburied under a 1990 federal law, the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), which also made trafficking in Native American remains or cultural items punishable by fines or imprisonment.

While NAGPRA applies only to museums that receive federal funding and to remains and objects found on tribal or federal land, Maine state law requires any person or entity, public or private, to hand over Native American human remains to an intertribal repatriation organization. The state law does not, however, cover "funerary objects," a term for objects buried with the dead.

In Maine, the six-person Wabanaki Repatriation Committee has taken on the role of locating, retrieving, and reburying remains and funerary objects found inside and outside of Maine. According to Passamaquoddy Tribal member Roger Paul, who joined the committee about 10 years ago, it is the only such committee in the Northeastern United States.

Under NAGPRA, museums must inventory Native American funerary objects and remains in their possession, and identify any individuals or groups who may have a claim to them. The institutions are required to consult with tribes to determine the origins of such items and to whom they should be returned.

Once a museum has inventoried their holdings, they must provide notice through the Federal Register, a daily publication of the federal government which contains public notices, regulations, and other information. The Wabanaki Repatriation Committee monitors the register with the help of tribal historic preservation officers and the intertribal organization United South and Eastern Tribes.

If a museum can't figure out or disputes where objects or remains came from, or who might have a claim to them, a tribe can attempt to show that the objects should return to them. The Wabanaki Repatriation Committee has used this process on multiple occasions. Paul reports that some museums are more cooperative than others. Proving the cultural origins of objects can be difficult due to the lack of written records. But if a particular archaeologist who excavated the remains or objects has been identified, this can often indicate where the items came from and whether a tribe has a claim. Army records and other historical documents can also have a part to play. Paul said museums increasingly cooperate with the Repatriation Committee, but some still resist repatriation.

More than 1.5 million objects and the remains of more than 55,000 people have been inventoried and publicly acknowledged by museums and federal agencies under NAGPRA, though not all have been linked to tribes or

Please see **Repatriation**, Page 2

Repatriation

Continued from Page 1

descendants. By Paul's estimate, the Wabanaki Repatriation Committee has repatriated around 250 sets of objects and remains since the committee was established.

NAGPRA has limits, including that it only applies to federally recognized tribes. As a result, Paul said, the Wabanaki Repatriation Committee has sometimes used its status as a representative of Maine's federally recognized tribes to help repatriate items for tribes that aren't federally recognized, such as the Abenaki of New Hampshire, or those who simply don't have a repatriation committee of their own. "We're kind of the clearinghouse for remains," he said. The Committee helped repatriate remains to a tribe in Florida when human remains were found in a box at a former school in Maine. They have even accepted and reburied non-Native remains with no claimants, as when some human bones were found on an old burial ground in Southern Maine. "They deserve a burial and respect like everyone else," Paul said.

Another major exception to NAGPRA is the Smithsonian Institution. Repatriation of that institution's collections falls under the act establishing the National Museum of the American Indian. Paul said the Smithsonian still holds the remains of 17,000 Native ancestors, and working with the museum to repatriate them has been difficult.

State law covers human remains found on any property - private or public - by anybody. A gardener who stumbles across a handful of bones, a construction company that finds a skeleton during excavation, or professional archaeologists working for the state who find bones at a gravesite are all required to return those remains to Maine's tribes if the remains are found to be Native American in origin.

"We use it all the time," said Arthur Spiess, Senior Archaeologist for the Maine Historic Preservation Commission, regarding the state law that governs repatriation of Native American remains. The process involves first notifying law enforcement that human remains have been found. The issue is then eventually passed on to

Maine's Chief Medical Examiner, who can usually determine whether or not the remains are Native American, as well as other characteristics.

Spiess said that remains are found both as part of archaeological excavations and by people who find them by chance. Construction sometimes turns up remains, and Spiess noted that the process of development and urbanization has tended to reveal human remains of all types.

Overall, Paul said the rate of repatriation had slowed down in recent years, but work remains to be done. Wabanaki artifacts still show up around the world; a Wabanaki spear was recently sold in France, he said. "We're kind of new in international repatriation. NAGPRA doesn't really work internationally...yet."

Like the northeast Tribes, Native communities throughout the country work to defend Tribal sovereignty in the context of the repatriation of human remains and burial artifacts. They believe this work is of paramount importance because the remains and objects of deceased ancestors help guide the direction of Native people today. The work of reclaiming ancestors and ensuring their safe return is an affirmation of Tribal sovereignty and an investment in cultural preservation.

How To Reach Us

The Pine Tree Native American Unit office is in Machias, but we also have advocates in Bangor and Presque Isle who handle Native Unit cases. Walk in to any one of these offices during walk-in hours, or - better still - call toll free to make an appointment: 1-877-213-5630; V/TTY: 711.

If you want to meet with an advocate in person in your tribal community, here is our normal schedule of outreach locations and times (we recommend you call first to make sure an advocate will be present):

Passamaquoddy Tribe

A Pine Tree Legal attorney is available during the morning of regularly scheduled Tribal Court sessions in the Township and Sipayik Courtrooms

Indian Township: 3rd Friday of each month at the community center/court when court is in session.

Sipayik: 1st Friday of each month at the administrative/court building when court is in session.

Call: 1-877-213-5630; V/TTY: 711

Penobscot Nation

Penobscot Tribal Courtroom

Last Tuesday of each month from 10am-12pm

(changes to schedule announced in Tribal Newsletter)

To make an appointment call: 1-877-213-5630; V/TTY: 711

Houlton Band of Maliseets

A Pine Tree Legal Attorney will meet with you at the Housing Authority building by appointment.

Call: 1-877-213-5630; V/TTY: 711

Aroostook Band of Micmacs

A Pine Tree Legal attorney will meet with you at the Health Clinic building by appointment

Health Clinic: By appointment Call:

1-877-213-5630; V/TTY: 711

The Wabanaki Legal News is published by Pine Tree Legal Assistance, Inc. and is funded in part through a grant from the Legal Services Corporation. The views expressed by the authors in this newsletter are not necessarily shared by Pine Tree Legal Assistance or its staff.

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We Want to Hear From You!

If you have comments, articles or ideas on how the newsletter can be helpful to you, please let us know.

Pine Tree Legal Assistance, Inc.

Native American Unit

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Understanding Due Process In Tribal Courts

Due process is a constitutional right afforded to people involved in or affected by government actions through the Bill of Rights and the Fourteenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution that requires government legal proceedings or other procedures to be conducted fairly in matters where a person's life, liberty or property is at risk from federal or state government actions. This right as established by the U.S. Constitution does not apply to the governments of federally recognized Indian Tribes.

However, the right to most of the due process protections contained in the U.S. Constitution apply to tribal members in tribal courts in matters involving the a tribal court review of actions of tribal governments under a federal law called the Indian Civil Rights Act (ICRA). The right of criminal defendants to a jury trial and to a government paid defense attorney is not contained in the ICRA. Additional due process rights can exist in tribal matters as established by tribal constitutions, codes or ordinances or as established by tribal customs and traditions. Some tribes enact their own due process rights laws and some specifically recognize and adopt the specific protections or only portions of the ICRA and U.S. Constitution.

Your specific due process rights in a tribal court or in tribal government agency actions include the right to be given fair notice of government actions or tribal court proceedings and fair notice of what adverse actions the tribal government plans to take against you. You also must be given a fair opportunity to be heard or judged by a neutral decision maker when a tribal government entity is taking action that adversely affects your life, liberty or property interests. **Your life, liberty and property rights can be infringed upon only when the protections described above have been met** and when the government's action is necessary to achieve a compelling objective (such as protecting the public or Tribal self-government). These are the issues a Tribal court will focus on when determining whether a Tribal member's due process rights have been violated.

This article presents a broad and general explanation of the role of due process rights afforded to Tribal members for the purpose of informing the readers of potential due process issues they might encounter with tribal governments. Whether specific due process rights apply to a tribal court matter or to tribal government actions and what relief can be requested by a tribal member who believes their due process rights have been violated can be legally complex matters that require advice from an attorney.

Congressional Action To Protect Native American Seeds and Associated Traditions

The U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate have each passed their own version of the 2018 Farm Bill, the complex legislation that has historically established national policy on agriculture, food, and some public benefits programs for about five years at a time. Now, the two bodies are negotiating a compromise to reconcile their respective bills.

Much of the debate in Congress has focused on the House bill's provisions adding work requirements for some recipients of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), commonly known as "food stamps." However, a less-noticed provision introduced by New Mexico senators Udall and Heinrich will attempt to provide what one of them described in a press release as protection for Native American seeds and the traditions associated with them.

"I stand with Native Tribes in support of cultural sovereignty and respect for traditional ways of life," said Democratic Senator Tom Udall in the press release. "I've seen the cultural, health, and agricultural significance that traditional Native seeds hold for Tribes in my home state of New Mexico and across the country. This amendment will ensure Native seeds and traditional agricultural practices can continue to be passed down for generations to come."

The provision would require the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to conduct a study on the market impact of traditional and tribally produced foods, the existence of fraudulent tribal foods, the potential for protections against such fraud, and "the availability and long-term viability of Tribal seeds" including their "storage, cultivation, harvesting, and commercialization." The GAO is a nonpartisan agency that primarily investigates federal government spending and ~~advises Congress on things like government efficiency and effectiveness.~~

Dr. Frederick Wiseman said he hopes the bill could be a step forward. "As an advocate I'd like to see something that would make indigenous food systems be respected," he said. Wiseman is a Vermont-based paleo ethnobotanist, someone who studies relationships between people and plants of the past. Wiseman is Abenaki, and spends much of his time working to revitalize Abenaki culture and locate seeds used by tribes throughout present-day Eastern Canada and New England.

Wiseman started the "Seeds of Renewal" project to provide tribes with information about agricultural practices and

Please see **Seeds**, Page 6

Problems With the IRS ???

WE MAY BE ABLE TO HELP! Pine Tree Legal Assistance's Low Income Taxpayer Clinic (LITC) offers free representation to qualifying taxpayers.

Facing the following tax problems:

- Outstanding tax debt
- Levies and liens
- Earned Income Tax Credit denials
- Exams and audits
- Innocent spouse relief
- Injured spouse relief
- Tax Court representation

Call 942-8241 to speak to one of our LITC advocates today.
www.ptla.org/low-income-taxpayer-clinic

FREE TAX WORKSHOPS - CALL US TO ARRANGE FOR A TRAINING ON TAX ISSUES IN YOUR AREA.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

If you receive TANF and live on an Indian Reservation, your TANF benefits cannot be terminated because of the five year time limit if over half of the adults on the reservation are not employed.

Call Pine Tree Legal Assistance at:
1-877-213-5630 if you get a letter from DHHS telling you that you have reached the 60 month (5 year) lifetime limit.

You may be exempt from termination.

Beware Of Payday Loans

Your first payday loan is unlikely to be your last

Consumers with bad credit often turn to payday lenders as a last resort when in need of a short term, personal loan to use for personal expenses because they rarely require credit checks and they are given without considering a borrower's ability to repay the loan.

Payday lenders typically offer small loans of a few hundred to one thousand dollars, with repayment due after a very short period of time at very high interest rates. These loans are called payday loans or paycheck advance loans because they are often offered with a requirement of full repayment by the borrower's next payday. Traditionally, payday lenders ran their businesses out of storefronts promising easy cash, and many now operate online.

These companies make it easy to qualify for their loans, advertising to people with poor credit histories or other financial problems. But the resulting debt can be nearly impossible to escape because of the high interest rates and because many people who acquire payday loans end up using them month after month, taking out new loans to pay off the old ones.

Lenders often ask for reasonable-sounding one-time fees in exchange for loans of a few hundred dollars. Many require direct access to the borrower's checking account to deposit the loan and withdraw repayment. What they all have in common are excessively high annualized interest rates sometimes in the range of 300-600 percent, or higher. Borrowers often get caught up paying down interest and fees on loan renewals without ever making any impact on repayment of the underlying loan amount known as the principal loan.

"They can save you from embarrassment or stress by literally buying you time until your next paycheck."

"If you are feeling a little strapped for cash, ask us about our payday loans ..."

"An increasing number of consumers choose a loan to cover unexpected expenses or bridge to a short-term cash crunch between paydays without incurring revolving debt."

"People from all walks of life generally use their payday loan for emergency expenses, including doctor bills, utility payments, rent payments, or to avoid bouncing a check (or checks) at their financial institution."

These examples are taken from the websites of real payday lenders. While their advertising suggests that their loans are simply a short-term fix for a difficult situation, their true purpose is usually to keep borrowers in debt for as long as possible. Your first payday loan is

unlikely to be your last. A 2016 report by the federal Consumer Financial Protection Bureau found that more than 80 percent of payday loans are renewed or lead to another loan within 30 days, rather than being repaid. Fees are often added for late payments or renewal of loans, in addition to rapidly increasing interest. The result is ever-growing debt.

In recent years, payday lenders have moved from brick-and-mortar storefront locations onto the internet. These online lenders usually operate from out of state to avoid regulations such as limits on interest rates. Under Maine state law, lenders must be licensed by the state to work with Maine residents, even if the companies are based outside of Maine. The annual interest rate on a loan of less than \$2,000 cannot exceed 30%, and the maximum initial charge must be no more than \$25 for a loan of \$250 or more, \$15 for a loan between \$75 and \$250, and \$5 for a loan less than \$75. Be sure to look at the terms of any loan agreement to find the annual interest rate, or APR (annual

percentage rate). The legal rate in Maine is far below those used by the most problematic payday lenders. Any payday lender charging Mainers higher rates than these, whether they operate from a storefront or a website, is likely breaking the law.

Superintendent of the Maine Bureau of Consumer Credit Protection William Lund said his office continues to receive a steady stream of complaints from consumers who have gotten mixed up with unlicensed payday lenders based outside of Maine, and often outside of the United States. "Their physical location isn't known to anybody," Lund said of many online lenders. "And that's the way they want it."

Usually, Lund said, by the time consumers call, they have already paid more than they legally owe to unlicensed lenders. The aggressive tactics of debt collectors, who may threaten lawsuits, criminal prosecution, or a visit from law enforcement, often drive people to complain to the Bureau. Lund said that unlicensed lenders tend to use unlicensed debt collectors who have no authority to collect on illegal fees and interest. These debt collectors usually rely on personal harassment of borrowers rather than using legal debt collection options.

"Our advice to the consumers is they can tell collectors they have spoken to regulators and they have already paid off the debt if they have paid more than the principal," said Lund. In other words, if you have paid an unlicensed



Payday Loans

Continued from Page 4

lender or collector as much as or more than you originally borrowed, then you have already settled your debt, and the companies cannot legally collect on interest or fees that state law does not allow.

Lund advises consumers to stay away from online loans altogether. Aside from the risk of crippling debt, some companies also gather and sell your personal information, even if you never actually take out a loan. He said credit unions, some banks, or a lender licensed by the state are all better options for people seeking a loan. And he said consumers should call the Bureau of Consumer Credit Protection (800-DEBT-LAW) if they are considering a loan but want to learn more about the company.

In short, payday loans, particularly those from online lenders operating outside the law, can lead to entrapment in debt, targeting by debt collectors, bank fees, and other negative consequences.

If you are struggling with payday loan debt or are being pursued by debt collectors, you can contact these credit protection organizations:

National Foundation for Credit Counseling at 1-800-338-2227

Certified credit counselors can help you develop a plan to deal with outstanding debts or everyday costs. These services are available at little or no cost. Call the National Foundation for Credit Counseling to find an accredited credit counselling agency in your area.

Maine Bureau of Consumer Credit Protection at 800-DEBT-LAW (800-332-8529) or 207-624-8527

Maine law can protect you from the worst consequences of payday loan debt. Online lenders who operate without licenses in Maine do not have a right to collect interest or garnish your wages over the resulting debt - you are only responsible for paying back the loan amount you originally received. If the lender has your bank account information, be sure to contact your bank to prevent the lender from making any further withdrawals from your checking or savings account. The State of Maine Bureau of Consumer Credit Protection keeps a roster of licensed payday lenders at their website, . As of 2017, there were fewer than 20 licensed payday lenders in Maine.

Submit a complaint to the federal Consumer Financial Protection Bureau online at or call 855-411-2372

CFPB can contact the lender on your behalf and seek a response, usually within 15 days. Depending on the issue, CFPB may be able to help resolve it.

Contact Pine Tree Legal Assistance

Pine Tree Legal Assistance offers legal services to lower-income people with debt collection problems as resources allow. Call one of the Pine Tree offices for a review of your legal problem and possible legal representation:

Portland: 207-774-8211	Augusta: 207-622-4731
Lewiston: 207-784-1558	Bangor: 207-942-8241
Machias: 207-255-8656	Presque Isle: 207-764-4349

Native American Unit (Bangor): 1-877-213-5630

Contact the Maine Volunteer Lawyers Project

Southern Maine office 1-800-442-4293 Monday 1:00 to 3:30 pm and Friday 9:00 to 11:30 am or at the northern Maine office 1-888-956-4276 Tuesday from 5:00 to 7:00 pm or Thursday from 10:00 am to noon. The Volunteer Lawyers Project may be able to connect you with an attorney for free legal advice on your debt issues, your legal obligations to creditors and whether a lender or collector has violated the law.

Contact Legal Services for the Elderly

1-800-750-5353

Alternatives to high-interest/payday loans

There are also alternatives to these high-interest loans if you are in urgent need of financial assistance. Here are some options that may help with everyday expenses, major bills, or outstanding debts:

Get help with your debts before resorting to risky solutions such as payday loans. A consumer credit counseling agency can help you to work out a debt repayment plan or develop a budget. These services are available at little or no cost. Call the National Foundation for Credit Counseling at 1-800-388-2227 to find an accredited counselling agency in your area.

You may be eligible for government assistance, such as MaineCare, the Earned Income Tax Credit, or the Maine Rent and Tax Refund Program. Call one of the credit protection resources listed above.

Credit unions, small consumer finance companies, and some banks may offer loans at lower interest rates, sometimes specifically for active duty and retired military personnel.

Credit cards come with their own risks, but may offer better deals than payday lenders, even if you have a poor credit history or other financial problems.

If you have trouble keeping a positive balance in your bank account, you may be able to purchase overdraft protection from your bank for a fee in order to avoid bouncing checks. Beware the costs of these protections, however, as the associated fees can create new problems, and watch out in particular for "bounce protection" schemes that charge daily fees for loans to cover overdrawn accounts.

You may be able to get a paycheck advance from your employer without interest.

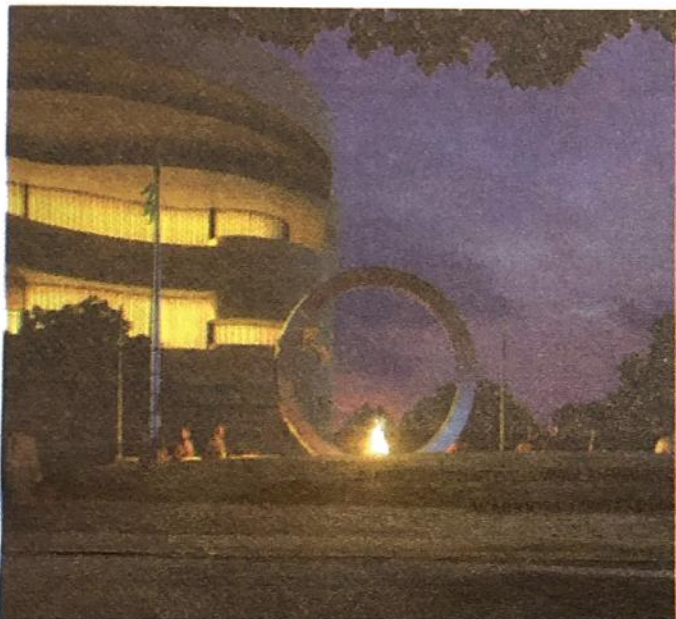
If you owe money, you can try to work out a payment plan with the person you owe. Many creditors will allow regular partial payments on a plan that is manageable for you.

Contact the organizations listed above, and use the information in this article to avoid falling prey to payday loan scams.

Memorial

Continued from Page 1

Pratt attended two meetings about the memorial and was encouraged to enter his own design. A Marine Corps Vietnam veteran himself, he also has an extensive art background, having retired last year as a police forensic artist for the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation (OSBI). His public art works have included a sculptural relief and mural at the OSBI, a sculpture at the Colorado Capital Building honoring the victims of the Sand Creek Massacre, and paintings included in the collections of the National Park Service.



The multimedia artist Harvey Pratt's Warriors' Circle of Honor will incorporate an enormous, upright stainless steel circle.

Pratt drew up some designs. His son told him, "Dad, you need to get that animated and submit that," Pratt recounted in an interview with Wabanaki Legal News. Pratt worked with his son, who is also an artist, and his wife, who has an education in marketing, to put the submission paperwork together. An Oklahoma City animation firm helped animate the idea for presentation to the jury members, and Pratt also teamed up with Hans and Torrey Butzer, the architects behind the Oklahoma City National Memorial. He submitted the design in January of 2018.

"It should be able to touch the tribes," Pratt said of his idea. "What all tribes used are the elements - the water, the fire, the wind, and the earth." The design would incorporate these elements and make prominent use of the circle, a symbol that can be appreciated by people of diverse tribal as well as non-tribal cultural backgrounds. "Circles are continuous, timeless, seamless," Pratt said.

The design competition drew over 400 registrations and 120 completed design submissions. By February, a jury of experts on art, design, history, and veterans' and tribal affairs had narrowed the submissions down to five finalists, including Pratt.

The jury announced their unanimous decision on June 26th. They favored Pratt's design for its "universal and inclusive" nature. It consists of an upright circle of stainless steel placed on a large drum with water flowing over it, all surrounded by circular walkways which visitors can enter to pray or perform ceremonies. The jury report confirmed that Pratt had the right idea with his design, noting the special significance of the circle to many Native cultures as well as its ability to speak to non-Native visitors. Here is the description of the memorial posted by the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian:

An elevated stainless steel circle balanced on an intricately carved stone drum, the design is simple and powerful, timeless and inclusive. The design incorporates water for sacred ceremonies, benches for gathering and reflection, and four lances where veterans, family members, tribal leaders, and others can tie cloths for prayers and healing.

Harvey Pratt's design for the National Native American Veterans Memorial creates an interactive yet intimate space for gathering, remembrance, reflection, and healing. It will welcome and honor Native American veterans and their families, and educate the public about their extraordinary contributions.

The monument will represent the first major recognition of Native American military service located in the nation's capital. Native Americans have served in every U.S. conflict dating back to the Revolutionary War. A remarkable 44,000 Native Americans served in World War II, according to the website of the National Museum of the American Indian, at a time when the total Native American population was less than 350,000. The service rate for Native Americans in the post - 9/11 period was 18.6 percent, while it was 14 percent for the general population.

"Through meeting thousands of Native American veterans, I learned most of all about the commitment these veterans have to the well-being of the United States," said Kevin Gover, director of the museum, in a press release marking the selection of the winning design. "These veterans are perfectly aware that they are serving a country that had not kept its commitments to Native people, and yet they chose, and are still choosing, to serve. This reflects a very deep kind of patriotism. I can think of no finer example of service to the United States and the promise it holds."

A national memorial that celebrates and honors the service, sacrifice, and dedication of Native American veterans as well as their families has been long overdue. This memorial provides an opportunity for Americans to learn of the proud and courageous tradition of military service by Native Americans.

Seeds

Continued from Page 3

ceremonies after he realized that indigenous agricultural practices were alive and well, and that many of the original seed species long ago used by Native Americans could still be found. When helping with the Vermont Abenakis' state recognition efforts in 2010, Wiseman also recalled hearing from some tribal members that they still raised crops in mounds and used fish for fertilizer, practices Wiseman knew about but believed had long ago disappeared. He also credited Steve McComber of Kahnawake, whom he called "one of the best indigenous ethnobotanists I know," for introducing him to a number of rare and endangered Abenaki seeds still in existence that led Wiseman to seek out still more seeds.

Generally, Wiseman learns of new seed species when people find Seeds of Renewal online. He hunts down the seeds and works to have them preserved and cultivated by individuals or organizations he has partnered with. The other prong of Seeds of Renewal involves speaking and workshops. Other tribes Wiseman has worked with include Passamaquoddy at Pleasant Point and Indian Township in Maine.

"I try not to proselytize," said Wiseman, noting that he only goes to work with tribes when they show interest, and not all do. "The goal is basically to be of service. I let it be known that this information exists." Overall, however, he would like to see indigenous agriculture restored not only in terms of traditional crops and ceremonies, but overall as indigenous "food systems." "You can't separate the seeds from the technology of growing them and the spirituality of raising them," he said.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

AROOSTOOK BAND OF MICMACS:

www.micmac-nsn.gov

Administration, Housing,
Child/Family Services 764-1972
or 1-800-355-1435
Micmac Head Start Program 769-2072
Health Department 764-1792 or
1-800-750-1972

HOULTON BAND OF MALISEET INDIANS:

www.maliseets.com

Administration 532-4273
1-800-564-8524(in state)
1-800-545-8524(out of state)
Maliseet Health Department 532-2240
Maliseet Health Clinic 532-4229
Maliseet Housing Authority 532-9140
Indian Child Welfare 532-7260 or 866-3103
Social Services and LEAD 532-7260 or 1-800-532-7280
Domestic and Sexual Violence
Advocacy Center 532-6401 or 694-1353(cell)
Advocacy Program 532-3000

PENOBSCOT INDIAN NATION:

www.penobscotnation.org

Administration, Clerk's Office 817-7351
Indian Health Services 817-7400
Penobscot Housing Dept. 817-7372
Penobscot Human Services 817-7492
Indian Island Police Dept 817-7358 (dispatcher)
827-7188/911 (emergency)
827-6336 (business)

Domestic Violence and Sexual
Assault Crisis Hotline 631-4886 (24/7)
Office - Lynna Tupica 817-7469

Penobscot Tribal Court System

Director of Tribal Court 817-7328
Clerk of Courts 817-7327

PASSAMAQUODDY TRIBE:

PLEASANT POINT www.wabanaki.com

Administration 853-2600 ext. 254
Pleasant Point Health Center 853-0644
Pleasant Point Housing 853-6021
Domestic Violence-Peaceful Relations 853-2600 ext 266
Emergency: 853-2613
Police Department 853-6100
Social Services 853-2600 ext. 258
Tribal Court System (www.wabanaki.com/tribal_court.htm)
Clerk of Courts 853-2600 ext. 251

INDIAN TOWNSHIP (www.passamaquoddy.com)

Administration 796-2301
Indian Township Clinic 796-2321
Indian Township Housing 796-8004

Police Department 796-5296
Tribal Court System (www.wabanaki.com/tribal_court.htm)
Clerk of Courts 853-2600 ext. 251
(when court is in session call: 796-2301 ext. 205)

STATEWIDE CRISIS SERVICES

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

DHHS Child Abuse 1-800-452-1999(24 hour)
1-800-963-9490(TTY)
DHHS Adult Abuse and Neglect 1-800 624-8404

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Maine Coalition to End DV 1-866-834-4357(24 hour)
Aroostook Band of Micmac, *Domestic and Sexual Violence*
Advocacy Ctr. 750-0570 or 551-3939(hotline)
Houlton Band of Maliseets, *Domestic and Sexual Violence*
Advocacy Ctr. 532-6401(24/7) or 532-3000
Penobscot Indian Nation, *Domestic and Sexual Violence*
Advocacy Ctr. 631-4886 (24/7) or 817-3165 ext.4
Passamaquoddy Peaceful Relations 853-2600 ext. 266
Spruce Run 1-800-863-9909
Penobscot County
The Next Step 1-800-315-5579 or 255-4934
Washington County
Hope and Justice Project 1-800-439-2323 (24/7) or 764-
2977
Aroostook County

RAPE CRISIS SERVICES

Rape Response Services 1-800-310-0000
Penobscot County
Aroostook Mental Health Center 1-800-871-7741
Aroostook County
Hancock County
Washington County

OTHER SERVICES

Maine Crisis Line 1-888-568-1112
Statewide Suicide Referral Line 1-800-568-1112
Poison Control Center 1-800-222-1222

2-1-1 MAINE & COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAMS

2-1-1 MAINE

www.211maine.org

2-1-1 Maine is part of a national movement to centralize and streamline access to health and human service information and resources. The state of Maine has thousands of programs offering all types of health and human services.

COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAMS bring community resources together such as heating assistance and other utility issues, subsidized housing, child care, and transportation services for disabled people. Call 2-1-1 for your local program.

LEGAL SERVICES

PINE TREE LEGAL ASSISTANCE

www.ptla.org

Pine Tree Legal represents low-income people with legal problems.

Portland: 774-8211

Augusta: 622-4731

Machias: 255-8656

Lewiston: 784-1558

Presque Isle: 764-4349 Bangor: 942-8241

Farm worker Unit: 1-800-879-7463

Native American Unit: 1-877-213-5630

VOLUNTEER LAWYERS PROJECT

www.vlp.org

1-800-442-4293 or 942-9348

Civil Legal Cases: If you are low income, the VLP may be able to find a free lawyer to take your case. No criminal cases and no family law intake by phone.

Family Law: If you are low income and have a family law case, you can consult with a free lawyer for up to half an hour at the following courthouse clinics:

Bangor (Penobscot Judicial Ctr.): Wednesday from 1-3pm

Ellsworth District Court: Second and fourth Tuesday of every month from 1-3pm

For information about family law clinics in Calais and Machias please call 942-9348

LEGAL SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY

www.mainelse.org

1 (800) 750-5353

If you are age 60 or older, LSE can give you free legal advice or limited representation.

The helpline is open Monday to Friday, 9am to 4pm

PENQUIS LAW PROJECT

www.penquis.org

1-800-215-4942 or 973-3671

This group gives legal representation to low income residents of Penobscot and Piscataquis Counties in cases involving domestic relations. Priority is given to people who have experienced or are experiencing domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking.

DISABILITY RIGHTS CENTER

www.drcme.org

1-800-452-1948 or 626-2774

Advice and legal representation to people with disabilities.

BANGOR COURT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

561-2300 TTY: 941-3000

Volunteers are available at the Bangor District Court once a month to help you fill out family law and small claims court forms. For upcoming dates call Holly Jarvis at 561-2300.

OTHER COMMUNITY RESOURCES

WABANAKI MENTAL HEALTH ASSOC.

www.wabanaki.org

992-0411

Wabanaki provides culturally-sensitive psychological and social services to the Native American populations of Hancock, Penobscot, Piscataquis and parts of Washington Counties.

MAINE INDIAN TRIBAL STATE COMMISSION

www.mitsc.org

944-8376

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

www.ssa.gov/reach.htm

Statewide

1-800-772-1213

Bangor Area

877-405-1448 - 207-941-8698

Presque Isle Area

1-866-837-2719 - 207-764-2925

MAINE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

maine.gov/mhrc

624-6290 or Maine Relay 771 (TTY)

EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION

MAINE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

To file unemployment claims online:

www.maine.gov/labor/unemployment

To file unemployment claims by telephone: 1-800-593-7660

Or go to your nearest Career Center: (mainecareercenter.com)

Bangor: 561-4050

Calais: 454-7551

Machias: 255-1900

Presque Isle: 760-6300