

MONTANA

2015 GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE
ON TOURISM AND RECREATION

Updates from Indian Country in Montana Panel Members

Raymond D. Gone

Raymond Gone, Tourism Director for the Island Mountain Development Group/ Discover Fort Belknap. These organizations serve as the economic arm for the Fort Belknap Indian Community.

Raymond Gone coordinates and administers tourism-related grants and projects enhancing Fort Belknap for visitors, guests and residents. He shares his vast knowledge of the White Clay (Gros Ventre) history and culture in the tours offered by Discover Fort Belknap.

Raymond sits on Central Montana Tourism Region board of directors. He is a member of the White Clay Society board and is the White Clay Society representative to the Fort Belknap Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO).

He has 44-years experience in retail business with 40 years in management with Buttrey Foods, IGA and Fort Belknap Kwik Stop.

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Marie Torosian

Marie Torosian is a proud member of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes. Born in St. Ignatius, Mt and raised there, Missoula, Arlee and parts of California. She is the second eldest of seven children. Parents are Ida (Salish) and the late Domnick (Coeur d'Alene/Pend d'Oreille) Curley. Marie has been married for 31 years to her husband Arnold they have three grown (married) children and three grandchildren. Marie has worked for CSKT for more than 26 years. Nine of those years as Historical Collections Manager with the Salish, Pend d'Oreille Culture Committee and has been serving as the Education Director and Exhibit Coordinator for The People's Center Museum and Cultural Center since 2003. Marie loves working in the Tribal museum and Cultural Education field, helping others to learn and understand the important histories and traditional life ways of her tribes and people. Researching, designing and installing exhibits for the museum. Then researching, presenting and arranging events and activities for the Center are vital parts of her position at the Center.

Jackie Yellowtail, Treasurer, Plains Region Representative, Crow Tribal Member



Jackie YellowTail was born on the Crow Reservation and raised by her grandparents, Tom and Susie YellowTail. She is an enrolled citizen of the great Apsaalooke Nation. Her Indian name is translated: "White Goose Woman" and was given to her by her paternal grandfather Tom. She was raised by her grandparents in a traditional home with traditional values. Her grandmother was the first Native American Registered Nurse in the United States and her grandfather was a Sundance Spiritual Leader among the Crow people for many years. This way of life prepared her for the work she is now doing among her people.

Jackie has served as the Tourism Coordinator for the Apsaálooke Tours while employed with Little Big Horn College. She was appointed as the coordinator for Montana Tribal Tourism Alliance (MTTA). While working for MTTA she completed the Seven Lodges Booklet, which was distributed throughout Montana for visitor's to enjoy.

In 2008/2009 the tourism agencies of Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming partnered with the National Geographic Society to develop a geo tourism map called the "Greater Yellowstone Region." Jackie was a member of the Stewardship Council that oversaw the process for development of the map guide. It is available on the Internet.

In May of 2008, Crow Tribal Chairman Cedric Black Eagle hired Jackie as the Director of Apsaálooke Nation Tourism for the Crow Tribe. He also submitted her name to Governor Schweitzer's office as a representative from the Crow Tribe to serve as a member of the Montana Tourism Advisory Council. Governor Schweitzer accepted her nomination.

She was elected to serve on the AIANTA Board of Director's representing the Plains Region during the AIANTA Native American Tourism Conference in 2012 in Tulalip, Washington.

Clara Caufield Biography

Clara Caufield is an enrolled member of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe and of Irish descent, Montana born and raised. She is a resident of the White River Cheyenne Community (Busby) on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation. Her Cheyenne name Heveesa'e (Teeth Woman), has lived for over 300 years, passed from generation to generation.

For the past five years, she has been the Publisher and **A Cheyenne Voice**, a newspaper she established to serve Cheyenne country, many neighboring communities and out-of-area subscribers, originally assisted by an Indian Equity Grant from the State of Montana. She is also a weekly correspondent for the largest Indian newspaper in the country, Native Sun News, Rapid City, South Dakota covering Native news from southeastern Montana and a weekly column "News from Cheyenne County." Also an AP journalist, her stories are frequently featured in many newspaper across the country, on indianz.com, a primary internet news source for stories related to Native Americans. Many of her stories, articles and poetry have been published in anthologies, magazines and college text books.

Previously, Caufield worked in many different areas of tribal affair, serving on the Northern; Cheyenne Tribal Council, the first woman to be elected as Tribal Vice-President and as Executive Assistant to five different Northern Cheyenne Presidents. Earlier, she was a staffer for then Senator John Melcher, MT in Washington, D.C. working on both the Committee on Indian Affairs and other legislative matter, later a fundraiser and lobbyist for many different Tribes. The first Talent Search Director for the State of MT she also worked for private industry in labor and public relations and has taught at the high school and community college levels. She attended UCLA and UC Berkeley on scholarships for three years before finishing a B.S. degree in History/English at then EMC in MT and an MS in Higher Education/Speech Communications from MSU.

Caufield also worked for about ten years in the tourism industry in MT, WY and Alaska, wrangler, hunting camp cook, wilderness tour guide, performer and manager of two exclusive guest ranches in the Jackson Hole, Wyoming area gaining experience in marketing and booking, the key to successful tourism operations. During that time she performed at numerous events presenting her poetry and musical compositions reflecting her heritage, a blend of Native American and the American west (cowboys). She has been a featured performer at the Elko Cowboy Poetry Gathering, the Museum of Man, Quebec, Canada, Buffalo Bill Historical Society, Wyoming Historical Society, at many locations in Alaska and in a PBS documentary.

For the past several years, Caufield has worked with other tribal elders knowledgeable about Northern Cheyenne oral tradition and history to develop Cheyenne Voices Tours, a new business to be launched in the summer of 2015. Under that effort, small guided tours will be provided by Northern Cheyenne elders, sharing the tribal perspective of events related to the Battle of the Little Big Horn and other aspects of Cheyenne history.

That business, like A Cheyenne Voice, will be conducted from a historic cabin, 137 years old which Caufield has partially restored over the past two years in coordination with property owners, Butch and Chris Small, also from Northern Cheyenne and business partners. That cabin is one of

the oldest, if the not oldest, log structures, in southeastern Montana with a rich history of its own, sitting very near the actual site where Custer camped the night before the Battle and many other historic areas frequently visited by curious tourists. Caufield jokes that it suits her just fine as she is nearly a historic relic too. As part of the new venture, overnight tipi rentals for tourists will also be offered at that location.

Clara lives at the cabin with her two dogs, too many horses and occasional “mistah”, spiritual guests. Her five children are grown, living elsewhere and have blessed her with seven grandchildren.