SOARING EAGLE
A Public Charity

Signals

Fall Winter 2025

Rowdy Fans at the Indian Relay!

Who's Having the Best Day? We Are!

Greetings from Kay!

The picture on the cover of this edition of our Signals newsletter, showing five exuberant HLC residents, was taken during the Horse Nations Indian Relay in Miles City this past summer. I shot it with my phone. When I sent it to our communications director that evening, he couldn't stop gushing about what a wonderful image it is. "This is such a joyful moment, it shows the happiness that HLC brings to their lives! It's the cover of our next newsletter!" he exclaimed. I then became quite proud of it, because John doesn't impress easily. His career accomplishments include being published in National Geographic over a dozen times. Convinced, I had the picture enlarged, bought a frame, and it says Seize the Day KAY! every morning entering my office.

HLC served meals to elders from near and far at the Labor Day Powwow.

I hope you'll enjoy reading what an Indian Relay event is like, the athleticism involved, the unbridled chaos during the races, and why it is a huge draw for Native and non-native spectators alike. They converge on fairgrounds in larger cities across the Great Plains states for weekend competitions throughout the summer. When the circuit went to Casper, Wyoming, our Cheyenne Chiefs were invited to be honored during Cheyenne Day.

Summer at HLC was busy. Summer is when school is out, and I believe summer is different for Native Americans. It is a time for traveling to powwows and reconnecting with family members who do not live on the Reservation. There was a time when many youths in our tribe and across the country spent their educational years boarding in dorms at their school. Those times are largely gone but the excitement of school letting out for the summer, getting to go home for three months, remains in the memories of many elders. In our culture, summer is the time to get a move on! Time to get in the car, go places, reunite with relatives! For many, the way to do that is by heading out on the Powwow Highway.

Summer comes to an unofficial close with the annual Labor Day Powwow in Ashland. The powwow grounds are only a mile away, so our residents look forward to this powwow with great anticipation. HLC hosts a meal before grand entry on the second evening of the energized four-day event, inviting

Cheyenne Chiefs were honored during the Indian Relay held in Casper, Wyoming this summer.

elders from all tribes, near and far, to break bread together. We have tables set up under a large open-air tent, to gather for conversation during dinner. I especially love those moments when you hear and see someone suddenly yell out, "Hey! Where you been!" There are often happy reunions between old friends under that tent.

We recently welcomed in six new residents, bringing our 40-apartment facility to near capacity. We are anticipating the Holiday Season, and it will be special to see our newest residents enjoying life in their new home. For many it will be the first time in a long time, they will have a stress-free Christmas.

Over the past months I've shared with you many stories about our residents, and their remarkable histories. As they say, "It never gets old." We want to wish you all a joyful Holiday Season. What you do for us is a blessing of generosity. Your compassionate soul brought you to us. We are indebted and eternally grateful.

Kay Medicine Bull

Kay Medicine Bull
Executive Director

Indian Relay is Breathtaking Spectacle

By Ed Kemmick, Last Best News

It's a spectacle like no other, with all the crazy bravado of a Mountain Dew-fueled extreme sport, complete with frenetic announcers, rock music, a giant instant-replay screen and screaming fans.

At the heart of this sport, though, is something beautifully simple—nothing but horses and riders and a half-mile dirt track. The athleticism on display is amazing, unlike that involved in any other sport.

At an Indian relay, the rider is the baton, springing onto one rambunctious pony, racing around the oval track at breakneck speed, then leaping to the ground and up onto a second mount as quickly as possible, a ritual repeated one more time before a final dash around the track.

It rarely goes that simple. Each rider has three helpers on the ground, one holding a remount, one trying to control the horse from which the rider has leapt, and a third attempting to hold the last remount in a steady position.

That means in a five-team race, there are 20 people and 15 horses

It can be pure mayhem when riders attempt to exchange horses during the Indian Relays.

continued, page 4 ►

continued from page 3 ►

Indian Relay Continued

all crowded around the starting line. This is not like a regular horse race, with jockeys on mounts in a chute waiting for the starting gun. It looks more like the start of a wild-bronco competition. The horses are loosely gathered at the starting line, stamping and rearing and kicking and running in tight circles, occasionally slamming into their handlers or each other. "These horses are hot-blooded!" the announcer bellowed.

When the starting gun is fired, it's a miracle if more than half the horses are pointed in the right direction. And that's just the start, which is relatively uncomplicated compared to the two remounts in each heat.

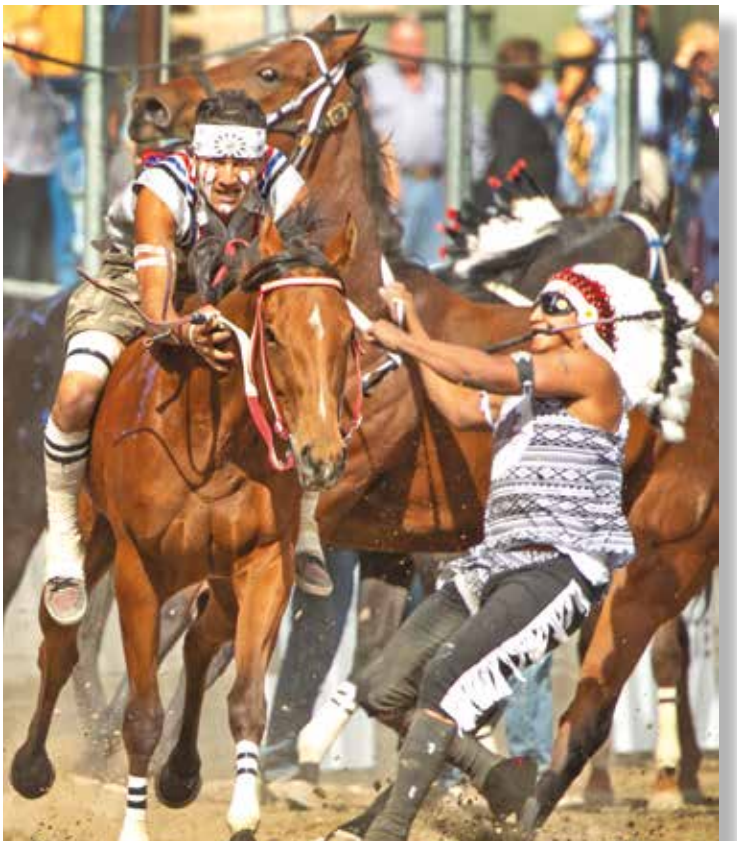
Ideally, after completing the first lap, the jockey dismounts fluidly, hits the ground running, takes a step or two and vaults onto the back of the next horse. That does happen, but often the dismount turns into a sprawling dive into the dirt or a chaotic chase after a rebellious horse.

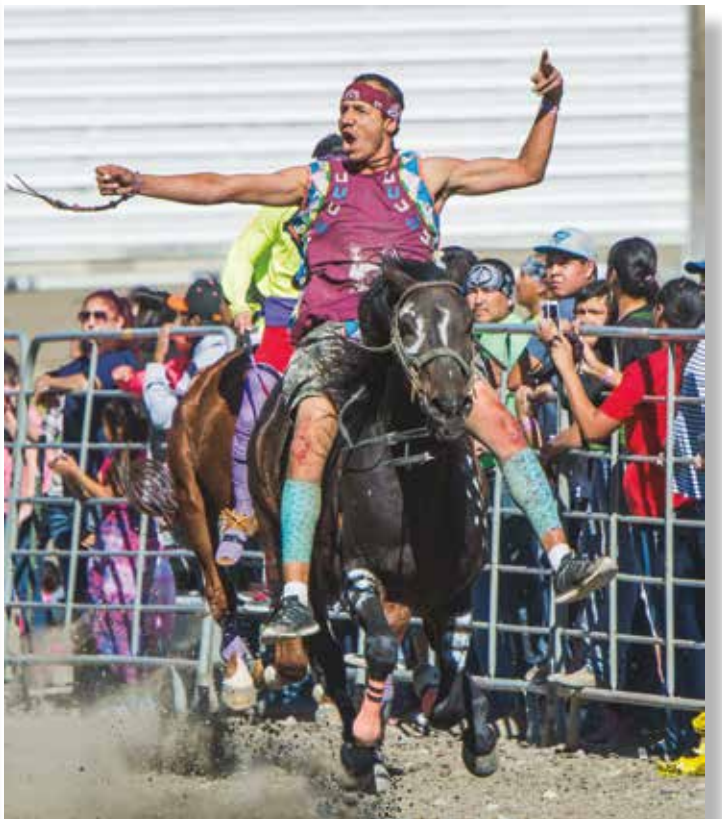
One rider leapt off his horse, rolled into a somersault and bounded onto his horse in what looked like one continuous motion. In Hollywood, with a trained stuntman, that might have involved a few dozen takes. When the riders do get up on their horses, they are rarely fortunate enough to grab the reins immediately. More often they simply latch onto the horse around the neck, hang on for dear life as they sprint away, and then struggle to find the reins.

Did we mention that there are no saddles? And no helmets or facemasks or chest protectors or much of anything at all but T-shirts and shorts, stocking feet and a bandanna or two, and maybe a set of shades or ski goggles.

While crowd roared every time a jockey or handler hit the dirt or was thrown by a horse, there was even more enthusiasm when the transition went smoothly from one horse to another.the glory!"

Top photo; A horse and rider are off at the gun, while another rider stuggles to leap onto his mount. Above, the power of horse flesh is on full display, rearing up to discard both rider and handler.





Upper right, With gause taped around his legs from wounds received during a previous race, this rider celebrates a victorious run. Above, From war paint and headdresses, to jeans and custom t-shirts, the dress code is whatever your team chooses for style points.

I saw none of the chest-thumping one sees at so many other sporting events. The winning riders usually contained their pride until after the race, when dozens of relatives would pour out of the infield stands to greet their victor. Even then, most of the winners took their hugs and kisses and high-fives with an admirable humility.

The announcer of the final race sprinkled his remarks with snippets of history and expressions of Indian pride, at one point saying the horse Indians of North America were "better than the Cossacks or the Mongols."

"These young Indian men, they're cravin' that championship, the glory!" And glorious it was.

A rider knows if he lets go of his rebellious mount, it's game over.

Ashland Labor Day Powwow Moments

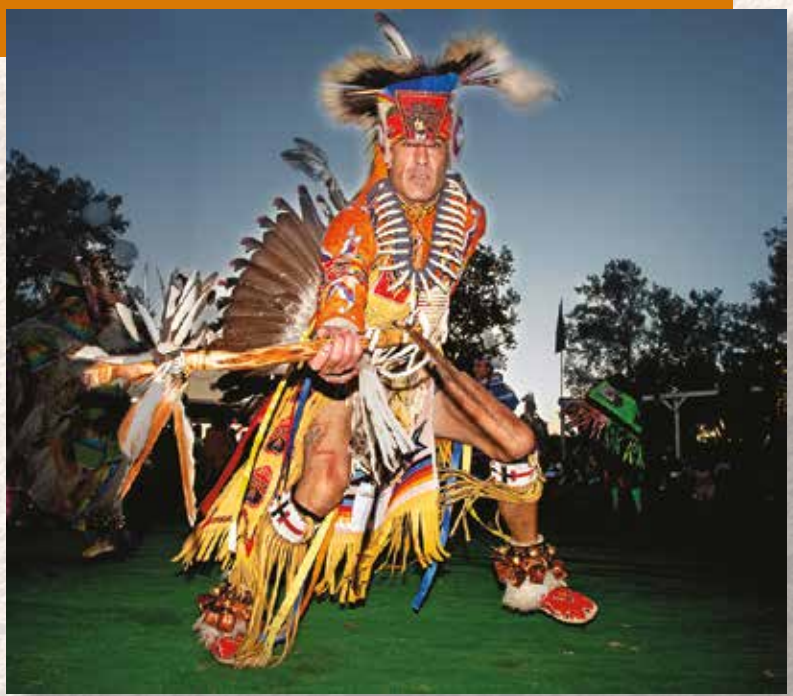
As the Tongue River gently flows by the powwow grounds, a mother tends to her daughter's outfit before Grand Entry at the Annual Ashland Labor Day Powwow.

HLC resident Georgia Burns, middle, is all smiles with her daughters and granddaughter during the powwow, while our priceless Susie Tall White Man is sidetracked by the scenes she loves while being escorted towards her chair in the arbor.

A slow camera shutter speed reveals the constant circular movement of the crowd outside the arbor during the Labor Day Powwow.

DETACH, MOISTEN GLUE STRIP AND SEAL

And Finally...



Top photos, Awesome regalia and the smile of a child are part of the pageantry on display during the powwow. Above, CAT (Caterpillar) district manager Kyle Gooch visits with Kay while the HLC meal is getting underway. Gooch chose our HLC residents to receive Caterpillar clothing at no cost, and Fred Whitewolf, right, stands proud wearing his handsome new weatherproof winter coat. Thank you Caterpillar!

When is a Good Time to Write My Will?

Many thoughtful donors have reflected on the impact of the world affairs in recent years on their lives and the lives of their loved ones and began writing their final plans for their property when they no longer need it. Such a final plan is usually accomplished with a well-written will or trust.

Wills and trust are tools used in crafting an estate plan. Some plans can be quite simple and others very complex. Just a little time spent with an attorney might be all it takes to write a plan that can put your mind at ease about what happens to your property at a future date. For some people with complicated financial matters and family situations, it may take a team of planners including a lawyer, accountant, and financial advisor to accomplish what you need.

Many people avoid writing a will because of uncertainty about the future. The opposite is true. Having a will helps "map out" a plan for later years and provides more certainty about the future and your peace of mind today.

What if I Already Have a Will?

If you have a will that is great. Much of the work is done. All that may be needed is an update to make sure your plans reflect the way your life is today. But what if a good amount of time has passed since your will was written? Many of life's events can change what our future plans need to reflect. Have you had any of the following occur in your life or the lives of loved ones?

- Death of a spouse
- Marriage or divorce – yourself or your children
- Second marriage
- Birth of children or grand-children
- Death of children or grandchildren
- Death, physical relocation or losing touch with those you had previously designated as Personal Representative, Guardian, or Health Care or Durable Power of Attorney
- Adoption of children or grandchildren
- Graduation from college by children or grandchildren
- Retirement or starting a second career
- Buying or selling real estate
- Changes in investments or assets
- Selling a business, adding a business partner, ending a business partnership
- A significant change in health or loved one's health
- Long term health care plans and changes
- Changes in long-time friendships
- Changes in charitable interests

If some of the above events have occurred since you wrote your will, now may be a good time to consider how your plans might be affected by some of life's events. While having a will is key to accomplishing many of life's goals, keeping your plans up to date is equally important.

Where Do I Start?

Like most projects, the will-writing process is difficult to start. Try beginning with four blank sheets of paper and at the top of one piece write **People**, on another write **Property**, then **Plans**, and on the fourth sheet write **Planners**. On each sheet write down names, assets, what you want to happen with your property and the people you know who can help you carry out your plans. You don't need to create a long or complete list. It is okay to have some gaps or not know exactly what you want to happen. The planners you listed can help you with that. Make an appointment with a qualified estate planning attorney. You and your spouse, family member or a close friend might want to go together.

Good attorneys have helped many people in this process, so they know how to guide you. Remember to be efficient and thorough during your time with your lawyer.

Including Charity in Your Plans

If you are charitably minded, giving to your favorite charity can add a satisfying dimension to your estate plan. How you choose to make a charitable bequest depends on several factors, including family relationships, property values, how disposable or non-liquid your assets are and your charitable interests. You will want to select charities that will be around for a long time. Some charities are short-lived by design. Be careful about leaving bequests to charities that might not exist in future years. Give consideration to the following ways to make a charitable bequest.

Specific Amount – Naming a specific amount gives certainty to your bequest. For example, you can plan that Soaring Eagle will receive a specific amount through your will. This is probably the most common form of a charitable bequest. It will look something like: "To Soaring Eagle I give the amount of $XX,XXX." You will want to be careful to do all you can to make sure funds are available for the bequests you make. A person who makes charitable bequests in this manner may want to update his or her will more frequently or when asset values change.

Specific Property – Giving a specific piece of property can be a wise form of making a bequest. This is especially true if the property can be used by the charity, like land for a conservation group or artwork for a museum. Oftentimes, a donor can give specific property to a local charity and preserve cash for family and causes like Soaring Eagle.

Percentage – Stating a percentage of your assets or value of your estate can preserve a charitable bequest if your estate value varies or if a specific property must be disposed of in later years. By using percentages, your bequests remain intact although the values may fluctuate with the value of what you own.

Give the Residue – Many donors will take care of family first with specific bequests, amounts or percentages. After specific bequests to family and friends are satisfied, then a charitable gift may be made with what is left, otherwise known as the "rest, residue and remainder." By planning with this form of bequest, you can rest easy knowing that family and loved ones will receive their bequests before charitable gifts are made.

Contingent Bequests – Although you might complete a thorough estate plan, something might occur that makes it impossible to complete a gift to an heir. Possibly a loved one predeceases you or a relationship changes due to circumstances you didn't anticipate. A contingent bequest to Soaring Eagle can be made if a named recipient is not available or able to accept a bequest.

A charitable gift in your will must be purposefully planned. Without a will, state intestate succession laws take over and seldom can an estate without a will make a gift to charity. There's no time like now to consider the events and life changes you have witnessed and write or update your will. We will be pleased to discuss with you or your advisors the ways in which Soaring Eagle can help you meet your charitable goals. For more information contact us at Soaring Eagle, P.O. Box 879, Billings, Montana, 59103, or call 406-256-8500.

New Higher 2025 Annuity Rates

One-Life Annuity beginning July 1, 2024

Age	% Rate	Age	% Rate
65	5.7	78	7.6
66	5.8	79	7.8
67	5.9	80	8.1
68	6.1	81	8.3
69	6.2	82	8.5
70	6.3	83	8.7
71	6.4	84	8.9
72	6.6	85	9.1
73	6.7	86	9.3
74	6.8	87	9.5
75	7.0	88	9.7
76	7.2	89	9.9
77	7.4	90+	10.1

Lower two-life rates are available. Please contact us for information.

"I learned that I could receive a good return with a gift annuity. It was even better than what my bank could offer me. I asked Soaring Eagle to send me information illustrating the benefits of a gift annuity. It was free and there was no obligation.

I was pleased to learn that a gift annuity was part gift and part investment. A future gift to help the Northern Cheyenne seniors and an investment to pay me a fixed income for the rest of my life.

The illustration they sent was straightforward and simple to complete, so I sent my gift for an annuity. Now, I can count on regular lifetime payments and help care for the elders at Heritage Living Center. Plus, I received a tax deduction when I set up my annuity. Best of all, most of each payment is tax-free."

Richard, Bainbridge Island, WA

I RECEIVE HIGH FIXED PAYMENTS FROM MY SOARING EAGLE GIFT ANNUITY!

To learn more about the benefits of a Soaring Eagle gift annuity, please use the coupon in this newsletter or give us a call at (406) 256-8500, Soaring Eagle, PO Box 879, Billings, MT 59103.

Your Will Keeps on Giving

Please use one of the following sample forms of bequest when preparing your Will:

A. Giving a Specific Amount – "I give, devise, and bequeath to Soaring Eagle Public Charity, a corporation created under the laws of the State of Montana, located at Billings, Montana, the sum of $_____."

B. Giving a Specific Property - "I give, devise, and bequeath to Soaring Eagle Public Charity, a corporation created under the laws of the State of Montana, located at Billings, Montana, (identify specific property, example: 500 shares of XYZ stock)."

C. Giving a Percentage – "I give, devise, and bequeath to Soaring Eagle Public Charity, a corporation created under the laws of the State of Montana, located at Billings, Montana, _____% of my estate."

D. Giving the Residue - "All the rest, residue, and remainder of my estate, I bequeath to Soaring Eagle Public Charity, a corporation created under the laws of the State of Montana, located at Billings, Montana."

E. Giving a Contingent Bequest – "I give, devise, and bequeath to Soaring Eagle Public Charity, a corporation created under the laws of the State of Montana, located at Billings, Montana my bequest to (name of intended recipient) should he/she not be living or be able to accept my bequest."

The above are sample forms only. Consult your attorney when preparing any legal document.

To learn more about giving to Soaring Eagle through your will, request our free booklet "Giving Through Your Will" by writing or calling: Soaring Eagle, PO Box 879, Billings, MT 59103 (406) 256-8500.

Reminisce with Father Emmett

Editor's note: Father Emmett wrote this Christmas letter about Susie Tall White Man in 2012. Susie was among the first to move into the sparkling new Heritage Living Center in 2002. She is now the last of the elders who moved in 23 years ago.

When she was a young girl, Susie Tall White Man had never heard of Christmas. Neither had she eaten a banana or heard of turkey dressing and cranberries. She still remembers the morning she first tasted delicious homemade butter and drank a glass of fresh milk at the Mission boarding school. She also recalls that each child received a tablespoon of cod liver oil to keep them healthy. Now, she thinks it might have made her stronger in her later years.

The Cheyenne girl's parents tried as hard as they could to feed their children and to find winter clothes to keep warm. During the winter, 15 people slept on the floor wrapped in blankets. Mom and Dad slept in a shaky iron bed. Susie's mother Eleanor cared for her disabled daughter, among the many children, grandchildren and cousins they took in.

The Tall White Man family had no electricity or running water. The Montana winters were extremely cold with heavy snows and wind chills that could drop to 40 degrees below zero. Susie recalls an ancient way they survived when it was brutally freezing outside and felt nearly as cold inside.

At night, we snuggled close together in blankets on the floor. Mom told jokes and everybody in the room laughed to keep our spirits up. Then, one by one, us kids settled down and went to sleep. All but me. My Mom never complained, but when she thought we were all asleep, I could hear her crying: Father God, please watch over my kids and grandkids. They're so hungry. We don't have nothing to eat! Please give us food! Have pity on us!

One of the many cousins staying with the family was 8 year-old Virgil Medicine Elk, a kind-hearted boy. Virgil had seen a Christmas tree at school, and he came home eager to tell the youngest kids all about it. They sat around him, enthralled by Virgil's story of the baby Jesus who was born as poor as they were. The children wanted a Christmas tree, but they knew that trees were only cut down to fill the woodstove.

Early the next morning Virgil went outside in the snow and cold. When he came back, he knocked open the door and stood there, grinning from ear to ear. He was holding a gigantic, humongous tumble weed. "I got us a Christmas tree!" he told the excited children. We had colored paper and crayons from school and all the kids drew pictures of horses, stars, rainbows and other animals to hang on their unforgettable Christmas tree. Susie continued with her story.

On Christmas evening they hurried off to a local church because Virgil had heard that all good children would get a small bag of candy after the service. Then the children hurried on in the freezing wind to the Catholic Chapel in time for Midnight Mass. They listened to the story of Mary and Joseph, who had to spend the night in a stable because there was no room at the inn. After the service, each child received peanuts, hard candies and best of all, a fresh apple or an orange, a rare treat in those days. Christmas was always special for the Cheyenne children, who fully identified with the poverty of the Christ Child's birth.

I pray that you will have a blessed Christmas this year with family and friends. The Cheyenne elders join me in our little chapel each morning to ask, "Maheo," Creator God, to bless you for your kindness and generosity on their behalf.

Your beggar friend,

Father Emmett Hoffmann

P.S. Susie was one of the first Cheyenne to move into the Heritage Living Center. If she and other elders like her couldn't count on a safe place to live, healthy meals, and reliable medical transportation, I doubt that many would have lived this long. I need your help today!

THANKS
FOR
USING
YOUR
STAMP

SOARING EAGLE
PO BOX 879
BILLINGS MT 59103-0879

SOARING EAGLE GIFT INFORMATION REQUEST

Name_____

Address_____

City_____ State_____ Zip_____

Email *(Promise we will not share)*_____

YES, I'm interested in a Soaring Eagle Charitable Gift Annuity. Please send me more information.

Birth date(s) of annuitant(s) _____ _____

Annuity Amount $ _____ *Minimum annuity amount $5,000 (up to 2 names/birth dates allowed per annuity.)*

This is a non-binding proposal. Upon receipt of actual payment for an annuity, a formal contract will be mailed. For more information call (406) 256-8500.

Please send to me the following:

___ Giving Securities ___ Giving Through Retirement Plans ___ Giving Through Your Will


How your Soaring Eagle donations are used
Fundraising
Management & General
LIBERTY
1936
84% Caring for the Elders