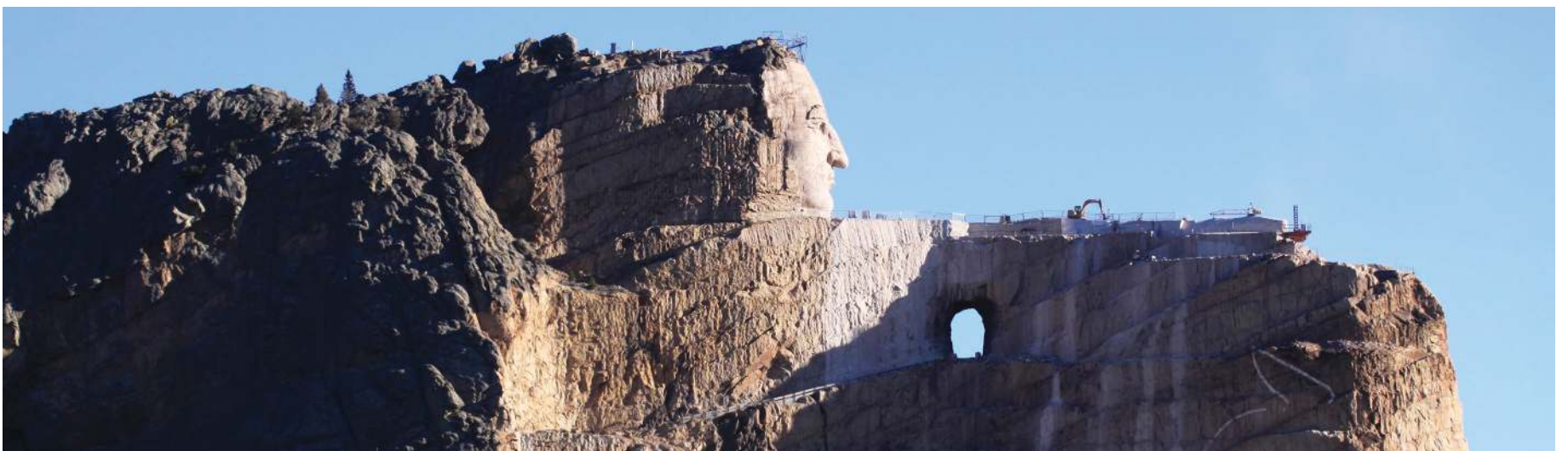


Crazy Horse and the Crazy Horse Memorial



PHOTOS BY DAVE GIBSON

Celebrating Native American Day

Above, left; Crazy Horse only wore one feather in his hair. Above, right; A fancy dancer struts his stuff onstage. Middle, left; The Crazy Horse Memorial will be the largest sculpture in the world when completed. Bottom, left; A proud Sioux warrior stands in full regalia.

Dave Gibson
Custer, South Dakota

Crazy Horse was an Oglala Lakota Sioux chief who lived between c.1840 – 1877. Respected and loved by his people and feared by his enemies, he was fiercely independent, even described by some as at times aloof. Following his own path with the help of the guardian spirit, as a teenager he rode alone into the prairie on a vision quest. After fasting for four days, an apparition appeared advising him to never wear more than one feather in his hair. Directed to toss dirt over his horse and place a stone behind his ear before battle, he was also instructed to be generous and not keep any spoils for himself. Crazy Horse abided by the vision his entire life.

In what might be referred to as revenge, two years following the 1864 Sand Creek Massacre where two hundred or more Native Americans were slain, was the Fetterman Fight near Fort Phil Kearny, Wyoming Territory. Crazy Horse and ten

warriors acted as decoys luring Captain William J. Fetterman and eighty U.S. soldiers into an ambush where 1000 warrior lie in wait. All of the servicemen died in what was the worst loss of life suffered by the U.S. Army on the Great Plains up to that point. A raid was conducted in 1872 and during a wild charge at the enemy, Crazy Horse's steed was shot out from under him – it was said that bullets couldn't touch him. He and Sitting Bull went on to lead 3000 Arapaho, Cheyenne, and Lakota Sioux at the Battle of the Little Bighorn in 1876. It was the most overwhelming victory for indigenous people during the Indian Wars. George Armstrong Custer and 267 cavalymen were annihilated with only 37 Indian casualties. Seeking sanctuary living life as it used to be, Crazy Horse returned to the Black Hills that had been granted to him in the Treaty of Fort Laramie. Peace was not forthcoming as gold prospectors had already violated the

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PHOTOS BY DAVE GIBSON

A living heritage

Above, left; Starr Chief Eagle performs the intricate and beautiful hoop dance. Above, right; "The Promise" by Steve Fountain depicts sculptor Korczak Ziolkowski and Chief Standing Bear posing in front of a scale model of the Crazy Horse Memorial.



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terms of the agreement and Crazy Horse and his people were forced to retreat deeper into the Black Hills. Doggedly pursued by soldiers with a policy of mandatory relocation to reservations and starving after a brutal winter, Crazy Horse finally relented, surrendering to General George Crook at the Red Cloud Agency, Nebraska, May 6, 1877.

The military accused Crazy Horse of being uncooperative for refusing to visit the president in Washington D.C. as other Indian leaders had done. No known photographs of Crazy Horse exist; when his picture was requested he once offered: "Would you imprison my shadow too?" Negotiations of the peace terms were ongoing when some of the warriors were persuaded to fight alongside the army against the Nez Perce. Appalled by the notion, Crazy Horse stormed from the meeting, leaving the agency. Another account suggests he was delivering his wife, who was sick from tuberculosis, to another tribe for treatment during his unexcused absence. There were rumors that he planned on fleeing the

reservation permanently with his tribe. When he returned the next day and asked to speak with those in charge, he was promptly arrested. During a struggle with a guard named Little Big Man, Crazy Horse allegedly pulled a knife and was bayoneted by another guard. Fighting for his freedom to the end, he was taken to an office where he refused use of a cot and died on the floor September 5, 1877. Recognized for his leadership in the face of impossible circumstances, Crazy Horse is remembered for his bravery and tenacious unbridled spirit. His body is buried near Wounded Knee Creek, South Dakota.

The Black Hills of South Dakota have always been and remain sacred to Native Americans. When construction began on Mount Rushmore in 1927 in the midst of their beloved lands, Lakota Chief and statesman Henry Standing Bear felt a need for his own people to be represented. In 1937 Standing Bear contacted Polish-American sculptor Korczak Ziolkowski who was then employed at Rushmore. Making his case for a Native American memorial, he wrote: "My fellow chiefs and I would like the white man to know

that the red man has great heroes too." At the same time, Standing Bear offered his own 900 acres of fertile land to the Department of the Interior in exchange for Thunderhead Mountain and a permit to build a tribute to Crazy Horse. The government agreed to the proposal and after Mount Rushmore was completed in 1941, Ziolkowski signed on to the project. It was reported that he was offered 10 million dollars to work for the United States on the undertaking, but turned it down, instead opting to rely on private donations, entrance fees, and gift shop sales to fund operations. In 1948 he began work a stone's throw from Mount Rushmore, and toiled on the Crazy Horse Memorial until his death in 1982. For the next 32 years, his widow Ruth and their ten children furthered Korczak and Standing Bear's dream until her passing. Children and grandchildren now continue the ongoing project. The colossal 86-foot high face of Crazy Horse was completed June 3, 1998. Work continues on Crazy Horse's arm, hair, horse's head and mane. When completed, it will be the largest sculpture in the world measuring 641 ft. long and 563 ft. high.

In an age of political correctness, in South Dakota and some other states, Columbus Day has been replaced by Native American Day. At the Crazy Horse Memorial outside Custer, South Dakota, October 12, 2020, Native American history and heritage were honored and celebrated. A solemn posting of colors by the Native American Veteran's Post #1 and beautiful Lakota Flag Song were followed by a stirring version of the national anthem sung in Lakota. Fancy dancers wowed attendees and hoop dancers performed dances in which each hoop represents a phase of their lives. Buffalo stew provided by Korczak's Heritage, Laughing Water Restaurant, and Custer State Park was shared by everyone for a delicious and hearty lunch.

The mission of Crazy Horse Memorial Foundation is to protect and preserve the culture, tradition, and living heritage of all North American Indians. For more information on the Crazy Horse Memorial, check out www.crazyhorsememorial.org or call 605-673-4681.

To view past articles and pictures, go to www.DaveGibsonImages.com.

BVSD Accountability Committee meeting

Kirk C. Watkins
Peak to Peak

The Boulder Valley School District Accountability Committee (DAC) met on Tuesday, October 6, 2020. The DAC meets on the first Tuesday of each month, and since March has met using the Zoom platform.

The Committee approved the minutes from the September meeting. The first speaker, Kitty Sargent, secretary for the Board of Education, reported that the school district had approved the academic calendar and reset the dates for the reentry plan. She reported that policy KI, which addresses visitors in schools, was being studied.

The superintendent, Dr. Rob Anderson, reported that the reintroduction had taken place and that the children and teachers

were happy overall, although there were still some concerns from parents and staff. He said that the concerns that had been present prior to the reintroduction had been tempered by the success of the reentry and said that the health numbers were looking really good. Despite the uptick in COVID-19 cases, BVSD still had better numbers in comparison to the Denver and Adams Public Schools.

Following his updates, Anderson took questions from the group. He reported that two students, one parent, and one staff member in the district have tested positive for COVID. He went on to say that the district was following the protocols from the Boulder County Department of Health. <https://www.bouldercounty.org/families/disease/covid-19/>

A proposal was made to create a

dashboard to track the numbers of incidents in the district, or another type of system utilized to create a time sensitive method of tracking numbers for district residents. The following website, which is currently under construction, is being developed for this purpose: <https://www.bvdsd.org/parents-students/academics/covid-19-reintroduction/covid-19-dashboard>

Bill Sutter, Chief Financial Officer for BVSD, presented the District Finance and Budget Overview. His presentation was a combination of current year updates and transitions into 2020-2021 projections. The District has a decrease in enrollment of about 1,400 students across the district, which includes the increase in enrollment for Boulder Universal online school. Charter schools stayed steady due to their backlog of

waitlisted students, and much of the decrease can be traced to the youngest children not enrolling due to COVID-19 concerns.

Staffing numbers have been heavily affected for the current school year. Retaining and placing employees to adequately address the changing variables was and continues to be an enormously complicated process, and the funding of such being an unprecedented task that is extraordinarily complex and unpredictable.

As an example, bussing has decreased substantially affecting the number of drivers needed but recognizing more will be needed as students return to onsite education. These and other scenarios have caused enormous uncertainty in

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