

# Blackfeet Nation

By David Sheffet







## Who are the Blackfeet

- The Blackfeet Indian Reservation is home to the 17,321-member Blackfeet Nation, one of the 10 largest tribes in the United States. Established by treaty in 1855, the reservation is located in northwest Montana.
- Before all this, back in the early 1800s, the Blackfeet were untouchable: They kept the Northern Great Plains to themselves, keeping other tribes at bay



# The Tribes Troubled History

- Before all this, back in the early 1800s, the Blackfeet were untouchable: They kept the Northern Great Plains to themselves, keeping other tribes at bay

# Buffalo Extermination

- By the 1870s, however, the tribe's power dwindled. Their bison were dying off at alarming rates. Driven by the fur trade and senseless game hunting, the bison population became nearly non-existent in the U.S. by 1883, per the Fish and Wildlife Service
- Bison were hunted almost to extinction in the 19th century. Less than 100 remained in the wild by the late 1880s





# Smallpox Epidemic





# Grover Cleveland The Expansion of the American Indian Wars and Creation of National Parks



The loss of the buffalo in 1883 led to a series of starvation winters, where the routine delay and frequent failure of the government to deliver rations guaranteed by the Lane Bull Treaty led to the deaths of over one-quarter of the tribe





# My Visit





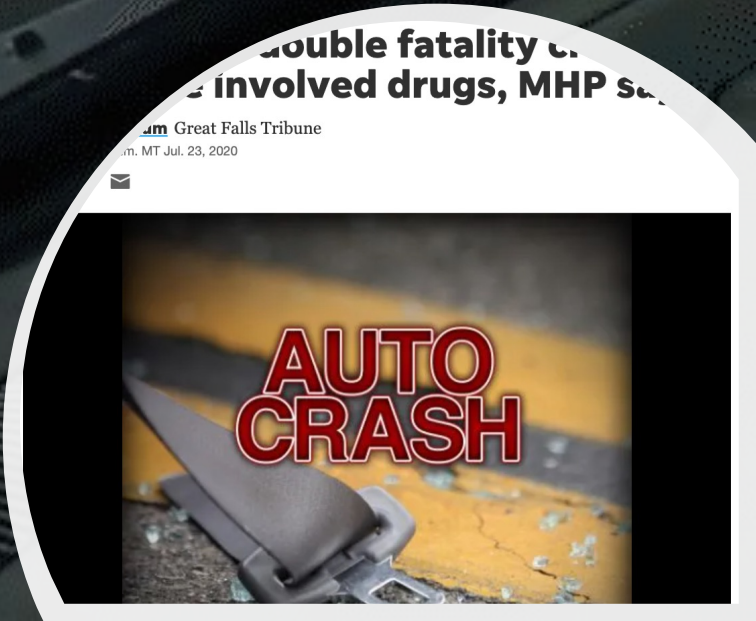
# The Sun Dance





## The Field

These deaths were the 96th and 97th  
on Montana roads this year





Taking Apart the Sun  
Dance



# CUSTER'S LAST STAND

## Broken Promises

- ▣ Since the 1830's and earlier, the American government constantly broke promises to Indian tribes
- ▣ Thousands of Indians were forced from their homes in the east to the plains
- ▣ One journey was known as the "Trail of Tears"



Indian  
Mistreatment

# Recourse

## Cases Decided Since July

- McGirt v. Oklahoma
  - Essentially making the eastern half of Oklahoma “Indian country”
- Sharp v. Murphy
  - States that reservations are never disestablished

## Cases Currently on the Docket

- Nobles v. North Carolina
  - Tribal fishing rights
- United States v. Cooley
  - Whether the lower courts erred in suppressing evidence on the theory that a police officer of an Indian tribe lacked authority to temporarily detain and search respondent





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Thank You!

Any Questions