

Journal #2650

from sdc

8/6/12

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[Tribe Revives Language on Verge of Extinction](#)

By KIRK JOHNSON

SILETZ, Ore. — Local native languages teeter on the brink of oblivion all over the world as the big linguistic sweepstakes winners like English, Spanish or Mandarin ride a surging wave of global communications.

But the forces that are helping to flatten the landscape are also creating new ways to save its hidden, cloistered corners, as in the unlikely survival of Siletz Dee-ni. An American Indian language with only about five speakers left — once dominant in this part of the West, then relegated to near extinction — has, since earlier this year, been shouting back to the world: Hey, we're talking. (In Siletz that would be naa-ch'aa-ghit-'a.)

“We don't know where it's going to go,” said Bud Lane, a tribe member who has been working on the online [Siletz Dee-ni Talking Dictionary](#) for nearly seven years, and recorded almost all of its 10,000-odd audio entries himself. In its first years the dictionary was password protected, intended for tribe members.

Since February, however, when organizers began to publicize its existence, Web hits have spiked from places where languages related to Siletz are spoken, a broad area of the West on through Canada and into Alaska. That is the heartland of the Athabaskan family of languages, which also includes Navajo. And there has been a flurry of interest from Web users in Italy, Switzerland and Poland, where the dark, rainy woods of the Pacific Northwest, at least in terms of language connections, might as well be the moon.

“They told us our language was moribund and heading off a cliff,” said Mr. Lane, 54, sitting in a storage room full of tribal basketry and other artifacts here on the reservation, about three hours southwest of Portland, Ore. He said he has no fantasies that Siletz will conquer the world, or

even the tribe. Stabilization for now is the goal, he said, “creating a pool of speakers large enough that it won’t go away.”

But in the hurly-burly of modern communications, keeping a language alive goes far beyond a simple count of how many people can conjugate its verbs. Think Jen Johnson’s keypad thumbs. A graduate student in linguistics at Georgetown University, Ms. Johnson, 21, stumbled onto Siletz while studying linguistics at Swarthmore College, which has helped the tribe build its dictionary. She fell in love with its cadences, and now texts in Siletz, her fourth language of study, with a tribe member in Oregon.

Language experts who helped create the dictionary say the distinctiveness of Siletz Dee-ni (pronounced SiLETZ day-KNEE), or Coastal Athabascan as it is also called, comes in part from the unique way the language managed to survive.

Most other language preservation projects have a base, however small, of people who speak the language. The [Ojibwe People’s Dictionary](#), for example, which went online this year, focuses on one of the most widely spoken native languages in Canada and the Upper Midwest.

The 12 other dictionaries financed in recent years by the [Living Tongues Institute](#), a nonprofit group, in partnership with the National Geographic Society — which helped start the Siletz dictionary project in 2005 and now uses it as a blueprint — are all centered on languages still in use, however small or threatened their populations of speakers may be. Matukar Panau, for instance, an Oceanic language of Papua New Guinea, has about 600 speakers remaining, in two small villages.

Siletz, by contrast, had become, by the time of the dictionary, almost an artifact — preserved in song for certain native dances, but without a single person living who had grown up with it as a first language.

There were people who had listened to the elders, like Mr. Lane, and there were old recordings, made by anthropologists who came through the West in the 1930s and 1960s, but not much else. Mr. Lane wants to incorporate some of those scratchy recordings into future versions of the dictionary.

What can also bridge an ancient language’s roots to younger tribe members, some new Siletz learners said, is that it can sound pretty cool.

“There are a couple of sounds that are nowhere in the English language, like you’re going to spit, almost — kids seem much more open to that,” said Sonya Moody-Jurado, who grew up hearing a few words from her mother — like nose (mish), and dog (lin-ch’e’) — and has been attending with a grandson Siletz classes taught by Mr. Lane.

“They’re trailblazers, showing the way for small languages to cross the digital divide,” said K. David Harrison, an associate professor of linguistics at Swarthmore who worked with the Siletz tribe and the other partners to build the dictionary. Professor Harrison said he went to Colombia recently, talking to indigenous tribes about preserving their languages, but when the laptops

opened up, the Siletz dictionary, with its impressive size and search capabilities, was the focus. “It’s become a model of how you do it,” he said.

When settlers were streaming west in the 1850s on the Oregon Trail and displacing American Indians from desirable farmland, government Indian policy created artificial conglomerates of tribes, jamming them into one place even though the groups spoke different languages and in many instances had little in common.

The Siletz people were among the largest bands that ended up here on this spit of land jutting into the Pacific Ocean. By dint of their numbers, their language prevailed over other tribes, and their dances, sung in Siletz, became adopted by other tribes as their cultures faded.

“We’re the last standing,” Mr. Lane said.

But the threat of oblivion was constant. In the 1950s, the tiny tribe was declared dead by the United States — a “termination” from the rolls, in the jargon of the time. The Siletz clawed back — clinging to former reservation lands and cultural anchors in songs and dances — and two decades later, in the mid-1970s, became only the second tribe in the nation to go from nonexistence to federally recognized status. The [Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians](#) now have about 4,900 enrolled members and a profitable casino in the nearby resort town of Lincoln City.

School was also once the enemy of tribal languages. Government boarding schools, where generations of Indian children were sent, aimed to stamp out native ways and tongues. Now, the language is taught through the sixth grade at the public [charter school](#) in Siletz, and the tribe aims to have a teaching program in place in the next few years to meet Oregon’s high school language requirements, allowing Siletz, in a place it originated, to be taught as a foreign language.

http://www.nytimes.com/2012/08/04/us/siletz-language-with-few-voices-finds-modern-way-to-survive.html_r=1&nl=todaysheadlines

Court seeks signs from Congress on Yucca Mountain

Federal judges delay ruling on Yucca Mountain Project

By [Steve Tetreault](#) STEPHENS WASHINGTON BUREAU Aug. 3, 2012

WASHINGTON - A divided panel of federal judges Friday put off deciding whether to force the government to restart licensing for the Yucca Mountain nuclear waste site.

A court order put the case on the back burner until December. In the meantime, one judge said the court will be looking for fresh signs from Congress that might make the case clearer to decide.

In five pages of discussion that accompanied the order, judges in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia indicated the Nuclear Regulatory Commission defied federal law when it suspended work on a Yucca Mountain license application in 2010.

But two of the three judges assigned to the case agreed to delay a ruling whether the agency should be ordered back to work.

Judge Brett Kavanaugh said Congress, when it writes appropriations bills for the upcoming fiscal year, may make clear whether it wants the project to continue.

His suggestion appeared to be that ordering the NRC to resume licensing may not be practical if lawmakers refuse to give the agency the money to do so.

"It behooves us to wait for Congress," wrote Kavanaugh, a Republican appointee who was joined by Judge Merrick Garland, a Democratic appointee.

Judge A. Raymond Randolph, a Republican appointee, dissented.

"Congress has its responsibilities. We in the judiciary have ours," Randolph wrote. "There is no reason to delay" ordering the NRC to restart its work "to correct this transparent violation of the law."

The states of Washington and South Carolina were among eight petitioners who sued the NRC over the Yucca Mountain shutdown. Nye County in Nevada also joined the lawsuit.

The NRC said it took the action after it was clear the Obama administration was not going to support the controversial project. President Barack Obama moved to terminate the project soon after he took office, at the urging of Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nev.

Reid declared victory that the court declined to rule, calling it a "good day for Nevada and the entire country." Bob Halstead, executive director of the Nevada Agency for Nuclear Projects, said the court was prudent to await input from Congress.

But David Wright, president of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, said the court order only "seems to delay for a few months the inevitable" that the NRC will be required to resume its Yucca review.

"While we would have preferred that the court act now instead of waiting on Congress, it seems clear that the majority of the judges favor our request that the agency be ordered back to work," said Wright, whose organization consists of state public service officers who oversee nuclear utility rates.

With Reid exercising his influence as Senate majority leader, Congress has approved no funding for Yucca Mountain over the past two years.

But knowledge that the court is looking for fresh clues from Capitol Hill could trigger a new Yucca fight over the next few months.

Congressional leaders have agreed to form a six-month spending bill to carry the government from the beginning of fiscal 2013 on October 1 through next March.

On nuclear waste, both repository critics and supporters could maneuver to add provisions designed to sway the court, said Lake Barrett, a nuclear industry consultant and former Yucca Mountain project director.

"We will have these forces, like matter and antimatter in physics," Barrett said. "They will annihilate each other and generate lots of heat and little light."

Contact Stephens Washington Bureau Chief Steve Tetreault at stetreault@stephensmedia.com or 202-783-1760. Follow him on Twitter @STetreaultDC.

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From: "Joe Strolin" <jstrolin@charter.net>

Attachments: [Lincoln Co Letter to Leg Cmte.pdf](#) [Nye Co Letter to Leg Cmte.pdf](#)

Important Meeting of the Legislature's High-Level Radioactive Waste Committee on Aug. 21st

The Nevada Legislature's High-Level Radioactive Waste Committee is holding a meeting on August 21st, 2012 to consider recommendations to be made by the Committee to the 2013 Nevada Legislature. So far, I am aware that Nye and Lincoln counties have responded to a request for suggested recommendations from Sen. David Parks, Committee Chairman, with letters urging the Committee to, among other things, endorse keeping the Yucca Mountain project alive and offering to have the State of Nevada participate in a "formal process to reach consent" for accepting the Yucca project (Nye's letter). See attached files.

I expect the pro-Yucca people inside and outside Nevada to mount a full court press on the Legislature in an effort to get Nevada to blink and indicate some measure of support for Yucca and/or some form of interim storage or reprocessing that would require bringing thousands of tons of waste into the state. Proposals are also already being circulated that would offer up Yucca (or parts of the Test Site) for a nuclear energy park to include centralized storage of spent nuclear fuel, a reprocessing facility, even a commercial-sized nuclear reactor.

It is critically important that the Legislature's HLW Committee does NOT adopt the Nye and Lincoln recommendations at its 8/21 meeting (or any other recommendations that reflect a weakening of Nevada's opposition), and that the Committee hears loud and clear from constituents in Nevada that caving in on Yucca is not acceptable, especially now when the State is so close to defeating the project.

Having people at the August 21st meeting who oppose Yucca and any related spent fuel storage or reprocessing schemes is very important. I would urge you to attend the meeting if you can and recruit others to attend as well. You can be sure the pro-Yucca people will be out in force.

Here's date, time and location information for the meeting:

Date: August 21, 2012 (Tuesday) **Time:** 9:00am

Where: * Grant Sawyer State Office Building, 555 E. Washington Ave., Las Vegas, NV.
* Video-conferenced to Room 3138 of the Legislative Building, 401 S. Carson St., Carson City,

You can also write to the HLW Committee and urge them to ignore the recommendations from Nye and Lincoln counties and others:

Sen. David Parks, Chairman
Legislature's Committee on High-Level Radioactive Waste
c/o Patrick Guinan, Principal Research Analyst, Legislative Counsel Bureau
401 S. Carson Street, Carson City, NV 89701-4747
Email: PGuinan@LCB.STATE.NV.US

Please pass this email on to others who you know who might be interested and willing to help.
Thanks for your help with this. Joe

The Push For Nuclear Power in Space

Karl Grossman, Nation of Change

Excerpt: "The problem - a huge one and not mentioned whatsoever by World Nuclear News - involves accidents with space nuclear power systems releasing radioactivity impacting on people and other life on Earth. That has already happened. With more space nuclear operations, more atomic mishaps would be ahead." [READ MORE](#)

The Phoebe A. Hearst Museum of Anthropology

Since closing the Museum on July 1, focusing our efforts on a collections move that will see 1.5 million objects rehoused in upgraded collections facilities, the Museum staff have not slowed down.

In early July we hosted an initial meeting to discuss the development of the Museum's Native American Advisory Council. This is the first step in the planning and development of the Council. It will enable the Museum to deepen our collaborative work with members of the California Indian community.

We are also moving toward the inaugural meeting of the Museum's International Advisory Council, which will work with the Director to provide objective advice and guidance. We look forward to welcoming the Council members to the Museum in October.

Another great leap forward for the Museum has been the launch of Collectionspace.org. This open source database ushers in a new and more flexible way of managing our exceptionally large collection.

These advances point toward our intent of living up to our great potential. It is a transformative and exciting time at the Museum and we are thrilled to be sharing it with you. We encourage you to stay involved by becoming a [volunteer](#) and visiting our newly established [staff blog](#).

With warm regards, Mari Lyn Salvador, Director

Please join us for our next members' event on Tuesday, August 28, from 6pm to 8pm.

Director's Lecture: The Art of Being Kuna: Layers of Meaning Among the Kuna of Panama

Tuesday, August 28, 6pm-8pm

Dr. Mari Lyn Salvador began her work with Kuna Indian women in 1965 as a Peace Corps volunteer in Panama and has continued her research throughout her career.

Her research centers on an ethno-aesthetic approach to the artistic principles that guide mola making as well as interpretation of mola designs, from the perspective of the women themselves. She will talk about molas, traditional blouses worn by Kuna women, including the process of mola making and their cultural context.

[Register Now!](#)
[I can't make it.](#)

Building the Future: Native American Advisory Council

Ben Garcia, Head of Interpretation and Operations

On July 10 the Museum convened its first native American Advisory Council planning meeting. Twenty-two invited guests, most from California tribal communities, joined six Museum staff to begin setting parameters for a Native American Advisory Council. The council will be formed this fall with the purpose of advising the Museum on issues related to the North American collections. These include repatriation, partnerships with tribal museums, co-creation of exhibitions and educational programs, and other issues of concern and interest to Council members and Museum staff.

This day-long meeting was a profound experience for the participants, many of whom expressed appreciation for engaging with these issues at the start of the Museum's renovation, collections move, and re-installation process. While there were many serious moments and difficult issues addressed throughout the day, the group left with optimism about the formation of this Council and what it might mean for the future of relations between the Museum and California Indian communities. This was coupled with a sense that some long-overdue conversations were finally underway.

Breath of Life

Natasha Johnson, North American Collections Manager

Every two years, the Linguistics Department at UC Berkeley and the Advocates for Indigenous California Language Survival hold a workshop, called [Breath of Life](#), for Native Californians to foster greater access, understanding, and revival of their languages. This June, sixty-two participants studying over twenty different languages attended, with thirty-two language mentors assisting them. Over the course of five days, the participants used the archives of four campus entities: the Berkeley Language Center, the archives of the Survey of California and other Indian Languages, The Bancroft Library, and the Hearst's media and object collections.

Alongside the workshop, the Hearst Museum facilitated an evening event at the basket and textile collections storage facility for the participants. They were able to view and access baskets from their tribe, and were assisted by staff to find specific baskets made by family members. There was much laughter, some song, and not a few tears at the reunions between attendees and their grandmothers' fine works of art. Eighteen museum staff members and volunteers were present to help the visitors in every way possible.

Crowdfunding: What is it?

crowdfundinglive.com

[Crowdfunding, what is it? Simply put, it's all about money for your project. On June 9, 2012 join us to discover how to "Succeed with Crowdfunding!"](#)

Facts and fiction on the Klamath River Settlement Process and dam removal

Hayley Hutt, Eureka Times-Standardtimes-standard.com/

Full water allotments went to farmers in the Upper Klamath this year, which left little water for salmon and the birds in the Nation's first wildlife refuges. Only water mandated by the Endangered Species Act to keep Coho Salmon alive will be available, regardless of the fact 380,000 Chinook Salmon are expected. This is two-and-a-half times more salmon than in 2002 when the fish kill occurred.

Fishing the North Coast:Fall salmon season underway on the Klamath

Kenny Priest, Eureka Times-Standard

Buckle up and enjoy the ride - the fall salmon season is underway on the Klamath River. In what is projected to be a record, 380,000 adult fall Chinook salmon are slated to return to the Klamath basin (including the Trinity River) this year. The in-river sport allocation is 67,600 fish, which is more than double any previous quota. If all the predictions come to fruition, the Klamath will be one of the best bets for salmon on the West Coast.

Salmon controversy jeopardizes California water supply

Western Farm Press

Despite decades of effort costing taxpayers more than \$1 billion, the regulatory agencies charged with improving the health of salmon populations in California's Central Valley have made little impact on a problem that continues to jeopardize the state's fragile water supply and undermine its economy, according to a new report.

Assessment heats up solar efforts

By **Ashley Hennefer** ashleyh@newsreview.com [08.02.12](#).

Nevada, along with Arizona, California, Colorado, New Mexico and Utah, was assessed by the U.S. Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy and the Bureau of Land Management to determine plans for developing alternative energy resources on public lands. The Solar Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement was released last week—good news for local renewable energy projects, who can use the statement to plan for the implementation of energy resources throughout the state. The study has been in the works for more than two years. Learn more about it at <http://solareis.anl.gov/>.

Multidimensional Lisa Kurt

By **Ashley Hennefer** ashleyh@newsreview.com [08.02.12](#).

Lisa Kurt is the engineering and emerging technologies librarian in the DeLaMare Science and Engineering Library on the University of Nevada, Reno campus. DeLaMare recently became the first academic library to have a 3-D printer, which students and faculty can use to print 3-D objects—such as cell phone cases or models of engines—using open source designs.

How did you decide to bring this into the library?

It was quite a process. 3-D printers have been popular recently, especially with the MakerBot, but we wanted printers that could handle a lot of student use. We thought, “Wow, this is a game

changer.” You could perceive it as a toy, but it’s so much more. The potential that 3-D printing brings for all kinds of fields of study—and even play too, which is totally valid and valuable—I think it’s really amazing. And to us, it’s really a no-brainer. It’s how we think. I kind of thought, why wouldn’t you want it? Why wouldn’t you want to get in early? There’s so much excitement, and the whole D.I.Y [do-it-yourself] movement across the country, and the whole maker movement in the country and internationally. To me, I just feel like we want to be part of it. And there is definitely a place at the table for libraries. Higher education is changing, learning is changing, and so we need to not just stay relevant, but be active and engaging users and students and whoever it is who is part of our community. So this is a really easy way to engage them because it immediately begins a conversation. They walk by, they see it, they stop, they turn around, and they start asking questions. Little kids get it, like immediately.

You can play with the items it prints. Kids seem to understand how cool that is.

Right. It is. It’s like the power of holding something that you’ve made in your hands, in whatever way—it doesn’t have to just be 3-D printing, but 3-D printing is a good way to achieve it. And so when you’re holding something in your hands that you’ve created, there’s something really powerful about that. Because immediately, you kind of go, “What else can I do?” or “How can I make this better?” And so it’s kind of a jumping off point for further exploration and learning, and that’s huge.

Do you envision 3-D printers in other libraries or creative spaces?

I suspect it won’t be long. It fits so well in the DeLaMare Library because we already serve people who are using this technology. A lot of engineers are already working in 3-D. They are using the software and building prototypes. Right now their method of printing has essentially been like sending it out and paying, and waiting, and getting it, and saying “Oh, that’s not quite right” or “That works.” This is nice, because it brings it in, and other people on campus can use it as well ... like the art department. The art department had a MakerBot and was doing 3-D printing with some of its classes. It would be great to bring in more of the artists and the art department. I think that’s really powerful, getting the engineers together with the artists, getting the designers together with the journalism school, having all these different people together. I think learning has always been going toward that interdisciplinary way. I think working is going that way, too. There’s power in that, too, with different perspectives. ... You may have your specialty, but it’s good to dabble in other things. It makes you a stronger person. It keeps you fresh.

BLM rescinds memo that angered Sage Grouse Advisory Committee

The Bureau of Land Management has rescinded a memo that members of the Nevada Sage Grouse Advisory Committee objected to as ignoring the state plan to protect the bird. [Click here to read the full story...](#)

[At the Buffalo Bill Museum, a Showdown Between History and Myth](#)

By EDWARD ROTHSTEIN

The museum, part of the Buffalo Bill Historical Center in Cody, Wyo., has been reconceived to embrace a more nuanced view of the American West.

You may have heard that Congress passed legislation that delayed for one year the **doubling of interest rates on federally subsidized student loans**.

Although Congress didn't pass the indefinite extension of lower student interest rates that over 284,000 CREDO Action members pushed for with petitions, calls and letters to the editor, it did pass legislation that delayed for one year the doubling of interest rates on federally subsidized student loans.¹ Many of our progressive allies² joined this fight, and no doubt it was thanks to all of our activism that Congress did anything at all to stop federal student loan rates from doubling.

This was a step in the right direction, as it provided millions of America's working-class students and their families much-needed immediate relief, making sure they are not going to incur additional financial stress in the current fragile economy.

But unfortunately, we haven't even started to make a dent in the student loan crisis — we merely stopped Republicans from making it much worse. Since 1999, the average student loan debt has increased by 511 percent.³ That's 511 percent in just 13 years!

There is a bill that would indefinitely set the federal student loan interest rate at 3.4 percent. It would ensure that students pay their fair share while partially forgiving federal student debt for those hardworking American taxpayers who have already paid 10 percent of their discretionary income for 10 years. And because massive student loan debt suppresses economic growth by prohibiting many college graduates from starting a business, buying a home or starting a family, the bill would also provide much-needed stimulus for the economy.⁴

The Student Loan Forgiveness Act would make student loan repayment both simple and fair by capping federal student loan interest rates, converting private student loan debt into federal loan programs, and allowing forgiveness of federal student debt of those graduates who have paid at least 10 percent of their discretionary income for 10 years.⁵

We bailed out the big banks and we think it's time for at least a partial bailout of students and their families who suffer under crushing student debt. Partially forgiving debt, reducing loan repayment burdens, and cutting fees and interest rates for those who qualify under the Student Loan Forgiveness Act would increase the purchasing power of millions of Americans and help stimulate the economy.

However, this won't be easy. In order to have a shot at passing real reform of the student loan system, we need support from the Democratic Leadership to build momentum for the Student Loan Forgiveness Act.

The short-term extension of low interest rates on federally subsidized student loans was a welcome move, but it is the equivalent of putting a band-aid on a massive head wound. Settling for a mere one-year extension means that we will be right back where we started next spring, as a deadline looms for doubling the interest rates on federal student loans. To make matters worse, we will have neither the leverage of voter outrage in an election year to force extremist

Republicans to the negotiating table nor the promise of a strong youth vote turnout to motivate Democrats to stand up and fight for the real reform our country needs.

If the Democrats in Washington are serious about advancing a long-term solution to our student loan crisis and ending what has been called "modern-day indentured servitude,"⁶ they need to embrace real solutions like the Student Loan Forgiveness Act, which frees students who have paid their fair share from the increasingly outrageous burden of student debt and helps stimulate the economy at the same time.

Let's speak up on behalf of our students, graduates and their families today. Click below to automatically sign the petition to the Democratic Leadership urging them to support the Student Loan Forgiveness Act.

[http://act.credoaction.com/r/?r=6906149&p=forgive student debt&id=44558-1267462-L2HuY8x&t=10](http://act.credoaction.com/r/?r=6906149&p=forgive%20student%20debt&id=44558-1267462-L2HuY8x&t=10)

Thank you for speaking out.

Murshed Zaheed, Deputy Political Director [CREDO Action from Working Assets](#)

1. Annamaria Andriotis, "[Does the New Student-Loan Legislation Go Far Enough?](#)," The Wall Street Journal, June 29, 2012.
2. Student PIRGs, MoveOn, Rebuild the Dream and many other groups rallied Congress to stop federal student loan rates from doubling July 1, 2012.
3. David Indiviglio, "[Chart of the Day: Student Loans have grown 511% since 1999](#)," The Atlantic.com, August 18, 2011.
4. Isaac Bowers, "[Learn What the Student Loan Forgiveness Act Could Mean for You](#)," USNews.com, March 21, 2012.
5. Ibid.
6. Mike Konczal, "[Student Loans are the New Indentured Servitude](#)," The Atlantic.com, October 12, 2009.

Since this is a "50" issue, please feel free to forward any emails of persons you think should be on this Journal email list. Thanks! sdc