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### **What Happens When A Language's Last Monolingual Speaker Dies?**

**by Kat Chow**

**January 08, 2014 10:34 AM**



A portrait of Emily Johnson Dickerson by artist Mike Larsen. Courtesy of the Chickasaw Nation

Emily Johnson Dickerson died at her home in Ada, Okla., last week. She was the last person alive who spoke only the Chickasaw language.

"This is a sad day for all Chickasaw people because we have lost a cherished member of our Chickasaw family and an unequalled source of knowledge about our language and culture," Chickasaw Nation Gov. Bill Anoatubby said in a news release. The has about 55,000 members and is based in the southern part of central Oklahoma.

Dickerson, 93, was one of about 65 people fluent in the Chickasaw language, which has seen its number of speakers shrink from thousands since the 1960s.

"Chickasaw was the dominant language in Chickasaw Nation, both prior to and following removal [when Chickasaw people were forced to relocate to Indian Territory\*]," says Joshua Hinson, director of the . "It was the late 1880s, 1890s and into the 1900s when we started to see a shift toward English."

The people who still speak Chickasaw — now in their 60s and 70s — started learning English when they were forced to go to boarding schools for Indians or local public schools. Dickerson didn't learn another language because, Hinson says, she didn't need English. She was from a traditional community, Kali-Homma', and didn't work in a wage economy.

"She lived like our ancestors did a long time ago," Hinson says. "What's important in Chickasaw is quite different than [what's important] in English. ... For her, she saw a world from a Chickasaw worldview, without the interference of English at all."

Though the Chickasaw language is very different from English, it shares features with other Native languages.

Chickasaw is a spoken language, replete with long, intricate words that have the same amount of information as a sentence or sometimes two sentences in English. Take the word *Ilooibaa-áyya'shahminattook*.

"This means something like 'We (including you, the person I am speaking to) were there together, habitually, a long time (more than a year) ago,'" Hinson wrote in an email. (The word was too long to spell out over the phone.)

Experts say the rest of the 65 Chickasaw speakers, all of whom are bilingual, might be a big enough pool to preserve the language. Greg Anderson, director of the , thinks the situation, though bleak, is not as bad as it could be.

"You can never really predict what the future will bring for a language that's in demise, even a language as far eroded as Chickasaw is," Anderson says. "As small as the number is, it could be a lot worse. ... You could conceivably, with very difficult — to be honest — time-consuming effort ... try to maintain and preserve and find main domains of use [for the language]."

Hinson's program tries to counter further erosion of Chickasaw by offering language immersion programs — for both kids and adults. Tools, including an and a , make the language accessible to anyone, as Hinson puts it, "on the face of the planet."

The death of Emily Johnson Dickerson last week is a "kind of reminder in how important the work we do in revitalization is, how important it is for us to be serious and committed and hard-working," Hinson says. "We don't want to have a situation in 30 years where we say our last Native speaker has passed and we don't have a speaker who can have a conversation in Chickasaw."

*\*This forced removal followed the passage of the Indian Removal Act of 1830 and is commonly referred to as the "Trail of Tears."*

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## Possible Exposure Investigation in McDermitt [ktvn.com](http://ktvn.com)

Officials with the Fort McDermitt Paiute-Shoshone Tribe near the Nevada-Oregon border are investigating a medical situation involving the use of non-sterile blood glucose monitoring equipment.

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The chairman of the Fort McDermitt Paiute Shoshone Tribe in Northern Nevada says at least 21 reservation members have been exposed to Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and HIV. Here's how it happened: <http://bit.ly/KSfGBY>

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\*In today's selection -- in his controversial 1992 book **Dumbing Us Down**, -- now in its tenth edition -- award-winning teacher John Taylor Gatto puts forward a decidedly different view of what needs to be done to improve our schools. He argues that kids need less school rather than more, that our current system of education stifles the natural curiosity and joy of learning, and that between school, television and the internet, kids today are left with less than 12 hours a week "to create a unique consciousness":

"It appears to me as a schoolteacher that schools are already a major cause of weak families and weak communities. They separate parents and children from vital interaction with each other and from true curiosity about each other's lives. Schools stifle family originality by appropriating the critical time needed for any sound idea of family to develop -- then they blame the family for its failure to be a family.

...

"Why, then, are we locking kids up in an involuntary network with strangers for twelve years? ...

"Look again at [what I consider to be] the seven lessons of school teaching: confusion, class position, indifference, emotional and intellectual dependency, conditional self-esteem, and surveillance. All of these lessons are prime training for permanent underclasses, people deprived forever of finding the center of their own special genius. And over time this training has shaken loose from its original purpose:

to regulate the poor. For since the 1920s the growth of the school bureaucracy as well as the less visible growth of a horde of industries that profit from schooling exactly as it is, has enlarged this institution's original grasp to the point that it now seizes the sons and daughters of the middle classes as well. ...

"Our form of compulsory schooling is an invention of the State of Massachusetts around 1850. It was resisted -- sometimes with guns -- by an estimated eighty percent of the Massachusetts population, the last outpost in Barnstable on Cape Cod not surrendering its children

until the 1880s, when the area was seized by militia and children marched to school under guard.

"Now here is a curious idea to ponder: Senator Ted Kennedy's office ... released a paper ... claiming that prior to compulsory education the state literacy rate was ninety-eight percent and that after it the figure never exceeded ninety-one percent, where it stands in 1990.

"Here is another curiosity to think about: The home-schooling movement has quietly grown to a size where one and half million young people are being educated entirely by their own parents; last month the education press reported the amazing news that, in their ability to think, children schooled at home seem to be five or even ten years ahead of their formally trained peers. ...

"The truth is that reading, writing, and arithmetic only take about one hundred hours to transmit as long as the audience is eager and willing to learn. The trick is to wait until someone asks and then move fast while the mood is on. Millions of people teach themselves these things -- it really isn't very hard. Pick up a fifth-grade math or rhetoric textbook from 1850 and you'll see that the texts were pitched then on what would today be considered college level. ...

"Self-knowledge is the only basis of true knowledge. Everywhere in [a successful education] system, at every age, you will find arrangements that work to place the child alone in an unguided setting with a problem to solve. ... Independent study, community service, adventures and experience, large doses of privacy and solitude, a thousand different apprenticeships -- the one-day variety or longer -- these are all powerful, cheap, and effective ways to start a real reform of schooling."

Dumbing Us Down: The Hidden Curriculum of Compulsory Schooling, 10th Anniversary Edition Copyright 2005      Pages: 67,61,16,22,12,30,33

Author: John Taylor Gatto      Publisher: New Society Publishers

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<http://www.collective-evolution.com/2014/01/07/this-is-what-happens-when-a-kid-leaves-traditional-education/>

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[Mark Ruffalo wants you to imagine a 100 percent clean energy future](#)

The celebrity activist isn't just against fracking; he wants to turn the conversation to green solutions.      BY CHRIS MOONEY AND INDRE VISCONTAS

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<http://www.viralnova.com/log-house/>

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## **Gaming lobbying organization revamps management team**

By HOWARD STUTZ

LAS VEGAS REVIEW-JOURNAL

The American Gaming Association announced a shake-up Monday in its management team, hiring five senior staff members to oversee the Washington D.C.-based trade organization's marketing communication and policy functions.

In a statement, the group that represents the gaming industry's interests in Congress said it hired individuals with experience in the gaming industry and have backgrounds in the private sector and with trade associations.

American Gaming Association CEO Geoff Freeman said the changes in staff are part of a reorganization that places an emphasis on proactive, campaign-style trade association advocacy.

"Through groundbreaking research, aggressive outreach and on-the-ground activities, this group of experts will position the AGA to champion gaming's value as a driver of innovation and economic growth," Freeman said in the statement.

The five include Sara Rayme, senior vice president of public affairs, who worked with MGM Resorts International in the company's Maryland expansion efforts; Chaka Burgess, vice president of government relations, who has nearly 20 years of experience in coalition building, lobbying and ally development, and formerly worked as director in the global government affairs division of Amgen Inc.; Allie Barth, senior director of communications, who previously worked with the U.S. Travel Association; Elizabeth Cronan, director of gaming policy, who previously worked with International Game Technology; and Virginia Hurt Johnson, general counsel, who has 30 years of experience in the private and public sectors.

The changes come almost seven months into Freeman's tenure as CEO of the American Gaming Association. He replaced the organization's founder, Frank Fahrenkopf Jr., who retired last June.

Contact reporter Howard Stutz at [hstutz@reviewjournal.com](mailto:hstutz@reviewjournal.com) or 702-477-3871. Follow @howardstutz on Twitter.

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**[Wilma Mankiller's "The Cherokee Word for Water" to be Screened Thursday Night in Chicago](#)** [nativenewsonline.net](http://nativenewsonline.net)

[CHICAGO – Wilma Mankiller's historic journey to become the first modern female Chief of the Cherokee Nation is told in the feature film, "The Cherokee Word for Water." The film will be screened on Thursday night in Chicago at the Kerasotes ShowPlace, located at 1011 South Delano Court. It is being p...](#)

**[Court greenlights Hopi challenge against Flagstaff's sale of reclaimed wastewater to Snowbowl](#)** [azdailysun.com](http://azdailysun.com)



[The Hopi Tribe can proceed with its legal bid to halt snowmaking with reclaimed wastewater on the San Francisco Peaks after the Arizona Supreme Court sided with it Tuesday.](#)

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### [Shock And Outrage: Reaction To Residential School Experiments](#) [cbc.ca](#)

[Disturbing new research was made public this week that details how aboriginal children and adults were used as unwitting subjects in government-run experiments on the effects of](#)

[malnutrition. At least 1,300 aboriginal people, most of them children, were involved in the...](#)

**NEVADA URBAN INDIANS INC.**  
Honoring Wellness Through Youth & Community  
**Health Fair & Pow Wow**  
MARCH 8TH, 2014  
WOOSTER HIGH SCHOOL  
1331 L. PLUMB LN., RENO, NV 89502  
**PUBLIC WELCOME**  
ARTISANS / FOOD  
SINGERS / DANCERS  
DANCE CONTEST  
PRINCESS CONTEST  
GRAND ENTRY  
1:00PM & 7:00PM  
HEAD STAFF  
Master of Ceremony - Gridley Hilpert  
Arena Director - Sam Johnson  
Head Male Dancer - Colton Tohannie  
Head Female Dancer - Crystal Howell  
Head Jr/Teen Male Dancer - Clayton Saunders  
Head Jr/Teen Female Dancer - Patricia Christy  
Host Drum - Five Feathers  
Co-Host - Young Chief  
More Information call  
(775) 788-7600  
[www.NevadaUrbanIndians.org](http://www.NevadaUrbanIndians.org)  
Like Us On Facebook!  
Nevada Urban Indians & Pow Wow Committee will not be held responsible for any accidents, loss, injuries, short funded travelers, etc...

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### [Red Rock Canyon Artist in Residence Program](#) [rrcair.tumblr.com](#)

[Participate as a 2014 Artist-in-Residence and share how Red Rock Canyon NCA inspires you.](#)

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### [Quality Counts 2014: State Highlights Reports](#) [edweek.org](#)

[The Quality Counts 2014 Highlights Reports capture all of the data you need to assess your state's performance in key areas.](#)

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## More Calendar:

### Money & More: Tribal Resources Forum

**Jan. 22 Phoenix, AZ**

REGISTER NOW to attend this FREE 4 Annual Tribal Resources Forum at the Heard Museum in Phoenix, AZ. Don't Miss This one-day, one-stop event featuring more than 20 organizations & agencies with valuable funding, training, technical assistance and other resources for Tribes and Native American communities. Representative from various agencies & organizations will be available to meet individually with attendees to discuss specific projects and to identify & rally funding & other resources to successfully complete tribal projects. Register at:

<http://www.hud.gov/emarc/index.cfm?fuseaction=emar.registerEvent&eventId=1935&update=N>.

### Sustaining the Reservation: Creating Tribal Economies Feb. 27-28 Tempe, AZ

Sustaining the Reservation: Creating Tribal Economies will continue the conversation and explore viable solutions how tribal governments and tribal citizens can create sustainable economies that will help them preserve their reservations as permanent homelands for their families, governments, and cultures. This conference brings together cutting-edge scholars, tribal leaders, and officials, economic development planners, attorneys, and others to explore this important topic. Who should attend? Tribal leaders and employees, attorneys, economic development planners, investors, and anyone who cares about the future of tribal communities. Register Here!

### Tribal Housing Board/Board of Commissioner Training (HUD/ONAP) Feb. 4-5 Albuquerque,

This FREE 2-day training provides an overview of Housing Board roles and responsibilities pertaining to the provision of affordable housing for tribal communities. Experienced trainers will provide examples & scenarios to inform & educate about these roles to insure successful tribal



housing for eligible community members under HUD's Indian Housing Block Grant program. To register, visit <https://www.regonline.com/Register/Checkin.aspx?EventID=1356970> or call (202) 789-1754.

**Federal Procurement (HUD/ONAP) Feb. 6-7 Albuquerque, NM**

This FREE two-day course presents current procurement practices affecting contract administration & procurement of materials or services for tribal housing organizations. The interactive course provides classroom theory as well as practical application through exercises, case studies, role plays, discussions and quizzes. Participants will develop a solid foundation in Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG) funded procurement & contract management. Training topics include careful preplanning, the basics of purchasing, unique factors in tribal housing purchasing, practical how-tos of procurement planning, policy development, and specific regional issues. Management activities intended to avoid sanctions, penalties, & indictable offenses will also be discussed. Register at <https://www.regonline.com/Register/Checkin.aspx?EventID=1356988> or call (202) 789-1754.

**Orientation to Sustainable Environmental Assessment Feb. 24-28 Los Angeles, CA**

All federal projects come with environmental assessment responsibilities under NEPA. This course uses the HUD (24 CFR 58) environmental process that delegates NEPA & 18 other environmental authorities to prove a framework & insights into issue identification and analysis pointed to consideration of alternatives. Course includes a textbook w/ companion DVD, expert guest speakers, interactive exercises and simulation. Case oriented exercises provide participants with simulated hands-on experience and the classrooms provide opportunities for Q & A and peer-to-peer interaction. For more: <http://www.ph.ucla.edu/erc/osea.htm> or call (310) 206-2304.

**Construction Management/Contract Administration March 4-5 Phoenix, AZ**

FREE. HUD/ONAP's important and popular 2-day course will cover basics of managing construction projects and contract administration including Bid Process and Awards, Special Procurements, Project Management and Contract Administration and much more. For more info., visit [www.firstpic.org](http://www.firstpic.org) or call Sara Fiala at 202.393.6400.

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**Radio Disney's pro-fracking elementary school tour sparks outrage**

by [Peter Moskowitz](#) @PeterMoskowitz January 8, 2014

Radio Disney made 26 stops across Ohio with a pro-fracking group to promote oil and gas to elementary school students

An educational program funded by Ohio's oil and gas industry and sponsored by Radio Disney has environmental activists – and some parents – up in arms over what they say is a hijacking of public education by hydraulic fracturing (fracking) interests, in a state sitting on billions of dollars' worth of gas-rich shale.

The program, called Rocking in Ohio, went on a 26-stop tour of elementary schools and science centers across the state last month. It involves interactive demonstrations of how oil and gas pipelines work, and is led by three staffers from Radio Disney's Cleveland branch. It is entirely



funded by the [Ohio Oil and Gas Energy Education Program](#) (OOGEEP), which gets its money from oil and gas companies.

Radio Disney, a nationwide network of radio stations aimed at kids, has said it will take the tour to other states if it deems the program successful. The company could not be reached for comment in time for the publication of this story.

Environmental activists and parents have called the program “propaganda” for promoting a controversial industry. Fracking – a process in which thousands of gallons of water and chemicals are injected into deep wells in order to break up rocks that contain natural gas or oil – has been a boon to Ohio’s economy, but has caused myriad environmental issues in the state.

Some who are concerned over the promotional program have taken to the Internet to vent their outrage, creating online petitions and social media campaigns urging Disney to back out of its relationship with the oil and gas group. The most popular petition [currently has over 75,000 signatures](#).

In each of the 26 demonstrations, a Radio Disney DJ named Taylor Bell directed teams of kids as they raced to build pipelines out of plastic straws. The first team to get three ping pong balls through the “pipelines” won the game. The kids were cheered on by Radio Disney employees and teachers as pop music played in the background.

"Our country cannot survive without oil and gas," OOGEEP's Ron Grosjean told the [Wooster, Ohio Daily Record](#). "Kids are the best way (to spread the message). They retain (the information); they remember it."

According to several local media reports, the demonstrations seemed to be a hit. One said kids became “[loud, noisy and raucous](#)” in support of their teams.

Environmentalists are less enthusiastic.

“I don’t think it’s doing the children or the state of Ohio any good,” said Robert Shields, the [Ohio chapter chair for the Sierra Club](#). “Kids’ ability to reason is not yet quite established, so it feels to me that they’re getting some kind of propaganda.”

OOGEEP pointed out in local media that the word “fracking” is never used during the demonstrations.

This is far from the first education program started by OOGEEP, which was founded in 1998 and has reached 100,000 students with its outreach initiatives, according to the organization’s website.

But it seems teaming up with a well-known national company like Disney crossed a line for some and created an online firestorm.

"It's troubling in the first place that they're going into elementary schools, and it's even more troubling that Disney is getting involved," said Alison Auciello, an organizer with [Food and Water Watch](#) in Ohio. "They're not giving a balanced education on (oil and gas). Public schools

should also be inviting anti-fracking people into schools. That doesn't seem to be happening at all."

[Fracking has](#) become more controversial as it has expanded in Ohio over the past few years. A recent investigation by The Associated Press found that drinking water in the state may have been [contaminated by gas drilling](#). Also, a series of [earthquakes in the Ohio city of Youngstown](#) was linked to fracking in August.

But detractors have not been able to stop the industry from quickly gaining ground in the state. The most recent figures from Ohio's Department of Natural Resources show shale drilling led to [twice as much oil and gas production](#) in the third quarter of 2013 as in the same quarter of the year before.

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### **[Tips for Young Entrepreneurs During National Mentoring Month](#)**

As a young entrepreneur, you may be looking for advice or guidance as you consider starting your own business. A great place to turn? A mentor. And January is National Mentoring Month! Read on for more about why and how to get started with a mentor. [> Read more](#)

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## **Digging for the Truth: Gold Mining in Nevada**

### **Part II - Mining and Water**

**January 14, 2014**

**6:00 - 7:30 PM**

**708 S. 6th St., Las Vegas, Nevada**

**(PLAN office )**

**Link to info:** <https://www.facebook.com/events/1381727275414008/?source=1>

**If you are unable to attend the event it will be streamed at:** <http://www.ustream.tv/channel/planevada>

Gold mining is one of the most destructive industries in the world – producing gold for one wedding ring alone generates 20 tons of waste.

What are the impacts of Nevada's giant gold mining industry on our waters? Is the state doing enough to safeguard our future by standing up to the most powerful corporations in the world?

Join two of Nevada's leading experts on gold mining to answer these questions and more:

Dr Tom Myers is a researcher and consultant in hydrogeology and water resources. Tom has more than 28 years of experience specializing in groundwater modeling, hydrogeology, environmental forensics, regulatory compliance, water rights, NEPA analysis, and environmental and water policy. He focuses on mining and water resource development issues, coal-bed methane development and groundwater contamination.

John E. Hadder is currently the Director for Great Basin Research Watch. His academic background is in physical chemistry with a MS from the University of Cincinnati. GBRW is non-profit and regional environmental justice organization dedicated to protecting the health and well

being of the land, air, water, wildlife, and human communities of the Great Basin from the adverse effects of resource extraction and use.

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775-348-1986                      775-722-4056 (c)                      775-345-3575 (f)

[john@gbw.org](mailto:john@gbw.org)

[www.gbrw.org](http://www.gbrw.org)

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normally \$2000+ now completely free online!

2014 Fort Hall Round Dance  
January 17th & 18th, 2014  
Timbee Hall, Fort Hall, Idaho, U.S.A.  
"Preserving Our Traditions for Our Future Generations"

Feast Nightly  
at 5:00 p.m.

Starts Nightly  
at 7:00 p.m.



Master of Ceremonies:  
Earl "Archie" Arkinson

Honorary Drum: Ghost Canyon Singers, Fort Hall, Idaho  
Invited Singers: Blackstone, Sweetgrass, Saskatchewan, Canada  
and Young Scouts, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada  
Randy Paskemin, West Valley, Utah and  
Charles "Slim" Lasley of MNX, Wisconsin Dells, WI.

Sponsored by: Shoshone-Bannock Tribes and Fort Hall Recreation  
For more information contact Sony Dixey at (208) 380-9353  
(Not Responsible for Accidents, Theft, or Injuries)