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Native Health Annual Meeting



The Mongols are some of the coolest Indigenous people on the earth. They live in tribes like us. They hunt in partnership with golden eagles. They are also a horse culture like many Tribes. Louwinda Garity

**The environmental review of the controversial Dakota Access oil pipeline did not “adequately consider the impacts of an oil spill on fishing rights, hunting rights, or environmental justice,” according to a ruling issued Wednesday by a U.S. federal judge. The pipeline became a flashpoint last year over concerns about water pollution and Native American rights. Yesterday’s ruling [could lead to the suspension of the line’s operation](#).
*Reuters***

Bossin said, it's like building an outhouse without digging a hole first.



Wyoming mayor defends his decision to remove town hall Trump portrait by comparing Trump to Stalin

Jun 12, by Walter Einkenkel

Jackson Wyoming Mayor Pete Muldoon ruffled some feathers after he took down a portrait of unpopular President Donald Trump last week and replaced [it with Chief Washakie, the Shoshone leader of the 1800s](#). Chief Washakie was a prominent figure in the early history of Wyoming and had the historical distinction of being the only known Native American receive a full military funeral by the United States.

The move has elicited reaction from the political left and right—each taking their predictable sides. Democrats and/or liberals are mostly in favor of the Muldoon’s decision to take Trump down, citing various criticisms of the president. One Facebook user wrote: “Thanks Pete! It’s a little thing but Trump certainly doesn’t deserve that place of honor, in this or any other town.”

Republicans, for the most part, believe the photo swap to be disrespectful to the office. Many in Wyoming living outside of Jackson have pointed to the controversy as a perfect example of why Teton County is often considered an embarrassing part of the Cowboy State.

The move came in tandem with the [Jackson town council adopting a resolution in support of the Paris Agreement](#). With conservatives attacking, Mayor Muldoon sent an email, which has been [shared online](#), to his constituents. Mayor Muldoon explains that he knows that Donald Trump is the president but that there is no law that says presidents must have portraits in local town halls. Mayor Muldoon slowly, and rather masterfully, turns the letter into a civics lesson.

There’s a tradition of hanging portraits of the president in federal offices within the executive branch - not unlike how grocery stores display pictures of the manager. It illustrates the chain of

command for that branch of government. But the Town of Jackson is not in the president's chain of command.

Since it's not a requirement, the only two reasons I can see for displaying the portrait would be for educational purposes or to honor Donald Trump.

I see no educational value in such a display. Everyone knows who the president is, and while displaying a chart showing the three *separate but equal branches* of government and their relationship to state and local governments would actually provide a useful civics lesson, a portrait of the president does not.

Mayor Muldoon asks why we need to represent the head of the executive branch but not the legislative or judicial branches. Mayor Muldoon explains that while he wasn't the mayor before 2017, he would have taken down President Obama's portrait for the same reasons. But I'm not going to act as an apologist for Mayor Muldoon. He clearly does not like Trump and what Trump stands for.

If Barack Obama was still president, I would make the same decision. There was a picture of Obama at Town Hall, and it was put up before I was elected mayor. I don't believe it should have been displayed either. So I'll be replacing presidential portraits with an organizational chart of federal, state and local government, which will make clear that the citizens, through Congress, are sovereign and create policies which the Supreme Court ensures are consistent with our Constitution and are subsequently executed by the president. And while the president does have additional powers granted by the Constitution, the Constitution itself is controlled by the people.

The United States is a constitutional republic. We don't have a monarch, and one of the best features of our system is that presidents are people just like everyone else. We aren't required to display signs of respect - our respect is earned, not demanded. **Dictators like Joseph Stalin required their portraits to be displayed everywhere. Luckily, we do not live in a dictatorship.** We can choose who we honor, and in my role as a representative of all town residents, I've decided that the Town of Jackson will not take sides by honoring any partisan politician and will continue to focus on the needs of all members of our community.

That's some good stuff. You can read more about the Wyoming Republican response below the fold.

Across the state, Republican House Rep. Tyler Lindholm got some traction by posting a video response to [his Facebook page](#). In the video, he passive aggressively used Muldoon's actions and the Jackson town council's resolution to tell local residents and officials to "stand your ground" by not accepting the coal lease monies that represent a large part of the tax revenues in the state of Wyoming. And while Rep. Lindholm is hanging on to a dying energy source that cannot produce the profits that have allowed the state's residents the luxury of not having income tax collected (nor a corporate tax) for forever, he has a point. For most of Wyoming's existence as a state, they have been able to pull in large state revenues without needing to raise income or corporate tax rates. They've been able to do this in no small part because they [represent 39 percent of the country's coal production](#). They also have the [12th largest percentage of tax revenue](#) of any state when it comes to federal funds received.

Rep. Lindholm also talks about the coal money that builds schools in Wyoming but not about the fact that Wyoming's educational system has been under fire from budget cuts—with a bill calling for [\\$34.5 million in education cuts on the table](#).

Fixing an education funding shortfall on track to top \$380 million a year was one of Gov. Matt Mead's top hopes for the eight-week session. The bill, which would launch a potentially years-long process of addressing the shortfall, now heads to his desk.

The bill carries \$34.5 million in education cuts. While not nearly enough to erase the shortfall before it sets in next year, the cuts accompany a plan to study and revamp education funding amid weak state revenue from coal, oil and natural gas extraction.

And so you can be both empathetic to Rep. Lindholm's belief in coal but also annoyed that he seems to have his head so firmly in the sand. Chief Washakie is an important reminder of history. When he was there the big economy in Wyoming was the fur trade. Time moves on and fur gives way to coal, as coal must now give way to something cleaner.

Our Children's Trust

Trump Administration Seeks 'Drastic Remedy' to Derail Kids Climate Lawsuit

The Trump administration [filed](#) a writ of mandamus petition with the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals Friday, seeking an extraordinarily rare review of a Nov. 10, 2016 decision by U.S. District Court Judge Ann Aiken to deny its motion to dismiss [Juliana v. United States](#). Further, the Trump administration is seeking "a stay of proceedings in the district court" while the Ninth Circuit considers its petition.

The Trump administration argues the Ninth Circuit should "exercise its supervisory mandamus powers to end this clearly improper attempt to have the judiciary decide important questions of energy and environmental policy to the exclusion of the elected branches of government."

The U.S. Constitution provides for three separate but equal branches of government, with no exception for energy and environmental policy.

[Douglas A. Kysar](#), the Joseph M. Field '55 Professor of Law at Yale Law School who is not connected with the litigation, but recently co-authored [Courting Disaster: Climate Change and the Adjudication of Catastrophe](#),

said:

"Writs of mandamus are reserved for the most extraordinary and compelling situations in which ordinary rules of appellate procedure must be overridden to avoid a manifest injustice. For the Trump Justice Department to even seek a writ of mandamus in the current context is offensive to Judge Aiken, to the entire federal judiciary, and, indeed, to the rule of law itself. The writ should not be granted and we should all question why the Trump administration's lawyers are willing to try such a trick rather than forthrightly defend the case.

"When the Framers divided power within the government, they did it so that the

branches could not only check and balance each other, but also poke and prod when necessary. The *Juliana* litigation is a powerful poke and prod to the entire federal government on the question of [climate](#) responsibility. In that sense, *Juliana* might well be the most important lawsuit on the planet right now and the government knows it. That's why Trump's lawyers are so desperate to avoid an honest fight."

Justice Anthony Kennedy, writing for the Supreme Court's majority in *Cheney v. U.S.*, explained in 2004 that mandamus is a "drastic and extraordinary remedy" reserved for "only exceptional circumstances."

This Trump administration's filing comes just one day after Judge Aiken [shut down](#) another rare path to Ninth Circuit review, with [an order](#) denying the U.S. government and fossil fuel industry's motions seeking an interlocutory appeal.

"The U.S. Government is running from some of its youngest constituents, and all we're asking for is a plan to preserve our future," said Victoria Barrett, 18, of White Plains, New York, one of 21 youth plaintiffs.

"The U.S. government is trying to use every possible tool they can to avoid trial," Julia Olson, co-lead counsel for plaintiffs and executive director of [Our Children's Trust](#), said. "Because they know applying the law to the facts and science in this case will mean certain defeat for them at trial. If the Trump administration was at all confident it could defend itself at trial, it would be preparing for trial."

Last month, [motions were filed](#) by three fossil fuel industry intervenor-defendants: the [National Association of Manufacturers](#), the [American Petroleum Institute](#) and the [American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers](#) requesting the court's permission to withdraw from the litigation. For any defendant to leave the litigation, U.S. Magistrate Judge Thomas Coffin must grant permission. That matter is still pending.

"By this writ, the Trump administration insists the federal government can continue to support the fossil fuel system and inflict harm on our children and grandchildren," Phil Gregory, co-lead counsel for plaintiffs and partner with [Cotchett, Pitre & McCarthy, LLP](#) in Burlingame, CA, said. "We believe the Court of Appeals will affirm that our Constitution specifically protects our Nation's Posterity. As Judge Aiken wrote, 'the judiciary must not shrink from its role as a coequal branch of government.'"

An in-court case management conference, open to the public, is set for 10 a.m. PST on [June 14](#) at the Wayne L. Morse U.S. Courthouse in Eugene, Oregon.

[Juliana v. United States](#) was brought by 21 young plaintiffs, and Earth Guardians, who argue that their constitutional and public trust rights are being violated by the government's creation of climate danger. The case is one of many related legal actions brought by youth in several states and countries, all supported by Our Children's Trust, seeking science-based action by governments to stabilize the climate system.

Concentrated Solar Works Day and Night With No Batteries Required

By Paul Brown

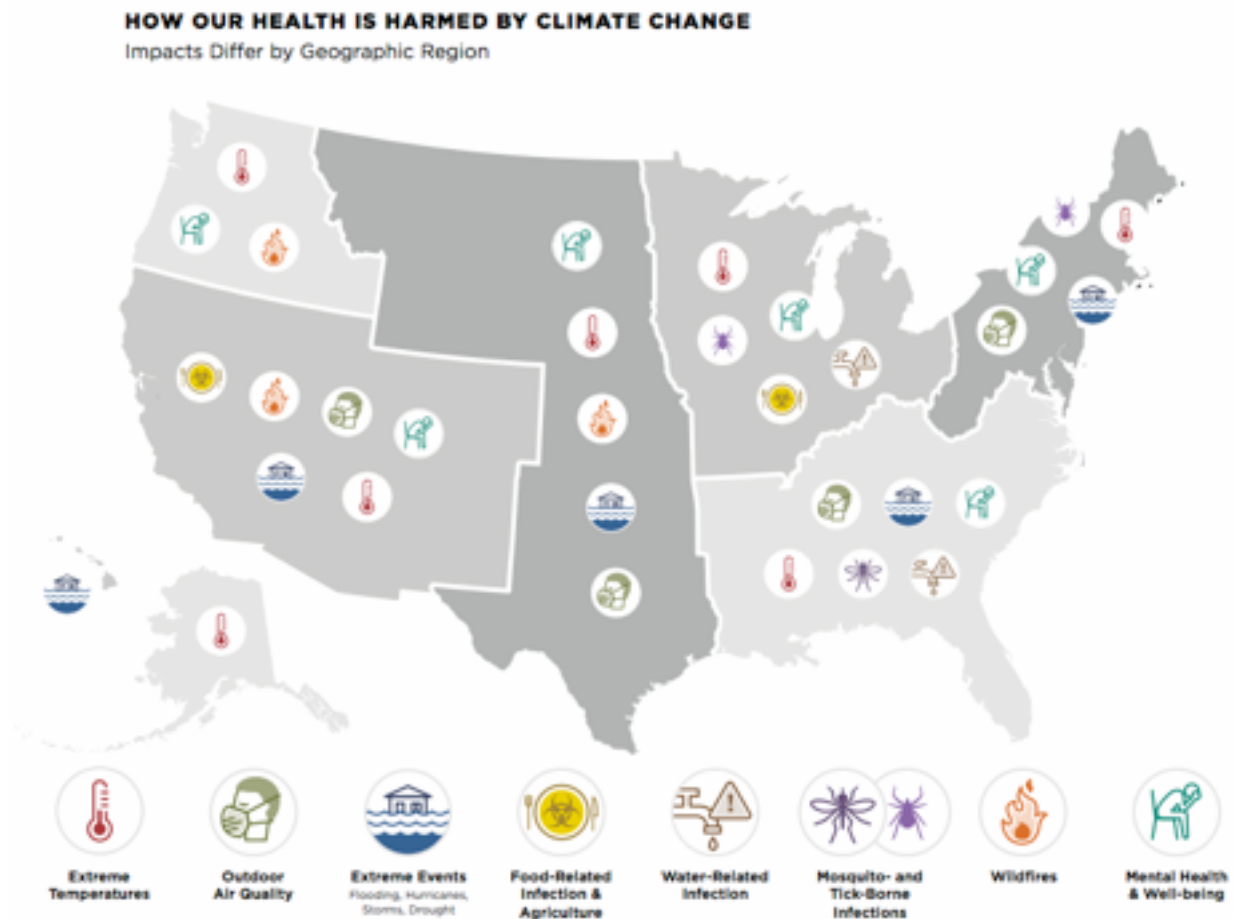
The massive expansion of [solar](#) panels on rooftops and solar farms across the world has captured the headlines, but the other established way of generating electricity from sunlight—[concentrated solar power](#) (CSP), or solar tower power—is also making great strides.

For a long time, using mirrors to concentrate the sun's rays to heat molten salt and produce superheated steam to drive a generator's turbines was thought to be a more promising technology than [photovoltaic panels](#) (PV), because it was originally cheaper. Keep reading...***

2 Out of 3 Doctors Say Climate Change Is Making Us Sick

https://www.ecowatch.com/climate-change-make-us-sick-2437944824.html?utm_source=EcoWatch+List&utm_campaign=691a8b4395-

[EMAIL_CAMPAIGN&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_49c7d43dc9-691a8b4395-85895669](https://www.ecowatch.com/climate-change-make-us-sick-2437944824.html?utm_source=EcoWatch+List&utm_campaign=691a8b4395-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_49c7d43dc9-691a8b4395-85895669)



This graphic illustrates key impacts of climate change on health and is based on reports from the U.S. Global Change Research Program. For more information, visit www.globalchange.gov.

New Threats to Public Lands Endanger America's Unique Wildlife Corridors

Oliver Milman, Guardian UK

Milman writes: "Mule deer, pronghorn and other animals rely on unbroken migration routes for food and survival, a necessity now in jeopardy as Trump pushes for development."

[READ MORE](#)

Garbage Man Collects 25,000 Books That Were Thrown Away And Turns His Home Into A Library

José Alberto Gutiérrez is a garbage man in Bogota, Colombia.

Over the past 20 years, whenever he would notice a **book** had been thrown away, he would take it out of the trash, give it a quick inspection, and if it was in good condition, would take it with him. 20 years of collecting thrown out books resulted in over 25,000 books in his collection. Gutiérrez created a library, inside his own home, for his community with the books that people thought were just trash.

Some of the books Gutiérrez donates to neighborhood children and schools who can't afford them. Now, other truck **drivers** and garbage men are on the lookout for thrown out books, in order to help Gutiérrez grow his library!

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A Garbage Man Collected 25,000 Books, Turned into Library

By Reporter

Old books are always like a riddle when it comes to, what to do with them. There are some uses though, donate them to a library, pass them to a friend, leave them in your cellar etc. But, sometimes we throw them in the trash which is really an insult for a book. Jose Alberto Gutierrez (garbage collector) is the person who saved them from trash and made a library out of them.

José Alberto Gutiérrez is a garbage man who belongs to Bogota, Colombia. For the past 20 years he collected more than 25,000 books one by one. He says that books are normally kept separate from trash. He would then examine a book, and get it back to home if it is in good condition.

A garbage collector in Colombia has his own library for children. All the books come from the trash.

The books now stack up against walls and seem like mountains of pages. The people took notice and slowly they came to borrow the books for them and their children. Jose would also donate some books to schools and children of neighborhood. He has already donated to a lot of schools and communities who can't afford them.

Other truck drivers also help him for the cause and bring books to him when they find some.

Consider having a look at other extra-ordinary things done by people in our [Art](#) and [People](#) Section.

Western Governors University students celebrate graduation

By Wade Tyler Millward Las Vegas Review-Journal May 20, 2017

As Carrie Brown approached The Smith Center's lectern to address about 100 fellow Western Governors University graduates Saturday, her imminent speech wasn't the only thing stirring her nerves.

Brown thought back to about 15 years earlier, when she'd been told to leave her high school graduation because she'd decorated her cap with Native American regalia. An eagle feather had dangled by her ear. Her Great-Uncle Benoit had helped bead the cap; each bead a prayer for Brown.

The 33-year-old's cap had similar adornment Saturday.

"I always feel slightly paranoid now when I graduate," she told her fellow students after an introduction in the Northern Paiute language. "I feel like I don't belong."

"However," she continued, "My WGU degree and commencement is different. I fought with it, struggled with it and wanted to give up several times. But it's mine. I earned it."

Brown's class is [only the second to graduate](#) from the online nonprofit university launched in Nevada in 2015. About 400 students graduated this year, WGU Nevada Chancellor Spencer Stewart said.

U.S. Rep. Ruben Kihuen, D-Nev., spoke to the students about the importance of education not just for himself, but for his parents, who came to the United States from Mexico for work.

His parents were proud at his congressional swearing-in ceremony in January. But his mother cried when he graduated from UNLV.

"The proudest moment for me and my family was walking on the stage at Thomas & Mack," he said.

"Today is not just about you," he continued. "It is about the family members who helped you get here."

Some of those family members couldn't be at the ceremony. Student speaker Logan McDaniel, said his son Larry had died at age 8 after years of surgeries related to extra fluid that put pressure on his brain and an infection that had inflamed his brain and spinal cord membranes.

McDaniel, 38, dropped out of college in the early 2000s to care for his ailing son. Larry died in October 2008.

McDaniel enrolled in WGU after his boss told him he'd gone as far as he could in health care information technology without a bachelor's degree.

Standing before his fellow students, he thanked his wife, two children born after Larry and his mother, who died in March 2016. McDaniel earned his bachelor's degree in January and walked Saturday for a master's of business administration in information technology management he has almost finished.

"The knowledge that she would have been the proudest mother sitting out in that crowd today pushes me to keep chasing that love of learning," he said.

Before she spoke onstage, Brown said she returned to school so she could take better-paying positions within the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony. She was graduating with a Master of Science in management and leadership.

The great-uncle who'd helped her decorate her high school cap had died in July 2009 and never saw Saturday's WGU ceremony. But he helped shape her, she said.

"It's a memory of him I'll always have," she said.

Onstage before her fellow students, Brown said living as a Native American woman means dividing life between warrior-worker and nurturer-scholar roles.

"Today, I get to be both," she said.

Contact Wade Tyler Millward at wmillward@reviewjournal.com or 702-383-4602. Follow [@wademillward](https://twitter.com/wademillward) on Twitter

Need A Laugh? Ladies of Native Comedy Can Help!

The Ladies of Native Comedy are comprised of four funny Indigenous women: Teresa Choyguha (Tohono O'odham), Tonia Jo Hall (Lakota/Dakota/Hidatsa), Adrienne Chalepah (Kiowa/Apache) and Deanna M.A.D.(Tonawanda Seneca). And if you're not following them on Facebook, you're missing out on some funny videos!

Thanks for the laughs ladies! Hopefully you guys can catch these funny gals at a concert or show near you! Check out their website for tour info or how you can bring them to your town!

<http://www.ladies-of-native-comedy.com/>

[READ MORE](#)



UNLV promises to distribute \$12M in financial aid account By Natalie Bruzda / RJ

[Nevada asks court to dismiss Texas' Yucca Mountain lawsuit](#)

First Annual Black Hills Indigenous Writers Festival – June 24th

If you're going to be in the Rapid City, SD area, definitely check this out!



Hosted by the Birdcage Book Store and Mercantile and the Shamus Project:

"Join us on Saturday, June 24, 2017 at the Racing Magpie, 406 5th Street in downtown Rapid City for the first-ever Black Hills Indigenous writer's festival. The event is free and open to the public and runs from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m."

In June of 2016 Shamus's family in partnership with Rapid City proclaimed June as "Indigenous Book Club Month" as part of a broader effort to recognize the contributions of Native writers and to commemorate the 140th anniversary of the Battle of the Greasy Grass (which is often called the Battle of the Little Bighorn or Custer's Last Stand.) [READ MORE](#)

Yes, you too can be a Grist fellow. Apply today! By [Grist staff](#)

Are you an early-career journalist, storyteller, or multimedia wizard who digs what we do? Then Grist wants you!

We are now accepting applications for the fall 2017 class of the [Grist Fellowship Program](#).

This time around we're looking for all-stars in two primary areas: environmental justice and video. You'll find deets on the two fellowship opportunities [here](#).

The Grist Fellowship Program is a paid opportunity to hone your journalistic chops at a national news outlet, deepen your knowledge of environmental issues, and experiment with storytelling. We get to teach you and learn from you and bring your work to our audience. The fellowship lasts six months.

For fellowships that begin in October 2017, please submit applications by **July 31, 2017**. Full application instructions [here](#).

Good luck!

