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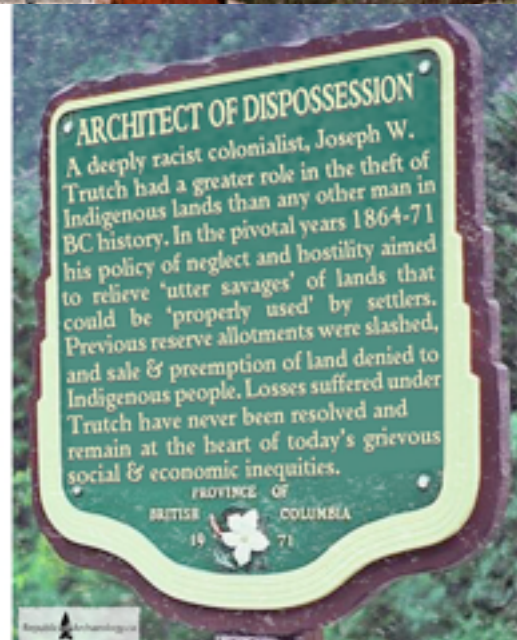
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Shocking Study Shows Fracking Is Depleting US Drinking Water Sources at a Catastrophic Rate

Decolonizing BC's Roadside History | Culturally Modified

In September 2016, a sign was unveiled just up the street from my home...

https://culturallymodified.org/decolonizing-bcs-roadside-history/?fbclid=IwAR3S92DB-VWLkj_-sEkxNvi1YGbgR3VI1t9BScmu-BZ-VOxjYoWUKLtAp6M



REMINDER
WEBINAR "Using Comprehensive Area-Wide Planning Approaches to Promote Equitable Development"

June 18, 2019 (1:00 - 2:30 PM EDT)

[REGISTER](#)

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has launched a training webinar series to build the capacity of environmental justice practitioners working at the state level. This is a reminder that the third webinar "Using Comprehensive Area-Wide Planning Approaches to Promote Equitable Development" is open for registration. Please note that registration is required. When you sign up, you will receive details on how to access the webinar. Please share this information widely with your colleagues and networks.

Using Comprehensive Area-Wide Planning Approaches to Promote Equitable Development

- When: June 18, 2019 (1:00 - 2:30 PM EDT)
- Register Early: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/using-comprehensive-area-wide-planning-approaches-to-promote-equitable-development-tickets-61577252219>
- About: Several decades of practice in environmental justice and community revitalization has resulted in comprehensive area-wide planning approaches. Presenters will share lessons for achieving community involvement, revitalization and resilience from area-wide planning approaches used to address brownfields or other community challenges and discuss how states can support such comprehensive collaborative approaches. They will apply these lessons to addressing significant current challenges, such as displacement and gentrification.

Speakers:

- Cate Mingoya, Director of Capacity Building, Groundworks USA
- Drew Curtis, Senior Equitable Development Manager, Ironbound Community Corporation
- Frank McLaughlin, Community Collaborative Initiative, Office of Brownfield Reuse, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
- Riche Outlaw, Coordinator, Environmental Justice Program, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

Future webinar topics in the 2019 series include:

- Application of Environmental Justice to State Environmental Impact Assessments
- Environmental Justice Considerations for Rural Water Infrastructure

For more information, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice>

For questions about the series, please contact: Charles Lee at lee.charles@epa.gov

(The Census more than just counting people. Every US census since 1789 has been designed to find information about many topics.....reading each the questionnaire for each is very instructive.....sdc)

A remarkable 18th-century American demographic and mortality survey

Background

The [American Academy of Arts and Sciences](#) was (and is) an honorary society chartered in 1780 by the Massachusetts General Court with the broad mission, “to cultivate every art and science which may tend to advance the interest, honor, dignity, and happiness of a free, independent and virtuous people.” Early members included luminaries of the American political and intellectual scene, among them (of course) Washington and Franklin, but also clergymen such as Manasseh Cutler (1742-1823) and Edward Wigglesworth (1732-94); lawyer and politician Francis Dana (1743-1811); Boston bookseller Benjamin Guild (1749-92), and Beverly physician Joshua Fisher (1748-1833).

Probably in 1785, the Academy charged a committee consisting of these five men to conduct a survey of Massachusetts and New Hampshire towns for the purpose of compiling statewide mortality data. The project seems to have been the result of pre-existing interest among the membership in the use of bills of mortality as raw data for demographic and epidemiological studies. On May 29, 1781 committee member Cutler gave a talk at the Academy about “a meteorological journal of the weather, from July, 1780, with the diseases most prevalent in Ipswich, Beverly, and Salem” (Cutler & Cutler, p. 85). And Volume I of the Academy’s *Memoirs* (1785) included a submission from Edward Holyoke, M.D. titled [“A Bill of Mortality for the Town of Salem, for the Year 1782”](#) (pp. 546-550).

However the driving force may have been Wigglesworth (1732-1794), Hollis Professor of Divinity at Harvard, who had a long-time interest in demography. During the crisis of 1775 he had published [Calculations on American Population, with a Table for estimating the annual Increase of Inhabitants in the British Colonies](#) (Boston: John Boyle, 1775). This interesting little work used estimates of population growth during the Colonial era to reach the conclusion that within a few decades the American would far outstrip that of Great Britain. And for Volume I of the Academy’s *Memoirs* he contributed [“Observations on the Longevity of the Inhabitants of Ipswich and Hingham, and Proposals for Ascertaining the Value of Estates Held for Life, and the Reversion of Them”](#) (pp. 565-568.)

The potential epidemiological value of the Academy’s mortality survey is clear, but the title of Wigglesworth’s article highlights the financial and legal utility of the research, for determining “the present value of estate, holden for life, or in reversion.” As he explains: “The value of those estates which are held for life, and the reversion of them, can only be determined by knowing the probability which there is, that their respective holders will live for a longer or shorter term of years.” (p. 567) Hitherto, however, “Whenever a widow has compounded with the heirs of an estate for sum of money in lieu of her dower, the composition has been made at random, and not on any fixed principles that have determined it to be equitable.” (ibid.) In essence, therefore, the collected mortality data would make it possible to construct actuarial tables to facilitate more evidence-based—and therefore more fair—valuation of estates.

The broadside

The five-man committee seems to have taken its assignment seriously, as it developed a standardized and extremely detailed broadside questionnaire with which to solicit mortality statistics from each town in the Commonwealth. Offered here is an example of the form, one of only two that we have been able to locate. It consists of three sections, including at lower right a circular letter with instructions, signed in type by the five committee members; at left a very large table occupying roughly three-fifths of the sheet, to be used for recording the data; and at upper right brief notes explaining dozens of the disease states named in the table.

The circular, dated Nov. 10, 1785, states the purpose of the project:

“apprehending that important and useful information may be obtained, by collecting regular and uniform bills of mortality from the several towns within this commonwealth, have directed that a form for such bills be transmitted to the towns and parishes within the same; and that the several ministers and physicians be solicited to attend this subject, and favour the academy with annual returns. For by a regular return of such Bills for the course of a few years, the rate of our population may be determined ; the present value of estate, holden for life, or in reversion, ascertained ; and a natural history of the diseases incident to our climate, compiled.”

The large table itself is fascinating. Across the top are cells for entering basic demographic data for each town, including population figures broken down by age and gender, numbers of births, marriages, houses, &c. Below this, the left column comprises a list of 68 causes of mortality, ranging from the familiar (cancer and diabetes) to the unfamiliar (St. Anthony’s Fire, “sphacelation” and “flatulent swelling”) to the hopelessly vague (“complicated diseases”). Across the top are categories allowing the mortality data to be broken down by age (from “under 1 month” to “above 100 years”), gender, and month of death. *In all, assuming my count is correct, the table runs to some 2814 individual tiny cells, rendering its completion a wildly impractical task for all but the most committed demographer or epidemiologist.*

500 copies of the broadside were printed and distributed to ministers and physicians throughout Massachusetts and New Hampshire, and the survey was also published in local newspapers. The response was alas meager, and by 1789 but 62 bills of mortality had been received, listing in aggregate fewer than 5000 deaths. This hardly seems surprising, given the complexity of the questionnaire. Indeed, even among those who did respond, few made use of the broadside. (Vinovskis, p. 578)

Meager as his data set was, Wigglesworth published in 1793 in Volume 2 of the Academy’s *Memoirs*, under the title [“A Table shewing the Probability of the Duration, the Decrement, and the Expectation of Life, in the States or Massachusetts and New-Hampshire...”](#) For all its limitations, this work seems to have had long-lasting influence, as it “was used as the basis for computing longevity in annuity cases by the Massachusetts Supreme Court and is being used by demographers and economic historians today.” (Vinovskis, p. 571)

In spite of the substantial print run, the broadside appears to be extraordinarily rare: We find no record of another example having appeared for sale, and have so far confirmed but a single institutional holding, at the Library of Congress. It is likely, of course, that one or more examples reside in the records of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and perhaps a few others

are hidden for now in the collected papers of late 18th-century New England clergymen and physicians.

A remarkable and extremely rare artifact of an attempt at a very early, possibly the first, epidemiological survey in the United States, commissioned by one of the country's leading learned societies.

References

ESTC #W69. Evans, *Early American Imprints*, #18901. Ford, *Broadsides*, #2401 (Library of Congress only). National Library of Medicine (U.S.), *Early American medical imprints*, #32. Extensive background on Wigglesworth from Maris A. Vinovskis, "[The 1789 Life Table of Edward Wigglesworth](#)," *The Journal of Economic History*, vol. 31 no. 3 (Sept. 1971), pp. 570-590.

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## [2020 Census Could Lead To Worst Undercount Of Black, Latinx People In 30 Years](#) (NPR)

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**Today's selection -- from *A Voyage Long and Strange* by Tony Horwitz.**

Most have heard about Eirik (Erik) the Red Thorvaldsson, his son Leif, and the Viking voyages to Greenland and Vinland, but few have heard of Eirik's fearless daughter Freydis:

"The saga of the Greenlanders tells of a fourth and final voyage to Vinland. The earlier sails, by Leif, Thorvald, and Karlsefni, were evidently judged a success, as 'the trip seemed to bring men both wealth and renown.' So Eirik the Red's illegitimate daughter, the hot-tempered Freydis, decided to try her luck. She contracted with two brothers from Iceland to sail in convoy and share profits from the voyage. Each ship was to carry thirty 'fighting men' but 'Freydis broke the agreement straight away,' stowing five extra warriors on her ship.

"On reaching Leif's camp, Freydis demanded that only her party occupy the existing homes. So the brothers built a separate longhouse. Their suggestion that the two groups join for winter 'games and entertainment' only led to more ill will, 'and each group kept to its own houses.'

"Then, early one morning, Freydis went barefoot through the dew to ask one of the brothers to exchange ships with her, since his was larger and she wanted to go home. He agreeably assented. When she returned to bed, her cold feet woke her husband, Thorvard, who asked why she was wet. Freydis claimed she'd gone to ask about purchasing the brothers' ship and been turned down, as well as assaulted. 'But you're such a coward that you will repay neither dishonor done to me nor to your-self,' she said. 'Unless you avenge this, I will divorce you!'

"Duly shamed, Thorvard roused his men and went to seize the brothers and their companions. When he led the bound captives outside, Freydis ordered them slain. But Thorvard's men balked at killing the five women among them.

" 'Hand me an ax,' Freydis coolly demanded. She then dispatched the five women, and threatened to kill any of her party who told what she had done.

"Freydis proved quite the Valkyrie in combat, too. During an exploratory foray, the Norse came under attack by a large force of Skraelings (Native North Americans) in canoes, wielding a strange weapon. From tall poles, they catapulted 'a large round object, about the size of a sheep's gut and black in color,' which 'made a threatening noise when it landed.' These missiles so terrified the Norse that 'their only thought was to flee.'

"Seeing her kinsmen retreat, Freydis declared, 'Had I a weapon I'm sure I could fight better than any of you.' Though heavily pregnant, she joined the battle, snatching up the sword of a slain Viking. 'When the Skraelings came rushing toward her she pulled one of her breasts out of her bodice and slapped it with her sword. The Skraelings were terrified at the sight of this and fled back to their boats and hastened away.'"

A Voyage Long and Strange Author: Tony Horwitz Publisher: Henry Holt and Company  
Copyright 2008 by Tony Horwitz Pages: 26-27

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Teen activists face US government in crucial hearing over climate trial

The suit accuses the federal government of violating young people's constitutional rights by contributing to the climate crisis

[Lee van der Voo](#) in Oregon

Twenty-one youth activists faced off with the US government in an [Oregon](#) courthouse on Tuesday, where their attorneys petitioned a panel of judges to let their climate case go to trial. Until it does, their attorneys argued, fossil fuel development should be halted on public lands.

The case of Juliana v the US charges the federal government with violating the constitutional rights of youth by perpetuating systems that contribute to climate breakdown. Those young people – who range in age from 11 to 23 and hail from all corners of the nation – argue that the constitution gives them and future generations a right to an environment free of climate catastrophe.

Their previously scheduled trial was abruptly halted in October 2018 after the government successfully petitioned the supreme court for review. Now, a three-judge panel at the ninth circuit has the final say.

The panel did not issue a ruling on Tuesday.

### **Youth climate activists set for nationwide rallies ahead of landmark case**

"I think what's at stake is the ability of these young people to vindicate their constitutional rights," plaintiff attorney Andrea Rodgers, senior staff attorney for Our Children's Trust, the not-for-profit group representing the youth plaintiffs, told the Guardian ahead of the hearing. The key determination ahead, essentially, is whether kids get a trial over climate breakdown.

Those stakes and the government's handling of the case have catapulted it to rare courtroom celebrity. The youth plaintiffs are media regulars, with seemingly ubiquitous appeal: teen magazines, local newspapers, radio shows and recent appearances on 60 Minutes and in Vanity Fair. Hearings have been a spectacle, regularly mobbed by suit-and-tie types, kids of all ages, tie-dye and purple-haired grannies. More than 70 support rallies were held worldwide in lieu of a trial last fall.

The digital following is no less a curiosity. The youth climate movement has begun to claim Juliana as central to its own narrative, using support rallies to train young leaders and to turn up the digital volume on the case with hashtags like #AllEyesOnJuliana.



Tuesday's hearing was live-streamed and broadcast into a park near the courthouse. Following the hearing, the plaintiffs walked from the courthouse to the park, where a marching band played and activist shouted chants. Levi Draheim, one of the plaintiffs, rode on the shoulders of, Nathan Baring, another plaintiff.

Supporters attend a rally after the climate change hearing in Portland, Oregon. Photograph: Steve Dipaola/AP

Park-goers rallied around the youth waving signs to "Let the Youth Be Heard" under the watchful eye of giant heads of the 12 presidents with knowledge of

climate change

Jeffrey Bossert Clark on Tuesday argued against the trial on the government's behalf. A former George W Bush administration appointee, he has publicly equated [greenhouse gas regulation](#) with socialist attempts to seize the economy and [use of United Nations science](#) as synonymous with US rule by foreign scientists.

Clark said that the suit constituted a direct attack on the separations of powers, and that the young activists wrongly want the courts, instead of elected officials, to direct things such as energy policy.

Julia Olsen, a lawyer for the activists, argued federal energy policy "puts children in harm's way". Olsen also stressed courts can and have intervened when government actions violate the Constitutional rights of citizens.

Bloggers, legal experts, scholars and activists have puzzled over the government's overall tactics to the case. In legal circles, the case is an anomaly, made an outlier by the repetitive, emergency petitions filed to squash it. That strategy has been repeated in cases on the far-right fringe of Donald Trump's agenda: cases affecting DACA recipients, immigrants and the national census, and the transgender military ban.

The questions raised in the case, however, are increasingly pressing in America, and worldwide. While the UN [counted](#) hundreds of climate cases worldwide in 2017, and more than 650 in America, the question as to whether greenhouse gas emissions violate constitutional rights is being pressed primarily by Our Children's Trust and its partners. The organization [has filed legal action in all 50 states](#) with varying results - litigation is still pending in 9 states (Alaska, Colorado, Florida, Maine, Massachusetts, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oregon and Washington). Similar efforts to uphold constitutional rights to a safe environment are also underway in 13 countries abroad. In the Netherlands, such litigation may soon [force the Dutch government](#) to take more measures against climate change in a case now headed to the Dutch supreme court. The supreme court of Pakistan and an appellate court in Norway will also hear similar cases soon.

The US government has not disputed that climate breakdown is real, or that an environmental crisis looms. In fact, government experts generally agree with the plaintiffs' experts on the science. Government attorneys have instead argued that the court does not have the legal authority to tell the federal government what to do about climate change, and that a trial would be too burdensome. They have also argued that Americans don't have a right to "a climate capable of sustaining human life".

That position is one 17-year-old Nick Venner, a plaintiff in the case, called, "kind of ironic because this case is the only way to get it done because every other effort has failed, essentially". He said the government's attorneys "really like to keep it in this theoretical phase because, when they do that, they can deny the humanity of the issues that they are dealing with". Most at issue, he said, are climate policies that are "going to drastically screw over future generations".

Those generations have sought to be heard. More than 30,000 youth signed an amicus brief filed by Zero Hour in support of the plaintiffs petition to move the case to trial. An additional 10,000 adults also signed.

"I don't want to be picking these fights. The youth don't want to be picking these fights. And, honestly, it's exhausting to be in the streets all the time," said Zero Hour's executive director, Jamie Margolin, who is 17. She added she doesn't see another choice when other efforts have failed. "Our childhoods are being spent begging them to stop ruining our adulthoods, and our adulthoods are going to be spent dealing with the consequences of their actions," she said.

A decision to allow a trial and halt fossil fuel development in the meantime would stall production of 60 new oil and gas pipelines, 32 new liquefied natural gas and coal terminals, and one oil export facility.

*The Associated Press contributed to this report*

## **Judges Give Both Sides a Grilling in Youth Climate Case Against the Government**

By JOHN SCHWARTZ    Three judges heard arguments in a closely watched lawsuit brought by young people to compel the federal government to take action on climate change.

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Young people suing government over climate change try to move suit forward **By Bob Egelko, San Francisco Chronicle, 6/4/19**

A federal appeals court appeared torn Tuesday over a lawsuit by 21 young people demanding government action against climate change — unmoved by Trump administration arguments that the case was a fabrication, but uncertain about judicial authority to chart a new course. The issue before a panel of the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, meeting in Portland, was whether to allow the youths and their environmental supporters to go to trial on claims that their constitutional rights to life and liberty are being violated by government-sanctioned oil, coal and gas development. If they prove constitutional violations, they want the courts to order the government to establish a carbon-free energy system by midcentury.

Tree company fined \$18,000 for cutting down eagle's nest, loses licence in five Metro cities

vancourier.com

America's Over The Counter Diet

- Countless studies show the direct relationship between food and deadly disease. In low-income areas where lack of profitability has driven out grocery stores, drug and convenience stores have become the places to shop. But the shelf-stable food items they carry are highly processed, and high in fat, sodium and sugar.
- In communities where these items are the easiest, or only, option available, rates of chronic illness like diabetes, heart disease and cancer are higher.
- The fact that [CVS is selling more groceries than Whole Foods and Trader Joe's combined](#) is making researchers fear food 'deserts' are becoming 'swamps' of processed food. (Guardian)

Who's Afraid of Arabic Numerals? By MUSTAFA AKYOL

Before there was a Western civilization, there was Islamic civilization.

Early History - America's Islamic Heritage Museum

www.muslimsinamerica.org/early-history-.html

We as *Muslim* Americans have a long and insightful history with many ... In Nigel Davies' book, *Voyagers to the New World*, he reports that Columbus recorded ... the early *Muslims* to the Americas married and lived among many *native Indians*.

Did Muslims Visit America Before Columbus? | History News Network <https://historynewsnetwork.org/article/23662>

Some claim that *Muslims* came to *America* hundreds of years before ... Columbus encountered *native* inhabitants of this new *world*, and thinking that he had ...

So Muslims beat Columbus to America? They had better get in line ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/.../muslims-beat-columbus-america-better-get-in-l...>

Nov 17, 2014 - Nineteenth-century Mormon founders said *indigenous Americans* ... by more than one million readers across the *world* – meaning we've been ... [PDF]

The Islamic Influence in (Pre-)Colonial and Early America: A Historico ...

<https://digitalcommons.law.seattleu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1715&context...> by NB

Ahmad - 2014 - [Cited by 3](#) - [Related articles](#)

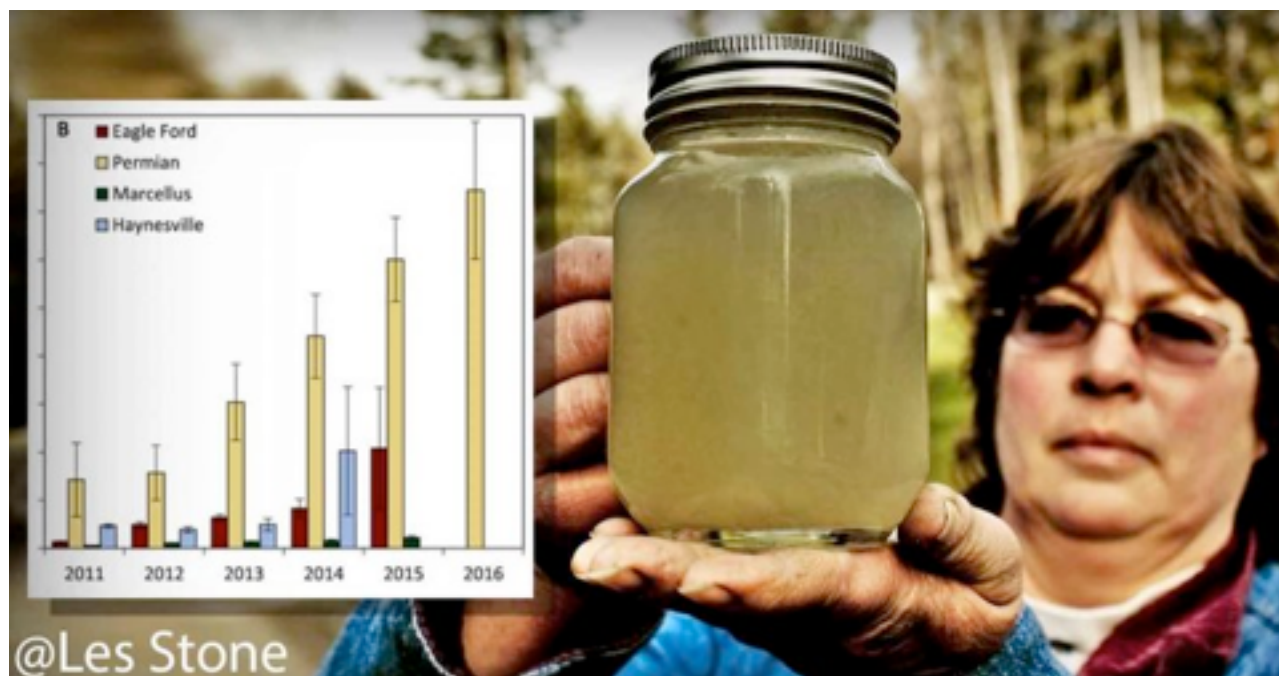
Rock—may even have provided their landing point.⁴ For *Native American* ... Yvonne Y. Haddad, *A Century of Islam in America*, in *THE MUSLIM WORLD TODAY* ...



[Giving students more music, theater, and dance boosts writing scores \(and compassion\), big new study finds](#) [chalkbeat.org](#)

[Trump Wants to Make Alaska's Protected Wilderness a Hunting Ground](#)

The Trump administration plans to overturn two federal rules prohibiting the most deplorable trophy hunting and trapping practices ever carried out on federal lands in Alaska. [truthout.org](#)



[Shocking Study Shows Fracking Is Depleting US Drinking Water Sources at a Catastrophic Rate](#) [thefreethoughtproject.com](#)

Smithsonian Learning Lab Wins Webby

The Smithsonian Learning Lab was named the Best Education Website in the 23rd Annual Webby Awards – the leading international awards organization honoring excellence on the internet! The Learning Lab – from the Smithsonian Center for Learning and Digital Access – offers new ways of learning to teachers and students through more than 3 million digitized resources.

[EXPLORE THE LAB »](#)

"Despite repeatedly expressing public support for children's health, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is ending funding for a network of research[See More](#) [ironment](#)

[EPA plan to end funding for children's health research leaves scientists scrambling](#)
[sciencemag.org](#)

[Trump administration quietly makes it legal to bring elephant parts to the U.S. as trophies](#) [washingtonpost.com](#)

GUEST SPEAKERS
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&
MIKE DUNCAN

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[Photograph Release.docx](#) **Please click and print**