

Journal #4638 from sdc 3.19.20

Our Mother Tongues

Federal judge rejected enormous commercial timber harvest/ road-building plan for PEI Island

Smithsonian Learning Resources (especially for those "sheltering in place")

Nepal Makes Yoga Mandatory for Schoolchildren

HUD wants you to check in

Shorts from Indian Country

Changes to MW20 plans due to the coronavirus

Ask A Slave S2Ep3: What About the Indians?

History Repeats Itself

Listen to this impactful message brought to you by Armand Minthorn, Nixyáawii Longhouse Leader

News from the VA Office Tribal Government Relations

Water/Environmental Shorts

"Humanity must shift from living "on" the earth, to living with her."

Natives to Know - from the GRIST 50



Wanda George-Quasula

Went out in the country today. Meditated and prayed hard for me to be strong for my family and prayed for my families and friends here and back home, all my relations. And for our country.

Our Mother Tongues is a companion website for [We Still Live Here](#) that shows the breadth and diversity of language revitalization programs. There are hundreds more in tribal communities all across all America.



Can you guess which icon below goes with which tribe on the Our Mother Tongues website?
[Click to find out!](#)



Check out great photos, watch [Videos](#) and learn about many Native American languages from Alaska to North Carolina, Oklahoma to New York, Montana to Massachusetts. There is even an [Interactive Map](#), a [Voices page](#) where you can listen to thirteen different Native tongues, a [Blog](#), and a fun feature called [ePostcards](#) offering an entertaining way to connect with friends and family by sending audio greetings in a Native American language

Please visit OurMotherTongues.org

Spring

By Mary Oliver

Somewhere
a black bear
has just risen from sleep
and is staring
down the mountain.
All night
in the brisk and shallow restlessness
of early spring
I think of her ...

(Excerpted from *House of Light*. Read the full poem [here](#))

National Audubon Society Excerpt: "**A federal judge rejected yesterday an enormous commercial timber harvest and road-building plan for Prince of Wales Island in the Tongass National Forest of Southeast Alaska.**"

READ MORE <<http://lists.readersupportednews.org/ga/click/2-543400-5-750008398-750016=642-750072462-a958be456f-91fc50e6a0>>

Your Smithsonian remains committed to supporting lifelong learners of all ages in these unprecedented times. Millions of digital educational resources from Smithsonian museums, research centers, libraries, and archives are at your fingertips, including content geared specifically toward students and teachers.

Whether you're new to distance learning or a seasoned pro, the Smithsonian has you and your loved ones covered! Check out the resources below.

[The Smithsonian Learning Lab](#), which includes pre-packaged collections containing lessons, activities, and recommended resources made by Smithsonian museum educators as well as thousands of classroom teachers across the country. Visit the Smithsonian Learning Lab's [Distance Learning hub](#), which is being updated regularly with the latest information and resources.

Visit the [Smithsonian Science Education Center's Game Center](#), which is full of fun apps and games to help K-12 students learn about science. Games like ["Tami's Tower: Let's Think About Engineering."](#) a design game that will help teach your student how to design a solution to a problem using basic engineering design principles.

Looking for low- or no-tech resources to keep young learners engaged? These [activity pages](#) include word and number games, art exercises, and fun quizzes. You can also try some [hands-on activities from the National Air and Space Museum](#).

Older students can benefit from the [Smithsonian Folklife and Oral History Interviewing Guide](#), which offers guidance on collecting oral histories to help preserve culture and traditions for future generations.

Our Smithsonian educators are here to support your discovery and use of these materials now and into the future through training, office hours, and more. Do you have a question, idea, or request of our Smithsonian Education team? Reach out at learning@si.edu
The Smithsonian is able to achieve our mission of creating and sharing knowledge thanks to generous support from people like you. Thank you for helping us reach, educate and empower millions of people around the world—today, and every day.

[Nepal Makes Yoga Mandatory for Schoolchildren](#)

By RAJNEESH BHANDARI, KAI SCHULTZ and REBECCA CONWAY

The government says the weekly course will promote a healthy, active lifestyle. Some Muslims fear it will promote Hinduism instead

In an effort to know what is happening from Tribe to Tribe, we ask that you please send us updates of your Tribe's current situation, such as; if your staff is working from home, if you have closed offices, or if you have a travel ban in place, etc. Any information that you feel HUD should be aware of, please let us know.

Please send any updates to your Grants Management Specialist. Your assigned Specialist may be found at https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/PIH/documents/SWONAP_Grantee_Assignments_March_2020.pdf

Thank you in advance for your help and please stay safe.
Thanks, David Southerland , Acting SWONAP Administrator

Shorts from Indian Country Today

[Cancelled, closed and new Navajo word](#)

[Latest COVID-19 updates from around Indian Country](#) Indian Country Today

[A safer playground with the help of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe](#)

[Leech Lake youth say their vision is 'more than just a park'](#) Doug Thompson Mar 13,

[Montana, Navajo-owned company reach deal on sovereign immunity](#)

[Up to the minute: Mormons cancel church services](#)

[President Donald Trump says he's temporarily halting trademark rallies](#) AP 3.12.20

[Savanna's Act and Not Invisible Act pass Senate](#)

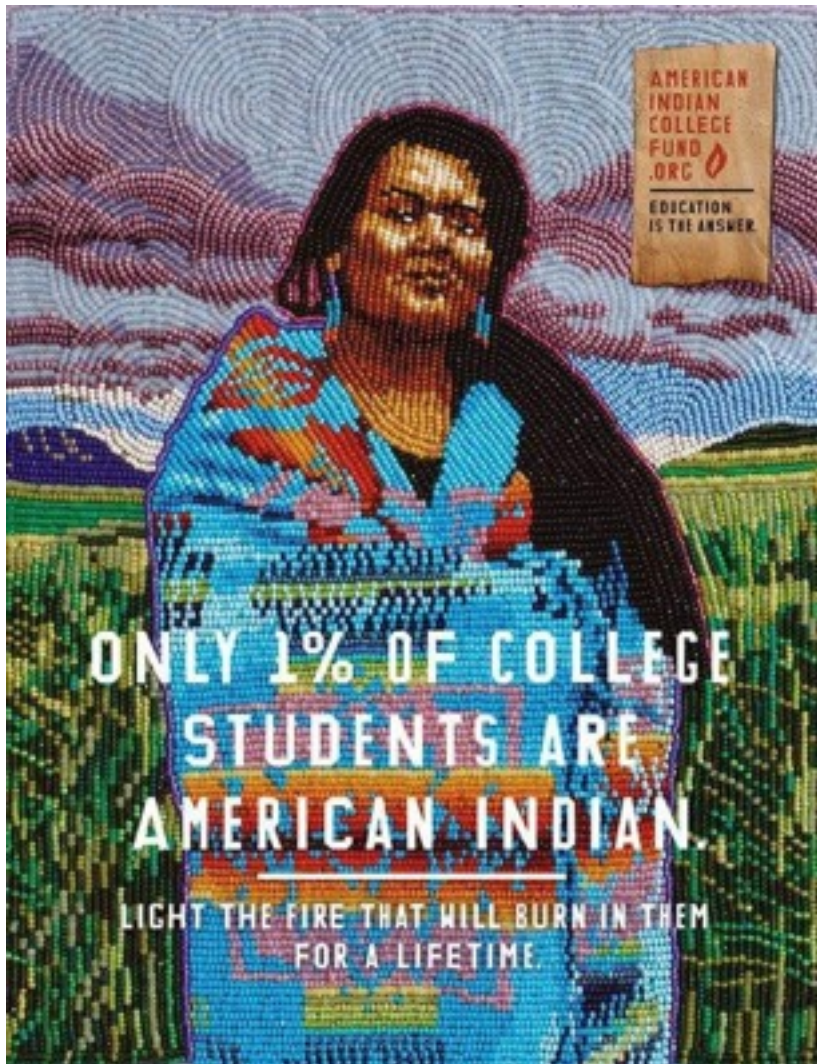
[Legislation addressing the crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous women gets unanimous approval](#) Vincent Schilling 3.12.20

Changes to MW20 plans due to the coronavirus

Museums and the Web or Museums on the Web? We have all wondered this at some point when thinking about the conference. It turns out we were seeing the future!

Unfortunately, our in-person conference is now officially canceled as part of the effort to stop the spread of the coronavirus.

But Museums on the Web or MuseWeb on the Web is where we are going.



In addition to theming this year's MWX exhibition "Virtual Worlds," we had already been planning to run the [closing plenary](#) of the MW20 conference in mixed reality, with chair Melissa Carrillo of the Smithsonian's Latino Center, one of the first museums with an extensive and even primary presence in Second Life, plenary speaker, Draxtor, and Gentle Heron, from [Virtual Ability](#). One of our goals with this session was to test the possibilities for not only making virtual worlds and online interactions more accessible, but also to explore how these platforms can help make museums and other spaces more inclusive as well.

We now have the opportunity to expand this experiment to include more sessions, more platforms, and more audiences, while keeping the essential values of face-to-face meetings and social interaction at the heart of the MuseWeb experience even when we can't meet in person. Working with the presenters, we aim to provide access to as much of the MW20 program as possible as an online or virtual session. We will make video recordings available as well as the MW20 papers and book as we do every year. We are grateful to have the support of [Microsoft](#), [Brightcove](#), [Linden Lab](#), and many others from our community who have stepped up to offer their help in putting MW20 on the web in every way possible.

We want your help and input into this transformation as well. Yesterday, we launched a [survey](#) aimed at determining which platforms and media will give you the best access to the expertise and interactions of the MuseWeb community. If you haven't already, please take less than 5 minutes to give us your thoughts. If you'd like to help, please leave your contact info and comments in the survey so we can better keep track of your ideas among the incredible outpouring of support we've been receiving.

As always it's an honor to be a part of this community and we really mean it when we say every year in our closing thanks, "we could not do it without you." This is truer now than ever, and we look forward to making the future of museum innovation better with you.

Until soon, Rich, Hiroko, Nancy & Titus

[Take the Survey](#)

[Ask A Slave S2Ep3: What About the Indians? \[VIDEO\]](#) Ask A Slave is a satirical web series based on the actress' time working as a living history character at the popular historic site, Ge

[Read More](#)

orge Washington's Mount Vernon. Starring Azie Dungey as Lizzie Mae and directed by Jordan Black. All questions and interactions are based on true events. Real Questions. Real Comedy. Learn more @ [...]

History Repeats Itself

Four years ago President Vladimir Putin began a program to hand out plots of land situated thousands of miles from Moscow in remote eastern areas of Russia near the Chinese border. The Far Eastern Hectare program [offers its 'pioneers' 2.5 acres of land](#), much like the American government did with the 1862 Homestead Act's promise of 160 acres in far western parts of the

US. 41 percent of Russia's total territory is in the Far East, but only 6.2 million people, some 5 percent of its population.

- So far more than 78,000 Russians have availed themselves of the free land, but that includes many local officials who just want to build a second home.
- Kremlin critics call the program a misguided failure, but for anyone with divergent views, an antipathy toward the ruling oligarchy in Moscow, or just craving a solitary sanctuary, Putin has a deal for you. (NYT)

(Again, reading the book Peter Skene Ogden is full of stories of competition, intrigue and diplomacy between the Hudson Bay Company, The American Fur Company, and the Russian Fur Company.....and native relations, including the Iroquois and Hawaiian personnel of various companies. It is a must read for anyone interested in the Northwest (Ft. Ross, California to the Aleutian Island; the Pacific inward to the expanses of the plains). Can hardly wait to check out the archives of these companies. sdc)



-2:23

[Yellowhawk Tribal Health Center](#) is with [Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indian Reservation](#). During these trying times, please take a moment to **listen to this impactful message** brought to you by **Armand Minthorn, Nixyáawii Longhouse Leader.***

Try this perspective shift.
Instead of seeing "social distancing" and travel bans as panic, try seeing them as acts of mass cooperation intended to protect the collective whole. This plan is not about individuals going into hiding. It's a global deep breath...an agreement between humans around the planet to be still. Be still, in hopes that the biggest wave can pass without engulfing too many of the vulnerable amongst us.

Dr. Lindsay Jernigan

Attached is the OTGR latest newsletter. Please note due to COVID-19, many events that were listed in this publication have been postponed or cancelled.

In my region, events scheduled for April and May have been cancelled and hope to be rescheduled at a later date.

Stay safe and be well. Kindest Regards,

Mrs. Terry Bentley, Tribal Relations Specialist-Pacific District (AK,WA,OR,ID,NV,CA)

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VA Office of Tribal Government Relations Newsletter ~ Winter 2020

Hello and welcome to the combined late winter edition of our VA Office of Tribal Government Relations (OTGR) newsletter. Here out east we are experiencing winter winding down, with slightly higher temperatures and the very early signs of spring are appearing all around us. March is National Women's History Month and I would like to take a moment to recognize the service and sacrifice of women Veterans in our armed services. Of the entire population of women Veterans, American Indian and Alaska Native women represent one of the largest cohorts, which is quite extraordinary. Speaking of extraordinary women, this past month, VA Secretary Robert Wilkie was fortunate to have the opportunity to meet and extend his personal regards to World War II Veteran Marcella R. Ryan LeBeau, Wigmuke Waste Win (Pretty Rainbow Woman) who served in the United States Army Nurse Corps during World War II. Ms. LeBeau is now 100 years old and remains active traveling and speaking across South Dakota and nationally. Ms. LeBeau was featured on the VA blog Vantage Point as a Veteran of the Day just a little over a year ago. To learn more about her life and service, click or enter this link into your browser: <https://www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/54614/veteranoftheday-army-veteran-marcella-ryan-lebeau/>. She is quite an inspiration.

Later this month, March 29, we commemorate National Vietnam War Veterans Day when Communities around the country will be paying honor and respect to our Vietnam Veterans. I encourage our readers to take time to welcome home all of the Vietnam Veterans you're blessed to have in your lives and also to take a moment to pay respects to those who have passed on, but whose memory and service will never be forgotten.

Now, to take a moment to reflect back and look ahead at the calendar...

Here in DC, during the month of February, Dr. Kameron Matthews, VHA Deputy Undersecretary for Health for Community Care was joined by Commander John Rael of the Indian Health Service, in a listening session held during the National Congress of American Indians Executive Council, Winter Session. The focus of the session was coordinating care for Veterans who use the Indian Health Service, Tribal Health Program services and the VA. This initial discussion will lead to more formal work of a VA/tribal advisory workgroup, which will collaboratively develop proposed processes for care coordination and submit those proposed processes for formal tribal consultation during the latter part of April at the 2020 Tribal Self-Governance which will be held in Burlingame, CA (here is a link to the conference site): <https://www.tribalselfgov.org/events/event/2020-annual-self-governance-consultation-conference/>.

Our team also kept busy during the past several months. In January, Mary Culley traveled to New Orleans to participate in the VHA Diversity and Inclusion Strategic Planning Session. The focus of this group is to assess options for increasing the diversity of the workforce at all levels of the VHA. Later in the month, Mary accompanied the Directors of the OKC VA Health Care System and the Muskogee VA Medical Center during their meetings to discuss potential collaborations with the Pawnee Indian Health Service, Tribal Health Board. She rounded out January traveling to Dallas, where she coordinated a meeting between VA leadership (from both VHA and the VBA) with the Urban Inter-Tribal Center of Texas (an urban Indian health program), then popped back up to Wetumka, OK where she briefed the new Muskogee Creek Nation council members on available Veterans programs and services. Mary has been an active member of both the OKC Mayor's and the Governor's work groups focused on Veteran suicide. She traveled here to Washington DC the latter part of February to participate in training offered by SAMHSA for the national state governors policy training.

click to enlarge

Water Shorts

“Access to clean water is a basic human right at all times, but any action that restricts families’ access to water during the current coronavirus outbreak would be reckless in the extreme.” — Reps. Peter DeFazio (D-OR) and Frank Pallone (D-NJ) [in a statement](#) requesting that utilities not shut off water during the coronavirus emergency.

“This unbiased report underscores that it is past time to update our antiquated hardrock mining laws. It’s simply outrageous – mining companies have stripped gold, silver and other valuable minerals from our public lands without paying a dime for the privilege for nearly 150 years, and federal taxpayers get stuck footing the bill for billions in cleanup costs. Meanwhile, these mines poison our waterways, our land, and our communities.” — Sen. Tom Udall (D-NM) in a statement following the publication of a [GAO report](#) on abandoned hardrock mines.

Great American Outdoors Act

Democrats and Republicans in the Senate introduced the [Great American Outdoors Act](#), which would permanently authorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

The bill would provide \$900 million of permanent funding each year for local parks and land conservation. The money for the fund comes not from taxpayers, but from royalties from offshore oil and gas production.

The bill also offers \$9.5 billion over ten years to address maintenance backlogs at national parks.

House Committee Advances Water Bills

The House Natural Resources Committee approved four water bills and sent them to the full House for consideration.

Those bills include:

- [Water Recycling Investment and Improvement Act](#), which would authorize a \$500 million grant program for water reuse.
- [Desalination Development Act](#), which would establish a 25 percent federal cost-share for ocean or brackish water desalination demonstration projects in the western states.
- [SAVE Water Resources Act](#), which would create a fund for water storage and reuse projects. The fund would be seeded with \$300 million annually. The bill also directs the Interior Department to complete feasibility studies as soon as possible for four reservoir storage projects in California.
- [Western Water Security Act](#), which would expand funding for groundwater recharge, drought response, desalination, and acquiring water to maintain and revive rivers.

Abandoned Hardrock Mines

Based on figures provided by federal agencies, the [Government Accountability Office estimates](#) that some 22,500 abandoned mine features – such as waste piles or tunnels – pose a potential environmental hazard. Three times as many features are a potential physical danger from collapse.

In the decade ending in 2017, federal agencies spent about \$287 million annually to minimize physical and environmental risks from these mines, the report states. Little more than a third of that cost was reimbursed by former mine owners or other private parties.

Abandoned mines leach acidic water and heavy metals into creeks and aquifers.

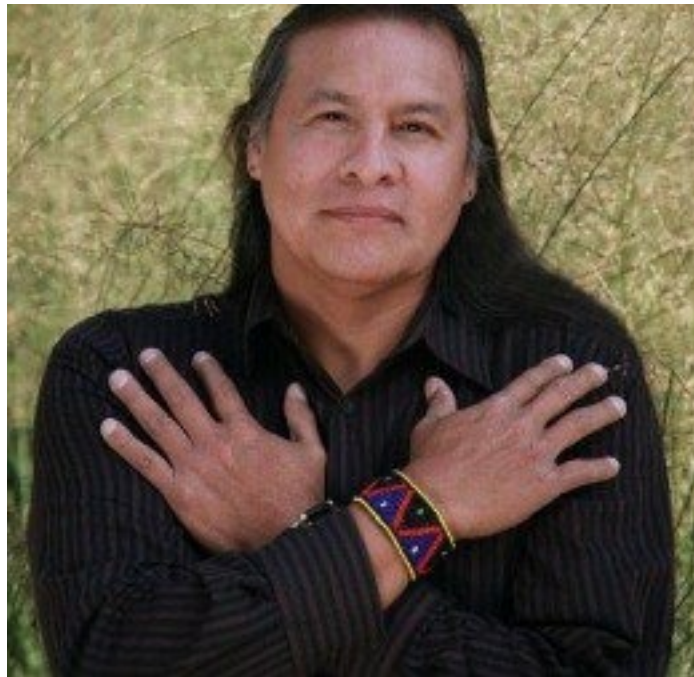
Concerns about how federal statutes interpret legal liability for pollution have hindered cleanup efforts by states and third parties, according to the report.

Columbia River Dam Operations Comment Period

Because of the coronavirus, federal agencies will be using teleconference and phone messages [to collect public comments](#) on an environmental impact statement on Columbia River dam operations.

There will be six teleconference comment sessions, starting March 17. Dial-in information is included in the link above.

Public comments are also being gathered online at comments.crso.info



[Walking the Red Road](#)
[June 30, 2010](#) ·

"This is the hardest time to live, but it is also the greatest honor to be alive now, and to be allowed to see this time. There is no other time like now. We should be thankful, for creation did not make weak spirits to live during this time. The old ones say 'this is the time when the strongest spirits will live through and those who are empty shells, those who have lost the connection will not survive.' We have become masters of survival -we will survive- it is our prophecy to do so."

"Humanity must shift from living "on" the earth, to living with her."

- Tiokasin Ghosthorse

Welcome to the fifth annual Grist 50.

For the past half-decade, we've brought you the stories of emerging leaders cooking up the boldest, most innovative solutions to save this here planet. We like to call these forward-thinking phenoms *Fixers*. This year, we started with 1,000 nominations (!) and selected 50 people who are shaking up environmental policy, the food system, the clean-energy sector, art, commerce, and more. These talented, hard-working, spectacular folks give us hope for the future.

Meet the 2020 Grist 50! https://grist.org/grist-50/2020/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=newsletter&utm_campaign=daily



Marcus Briggs-Cloud Photo: Kody Cecarelli

**CODIRECTOR, EKVN-YEFOLECV MASKOKE ECOVILLAGE
WEOGUFKA, ALABAMA**

He knows it takes a village to preserve a culture

As a teenager (and budding linguist), Marcus Briggs-Cloud noticed that few people his age spoke his native Maskoke language. According to prophecy, the loss of the language would mean the Maskoke people would cease to exist as such.

The language, he realized, was tied to a culture that had been rooted in the natural world. So more than a decade ago, he started planning a community where his people could live sustainably, speak their native tongue, and return to traditional ways of life. The fledgling Ekvn-Yefolecv Maskoke Ecovillage today houses a few dozen people on 577 acres of reclaimed ancestral land, and features a language classroom, an aquaponics facility, and even a herd of bison. It's off the grid, constructed with natural building techniques.

"Our origin and migration stories tell us that we are led to this particular place to care for it," Briggs-Cloud says. The next steps: a farm stand, restaurant, and eco-learning center where others can come and see what it's all about.



Layel Camargo Photo: Jesus Iniguez

**ECOLOGICAL ARTS & CULTURE MANAGER, THE CENTER FOR CULTURAL
POWER
OHLONE TERRITORY, BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA**

They'll show you how to be more #climatewoke

As a nonbinary person of color, Layel Camargo sees diversity and complexity as the keys to surviving climate chaos. Colonialism — which squelches diversity — and its mass extraction of resources drive these crises, says Camargo: “We’re in so many wars, and yet we have public school systems without clean water!”

Camargo (who uses the pronoun they) and their partner launched the Woke N Wasteless project in 2018 to encourage queer people and communities of color to adapt to environmental changes. The organization offers workshops and advice on climate-friendly lifestyle changes, like making your own toothpaste and deodorant. They also work with the political arts organization Center for Cultural Power, producing content and connecting artists, indigenous people, and people of color on issues around climate justice, among other things.

Camargo also co-launched the #ClimateWoke project, including a video series highlighting those on the frontlines of climate change, which will be distributed by PBS starting this spring. [Follow Layel Camargo](#)



Hillel Echo-Hawk
CHEF & OWNER, BIRCH BASKET
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

This chef's dinners will also feed your mind

Growing up in rural Alaska, Hillel Echo-Hawk drew inspiration from a nearby Athabaskan matriarch who fought the state government for decades over subsistence hunting and fishing rights for her people. Echo-Hawk, who is Pawnee and Athabaskan, learned from her how to live off the land — and how to fight for what you believe in. Echo-Hawk trained as a chef, and launched her own catering company two years ago that focuses on indigenous foods with an original twist. Think: not just corn and squash, but also duck-fat maple popcorn.

In her hands, food, the ultimate human connector, is also education. At catered dinners, she'll tell attendees why she makes certain dishes, why she chooses certain ingredients — the story behind the meal. “When I say these things, and put down a plate of food, the lightbulb goes off, and people have a new understanding about native people,” she says. Then comes her greatest pleasure: walking around, listening to what people are saying about the meal, and joining the conversation.

"I take pretty good care of myself, and I have no enthusiasm whatever about dying. I think it's a terrible waste of time, and I don't want to participate in it." --Edward Albee