

**Journal #4733**

*Debra Harry to be Associate Professor of Indigenous Studies at UNR's Department of Gender, Race, and Identity*

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*Covid and the Navajo*

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**Debra Harry**

I am so honored to share this news with you all. I will now be serving as Associate Professor of Indigenous Studies at UNR's Department of Gender, Race, and Identity. I'm excited for the work ahead in building a vibrant, decolonizing/re-indigenizing program of study in Indigenous Studies. I am also deeply grateful to all of you who have provided me support and guidance over the years (you know who you are, and there are too many to list here), as I know this doesn't happen by one's own doing. Unu pesa mu!

**UNR Gender, Race, and Identity - GRI**

We are very excited to announce that Dr. Debra Harry has been appointed as Associate Professor in Indigenous Studies in the Gender, Race, and Identity Department. Please join us in congratulating her!

**Where Water Is Scarce on Native American Reservations Covid-19 Spreads More Easily** – For Indigenous people living across the United States, the Covid-19 pandemic is the newest chapter in a long history of fighting against disease.

**Covid-19 in the Navajo Nation: How masks helped slow the outbreak** (Vox)

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*“Uatu has died. I don’t like to remember, because it hurts so much. The river is our mother, our father. And now she is dead.” – Djanira Krenak, a matriarch and spiritual leader in the Krenak tribe living in southeastern Brazil.* The Krenak refer to the Rio Doce as ‘Uatu,’ a sacred, omnipresent relative. Since a dam burst in 2015, pouring 44 million cubic meters of mining waste into the river and the Atlantic Ocean, the Krenak have struggled to survive, saying they can no longer hunt for medicinal herbs or fish in the river. They are now asking for \$6.3 billion in damages from the Anglo-Australian mining giant BHP in a trial that begins on Monday.

Reuters

*In context:* **Stranded Assets: Water Stress is a Factor in Global Mining Slump**

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**Mankato’s Hanging Monument Excluded Indigenous Perspectives when it was Erected and when it was Removed** by John Legg

Both while it stood and when its presence became inconvenient, the Hanging Monument shows how memorials control historical narratives and elevate particular interpretations of the past.

**What's in a Name?: Decolonizing Sports Mascots** by Paul C. Rosier

Decolonizing sports history requires a deeper analysis of how false historical narratives that ‘blamed the victim’ became embedded in public venues in everyday life that shaped generations of Americans’ perceptions of Native people.

**More from John D. Berry**

Copied from a reliable friend's post:

In the midst of all the propaganda and rhetoric and conflict being whipped up, the goal of ending systemic racism - the reason behind the protests - easily gets put aside, at least by those of us with fairer complexions. I am sharing an account from a woman who lives in Portland, and, who, for the first time decided to join a protest last night. Please take a moment to read this heartfelt perspective of what is happening there. You will come away with a fuller perspective, I promise. I am not sharing her name as I do not have permission, but the story speaks for itself.

----- from Portland, OR, 22 July 2020 -----

I struggle with how much to share about my (insignificant and limited) support of the BLM movement for fear of taking the spotlight away from the voices who need to be heard. On the other hand, I feel like people need to know what's happening in Portland and may be coming to a city near you. Monday, I heard the first call for ally moms to show up and create a [#wallofmoms](#) as a barrier between the protestors (who've been on the streets in Portland for 55 days now) and the federal agents who have escalated the conflict. I felt a tug... but I haven't been anywhere non-essential since quarantine started and the thought of being in arm and arm even with kindred spirits seemed daunting.

Tuesday, my friend @rws623 asked to borrow a yellow shirt and I knew that I could not NOT go with her. I wanted to listen, learn and lend my support. I am sure that there were instigators in the crowd that were egging on the conflict, but what I witnessed last night was people passionately demanding real systemic change. It was beautiful and peaceful. I felt safe. The energy of this shared experience was palpable. Then, about 20 men in camouflage came out of the federal building and pointed their weapons at us. Without provocation, they shot tear gas into the crowd and began violently pushing us without a word of warning. Let that sink in. Our own government attacked its own citizens who were peacefully protesting. I showed up hoping for the best (I did see some of the best of humanity), but expected the worst (we tried to protect ourselves the best we could). If they're willing to shoot at peaceful moms wearing canary yellow, who will they not shoot at? They may have fancy gas masks and weapons on their side, but I believe that we are on the right side of history. I hear myself asking: if not now, then when?

The keen observer may have picked up on the fact that I'm actually more afraid to be the reason for the spread of Covid-19 than to stand in front of these bullies. And tonight, I wiped the tear gas off the respirators, helmets and ski goggles so that Lanie and her friends could lend their voices and bodies to the cause. This will not end until racism ends.

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**Fossil Fuel Advocates' New Tactic: Calling Opposition to Arctic Drilling 'Racist'**

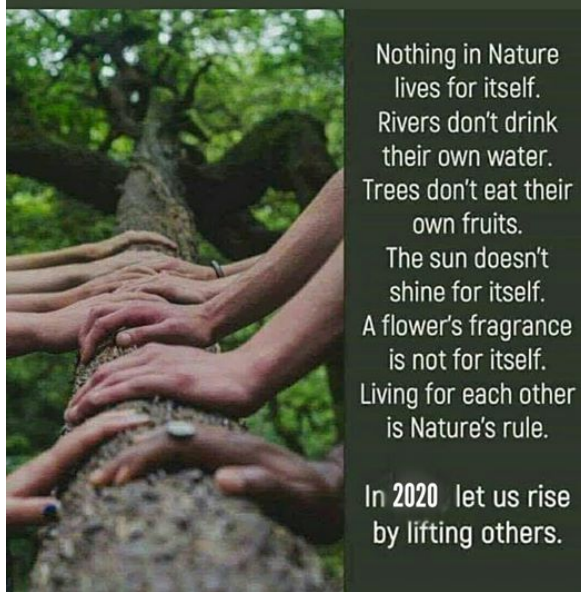
*Ilana Cohen, InsideClimate News*

Cohen writes: "When Alaska's all-white Congressional delegation branded opposition to oil and gas drilling in the Arctic Wildlife National Refuge as a form of discrimination last month, they may have hoped to play into a national dialogue about systemic racism - not necessarily to spark it."

**READ MORE**

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***President Obama said it best: "Whatever you've done so far is not enough."***



Nothing in Nature  
lives for itself.  
Rivers don't drink  
their own water.  
Trees don't eat their  
own fruits.  
The sun doesn't  
shine for itself.  
A flower's fragrance  
is not for itself.  
Living for each other  
is Nature's rule.

In 2020 let us rise  
by lifting others.

[Kakaygeesick Bay](#)

Cattail- It is one of the very first plants I learned about. It is both Medicinal & Edible. The pollen which is available about mid-summer can be used to stop bleeding, it must be applied freshly to wounds. The pollen is also used for chest pains, internal bleeding, menstrual pain, and is a blood cleanser. The roots are also used, they have to be mashed & used fresh to make a poultice to treat blisters, stings, infections, boils, an cysts. The flower is taken as a tea to help control diarrhea. The white roots at the base of the plant are what is edible, it can be boiled, steamed, & sliced, then eaten raw in salads. The roots can also be dried and pounded into a flour. The leaves were also used to make mats, dolls, and clothing. While the flowerheads were dipped into oil or fat and used as torches long ago. The flowers still make good tinder because they are fluffy and dry on the inside. The Cattail plant offers so much and so little people actually know what it's good for.



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**Dave Grohl, whose mom taught public school, says we need to protect America's teachers like the national treasures they are (CNN)**

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**Newly excavated tools suggest humans lived in North America at least 30,000 years ago (Guardian)**

*I know the answer! Native people are seen as objects by many non-native people. Long ago & far away from them! Carla*

### **‘Why does this never go out of style?’**

Seeing Native Americans nowhere, and everywhere

American Indian-themed objects are on display in the National Museum of the American Indian’s “Americans” exhibition in Washington. (NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN)

By Jennifer Schuessler The New York Times

Although the NFL team in Washington is retiring the name “Redskins” and its feather-topped Indian head logo, there’s one unexpected place where the team’s logo will be preserved, at least through 2027: in the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington.

A baby blanket with the logo hangs near the entrance of “Americans,” an exhibition that opened in 2018. It’s installed in a soaring hall, along with ads, toys, film clips, weapons and hundreds of other Indian-themed objects that range, depending on the beholder, from the kitschy to the charming to the offensive.

The point? To illuminate the paradox that Native American names, symbols and stories are ubiquitous in American life, even if actual Indians are largely invisible. And they aren’t just ubiquitous, the show argues, but central to American identity.

“It’s spooky, weird and subversive,” Paul Chaat Smith, an associate curator who created the exhibition with Cécile R. Ganteaume, said of the profusion of Native American imagery.

“We wanted to make the point that this is part of American life, going back 300 years, since before the founding. From Paul Revere to Kanye West, why does this never go out of style?”

The museum is closed because of the coronavirus, but much of the exhibition can be seen online. We talked with Chaat Smith, who is Comanche, about the exhibition and how to think about our attachment to Native American imagery. These are edited excerpts from the interview.

The museum issued a statement earlier this month calling for an end to the use of racist mascots and images. What do you think about the Washington team’s decision?

When you follow something like that for years, for decades, it’s stunning when it changes on a dime. We’re very pleased with the decision. We want to get out of the mascot business. Some say these names honor the warriors and provide a way to introduce Native culture, but an NFL team is not the ideal venue to educate the public about Native issues. And if it’s such a good idea, show me the equivalent honoring of Chicanos, Asian Americans or any other group.

It only happens to us.

When the exhibition opened, the focus on pop-culture appropriation, rather than on authentic Native culture, was seen as something of a departure for the museum. What was the idea behind it?

Since the museum opened more than 10 years ago, we've found that people are very sympathetic to Native Americans. They are inclined to think Native culture is valuable and important. But people were becoming culture tourists.

They go and learn some things, but it has nothing to do with them. They weren't going to leave and be reminded of Indians the way they are with African Americans, who are just present in the culture in a much different way.

You realize, "Wow, it's kind of interesting how our whole lives we are surrounded by Indian imagery." So we can make the argument that Indians are central to U.S. national identity. You have Indians on brake fluid, weapons systems, sports teams, all sorts of other things that have nothing to do with Indians or each other. But it's meant to say something about authenticity, about American-ness.

Did it seem risky to put some of this stuff on view?

With the sports material, that's what the activists said: This stuff should be in a museum. We're pleased we could put it in a museum.

The Washington team's name is gone. The Land O' Lakes Maiden is also gone. Should all this stuff just go away?

We wanted to avoid being prescriptive, to say, "This team name is bad. It's a slur. But this other one is not." Some things are obnoxious. We should get rid of some things.

But we are not trying to be the police force to shame people. It doesn't help us to eliminate everything. The problem with Native Americans is the invisibility in American life.

People can have a strong reaction to their team name, or their Boy Scout rituals, being challenged. Are there Indian-themed objects you have an emotional connection to?

I'm from the 20th century, born in the '50s. People of that time, when you see nothing really positive in your regular life about Native people, then you see some Indian object, and it can be very positive. We know it's corny, it's a fantasy and it's not really about us, but it is some kind of visibility.

I like the fact that Elvis Presley made two bad movies ("Stay Away Joe" and "Flaming Star") in which he played Native Americans. The biggest star in the world thought Indians were interesting. Of course, we want realistic movies and better movies.

We've had people who came into our museum, including dignitaries from reservations, wearing caps for the Braves or other teams. Maybe it's ironic. Maybe they think it should be changed, but they still support the teams.

For people of a certain generation, that's powerful. It's saying, "Hey man, we're still here."

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[Thomas Corbett](#) [A mother Wolf Spider carrying her young.](#)

**Ivanka Trump promotes Native justice and workers pledge during Minnesota visit**  
By [Katie Galioto](#) and [Briana Bierschbach](#) Star Tribune

July 27, 2020 — 3:17pm

Ivanka Trump headlined the opening Monday of a Bloomington office to investigate violence against Native American women, the second of two Minnesota stops less than 100 days before the presidential election.

The president's daughter and adviser, accompanied by U.S. Secretary of the Interior David Bernhardt, was in Duluth earlier in the day to meet U.S. Rep. Pete Stauber for a tour Duluth Pack, a factory and store known for its canvas and leather bags. Executives for the company, which currently employs about 80 people, signed the president's Pledge to American Workers, a commitment to worker education and training programs.

The office in Bloomington is the first of seven offices the Trump administration is establishing across the nation to investigate cold cases involving missing and murdered American Indians and Alaska Natives.

Both stops were met by protests and heavily criticized by Minnesota DFL leaders, who derided the tour as a "campaign photo op." Lt. Gov. Peggy Flanagan, a member of the White Earth Nation of Ojibwe, slammed the president for doing little to promote the

health and safety of Native Americans while "demonstrating and celebrating behavior that perpetuates violence against Native women and girls."

More 50 people gathered outside of the event in Bloomington wearing the signature red color of the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women's movement and carrying signs that said "you are on stolen land" and "stop pretending to care about Native Lives." Rep. Mary Kunesh-Podein, DFL-New Brighton, a member of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, said she wasn't contacted about the new office, despite the fact that she's the co-chair of a state task force that's been working for more than a year on the epidemic of missing and murdered Native women.

"That is part of the historic trauma that our American Indians have carried for hundreds and hundreds of years, where the federal government is setting things up, putting things in order for the good of the Indian people and not taking into consideration their viewpoints," she said.

The office will be staffed by one special agent Minnesota, who will work with tribal communities and other law enforcement agencies to solve cold cases and develop better processes for handling future cases, said Bernhardt. He cited 136 unsolved cases of missing or murdered Indigenous men and women in Minnesota, some that date back decades.

Native American women make up less than 1% of the state's population, but homicide rates for Native women were seven times higher than for white women between 1990 and 2016, according to the Minnesota Department of Health. Ivanka Trump described it as a "dark pattern is plaguing tribal communities across the country."

"These tragic statistics are simply unacceptable. They do not just represent a problem, they're proof of an epidemic," she said.

Underscoring the political significance of the trip, the Republican National Committee issued a statement during Monday's tour saying the president "continues to deliver on his promises to put all Minnesotans first."

President Donald Trump has vowed to win Minnesota in 2020 after narrowly losing the state to Hillary Clinton in 2016. In northeastern Minnesota, he hopes to mimic the example of Stauber, who flipped the longtime Democratic Eighth District for the GOP with a comfortable win in the 2018 midterms.

"As so many people are experiencing tremendous vulnerability and fear, are thinking about the path forward ... I have no doubt. The president built the strongest economy in this country's history and he will do it once again," Ivanka Trump said.

The tug-of-war between mining and environmentalism has been a fiery political issue in northern Minnesota during recent years, prompting a small group of protesters to gather outside Duluth Pack's Canal Park store Monday. A woman held a sign that read, "Start packing, Ivanka."



The Trump administration has reissued mineral leases to Twin Metals, a company looking to open a copper-nickel mine just outside the Boundary Waters. Opponents to the move, which has been tied up in court for months, say mining could harm the wilderness area.

Ivanka Trump and her husband, White House adviser Jared Kushner, rent a Washington, D.C., home that was bought by a U.S. real estate company owned by Andrónico Luksic, chairman of the Chilean company that owns Twin Metals. They have claimed the timing was a coincidence and that the transaction was done at arm's length. In response to a question about mining, Bernhardt said: "We will not sacrifice clean air or clean water for economic development."

Ahead of the visit, some locals pledged on social media to boycott Duluth Pack, a 138-year-old company that started making canoe packs for early explorers of the Boundary Waters.

"It almost just feels like a big contradiction having this company support someone who's not supporting something like the Boundary Waters," said Jake Aldridge, a 23-year-old protester outside the store.

But CEO Tom Sega said others spoke with their wallets. The company had its biggest online sales day of the year Sunday after Trump's visit was announced.

"This is not a political statement," said Sega, who added that Duluth Pack has hosted numerous politicians from both parties. "It doesn't matter what administration it is, we would welcome people who are supporting us — our company, and specifically and most importantly, our employees. This is a statement about our employees and how awesome they are."

Katie Galioto • 612-673-4478

Briana Bierschbach • 651-925-5042

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**Here's homeschool parents' advice for surviving another round of online learning**  
By [Daniel Wu](mailto:dwu@bayareanewsgroup.com) | [dwu@bayareanewsgroup.com](mailto:dwu@bayareanewsgroup.com) |

PUBLISHED: July 27, 2020 at 6:30 a.m. | UPDATED: July 27, 2020 at 10:08 a.m.

Leave it to a homeschool parent to find the upside of having your kids home for school this fall.

With the coronavirus keeping millions of California school children stuck at home when the new school year starts, it's good to know there are some parents out there who not only survive the experience on a year-round basis, but purposely choose it.

Helping kids through classes at home has become a strange new reality for most families in the Bay Area. But it doesn't have to be all bad — homeschoolers say there are plenty of ways to keep kids focused and learning at the kitchen table.

Until schools can reopen, here are some tips from teachers and homeschooling parents on how to make the most of it.

### **Do ‘Real Life’**

“My best advice, whether you’re actually homeschooling or just supplementing (online classes) is to do ‘real life’ as much as possible,” said Jamie Heston, a homeschool consultant and member of the Homeschool Association of California.

That can mean a lot of things — exploring the backyard, taking apart a broken TV remote or helping with dinner. Being able to mix up desk learning with activities around the house is a big upside of learning from home, Heston says, especially if kids have trouble concentrating in online classes.

“Academics can be covered to a certain extent by those real-life activities,” she said. “By doing kitchen science ... by baking bread and going and looking up why it rises. It just creates a little more balance, because it’s not just ‘sit down at the kitchen table and learn.’”

### **Let kids be bored**

Don’t be afraid to let children find their own things to do in between classes too, Heston says.

“I am totally fine with kids being bored!” she said. “Bored kids will find something to do. If you say, ‘Oh, no video games but you have some time off,’ kids will pick up a book, they’ll go to the drawer and pull some things out ... they’ll find something.”

Stacy Landgraf, who homeschooled her five children in Saratoga, found that at home they had more time and freedom to explore their own interests.

“One of our sons ... his interests were always in engineering and science,” said Landgraf, whose youngest is now a senior in college. “He had so much time in the afternoons as a young child to do his little experiments that he set up himself or go outside and collect his bugs and all of the things that he really enjoyed doing.”

### **If they’re struggling, take a break, or change it up**

There’s nothing wrong with younger kids struggling to focus for more than 20 or 30 minutes at a time, says Denise Boiko, a homeschooler and teacher at part-time homeschool co-op Heart Academy in San Jose.

Breaking up that time with other activities your child enjoys more — and talking through what they’ve just learned while they do it — can help keep them focused.

“Try to get that 30 minutes and then break it up with something that they like a lot more or an active activity,” Boiko said. “Like 10 minutes outside or 15 minutes in the kitchen fixing a snack while you talk about what they just read.”

Heston says kids can be surprisingly attentive even when they’re given something active to do.

“I’d let (my kids) play Legos while I read to them,” said Heston. “They could actually listen better, I found, if they fidgeted with something or played with something ... if you have that kind of a kid who’s bouncing off the walls.”

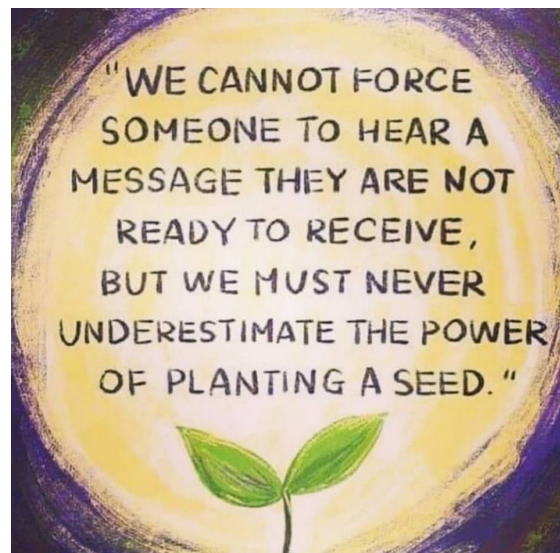
### **Don't worry — and try to enjoy it**

Having seen how their children were able to learn at the kitchen table and around the house, Boiko and Heston are optimistic that most kids won't fall behind from a period of online classes at home. Boiko says other parents shouldn't worry too much.

"Kids are going to be just fine," she said. "Education is a long-term game."

Heston agrees. She thinks parents shouldn't see themselves as teachers at home, but as "facilitators" to help children who will learn plenty, even on their own.

"(Parents) think of the child as being this empty vessel into which we pour knowledge," she said. "That's not really how children work. ... They seek out information and they learn on their own."



### **This Friday, July 31 at 10 a.m.**

Walker River Paiute Tribal Nation Chair Amber Torres and Reno-Sparks Indian Colony Chair Arlan D. Melendez will address the challenges of this global pandemic and how the public, all levels of government, and health agencies can best support Tribal Communities during COVID-19.

Organized by the Nevada Public Health Training Center at the University of Nevada, this is the final webinar in a summer series to highlight marginalized communities and public health problems during times of COVID.

Here is the link to the Center's FB page, here you can share the post we made for the webinar: <https://www.facebook.com/NevadaPublicHealthTrainingCenter>

The webinar is embedded in a "course" on our website where anyone can register for free and gain access to the webinar: <https://www.makinghealthhappen.org/courses/covid-19-webinar-series-impactontribalcommunities>

Once the webinar is over, we post the recording on our website in the same course.