

*Journal #4756*

*Plot modern addresses from up to 750 million years ago*

*Thoughts from Bucky Harjo*

*Osoyoos Indian Band Pictographs Destroyed*

*Indigenous women's cold cases get renewed scrutiny*

*Yakama Nation: 'We've got a long way to go'*

*Infection rates at least 3.5 times higher for Natives*

*Author Marcie Rendon receives \$50,000 McKnight award*

*Big Oil Is in Trouble. Its Plan: Flood Africa With Plastic.*

*What Climate Change Does to the Human Body*

*How the National Park Foundation Is Highlighting Women's History*

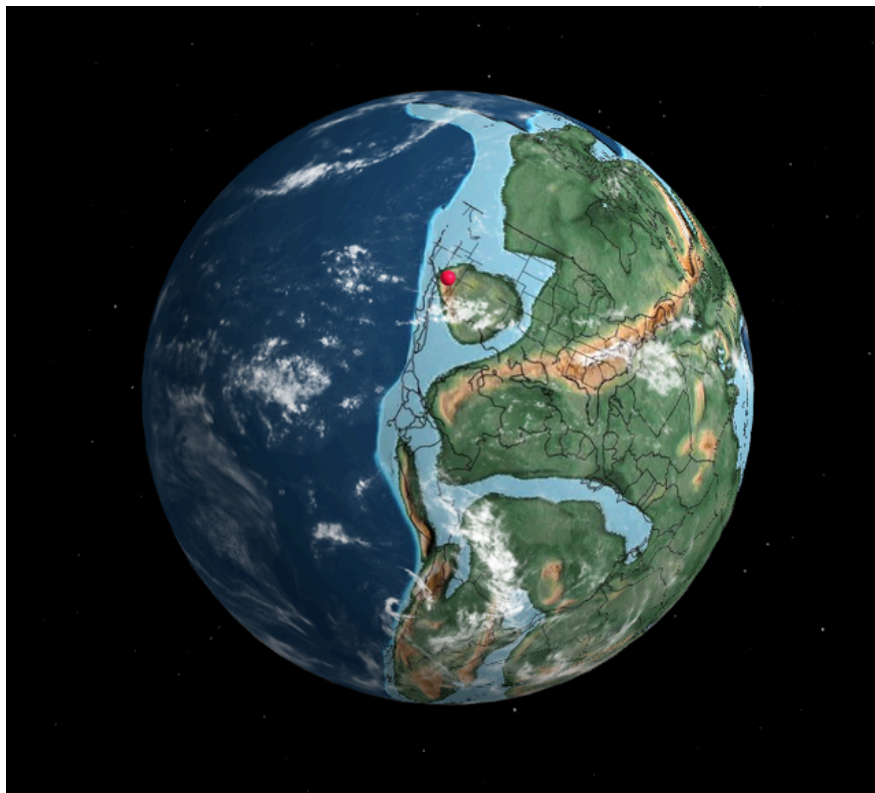
*Petition to declare Indigenous Peoples Day*

*Braves work with tribe to address cultural concerns*

*Guinn Center Examines Rural Schools' Strength*

*Today we honor Wá·šiw women*

*The Farrell Lab: Yale North American West Initiative (YNAWI)*



*Dinosaur Pictures*

👉 That red dot is Needles, California, 260 million years ago.

That's according to a fascinating mapping project by engineer and Google alumnus Ian Webster. Using a trove of tectonic and paleogeographic data, he created **a tool that lets you plot modern addresses from up to 750 million years ago**, including a time when California lived up to [the myth](#) of being an island. [Dinosaur Pictures](#)

**Bucky Harjo**

So, if our tribe allow NDOT dictate what they want to build a highway passing through our lands just to benefit those businesses, our little piece of heaven will be disharmonized. The peace and harmony that we have will no longer be. It's bad enough that the tribe has a blind eye to all the recreational vehicles that continuously destroy the beauty of the valley and mountains.

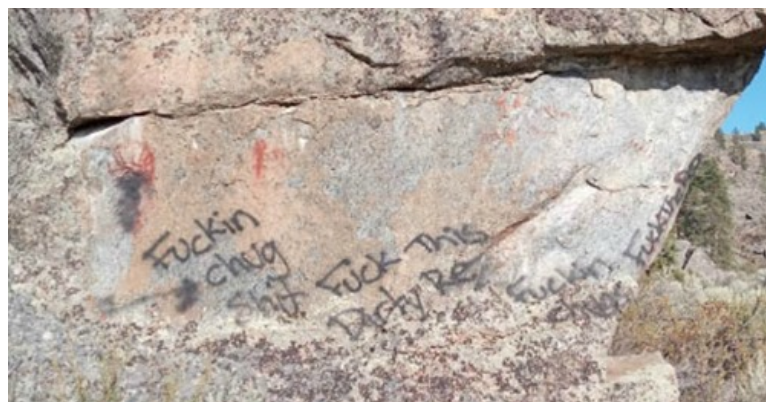
I don't want to the beauty scarred by those who have always oppressed us. What we have should be protected for our future generations, land untouched and protected from greed. It's nice to go out some nights and just look around at all the beauty, all the mountains, all the trees and plants. To see and hear all kinds birds, to have all this beauty before us. Many of our ancestors died to protect for their future generations, we met not let another stone be turned, or the beauty of the mountains be disturbed for a highway. Every rock, every plant and tree, every little living thing that lives upon this land must be protected. There is more life at stake than you are aware of, and the life that lives below the surface.

It is time the tribe stands up, we should not be listening to those who run Reno and Sparks governments. They should be listening to the tribe. Do not be influenced by greed and the mighty dollar, I might be just wasting my thought as I have a feeling the ink is already dried. Businesses are sprouting all over along the 445, the only progress that should happen for our valley and mountains would be to maintain the beauty, the harmony and balance of the life that exists from now until forever. We should always be able to see the stars at night and not let them be dimmed, we should only hear the wind blowing across the valley and not the buzzing and roar of a busy highway.

It shouldn't even be a topic. Don't let those non natives that work for our tribe decide our future. I spend a lot of time walking and wandering and praying in the valley and mountains. I ask our fellow members to express as I have, our voices need to be heard and not by a survey.

We are human our thought should not be controlled by a square mind.

\*\*\*\*\*



## Indigenous women's cold cases get renewed scrutiny



MARK THIESSEN • *Associated Press*

*Jeannie Hovland, deputy assistant secretary for Native American affairs for the Department of Health and Human Services, attended the opening of the Anchorage office last week.*

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA – Ida Rose Jacomet, 37, was last seen Oct. 2, 1975, at the Circle M Bar on an old highway near Fairbanks, Alaska. The only clue left behind was that her purse was found in the parking lot. If she is alive today, she would be 82.

Valerie Sifsof disappeared from a campground about 65 miles southeast of Anchorage, last seen by her boyfriend about midnight on July 7, 2012. Search teams tried in vain but never found Sifsof or her body. She would be 51 years old, if she's alive.

In the village of Fort Yukon, just above the Arctic Circle 400 miles north of Anchorage, 62-year-old Lorraine Juanita Ginnis was spotted walking near her home Oct. 4, 2018. She hasn't been seen since.

These women are among the hundreds of Alaska Native or American Indian women who have gone missing over the years, and in many instances, their cases have gone cold.

Now the Bureau of Indian Affairs Office of Justice Services is opening seven Operation Lady Justice Task Force cold case offices across the country to concentrate on the number of missing and murdered Indigenous women.

Tara Sweeney, the Department of Interior's assistant secretary for Indian Affairs and an Inupiat from Utqiagvik, the nation's northernmost community and formerly known as Barrow, opened the Anchorage office last week.

"I think as an Alaska Native woman, it's extremely humbling to be able to work on an initiative that has impacted our community at levels beyond, I would say, the national level," Sweeney said.

Cases for investigators will be pulled from the FBI's National Crime Information Center. In late July, when the first cold case office opened in Bloomington, Minn., **the database indicated there were more than 1,500 unsolved cases of missing or murdered Indigenous women.**

Alaska has about 300 cases. "That number leads the nation, sadly," Sweeney said. Alaska also is among the states with the highest rates of violence against women.

Sweeney said she recently went through the database and could identify by last names alone where in Alaska they came from or family members that she personally knows.

"And I'm one person, and there are so many Alaska Natives that are impacted because of this epidemic," she said.

She was direct when asked what success for this initiative would look like.

"I'm just going to put it in very simple terms: justice for victims and resolution and closure for families," she said.

The cold case teams stem from the Operation Lady Justice Task Force, which was created by an executive order from President Donald Trump in November. It is a multi-agency effort led by Interior Secretary David Bernhardt and U.S. Attorney General William Barr.

Sweeney said the duties for the cold case officers will be to gather intelligence on missing and murdered cases, prioritize those cases for assignment to investigative teams, and develop plans to help guide investigators. This will include identifying outside resources, including social services, that could provide meaningful input and coordinating those efforts with investigators.

"It's important to manage expectations because the need is so great," she said.

Greg Razo with the Alaska Native Justice Center said at a news conference announcing the opening of the cold case office that historically, the federal justice presence in Alaska has been intermittent and inconsistent, and the state of Alaska has failed to meet the challenge of public safety.

"Opening this office is a great first step," Razo said. "And we stand ready to partner with all of you as we work to reverse the disproportionality that has put so many of our Alaska Native people, families and children at risk."

\*\*\*\*\*

**Lawmakers to corrections officials: Where are those girls?**

**Yakama Nation: 'We've got a long way to go'**

The coronavirus is affecting tribes across the country in different ways, depending on the location of the tribe, the size of the population and the access to healthcare. In the pacific northwest, the Yakama Nation is working hard to keep... [Read more indiancountrytoday.com](#)

\*\*\*\*\*

**Infection rates at least 3.5 times higher for Natives**

Jourdan Bennett-Begaye The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that American Indians and Alaska Natives have a COVID-19 infection rate 3.5 times than white people and younger Native people are more affected. The agency released the...[Read more indiancountrytoday.com](#)

\*\*\*\*\*

**Author Marcie Rendon receives \$50,000 McKnight award**

Sandra Hale Schulman Aug 23, 2020 Special to [Indian Country Today](#)

**The White Earth Nation writer and community arts activist is the first Native American woman to win the foundation's Distinguished Artist Award**

The Minnesota-based McKnight Foundation has announced the selection of author, poet, playwright and activist Marcie Rendon, White Earth Anishinaabe Nation, for its 2020 Distinguished Artist Award.

This annual selection comes with \$50,000 and was created to honor a Minnesota artist who has made significant contributions to the state’s cultural life.

Rendon grew up in Minnesota and is the author of poems, plays, children’s books and novels that explore the resilience and brilliance of Native peoples. She is the first Native American woman to receive the Distinguished Artist Award, launched in 1996.

“Marcie brings a strong and necessary voice to so many genres,” said Pamela Wheelock, interim president of the family foundation. “She has created a tremendous body of work, including poetry, plays, lyrics and award-winning crime novels, all while raising up other Native voices in our community.”

Rendon is the author of the award-winning Cash Blackbear mystery series that is set in Minnesota’s Red River Valley. The first in the series, “Murder on the Red River,” earned the 2018 Pinckley Prize for Debut Novel, and the second, “Girl Gone Missing,” was nominated for the Mystery Writers of America–G. P. Putnam’s Son’s Sue Grafton Memorial Award.

“I started writing crime novels because that is what I liked reading the most to entertain myself,” Rendon says by phone from her home in Minnesota. “It was a way to tell an interesting story that readers would want to read.”

Rendon, who is at work on her third novel in the series, is also the author of four nonfiction children’s books, including [“Powwow Summer”](#) (Minnesota Historical Society Press, 2013).

Rendon’s plays include “Sweet Revenge,” chosen for the Oklahoma Indigenous Theatre Company’s 2020 New Native American Play Festival. She has also curated and produced a variety of Native-focused performances at the History Theatre, the Minnesota Fringe Festival and Patrick’s Cabaret. She is founder of Raving Native Theater, a platform that brings voice and visibility to other Native American artists and performers.

“My writing is about what I know. As a Native people, we are more resilient than we are traumatized,” said Rendon. “Art keeps us thriving, not just surviving. I try to make room for other Native artists. Every time someone steps forward, it makes room for others to step forward.”

Rendon’s poem “What’s an Indian Woman to Do?” will appear in the upcoming Norton Anthology of Native Nations Poetry titled “When the Light of the World Was Subdued, Our Songs Came Through.”

Rendon’s poem “Resilience” is also included in U.S. Poet Laureate Joy Harjo’s digital project “Living Nations, Living Words: A Map of First Peoples Poetry,” which will join the permanent collection of the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress.

As for her daily life as a writer, it has changed a little during the pandemic.

“I try and write about 2,000 to 3,000 words a day, but it’s challenging to work at my home office lately with kids and grandkids all here,” she said. “I rarely get a solid chunk of time to sit by myself.”

Aside from her personal writing, Rendon’s time is taken up with outside obligations as she works with many community organizations.

“I have a lot of deadlines with other writing projects and commitments like newspaper articles or year-end reports for groups I work with, so sometimes my own writing gets put off in the corner,” she said. “When I’m not writing, I like to go to the farmer’s markets here with my kids.”

Rendon lives in the Standish neighborhood of Minneapolis with her family, including two granddaughters and a great-granddaughter.

Her other awards include a 2020 Ensemble/Playwright Collaboration Grant from the Network of Ensemble Theaters and the Playwrights’ Center, and a 2020 COVID-19 artist grant from the Tiwahe Foundation for demonstrating resilience during the pandemic. Rendon was named a 2018 “50 Over 50” honoree by AARP Minnesota and Pollen Midwest and received Loft’s 2017 Spoken Word Immersion Fellowship with poet Diego Vazquez.



Born in northern Minnesota in 1952, Rendon was always a reader, creative writer and poet from an early age. While she was studying criminal justice at Moorhead State College in the early 1970s, she became part of a group of Native student activists who successfully demanded the launch of the university's first American Indian studies department.

After moving to Minneapolis' Phillips neighborhood in the late 1970s, she also worked as a counselor and therapist while raising three daughters.

"Marcie has moved fluidly as an artist, poet, and playwright, with a common thread of working in her community as an essential contributor to our cultural ecosystem," said Sandy Agustin, a member of the Distinguished Artist Award selection committee. "Whether she is writing about boarding schools, incarceration or the epidemic of missing and murdered Indigenous women, she is nurturing Native voices and amplifying communities that are too often unheard, especially Native women."

*Sandra Hale Schulman, Cherokee, has been writing about Native issues since 1994. She is an author of four books, has contributed to shows at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian and has produced three films on Native musicians.*

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Big Oil Is in Trouble. Its Plan: Flood Africa With Plastic.**

Hiroko Tabuchi, Michael Corkery and Carlos Mureithi, The New York Times

Excerpt: "Confronting a climate crisis that threatens the fossil fuel industry, oil companies are racing to make more plastic. But they face two problems: Many markets are already awash with plastic, and few countries are willing to be dumping grounds for the world's plastic waste."

[READ MORE](#)

\*\*\*\*\*

### **What Climate Change Does to the Human Body**

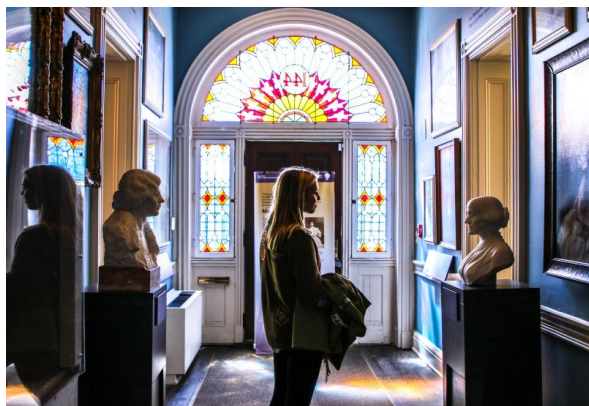
Neelu Tummala, Scientific American

Tummala writes: "The climate crisis is a public health issue, and we must start healing the planet in order to heal each other." [READ MORE](#)

\*\*\*\*\*

### **How the National Park Foundation Is Highlighting Women's History**

*The organization will allocate \$460,000 toward projects at 23 parks across the country*



By [Theresa Machermer](#) [smithsonianmag.com](#) August 28, 2020

Earlier this month, the National Park Foundation (NPF) [announced](#) plans to dedicate grants totaling \$460,000 toward its [Women in Parks initiative](#), which launched in June 2019 to support projects that “unearth, preserve and highlight women’s stories tied to national parks across the country.”

The campaign is part of the charitable organization’s [celebration of the centennial](#) of the 19th Amendment, which extended the franchise to [\(mostly white\) women](#) on a federal level upon its [August 18, 1920, ratification](#).

Announced in response to an [NPF survey](#) suggesting two-thirds of 1,000 adults polled “wish they were taught more about women in U.S. history,” Women in Parks’ inaugural slate of programming centers on [23 projects](#) that seek to elevate women’s stories through visual media, podcasts, exhibitions and park tours. By highlighting sites associated with a diverse group of women, NPF will render these individuals’ accomplishments “more visible than ever,” writes Jake Rossen for [Mental Floss](#). (Interested parties can donate to the campaign [here](#).)

“The National Park Service offers unique opportunities to learn about women's important contributions and how even their silent and diverse everyday lives formed the foundations of America,” says National Park Service Chief Historian Turkiya Lowe in a [statement](#).

She adds, “Parks are spaces to ask complex questions about the history of the United States” — like addressing the complicated timeline of women’s suffrage after 1920.

Among the projects listed on the initiative’s [website](#) are an exhibit on the life of civil rights leader Coretta Scott King at the [Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Park](#) in Atlanta, Georgia; bus tours led by the [San Francisco Maritime National Historic Park](#); programming on women in the military at the [Fort Stanwix National Monument](#) in New York; and an outdoor exhibition on LGBTQ miner and entrepreneur [Louise Grantham](#) at [Death Valley National Park](#).

\*\*\*\*\*  
We are circulating a **petition to declare Indigenous Peoples Day** on the 2nd Monday of October with plans to go back to State Legislature in 2021 to move it to the same date and abolish Columbus Day from NRS 236!

Could you please help share?

[Indigenous Peoples Day in Clark County Nevada](#) - Change the Story, Change the Future!

[https://www.change.org/p/adopt-indigenous-peoples-day-in-clark-county-on-the-2nd-monday-of-october/exp/cl/cl\\_sharecopy\\_23962595\\_en-US/4/340553387?utm\\_content=cl\\_sharecopy\\_23962595\\_en-US%3A4&recruiter=340553387&recruited\\_by\\_id=5896cab0-2737-11e5-a6fe-2db070b9715a&utm\\_source=share\\_petition&utm\\_medium=copylink&utm\\_campaign=psf\\_combo\\_share\\_abi&utm\\_term=psf\\_combo\\_share\\_initial](https://www.change.org/p/adopt-indigenous-peoples-day-in-clark-county-on-the-2nd-monday-of-october/exp/cl/cl_sharecopy_23962595_en-US/4/340553387?utm_content=cl_sharecopy_23962595_en-US%3A4&recruiter=340553387&recruited_by_id=5896cab0-2737-11e5-a6fe-2db070b9715a&utm_source=share_petition&utm_medium=copylink&utm_campaign=psf_combo_share_abi&utm_term=psf_combo_share_initial)

The Board of County Commission meeting is scheduled for September 15, 2020. Thank you!

\*\*\*\*\*



**Braves work with tribe to address cultural concerns**

[The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians has appointed two citizens to advise the Atlanta Major League Baseball team](#) [Joseph Martin Aug 28, 2020](#)

\*\*\*\*\*

[Guinn report examines rural school strengths, challenges Guinn Center takes a look at rural Nevada schools, with some comparisons to urban schools. There are some advantages to not being in a city. And some disadvantages, too. The main upshot is rurals are pretty scared of losing school money.](#)

\*\*\*\*\*

[Washoe Tribe Off Reservation](#)

**[Elleri Holbrook](#)**

**6 others in Olympic Valley**

**Today we honor Wá’šiw women.** To the mothers, grandmothers, sisters, and aunties that give us life, raise us, teach us, lead us, and pray for us, we offer our gratitude. ❤️

This morning—bright and early—a handful of us gathered in this valley in celebration knowing that the beauty of this place and our connection to it will no longer be shadowed by a racist and sexist slur. Sending our gratitude and good energy to all humans who are working to create a better tomorrow for all future generations 🙏 we see you, we thank you, geᗪeštóltoliya (be strong)!



**The Farrell Lab: Yale North American West Initiative (YNAWI)** supports learning and research about the cultural, economic, and ecological life of this distinctive and diverse region. Through immersive field courses, field research, and students fellowships, YNAWI draws together a wide range of social scientists, natural scientists, and practitioners engaged in work on the many issues unique to western North America. Recognizing Yale's historical commitment to Western frontiers, it applies innovative and interdisciplinary science to solve problems of local, regional, and national importance.

**A selection of recent projects:**

The Ogallala Aquifer: Perspectives on Use and Conservation

A Profile of Mexican Immigration in the West

Changing Snowpacks in Western Wyoming

Indivisible Bond of People and Land: Articulations of Indigeneity in the Debate Surrounding Bears Ears National Monument

Social and Environmental Impacts of Skiing in the North American West

Evolving Watershed Governance in Lake Tahoe

Women of the West: Reflections on Independence and Dependence

Demographic and Environmental Issues on the Wind River Reservation

Crude By Rail: Exploring Distributional Impacts in Washington State

Non-Mormons at BYU

The Modern Sagebrush Rebellion: Utah HB148B, The History, and the Stories Told

Paradise Leased, But Not Lost: Can Environmentalists Redefine Energy Development?

Beyond Sportsmen: Completing the Story of Conservation

Economic Profile of Teton Valley, Idaho

Homes, Farms, and Gas Wells: Conflict Over Competing and Complementary Land Use in Colorado

Communes and the American West

Jackson Hole Social and Environmental Report

Cowboy Conservationists

The Muting of the Ecoterrorism Movement in the American West

Analysis of Rugged Individualism

Whitebark Pine: Cultural Symbol of the American Mountain West

A Recent History of Pinedale, Wyoming

Hope on the Range? A Story of Grassfed Beef & the Green Cowboys  
Photo Ethnography on Indigenous Lands  
Mountain Biking and the Rider's Land Ethic  
High-Mountain Trailer Parks: Place, Culture, and Affordability in Colorado Ski Country  
Colorado River Stories: How Our Connections to Place Shape Conflict  
A New England Family's Perspective on The American West  
Protestors vs. Protectors: #NoDAPL in the News  
The American Prairie Reserve: Understanding the Moral Order and Controversy of Prairie Conservation  
Narratives of Conquest at Bear Lodge  
Understanding Trends in PADD Actions in the American West  
Sustainable Wood Supply Chain in Eastern Oregon  
Yosemite: A Look Beyond the Beauty  
Perceptions of the Role of U.S. National Parks: How Tourists and the NPS Talk about Yellowstone National Park  
The Cowboy, the Scholar: Deep Springs College  
Building Coalitions and Framing Narratives in Trump's North American West: Unlikely Alliances in the Fight for Environmental Justice  
Mourning the Gorge: Locating Blame in the Eagle Creek Fire  
People, Natural Gas, and Wildlife in Sublette County, Wyoming  
Blame the Litigators! Finger-Pointing in Montana's Wildfire Management  
The Badger-Two Medicine: Permanent Protection and the Future of a Sacred Landscape  
Religion, Commodities, and Symbols: Using Bison and Elephants to Understand Human-Animal Relationships

***"It has become appallingly obvious that our technology has exceeded our humanity."***

— [Albert Einstein](#)

***"Technology without morality is barbarous; morality without technology is impotent"***

— [Freeman Dyson](#)