

**Journal #4824      from sdc      12.04.20**

*Debra White Plume, Defender of Her Tribe*

*Guatemala: Indigenous People Block Roads Against President Giammattei*

*Trump's Border Wall Construction Threatens Survival of Jaguars in the US*

*LA County Water District Efforts to Support Deser (con't) Damaging Water Mining Falters*

*Indigenous leader from Ecuadorean Amazon one of Goldman Environmental Notables*

*Park Rangers Have Been Up Sh\*t Creek*

*14 Countries Commit to Ocean Sustainability Initiative*

*Nevada releases climate strategy to move toward net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050*

*A Robot a Day Keeps the Doctor Away*

*Scholarships with January 1-15 Deadlines (con't)*

*Combining homes for elderly people with orphans*



**Gramma Charlotte**

*A life well lived.....*

## **Debra White Plume, Defender of Her Tribe, Is Dead at 66**

She championed the rights of the Oglala Lakota in South Dakota and was a leader in protests at Wounded Knee and oil pipeline sites.

*Debra White Plume in 2004 on the Pine Ridge reservation in southwest South Dakota. “I’m Lakota, I’m a woman, and water is the domain of the women in our nation,” she said in working to protect it.* Credit...Keri Pickett for pics: <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/11/27/us/debra-white-dead.html>

By Michael Astor

Debra White Plume, a prominent Native American activist who faced down police bullets, uranium mining companies and oil pipeline projects in trying to protect the traditional Oglala Lakota way of life, died on Nov. 10 in Rapid City, S.D. She was 66.

The cause was cancer, which was found in her lungs and abdomen, according to her husband, Alex White Plume.

In 1973, Ms. White Plume was among the first people to join the American Indian Movement’s occupation of Wounded Knee, on the Pine Ridge Reservation in southwest South Dakota, over demands that the U.S. government respect its treaties with Indigenous tribes from the 19th and early 20th centuries.

The police surrounded the town — the site of [an 1890 massacre](#) by U.S. cavalry troops — and a 71-day standoff ensued. Both sides traded fire almost nightly, leaving two Native Americans dead and one federal agent paralyzed by a gunshot.

“It was a moment in time — there was the women’s movement, there was the civil rights movement, there was the Vietnam War stuff going on, and we just said, ‘That’s enough for us, too. We’re not going to take this anymore,’” Ms. White Plume said in [a videotaped interview](#) in 2016 with the independent news organization Democracy Now!

But little changed. Today some 20,000 [Oglala Lakota](#) eke out [a hardscrabble existence](#) on the reservation. Unemployment hovers at about 85 percent, alcoholism is rampant, life expectancy is 30 years below the national average, and treaty rights are routinely ignored.

Those conditions prompted Ms. White Plume, in 1999, to help found Owe Aku (Bring Back the Way), an advocacy group dedicated to cultural preservation and the protection of Lakota treaty rights through nonviolent direct action. She became its executive director and held that title at her death.

Ms. White Plume came to see that the biggest challenge facing Native Americans was in protecting their water supply. She and others feared that uranium mining, just outside the reservation, could contaminate water with radioactivity and chemicals like arsenic, used in the extraction process. And they saw two major oil pipelines in the works — the Keystone XL and the Dakota Access — as threatening not only ancestral burial sites but also aquifers.

In 2015, Ms. White Plume was the lead plaintiff in [a still unresolved lawsuit](#) to stop the giant uranium mining company [Cameco](#) from expanding its operations at [Crow Butte](#), a sacred site across the Nebraska border and within Lakota treaty territories. (The company has suspended its mining there.) And she had a leading role in promoting nonviolent direct action to protest the oil pipelines.

In 2011 she was arrested outside the White House in Washington during a protest over the Keystone project, a 1,200-mile pipeline that would extend from Alberta, Canada, to Nebraska.

In 2016, at the Standing Rock Reservation, which straddles North Dakota and South Dakota, she helped establish camps for thousands of [occupying protesters](#) who for months had gathered to stop the completion of the 1,172-mile-long [Dakota Access Pipeline](#).

“I’m Lakota, I’m a woman, and water is the domain of the women in our nation,” Ms. White Plume said in a video interview at Standing Rock. “And so it’s our privilege and our obligation to protect water.” She added, “If somebody wants to label me, I guess it would be water protector.”

#### *Image*

*Ms. White Plume being arrested in 2011 outside the White House in Washington during a protest of the Keystone XL oil pipeline that would cross Native American lands. Credit...Luis Alvarez/Associated Press*

Debra Richard — her Lakota name was Wioweya Najin Win — was born on the Pine Ridge reservation on Aug. 20, 1954. Her father, John Baptiste Reshaw, held a variety of jobs. Her mother, Bernice Ione (Swallow) Stone, who was from the Cheyenne tribe, helped run a shelter for battered women.

As a youth, Ms. White Plume traveled to California under the [Indian Relocation Act of 1956](#), which encouraged Native Americans to leave their traditional lands and assimilate in urban areas. She attended high school in San Jose for a time but eventually returned to Pine Ridge, where she graduated from [Red Cloud High School](#) and [Oglala Lakota College](#).

The years following the Wounded Knee occupation were a violent time on the reservation, with infighting among its residents and clashes with the police. In the late 1970s, Ms. White Plume, along with her mother and one of her brothers, came under fire outside her home. She suffered a graze wound on her arm, and the others’ wounds were not life-threatening. They never found out who shot them but suspected that the attackers were undercover police officers.

She married Alex White Plume in 1988, and the couple settled down in a modest house along the banks of Wounded Knee Creek. There they reared their nine children and raised horses and a small herd of buffalo, which they kept for spiritual and cultural purposes.

The White Plumes gained news media attention in 1998 for planting industrial hemp, one of the few crops that could grow on the reservation, without Drug Enforcement Administration approval. (The crop is a species of cannabis.) Mr. White Plume reasoned that because the reservation was sovereign Lakota territory, federal laws prohibiting hemp farming did not apply.

The courts, however, disagreed and ordered the plants destroyed. ([Congress legalized production in 2018.](#))

Ms. White Plume appears briefly in the Michael Apted documentary [“Incident at Oglala”](#) (1992), about the murders of two F.B.I. agents in 1975 and the conviction of the Native American activist Leonard Peltier in the killings. And she is featured in the documentaries “Standing Silent Nation” (2006), about hemp farming, and “Crying Earth Rise Up” (2015), about the dangers of uranium mining.

In addition to her husband, Ms. White Plume is survived by their children — Johnny Joe White Plume, Lance Martin, Wacinhin Ska Win Rosebud White Plume, Jessica White Plume, Wiwang Waci Win Camp, Vic Camp, Posh Camp, Dallas White Plume and Sam Tall — as well as many grandchildren.

She dedicated her last years to Ama’s Freedom School, which she founded. A school without walls, it teaches traditional Lakota culture outside the regular school system. (Ama means memory in the Lakota language.)

If Ms. White Plume had mellowed over the years, it was only a little, and her objectives remained the same. Speaking during the Standing Rock protests, she said:

“I fought with cops before. I’ve been shot at by police. I’ve been shot by police. We got it on with police on Pine Ridge back in the day, so I understand that rage. **But when we’re together to protect sacred water, let’s do it with dignity, let’s do it with training, let’s do it with unity.**”

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### **Guatemala: Indigenous People Block Roads Against President Giammattei** *teleSUR*

Excerpt: "Hundreds of Indigenous people blocked the main highways of western Guatemala to demand President Alejandro Giammattei's resignation and reject austerity, corruption, and police brutality." [READ MORE](#)

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### **Trump's Border Wall Construction Threatens Survival of Jaguars in the US** *Samuel Gilbert, Guardian UK*

Gilbert writes: "The barrier has severed wildlife corridors and fragmented crucial habitats for numerous endangered and threatened animals, including the wide-ranging jaguar." [READ MORE](#)

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### **LA County Water District Efforts to Support Desert-Damaging Water Mining Project Falter as Cadiz Inc. Suffers Major Election Setbacks** By Sierra Club LA

Cadiz Inc, a Los Angeles-based corporation, still hopes to drill for water under sensitive public lands in our arid California Deserts near Joshua Tree National Park, pulling out 50,000 acre-feet of water each year and lowering desert aquifers. But the odds of this happening are slim with the corporation facing November election setbacks locally and nationally. This is good news for project opponents, which include every environmental group in California offering an opinion as well as by Native American Tribes and Mojave Desert business owners.

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**An indigenous leader from the Ecuadorean Amazon is one of the winners of the Goldman environmental prize, which recognises grassroots activism.** (BBC)

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**Park Rangers Have Been Up Sh\*t Creek**

It doesn't look like Geoff Hill, inventor of ToiletTech, ever appeared on Shark Tank. It could have been a missed opportunity. The sharks always say the best invention is something that solves a problem that needs to be solved. And Boy, did rangers at America's national parks think they had a problem that needed solving.

Hill was a doctoral student studying backcountry waste, and came up with his invention while working with rangers like Richard Lechleitner. For 20 years at Mt. Rainier National Park, Lechleitner had the grueling task of digging human waste out of backcountry toilets and carrying it down the mountains. "They'd put in these horrible toilets that just smelled terrible," Lechleitner said. Maintaining them, he found, was appallingly dirty work.

At national parks across the US, from the peaks of Denali in Alaska to desert backpacking destinations in Utah and Arizona, managers have struggled to deal with this inevitable byproduct of people eager to get outdoors. Unlike a discarded Clif Bar wrapper, human waste carries a slew of bacteria and pathogens when left unbagged or otherwise unaddressed. That's where Hill comes in.

His ToiletTech system separates urine from solid waste, which creates cleaner excrement, and less work for rangers. Beneath the toilet seat, excrement lands on a small conveyor belt, while urine flows through a separate pipe and into a septic field. When a visitor presses a foot-powered pump inside the bathroom, the solid waste travels from the conveyor belt into its own chamber.

There it remains dry, lightweight, and free of viruses usually present in a wet barrel of urine-soaked waste.

Land managers have installed Hill's toilets across the country to rave reviews, from Angel's Landing in Utah's Zion national park to Terwilliger Hot Springs outside Portland, Oregon, as well as at Mt Rainier. "If I was to win the lottery, I literally would go out ... and buy enough toilets to work in all of the backcountry camps at Mt Rainier," Lechleitner said of the new design. It's not all peaches and cream, unfortunately — there are drawbacks. Waste from remote areas is still flown out by helicopter, very expensive. And the ToiletTech units aren't cheap either — \$4,000 per unit. Then there are the National Park System maintenance upgrades, which are notoriously, uh, backed up. (Guardian)

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**14 Countries Commit to Ocean Sustainability Initiative** Dec. 03, 2020 1

<https://www.ecowatch.com/ocean-sustainability-initiative-2649122791.html>

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**Indy Environment: State releases climate strategy to move toward net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050** By Daniel Rothberg



## In India, One Robot A Day Keeps The Doctor Away

Mitra's not statuesque, or even lifelike, but she's still kinda cute. And as long as the WiFi isn't interrupted, she'll continue gliding around hospital wards in India with a chest-mounted tablet that lets COVID-19 patients and their loved ones see each other. Plus, because she can take vital readings and help in consultations — thereby reducing the risk of infection to medical personnel — [she's become hugely popular during the pandemic](#).

Mitra stands just five feet tall and costs around \$13,600. She was developed by the Bengaluru startup Invento Robotics to assist in care homes. Initially, Indian hospitals enlisted the Mitra robots due to a shortage of PPE, and because they could be used for disinfecting floors with ultra-violet radiation and strong disinfectants. As the crisis continued, they became even more useful in treating COVID-19 patients.

Other robotic systems had been in use in hospitals long before the pandemic. One colorectal surgeon employed Intuitive Surgical's Da Vinci XI. "This [remote control robotics system] helps me in performing difficult surgeries with 10 times more magnification, and 3D views. 'Firefly' fluorescence technology used with the Da Vinci robot lights up the blood supply to the organ, and helps differentiate cancerous from healthy tissue," he said. "Though these systems are very expensive and have to be imported, their superior advanced technologies are invaluable in complex surgeries."

As a range of other sectors began adopting automation to reduce costs or time, or to take on hazardous tasks, projections were made that India's robotics market would grow 20 percent between 2017 and 2025. One startup, Genrobotics, collaborated with local authorities in the southern state of Kerala to adapt its spider-shaped robot Bandicoot to clean sewers and manholes — notoriously dangerous and unpleasant work that previously had been done manually. The head of Genrobotics said: "We found manual scavenging is a global issue, and there was no efficient tech to clean manholes." Now more than 11 Indian states are using the world's first manhole cleaning robot.

The Indian army has used Daksh robots equipped with x-ray vision and chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear hazard detection mechanisms since 2011. By 2017, the automotive sector accounted for 62 percent of industrial robots, which were used to perform everything from welding to lifting heavy loads. India's industrial robot sales have landed it among the top 10 countries for the annual installation of machines in industries.

India still has only about three robots for every 10,000 workers, but the pandemic has likely incentivized its robotic industry to grow even faster than projected.

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### **Robots are joining the fight against coronavirus in India**

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/11/11/tech/robots-india-covid-spc-intl/index.html>

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### **Mitra the robot helps COVID patients in India speak to ... - Reuters**

<https://www.reuters.com/article/health-coronavirus-india-robots/mitra-the-robot-helps-covid-patients-in-india-speak-to-loved-ones-idINL4N2GD19D>

## Scholarships with January 1-15 Deadlines (Con't)

<a href="#">G's Do Something Good Grant</a>	\$1,500	01/31/2021
<a href="#">Hope College Distinguished Artist Awards - Visual Arts</a>	\$12,000	01/20/2021
<a href="#">Hope for Healing Scholarship</a>	\$5,000	01/15/2021
<a href="#">Houghton College Wesleyan Scholarships</a>	\$5,000	01/15/2021
<a href="#">Howard Bernstein Scholarship Fund</a>	\$5,000	01/15/2021
<a href="#">Independent Hardee's Franchisee Association Scholarship</a>	Varies	01/15/2021
<a href="#">Intel Scholarship For Employees' And Retirees' Children</a>	\$4,000	01/16/2021
<a href="#">James F. Reville Scholarship</a>	\$3,000	01/13/2021
<a href="#">James H. Davis Scholarship</a>	Varies	01/15/2021
<a href="#">Jeffrey L. Esser Career Development Scholarship</a>	\$15,000	01/06/2021
<a href="#">John Lennon Scholarships</a>	\$20,000	01/15/2021
<a href="#">Jonathan Baldwin Turner Scholarships</a>	\$2,500	01/15/2021
<a href="#">Jose Antonio Navarro Distinguished Student Scholarship Award</a>	\$1,500	01/10/2021
<a href="#">Joseph T. Weingold Scholarship for Special Education Students</a>	\$3,000	01/11/2021
<a href="#">Knowles Teaching Fellows Program</a>	\$150,000	01/09/2021
<a href="#">KSCPP Korean Spirit and Culture Promotion Project Essay Contest</a>	Varies	01/11/2021
<a href="#">Lilly Reintegration Scholarship</a>	Varies	01/15/2021
<a href="#">Linly Heflin Scholarship</a>	\$28,000	01/10/2021
<a href="#">Lois Britt Memorial Pork Industry Scholarship Program</a>	Varies	01/03/2021
<a href="#">Marilynn Smith Scholarship</a>	\$5,000	01/11/2021
<a href="#">Mary E. Bivins Foundation Scholarships</a>	\$3,500	01/05/2021
<a href="#">Material Handling Education Foundation, Inc. Scholarship</a>	\$6,000	01/15/2021
<a href="#">Measurement Science Conference Scholarship</a>	\$2,000	01/15/2021
<a href="#">Mellon-CES Dissertation Completion Fellowship</a>	\$27,500	01/15/2021
<a href="#">Mercatus Joseph Schumpeter Undergraduate Fellowship</a>	\$1,000	01/05/2021
<a href="#">MIT THINK Out of the Box Scholars Program</a>	\$1,000	01/01/2021
<a href="#">NACE Foundation Academic Scholarship</a>	Varies	01/01/2021
<a href="#">Nashville Athena Scholarships for Non-Traditional Students</a>	Varies	01/08/2021
<a href="#">Nashville Songwriting Scholarship</a>	\$5,000	01/15/2021
<a href="#">National FFA Scholarships</a>	Varies	01/14/2021

<a href="#">NAWT William Hapchuk Memorial Scholarship</a>	\$1,500	01/15/2021
<a href="#">NJ Society of CPAs Four-Year Scholarship</a>	\$7,000	01/01/2021
<a href="#">NJ Society of CPAs One-Year Scholarship</a>	\$6,500	01/08/2021
<a href="#">NJCPA One Year Scholarship</a>	\$6,500	01/08/2021
<a href="#">Northern Star Scouting Eagle Scholarship</a>	Varies	01/15/2021
<a href="#">One Earth Film Festival Young Filmmakers Contest</a>	\$1,000	01/05/2021
<a href="#">Park Scholar Award</a>	Varies	01/15/2021
<a href="#">peermusic Latin Scholarship</a>	\$5,000	01/15/2021
<a href="#">Perinatal Graduate Nursing Scholarships</a>	\$5,000	01/13/2021
<a href="#">Phyllis G. Meekins Scholarship</a>	\$1,250	01/11/2021
<a href="#">Porch Skilled Trade &amp; Technology Scholarship</a>	\$2,000	01/15/2021
<a href="#">Professional Business Women of California Scholarship for Young Women</a>	Varies	01/13/2021
<a href="#">Ram Trucks Scholarship</a>	\$1,000	01/23/2021
<a href="#">SAA Native American Scholarships</a>	\$11,000	01/10/2021
<a href="#">Samuel Huntington Public Service Award</a>	\$15,000	01/15/2021
<a href="#">Scholarship Foundation of Santa Barbara</a>	Varies	01/15/2021
<a href="#">SFSB General Scholarship Program</a>	Varies	01/15/2021
<a href="#">SMU Nancy Ann &amp; Ray L. Hunt Leadership Scholars Program</a>	\$43,000	01/15/2021
<a href="#">State Fair of Virginia Scholarship Program</a>	Varies	01/13/2021
<a href="#">Syngenta Agricultural Scholarship</a>	\$6,000	01/15/2021
<a href="#">The Adam Ferrari Health Science Scholarship</a>	\$1,000	01/15/2021
<a href="#">The Arc New York Scholarships</a>	\$3,000	01/13/2021
<a href="#">The CMU Leader Advancement Scholarship</a>	\$8,000	01/01/2021
<a href="#">The Connor Group Kids &amp; Community Partners Scholarship</a>	\$2,500	01/15/2021
<a href="#">The Farm Credit Foundation for Agricultural Advancement Scholarship</a>	\$10,000	01/10/2021
<a href="#">The Garden Club of America's Coastal Wetland Studies Award</a>	\$5,000	01/15/2021
<a href="#">The Golden 1 Credit Union Scholarship Program</a>	\$5,000	01/15/2021
<a href="#">The GSBA Scholarship Fund</a>	\$13,000	01/08/2021
<a href="#">The James Davidson Innovative Student Scholarship</a>	\$600	01/15/2021
<a href="#">The JCB Fellowship Program</a>	Varies	01/15/2021
<a href="#">The Ocean Foundation Boyd N. Lyon Scholarship</a>	\$2,500	01/15/2021



<a href="#">The Robert Noyce Scholarship</a>	\$30,000	01/12/2021
<a href="#">The Saul Kagan Fellowship in Advanced Shoah Studies</a>	\$20,000	01/03/2021
<a href="#">UMW Foundation Scholarships</a>	Varies	01/15/2021
<a href="#">University of Rochester FIRST Scholarship</a>	\$60,000	01/04/2021
<a href="#">Valparaiso University Allen Scholarship</a>	Varies	01/06/2021
<a href="#">Walter and Shelia Umphrey Last Dollar Endowed Scholarship</a>	Varies	01/13/2021
<a href="#">Wesleyan University Hamilton Prize for Creativity</a>	Varies	01/01/2021
<a href="#">Wheelock College of Education &amp; Human Development Scholarships</a>	Varies	01/15/2021
<a href="#">William D and Jewell W Brewer Scholarship Trusts</a>	\$500	01/04/2021
<a href="#">WSU Arthur and Doreen Parrett Scholarship</a>	Varies	01/01/202

I hope you take the time to go through these lists as they appear. They reflect the breadth and scope of possibilities, of emergent fields being supported, and the reaching out to marginalized populations. While a particular scholarship may not be one for which you/yours are eligible, there might be one similar in your area/school. Check it out!

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### **The Trump Administration Just Made the Citizenship Test Harder. How Would You Do?**

Test your knowledge on some of the topics from American history and government that prospective new citizens have to answer. [Related Article](#)

Compiled by CLINTON CARGILL DEC. 3, 2020

[https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/12/03/us/citizenship-quiz.html?campaign\\_id=2&emc=edit\\_th\\_20201204&instance\\_id=24702&nl=todaysheadlines&regi\\_id=37436600&segment\\_id=46051&user\\_id=d94880555f1604f09124f694bfa8d5c2](https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/12/03/us/citizenship-quiz.html?campaign_id=2&emc=edit_th_20201204&instance_id=24702&nl=todaysheadlines&regi_id=37436600&segment_id=46051&user_id=d94880555f1604f09124f694bfa8d5c2)

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[Jannett Roitman](#) In Canada, the brilliant idea of **combining homes for elderly people with orphan homes** was implemented. The result exceeded all expectations! Elders found loving grandchildren, and orphans for the first time felt what love and parental care was like. Doctors see an improvement in all vital functions in older people, eyes seen as a keen interest in life. Before the children came from the shelter, the elderly looked more like mummies with dead eyes. The children who first rejected their hugs, fearful, insecure and sad became ordinary loud and restless children. The ones found a family they never had, the others felt the warmth of a home full of grandchildren again. The perfect solution for smart people who understand that children need a shelter and lonely elderly companionship and feel loved and useful.



[CBC](#)

Nunavut

**Kulik Brewer says the sunset and twilight in Kugluktuk has been amazing lately.... and she shared this beautiful photo of Ekagina Brewer, taken December 2nd.**

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**Rose M. Rodriguez**

With a heavy heart I wish to let all friends and family know of the passing of our beloved friend, Mother, and Grandmother, ROSE M. RODRIGUEZ.

Born on the 27th day of July, 1938. Mom was a precious soul to all who knew her, called her friend, & knew her as Auntie Grandma. The passing of Mom on November 30th, 2020, reminds us all of how beautiful life is and how we all should cherish that, everyday.

One of Mom’s final wishes was for all of her friends’ & family to remember her in their own loving way but to do it safely. She understood how deadly this Corona Virus is to all of us and asks that everyone understand & respect her final wish. She wanted us to have a private small burial for the safety of friends’ & family. The Rodriguez Family would like to thank all of the community members, friends & family who have extended their help & love. You can pay your last respects at:Walton’s Ross Burke & Knobel Mortuary2155 Kietzke Lane, Reno, NV 89502December 11, 2020 from 3:00pm -7:00pml

f you wish to send flowers have them sent to Walton’s Mortuary.Thank you all for being so caring at this time. God Bless you.

During these uncertain times and for the concern of you and everyone’s safety, please practice social distancing and wear a mask at all times.