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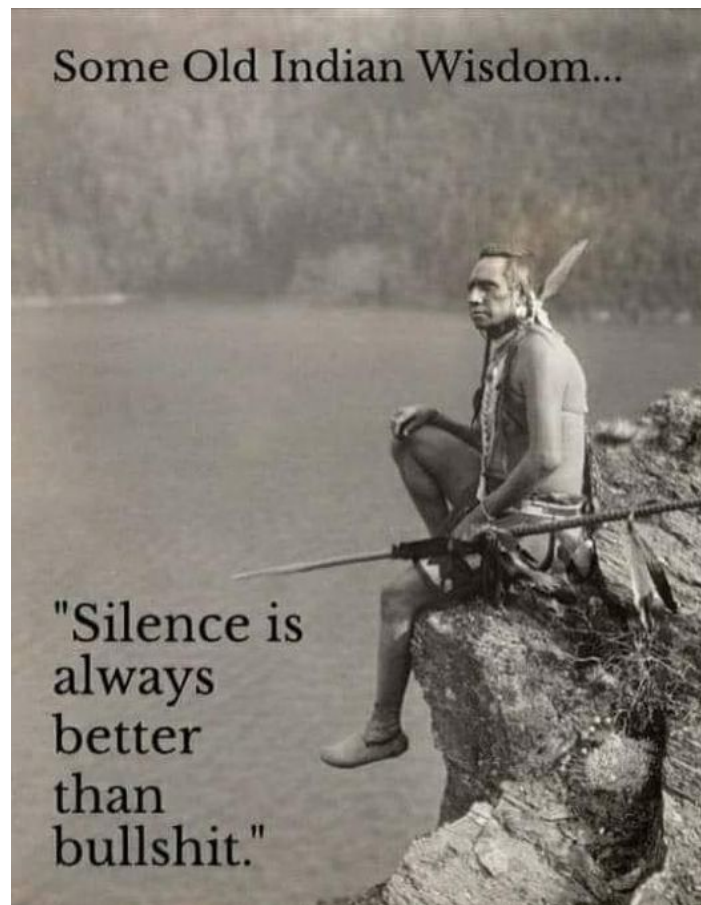
*David Kopeawa, Yanomami Leader and Shaman elected to Brazilian Academy of Sciences*

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*Relearning the Star Stories of the Indigenous People*

*Tribe That Led the Fight to Block the Dakota Access Pipeline Now Builds a Clean Energy Future*

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*And actions speak louder than words.....sdc*

## **Righting wrongs with the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe**

**By EDITORIAL BOARD and Star Tribune**

December 27, 2020 — 6:00pm

This year has been as trying for the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe as for other Minnesotans. But even with a pandemic and economic troubles that have hit its members hard, the tribe can celebrate the righting of a historic wrong.

Congress has moved to [restore](#) nearly 12,000 acres wrongly taken by the federal government from the tribe in a series of moves dating back to the late 1940s. The act, carried by Minnesota Democrats Sen. Tina Smith and Rep. Betty McCollum, has been sent to President Donald Trump, who has indicated he will sign it.

"It is a ray of hope in what has been such a dark year," Smith told an editorial writer. In addition to the expansion of much-needed land that can be used for housing and other purposes, she said, "there is the symbolic importance of having their sovereignty recognized and their treaty agreements restored even to a small degree."

Smith noted that much of the band's current land is not easily accessible for housing or economic development. The Chippewa National Forest land being transferred could be used for those purposes.

Smith said that tribal leaders deserve much of the credit for smoothing the way for congressional action by working with Cass County officials, the forest service and several rural electrical cooperatives to produce an agreement all could live with.

"The Leech Lake band has used long-term diplomacy to resolve issues with the Forest Service and surrounding communities," Smith said. "This was truly a joint effort. It just shows that lots of things can get done here if you just pay attention and make it a priority."

Eighth District Republican Rep. Pete Stauber, who represents the area, was among those who publicly supported the bill and the tribe's efforts.

In an [earlier interview](#) with the Star Tribune, Leech Lake Tribal Council representative LeRoy Staples Fairbanks said that "in a perfect world, we would ask the federal government for every inch of Leech Lake reservation to go back to its rightful owners." He acknowledged that was unrealistic due to land exchanges and ownership changes. "But the closer we get to resolidifying this land base and righting wrongs, the closer we move toward reconciliation."

It is long since time that the first people of this land were given their legal due. One of the biggest victories came earlier this year, when the U.S. Supreme Court [ruled](#) in *McGirt v. Oklahoma* that much of eastern Oklahoma is actually Creek nation tribal land. The ruling, which was tied to the prosecution of a tribal member, did not go so far as to change land ownership, but was considered a major victory for tribal sovereignty and a precedent that affirmed the federal government's obligations to uphold treaties.

In writing the majority opinion, Justice Neil Gorsuch said, "Today we are asked whether the land these treaties promised remains an Indian reservation for purposes of federal criminal law. Because Congress has not said otherwise, we hold the government to its word."

**Now comes congressional action that further affirms that it is never too late to address historic wrongs. Each step moves this country closer to its ideals of equality and justice for all.**



[rgj.com](http://rgj.com)

[Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe's newly elected chairwoman ready to face COVID-19 challenges](#)  
[Janet David is the second chairwoman elected to the position in the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe's history.](#)

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And do look at the Google Face Page today - Celebrating Elizabeth Petrovich



\*\*\*\*\*



In my culture, my family structure looks a little different than the outside world. I don't have a great aunt because I call her Grandma. I don't have a great niece because she's my grandchild. It may seem complicated, but it's AMAZING! Let me show you.

**Dominant Society**

**Vs.**

**My Culture**

Great Aunt	becomes my	Grandma
Great Uncle	becomes my	Grandpa
2nd Cousin (male)	becomes my	Uncle
2nd Cousin (female)	becomes my	Auntie
Great Niece	becomes my	Granddaughter
Great Nephew	becomes my	Grandson

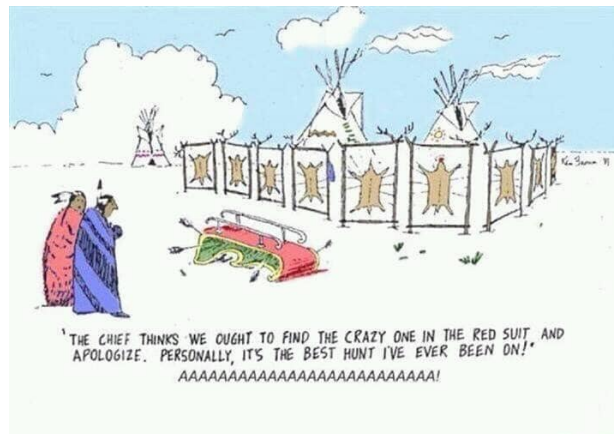


My own children call my 1st cousins auntie and uncle! That is super cool isn't it?! There's never a shortage of aunts and uncles in my culture!

We treat our nieces and nephews like our own kids.



**society of care**



**New research from West Coast oceanographers provides insight into the cause of toxic algae blooms that caused shellfish closures and marine mammal deaths near the Oregon-California border**

By Jefferson Public Radio, 12/28/20

The study published in the journal *Frontiers in Climate* shows climate change and a 2013-2015 Pacific Ocean heatwave, often called “the blob”, have increased the growth of toxic algae off Humboldt County in Northern California.

**Disease is decimating California’s wild ducks and shorebirds. What’s really responsible**

By The Sacramento Bee, 12/28/20

The worst avian botulism outbreak on record occurred this year in the Klamath Basin.



**sfgate.com**

**Why Tahoe never became a national park**

**Not even John Muir succeeded in designating the Lake Tahoe region a national park.**

<https://www.sfgate.com/renotahoe/article/Why-Tahoe-isn-t-a-national-park-15685996.php?fbclid=IwAR1Z8HgH-ZVN5cvzDsCyycJ5Xadd8njN0KpsstLSLAdU9aE7DL3ZSFxaMW8>





krtv.com

[Meet Luna, the new bison at the Yellowstone Wildlife Sanctuary in Red Lodge](#)  
[NewsMontana and Regional News Actions Facebook Tweet Email Meet Luna, the new bison at the Yellowstone Wildlife Sanctuary in Red Lodge](#)  
[Meet the newest bison at Yellowstone Wildlife Sanctuary in Red Lodge](#)  
By: Chris DeRose Posted at 6:22 PM, Dec 23, 2020 and last updated 2020-12-23 20:22:23-05 RED LOD...



ftw.usatoday.com

[Yellowstone bison cannot fly, despite what it seems](#)  
[Bison are surprisingly fast and agile, despite their incredible bulk. But can the enormous animals at Yellowstone National Park actually jump?](#)



**Swedish millionaire Johan Eliasch purchased 4000,000 acres of the Amazon Rainforest from a logging company for \$14,000,000 for the sole purpose of its preservation.**



#### I AM NOT INVISIBLE

There are roughly two million women Veterans, making up ten percent of the Veteran population and growing. Yet they continue to face significant barriers and challenges in accessing health care and other services, while experiencing a lack of recognition. The I Am Not Invisible (IANI) project, developed in Oregon, aims to increase awareness and dialogue about women Veterans, and open viewers' eyes to the myriad contributions, needs, and experiences of women who have served in the military. In support of Women's History Month 2021, this virtual IANI exhibit celebrates and honors women Veterans who continue to serve their communities Reno, Nevada.



1. Trovants are the only stones listed as a living organism
2. They can grow up to several meters high and in diameter
3. The largest discovered Trovants are about 10 meters high
4. Their growth is connected to the rainy season
5. The exact growth rate is unknown but a small stone could reach a few meters in diameter in just several years
6. Like trees, trovants have rings that show their age
7. Scientist believe that the stones can reproduce or multiply
8. You can purchase a Trovant souvenir that could potentially grow if you moisturize it
9. Trovants grow in all kinds of shapes
10. There is an open-air Museum of Trovants in Romania

### **Ian Campbell**

I ran across an interesting business/concept called **Freight Farms - agriculture in a shipping container.**

One of their examples of farming in an extreme environment was Tetonia!

[https://www.tetonvalleynews.net/.../article\\_80323994-2067...](https://www.tetonvalleynews.net/.../article_80323994-2067...)



[tetonvalleynews.net](https://www.tetonvalleynews.net)

[New farm packs big punch in small package, and small footprint](#)

[Driving toward Tetonia on Highway 33, turning down a dirt road just before Hatches Corner and taking a right by an old red barn will lead you to Clawson Greens.](#)



<https://nativenewsonline.net/opinion/hopes-for-a-new-federal-indian-policy-era>



[Video: Park ranger tases Native American man at Petroglyph National Monument](#)

## **Davi Kopenawa, Yanomami leader and shaman, elected to ...**

[www.peoplesworld.org > article > davi-kopenawa-yanomami-leader-elected-to-congress](http://www.peoplesworld.org/article/davi-kopenawa-yanomami-leader-elected-to-congress)



[newatlas.com](http://newatlas.com)

## **US Department of Energy backs five advanced nuclear reactor concepts**

[The US Department of Energy \(DOE\) is backing five projects to develop advanced nuclear reactor designs to be built in the United States by private industry. Under the Advanced Reactor Demonstration Program \(ARDP\), the DOE's Office of Nuclear Energy's US\\$30 million initial funding is expected to...](#)



[Russ Letica](#)

[Whisper n Thunder](#)

“Right below the grandmother spider is the Pleiades, the seven sisters,” says Buck. “And that’s called Pakone Kisik. The hole in the sky. And the hole in the sk...

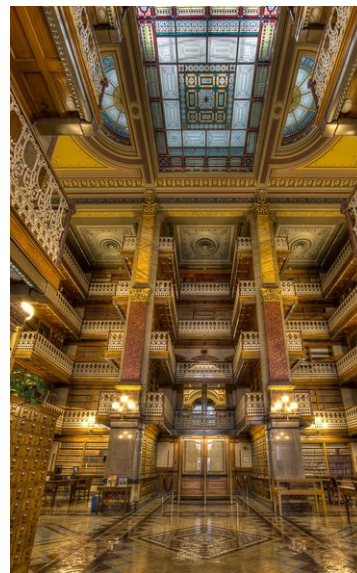
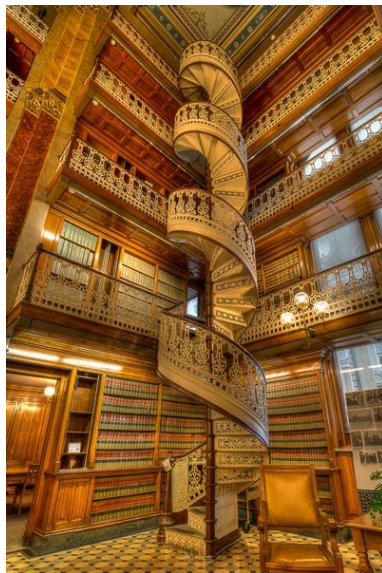
[See More](#)



[sciencefriday.com](http://sciencefriday.com)

[Relearning The Star Stories Of Indigenous Peoples](#)

[How the lost constellations of Indigenous North Americans can connect culture, science, and inspire the next generation of Indigenous scientists.](#)



The Law Library at the Iowa State Capitol Building in Des Moines - perhaps one of the most photogenic locations in Iowa.

Photos: Brian Abeling /Abeling Photo

**The Tribe That Led the Fight to Block the Dakota Access Pipeline Now Builds a Clean Energy Future**

<https://www.dailykos.com/story/2020/12/22/2003616/-The-tribe-that-lead-the-fight-to-block-the-Dakota-Access-Pipeline-now-building-clean-energy-future>

## **Dateline Pine Ridge**

On the clear, cold morning of December 29, 1890, on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota, three U.S. soldiers tried to wrench a valuable Winchester away from a young Lakota man. He refused to give up his hunting weapon; it was the only thing standing between his family and starvation. As the men struggled, the gun fired into the sky.

Before the echoes died, troops fired a volley that brought down half of the Lakota men and boys the soldiers had captured the night before, as well as a number of soldiers surrounding the Lakotas. The uninjured Lakota men attacked the soldiers with knives, guns they snatched from wounded soldiers, and their fists.

As the men fought hand-to-hand, the Lakota women who had been hitching their horses to wagons for the day's travel tried to flee along the nearby road or up a dry ravine behind the camp. The soldiers on a slight rise above the camp turned rapid-fire mountain guns on them. Then, over the next two hours, troops on horseback hunted down and slaughtered all the Lakotas they could find: about 250 men, women, and children.

But it is not December 29 that haunts me. It is the night of December 28, the night before the killing.

On December 28, there was still time to avert the Wounded Knee Massacre.

In the early afternoon, the Lakota leader Big Foot-- Sitanka-- had urged his people to surrender to the soldiers looking for them. Sitanka was desperately ill with pneumonia and the people in his band were hungry, underdressed, and exhausted. They were making their way south across South Dakota from their own reservation in the northern part of the state to the Pine Ridge Reservation. There, they planned to take shelter with another famous Lakota chief, Red Cloud. His people had done as Sitanka asked, and the soldiers escorted the Lakotas to a camp on South Dakota's Wounded Knee Creek, inside the boundaries of the Pine Ridge Reservation.

For the soldiers, the surrender of Sitanka's band marked the end of the Ghost Dance Uprising. It had been a tense month. Troops had pushed into the South Dakota reservations in November, prompting a band of terrified men who had embraced the Ghost Dance religion to gather their wives and children and ride out to the Badlands. But, at long last, army officers and negotiators had convinced those Ghost Dancers to go back to Pine Ridge and turn themselves in to authorities before winter hit in earnest.

Sitanka's people were not part of the Badlands group and, for the most part, were not Ghost Dancers. They had fled from their own northern reservation two weeks before when they learned that officers had murdered the great leader Sitting Bull in his own home. Army officers were anxious to find and corral Sitanka's missing Lakotas before they carried the news that Sitting Bull had been killed to those who had taken refuge in the Badlands. Army leaders were certain the information would spook the Ghost Dancers and send them flying back to the Badlands. They were determined to make sure the two bands did not meet.

But South Dakota is a big state, and it was not until late in the afternoon of December 28 that the soldiers finally made contact with Sitanka's band, and it didn't go quite as the officers planned: a group of soldiers were watering their horses in a stream when some of the traveling Lakotas surprised them. The Indians let the soldiers go, and the men promptly reported to their officers, who marched on the Lakotas as if they were going to war. Sitanka, who had always gotten along well with army officers, assured the commander that the Indians were on their way to Pine Ridge anyway, and asked his men to surrender unconditionally. They did.

By this time, Sitanka was so ill he couldn't sit up and his nose was dripping blood. Soldiers lifted him into an army ambulance—an old wagon-- for the trip to the Wounded Knee camp. His ragtag band followed behind. Once there, the soldiers gave the Lakotas an evening ration, and lent army tents to those who wanted them. Then the soldiers settled into guarding the camp.

And they celebrated, for they were heroes of a great war, and it had been bloodless, and now, with the Lakota's surrender, they would be demobilized back to their home bases before the South Dakota winter closed in. As they celebrated, more and more troops poured in. It had been a long hunt across South Dakota for Sitanka and his band, and officers were determined the group would not escape them again. In came the Seventh Cavalry, whose men had not forgotten that their former leader George Armstrong Custer had been killed by a band of Lakota in 1876. In came three mountain guns, which the soldiers trained on the Indian encampment from a slight rise above the camp.

For their part, the Lakotas were frightened. If their surrender was welcome and they were going to go with the soldiers to Red Cloud at Pine Ridge, as they had planned all along, why were there so many soldiers, with so many guns?

On this day and hour in 1890, in the cold and dark of a South Dakota December night, there were soldiers drinking, singing and visiting with each other, and anxious Indians either talking to each other in low voices or trying to sleep. No one knew what the next day would bring, but no one expected what was going to happen.

One of the curses of history is that we cannot go back and change the course leading to disasters, no matter how much we might wish to. The past has its own terrible inevitability. But it is never too late to change the future.

