

**Journal #5240 from sdc 7.11.22**

**Fire Season**

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(Gif created from video by Uta Kögelsberger)

- In 2020, the Castle fire killed thousands of giant sequoias in the Sierra Nevada. Uta Kögelsberger, a visual artist, felt compelled to do something to work through her grief. **The result is Fire Complex, a mesmerizing video project that captures compromised sequoias thundering to earth.** [Fire-Complex.com](https://www.fire-complex.com)

*To all those threatened/compromised by wildfire, keep in touch.....*

**[Nye County to offer voting in Shoshone language, first in...nation](https://nevadastate.news/2022/07/nye-county-to-offer-voting-in-shoshone-language-first-in-nation/)**  
<https://nevadastate.news/2022/07/nye-county-to-offer-voting-in-shoshone-language-first-in-nation/>

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Madam,  
Could you recommend a book for me to learn about history of indigenous communities of the United States ?  
Best  
**Kelum Bandara**  
**Deputy Editor, Daily Mirror (Sri Lanka)**

*Received this legitimate request.....could you help me respond by sending the title/author of your favorite book to Mr. Bandara ([kelumb@gmail.com](mailto:kelumb@gmail.com)) and copy me? Thanks, sdc*

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**Sisolak names acting director to Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources**

CARSON CITY – The Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (NDCNR) is under new leadership after Director Bradley Crowell was tapped by the Biden administration to serve on the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

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[\(Gif created from video by Uta Kögelsberger\)](#)

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**Lakota People's Law Project**

For decades Native children were severely disciplined if they dared speak their native language during the boarding school era. However, the same languages these assimilation schools strived to eradicate would be the very thing that kept them from defeat in not one but two world wars.

During the First World War, the Germans mastered tapping the American Army's phone lines. Because of this tactic, they could find out where the Allied Forces were stationed and what resources they had available.

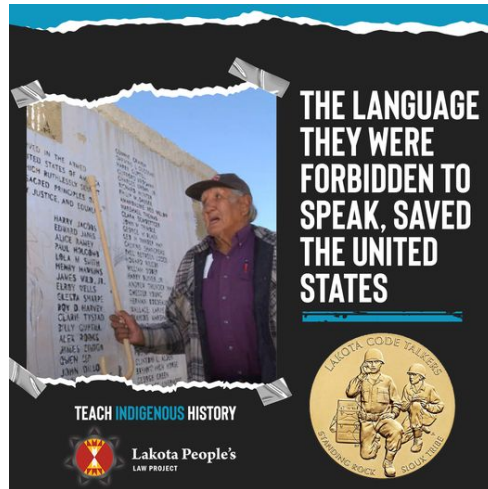
At the peak of these battles, several Choctaw soldiers were overheard speaking their Native language. Their commanding officer had an idea to have the nineteen soldiers do the bulk of the communication. Because they were fluent speakers, the Germans couldn't effectively spy on the transmissions any longer, and the Choctaw Code Talkers were instrumental in ending the war.

Because of their success, the United States Army started a code talking program before World War II. Most of the publicity for Code Talkers goes to the Navajo during this time, but 33 different tribes contributed to the code talkers program.

Included in the code talker program were 67 known Lakota Code Talkers from various Lakota tribes.

As Lakota people, we know that our language is sacred! The government tried to steal it from our ancestors, use it for their wars, and then sell it back through expensive university courses.

Take 30 seconds to help us get Indigenous history taught in schools 🙌 <https://lakota.law/>  
[3xAH2HK](#) (link in bio)



## A Brief History of the Rodeo

The humble origins and complex future of cowboy competition  
 Chris La Tray

[https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/brief-history-rodeo-180980341/?utm\\_source=smithsoniandaily&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=20220708-daily-responsive&spMailingID=47080365&spUserID=OTYyNTc5MzkyMTQyS0&spJobID=2280776001&spReportId=MjI4MDc3NjAwMQS2](https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/brief-history-rodeo-180980341/?utm_source=smithsoniandaily&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=20220708-daily-responsive&spMailingID=47080365&spUserID=OTYyNTc5MzkyMTQyS0&spJobID=2280776001&spReportId=MjI4MDc3NjAwMQS2)

## Nature and Creativity: The Science of “Soft Fascination” and How the Natural World Presses the Reset Button of the Brain’s Default Mode Network

[https://www.themarginalian.org/2022/07/01/default-mode-network-awe-soft-fascination/?utm\\_source=pocket-newtab](https://www.themarginalian.org/2022/07/01/default-mode-network-awe-soft-fascination/?utm_source=pocket-newtab)

## Other Mammals, Not Dinosaurs, Kept Our Ancestors Down

The asteroid impact that ended the Cretaceous gave our mammalian ancestors, the therians, an edge over their mammalian competitors

[https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/other-mammals-not-dinosaurs-kept-our-ancestors-down-180978040/?utm\\_source=smithsoniandaily&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=20220708-daily-responsive&spMailingID=47080365&spUserID=OTYyNTc5MzkyMTQyS0&spJobID=2280776001&spReportId=MjI4MDc3NjAwMQS2](https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/other-mammals-not-dinosaurs-kept-our-ancestors-down-180978040/?utm_source=smithsoniandaily&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=20220708-daily-responsive&spMailingID=47080365&spUserID=OTYyNTc5MzkyMTQyS0&spJobID=2280776001&spReportId=MjI4MDc3NjAwMQS2)

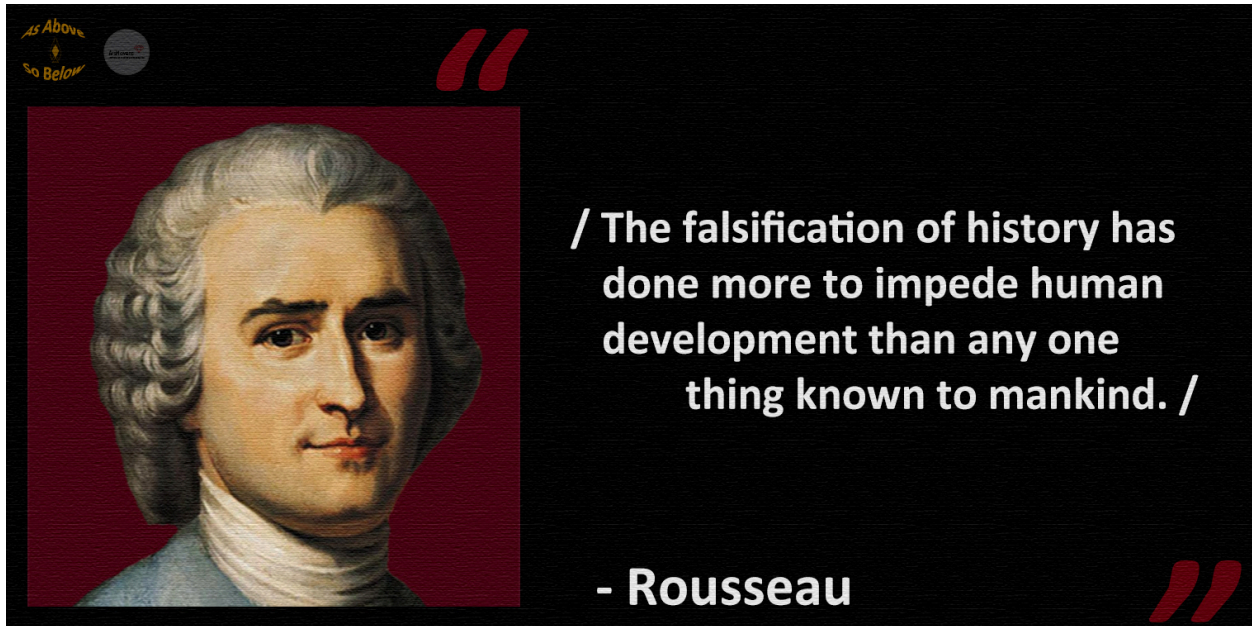
*"I think the main reason I never taught is that I just would have kicked everyone out or yelled at them when they didn't get better or do as I said. I have very little patience for people who don't just go and get the damned things done."--Katharine Hepburn/Interview with James Grissom/1990 [#FolliesOfGod](#)*

## Venezuela Indigenous Leader's Killing Terrifies Defenders of Amazon Lands

Mie Hoejris Dahl, *Guardian UK*

Dahl writes: "Virgilio Trujillo Arana knew that he was risking his life by defending the Amazon lands on which his Indigenous Uwottuja community had lived for centuries."

[READ MORE](#)



The Bay Area Council Foundation is thrilled to announce that the **California Resilience Challenge 2022 Grant Program Request for Proposals** will be open from July 14 through September 14, 2022. Building off the success of the 2020 and 2021 grant programs, the 2022 California Resilience Challenge is focused on helping under-resourced communities build resilience against the climate challenges that threaten them most.

To help achieve this objective, eligibility for the California Resilience Challenge 2022 Grant Program is open to community-based organizations as well as local and regional public entities representing under-resourced communities. To learn more about the California Resilience Challenge 2022 Grant Program, including what types of entities and projects qualify, please be sure to visit [ResilientCal.org](https://ResilientCal.org)

### **Climate anxiety is widespread among youth—can they overcome it?**

Millennials and Gen Z have grown up on a different planet with tougher choices than their parents. Accepting that is the first step in avoiding despair.

Read in National Geographic: <https://apple.news/AFrFJsPysS6qO4jcFQWkaOw>

*“The child who is not embraced by the village will burn it down to feel its warmth”*  
*— African proverb*

### **UCR professor is historical consultant to Jason Momoa’s new film ‘The Last Manhunt’**

Saban Films just secured worldwide distribution rights to the movie shot in Banning and Joshua Tree  
Author: Sandra Baltazar Martínez

UC Riverside Costo Distinguished Professor of American Indian Affairs [Clifford Trafzer](#), served as historical consultant to actor and producer [Jason Momoa's new film, "The Last Manhunt."](#) The film was purchased last week by the distribution giant, Saban Films.

"The Last Manhunt" is based on true events — a love saga between Willie Boy and Carlota Mike, and the death of Carlota and her father, William Mike, the Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians leader. The timeline and facts surrounding this tragedy — along with narratives and on-set images of the film — were published in Trafzer's 2020 book, ["Willie Boy & The Last Western Manhunt."](#)



*"Willie Boy & The Last Western Manhunt" by Clifford E. Trafzer.*

The tragedy occurred in 1909 and serves as a setting for the Western film that offers what filmmakers, tribal experts, and tribal community leaders assert is a true account of Willie Boy, a Chemehuevi runner who shot and killed William Mike. It effectively rebuts the historic telling represented in early 20th century newspaper accounts, and in a book and movie versions offered in the 1960s.

Momoa learned of Willie Boy's story through his visits and conversations with Mojave Desert residents. He then asked his friend, the writer, and producer, Thomas Pa'a Sibbett, to help write the story.

Trafzer has long been telling Native American stories based on first-person accounts and research. As the historical consultant, Trafzer reviewed the script, co-written by Momoa and Sibbett, offered rewrites, and introduced them to other important Native Americans in the region, including Matthew Hanks Leivas. Leivas, like Willie Boy, is Chemehuevi; he is now a tribal scholar, environmental activist, and Salt Song singer.



“This collaboration led to a moving presentation that is not only historically based but captures the emotions of the people and nuanced details of the era and location,” Momoa and Sibbett wrote in the forward for “Willie Boy & The Last Western Manhunt.” “In September 2019, we started shooting the movie at the Gilman Ranch in Banning where Willie Boy had murdered William Mike nearly 110 years to the day of the accident.”



*A scene from "The Last Manhunt" where actors Martin Sensmeier (Willie Boy) and Mainei Kinimaka (Carlota) attempt to elope. (Photo courtesy of Jason Momoa's Instagram)*

The film took three years to make and was shot in 28 days in Banning and Joshua Tree, a portion of it following the route Willie Boy and Carlota walked as they tried to escape from her father, who disapproved of the relationship because the young lovers were distant relatives. In attempts to escape, the couple walked through the desert for days. The film’s wide-angle shots offers viewers incredible desert scenery.

The film’s director, Christian Camargo, said Trafzer’s role was essential in representing the Native American assertion — reflected in Trafzer’s telling — that Willie Boy was never shot and killed by a Riverside sheriff’s posse. At the height of the chase, Trafzer asserts that Willie Boy led the sheriff’s posse and indigenous foot trackers into a canyon where he could have killed all of them but didn’t. Trafzer said that, when the posse finally gave up, an embedded journalist took a group photo of the posse, showing the alleged body of Willie Boy laying on the ground, obscured by a rock. The dead man appeared to be a heavysset person, whereas Trafzer said Willie Boy was thin. And the photograph doesn’t show Willie Boy’s face — deputies said it had been disfigured by a wild animal.



*The alleged body of Willie Boy, lying dead in the shadow of a rock. (Photo courtesy of UC Riverside's Harry Lawton Collection, Tomás Rivera Library.)*

“We are talking about 1909, when headhunters took photographs of dead outlaws — showing their face — to prove they had done the job. Nothing like that happened with Willie Boy,” Trafzer said. “Willie Boy was not a murderer. He was an excellent shooter. He could have killed them all but didn’t. The reality is that people in town were going crazy with the idea of ‘an

Indian murderer on the loose' and they couldn't come back empty-handed. The sheriff never showed up; he sent a deputy to do the job."

"The Last Manhunt" premiered at the Palm Springs Art Museum in Palm Springs on May 25, 2022 as part of this year's Pioneertown International Film Festival. In the audience was Leivas, Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indian residents, Mike family descendants, and other tribal community members.

"We hope we bring truth to this story, and healing," said Leivas minutes before the premiere. A few of the night's speakers agreed with Leivas and made reference to the 1969 film starring Robert Redford and Robert Blake, "Tell Them Willie Boy is Here," which they said fictionalized Willie Boy and the events surrounding the 1909 tragedy.



*Salt Singers, the group of men who only sing at funerals and together offer a Chemehuevi Ghost Dance to the departed. (Photo courtesy of Jason Momoa's Instagram)*

In addition to consulting on period housing, attire, and language, Trafzer spoke with Leivas about the importance of an authentic representation of the Salt Singers, the group of men who only sing at funerals and together offer a Chemehuevi Ghost Dance to the departed. These songs are a farewell, encouraging the soul to leave in peace. Leivas and Trafzer said that performing the Ghost Dance was a way to offer closure to this now 113-year-old story and to Willie Boy's soul. It's the first time this group of Salt Singers allowed their ceremony to be recorded for public view.

"Professor Trafzer was our connective tissue to the tribes and story," said Camargo, an actor known for his roles in "National Treasure: Book of Secrets," "The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn" part 2, and "The Hurt Locker." "He introduced us to Matt Leivas and the Chemehuevi Salt Song singers, initiating a sequence of events that allowed us to tell the story. If it weren't for him this movie would not have happened."

<https://news.ucr.edu/articles/2022/06/30/ucr-professor-historical-consultant-jason-momoas-new-film-last-manhunt>

## [Mark Trahant](#)

July 8 should be a holiday. It could be called “Self-Determination Day.” Or “Blue Lake Day” or the name once given to this celebration by the Taos Pueblo, “Justice Day.”

A commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the events of July 8, 1970, was held as a hybrid event at the University of New Mexico Harwood Art Museum in Taos.



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

[Remembering the return of Blue Lake](#)

[July 8 celebrates the first land back and a ‘New Day’ for American Indians](#)

## [Jaynie Parrish](#) is with [Mark Trahant](#).

Had an inspiring trip to Taos with Mark, thankful to be a part of history and to listen to the stories about the Return of Blue Lake first hand, from the people who helped get this over the finish line. The perseverance and tenacity of the people, over 60 years it took. Multi-generational. It is so incredibly moving. We heard from some of the decedents. Cried, cheered, and laughed a lot. It’s good to remember the journey. Our peoples journeys. All of our peoples have these stories, and victories. It’s why we keep fighting. We were built up for the ages.

I strongly encourage you to learn more about this Indian Country win. It will inspire you. An ultimate Land Back win and fight for tribal sovereignty. Also, start recording your family and

elder stories, if they let ya.



I got a few reorderings of mom and dad now, but there’s always more.

MNT story: <https://indiancountrytoday.com/.../remembering-the-return...>





### [N8v Beauties](#)

They've since been erased, but Native American women were highly visible in early 20th century suffrage. White suffragists were fascinated by matriarchal power within tribes, but quickly forgot them by 1920. "The Indian woman rejoices with you," one woman told Alice Paul, but she was quick to remind too that the fight was far from over. The 19th Amendment didn't grant voting rights to Native women— at that point, they weren't even considered US citizens.

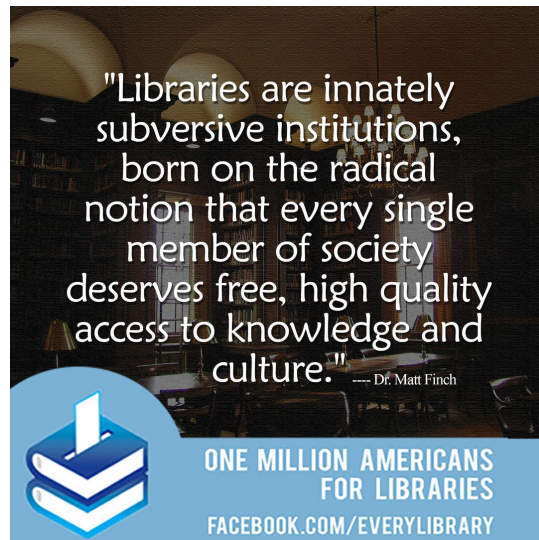
That woman who reminded Alice Paul was Zitkala-Ša ("Red Bird"), who spent her entire life straddling two cultures. Born and raised on a reservation in South Dakota, she was taken by Quaker missionaries to attend boarding school. Later, she wrote on her struggles with identity, the inner conflict she felt between the culture she came from, and the culture she was educated in — the joy of learning to read, write and play music, but also the pain of losing her heritage.

While studying at Earlham College and the New England Conservatory of Music, she began recording Native American oral histories and translating them into English. It was her belief that because many Indigenous customs were passed orally through music, opera would be a powerful way to share her cultural values with a new audience. So in 1913, she wrote the libretto and songs for the first Native American opera— composed in the romantic style, and based on a sacred Sioux dance deemed illegal by the US Government.

She argued that as the original people of America, indigenous people had a right to be citizens and be represented in government with the right to vote. Her relentless work in promoting a pan-Indian movement across all tribes for the cause of citizenship rights led to the passage of the 1924 Indian Citizenship Act. In 1926, she co-founded the National Council of American Indians, lobbying for Native suffrage rights. Her later books were amongst the first to bring traditional Native American stories to white audiences.

On International Women's Day, it's important to remember Zitkala-Ša's call to remember Native women, and the full range of their political and cultural experiences.

Photo from Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery



### [ndnsports.com](http://ndnsports.com)

On this day, July 8th, 1912, at the Olympics in Stockholm, Louis Tewanima (Hopi) won the Silver medal in the debut of the 10,000 meter run event. Louis was from the village of Shungopavi on the Hopi Reservation in northeastern Arizona and would go on to win many more races during his career. [#NativeAthlete](#) [#Hopi](#) [#Olympian](#)



### **Tribal elders recall painful memories of boarding schools**

[https://enewspaper.eastbaytimes.com/infinity/article\\_popover\\_share.aspx?guid=ec2d59fb-3e3b-4274-89be-253d28d2baa4](https://enewspaper.eastbaytimes.com/infinity/article_popover_share.aspx?guid=ec2d59fb-3e3b-4274-89be-253d28d2baa4)

### **How to Think Like a Futurist**

[https://getpocket.com/explore/item/how-to-think-like-a-futurist?utm\\_source=pocket-newtab](https://getpocket.com/explore/item/how-to-think-like-a-futurist?utm_source=pocket-newtab)



### Native American Art

Tesuque Pueblo circa 1880s Tureen

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[#nativearts](#) [#nativeartistsofinstagram](#) [#artislife](#) [#artcollector](#)



***“You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself any direction you choose***



— Dr Seuss

### **Troubling stories surface as U probes its history with Native people**

Check out this article from MPR News: <https://www.mprnews.org/story/2022/06/30/university-minnesota-probes-history-with-native-people>

### **North America’s Native nations reassert their sovereignty: ‘We are here’**

Real gladiators weren’t quite like those in movies. Their battles were more about putting on a good show than killing one another.

Read in National Geographic: <https://apple.news/AFydWeusvTfmdHcEFkB6V5A>