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Nature is Awesome

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New Catalyst Completely Breaks Down Durable Plastic Pollution in Minutes

Six Native American Nations Represented on the 2024 OneLegacy Donate Life Rose Parade® Float

Native Votes

Crazy Horse Memorial Update

Barbie doll honoring Cherokee Nation leader is met with mixed emotions

And from Canada

What It Took to Broker a Treaty Between the Young United States and Native Nations



Nature is Awesome

Hanihasini Wuriti · ·

Google partners Fervo to trial geothermal energy in Nevada: Google has partnered with Fervo Energy to trial geothermal energy in Nevada, aiming to power its data centers with carbon-free electricity. The project near Winnemucca is already operational, contributing to Google's goal of using carbon-free energy 24/7 by 2030. (arkansasonline.com)

Plastic recycling directory ends, citing lack of 'real commitment from industry'
<https://abcnews.go.com/US/national-plastic-recycling-directory-investigated-abc-news-offline/story?id=105282660>

New Catalyst Completely Breaks Down Durable Plastic Pollution in Minutes
<https://scitechdaily.com/new-catalyst-completely-breaks-down-durable-plastic-pollution-in-minutes/>

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**December 7:**

**In 1682**, the first Pennsylvania Legislature led by William Penn , enacted the Great Law”array of laws imposing religious rules including prohibiyion of the sale of alchol bto Natives (“Indians are not able to Governthemselves in their use of iy...”

**In 1872** “ President Grant reformed Indian policy, appointed agents who were Christians who would do all in their power to benefit the Indians” .....Rev. C. A. Bateman, Nevada Indian Agent giving a speech in Sacramento.



**Tis the Season**

## **Six Native American Nations Represented on the 2024 OneLegacy Donate Life Rose Parade® Float,**

### ***Woven Together: The Dance of Life***

### ***The Float Features Cultural Traditions and Elements of the Hopi Pueblo Nation***

### ***Authentic Hopi Tribe Members to Perform Butterfly Dance on the OneLegacy Donate Life Float***

November 16, 2023 05:26 PM Eastern Standard Time

LOS ANGELES--([BUSINESS WIRE](#))--The 2024 OneLegacy Donate Life float, ***Woven Together: The Dance of Life*** will honor six Native American nations and their rich cultural heritage on New Year's Day. One organ recipient and four life-giving donors will be honored on the float.

**“Ideally this year’s float will inspire us all to register as a donor...to share the gift of life. We are so grateful to showcase the life-saving power of organ, eye and tissue donation among Native American nations and we hope to continue inspiring these and all communities.”**

The 2024 OneLegacy Donate Life float showcases the culture of the Hopi tribe, native to the American Southwest, and it pays homage to the first inhabitants of North America, honoring their rich ancestry and traditions. For many tribes, dancing was an important method of communication, and the history of Native American dance is rich and meaningful. For the Hopi people, corn is a sacred plant as it is a vital part of their diet and corn husks were widely used to create sleeping mats and baskets among other everyday needs.

During the month of August, the Hopi Butterfly Dance is held to give thanks for the corn produced. Like most Hopi ceremonies, the Butterfly Dance is a petition for rain, good health and long life for all living things. The dance also recognizes the butterfly for its beauty and its contribution in pollinating plant life. Up to a hundred or more pairs of dancers will fill the village mesa to perform the dance. The village men provide the prayer songs for the dance. Everyone dances lightly, keeping time with the drumbeat while the dancers’ hand movements symbolize the song’s meaning.

“The OneLegacy Donate Life Float community appreciates the Hopi community’s partnership in sharing their tradition of the Butterfly Dance, celebrating the life-giving power of the butterfly that pollinates the corn, their staple food, as well as their traditional basketry that holds that bounty for sharing with their community,” said Tom Mone, Chairman of the OneLegacy Donate Life float committee and Chief External Affairs Officer at OneLegacy. “There has seldom been a better metaphor for the life-giving power of organ donation and transplantation that has long been symbolized by the metamorphosis of the butterfly...of donors and families sharing life with transplant recipients...who are forever grateful.”

In addition to honorees who are connected to the Life-giving power of organ, eye and tissue donation, the OneLegacy Donate Life float will feature a youth group of Hopi Tribal members,

who will perform the ceremonial Butterfly Dance. Hopi Tribal Leaders Timothy Nuvangyaoma and Craig Andrews will sing the prayer songs for the dance.

“We are very honored and proud to have our culture represented on the 2024 OneLegacy Donate Life float,” said Timothy Nuvangyaoma, Chairman of the Hopi Tribe. “The Butterfly Dance is just one of the many beautiful and spectacular ceremonial dances of the Hopi tribe, and we look forward to performing this dance in front of millions of people on New Year’s Day during the Rose Parade.”

Five additional Native American Nations are represented on the 2024 OneLegacy Donate Life float through their honorees, including:

- **Pueblo de San Ildefonso Nation – Cheryl “Renee” Roybal, heart recipient** – Unbeknown to doctors and herself, Renee became ill and discovered her heart was enlarged. She was then placed on the heart transplant list and was blessed to receive a heart on October 10, 2002, from an 11-year-old girl. Today Renee is enjoying life with her family and sharing her knowledge of the importance of organ donation at various events in Northern New Mexico and in her local Native American communities.
- **Choctaw Nation - Linda Dean, cornea and tissue donor** – Linda had a deep commitment to her tribe, the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. She was a talented and well-loved hairdresser for twenty years. However, a heart condition left Linda unable to continue her career in cosmetology, and she began a new career path in medical records with the Chickasaw Nation. Even in her passing, Linda continues to bring joy to those around her through her donation legacy. Linda donated cornea and tissue to help improve the lives of many others.
- **Colville Nation - Marty Palmanteer, cornea and tissue donor** – A member of the Colville Tribe, and a veteran of the United States Air Force, Marty was selected as the Washington State Volleyball Official of the Year and the Okanogan County Basketball Official of the Year. When he was only 50, he experienced a life-ending brain hemorrhage. Marty donated his kidneys, giving the gift of life to two different families. Marty’s sister and brother in law, who is also a liver transplant recipient, are OneLegacy Ambassadors, and they honor his memory by volunteering their time.
- **Navajo Nation - Frederic Jones, organ and corneas donor** – Frederick Jones learned his sister, Miceale, needed a kidney. His family, with a heart for service, discussed donation but felt conviction toward the Navajo traditions. When a deceased donor came through for Miceale, Frederick signed up to be an organ donor. At twenty-seven years old, Frederick suffered irreversible head trauma from a car accident. Upon departing from Frederick's physical body, his family prayed and spoke over his body and organs, thanking them for serving him in this material world with a wish they would serve the next person. Frederick donated his liver, heart, pancreas, and corneas.
- **Kickapoo Nation – Joseph John Vargas, cornea donor** – John's mother was Native American, and his father was Hispanic. John met his wife on the Yakima Reservation in Washington. She was a registered Potawatomi Native. They were married and started a family: two boys, Joe and David, and a daughter, Jolene. During their life, two of John's three children suffered from kidney disease and had five kidney transplants between the two of them. On January 12, 2000, John passed away suddenly from pneumonia. John's

Decision to become a donor is not what is usually done in the Native American culture. After John's cornea donation, he inspired his nieces and nephews to sign up to become registered organ, eye, and tissue donors.

The need for lifesaving organ transplants is especially high among communities of color, and Native Americans suffer from 5 times the rate of liver failure, 2 times the rate of kidney failure, and are 1 ½ times more likely to suffer heart disease than the general population. “These medical conditions too often require a lifesaving transplant,” adds Tom Mone. “Ideally this year’s float will inspire us all to register as a donor...to share the gift of life. We are so grateful to showcase the life-saving power of organ, eye and tissue donation among Native American nations and we hope to continue inspiring these and all communities.”

The OneLegacy Donate Life Rose Parade float is produced by OneLegacy and is made possible thanks to dozens of sponsoring donation, transplant, healthcare, and family care organizations and individuals who help make donation and transplantation possible across the country.

As the world’s most visible campaign to inspire organ, eye and tissue donation, The OneLegacy Donate Life Rose Parade® float inspires viewers to help the over one million people in need of organ, eye or tissue transplants each year. Register today to become an organ, eye or tissue donor by visiting [www.onelegacy.org/register](http://www.onelegacy.org/register).

***About the Pasadena Tournament of Roses® and Rose Parade® presented by Honda***

*The Pasadena Tournament of Roses® is a volunteer organization that hosts America’s New Year Celebration® with the Rose Parade® presented by Honda, the Rose Bowl Game® presented by Prudential and a variety of accompanying events. The Association’s 935 Members supply more than 80,000 volunteer hours, which will drive the success of the 135<sup>th</sup> Rose Parade, themed “Celebrating a World of Music” on Monday, January 1, 2024, followed by the CFP Semifinal at the 110<sup>th</sup> Rose Bowl Game presented by Prudential. Visit [www.tournamentofroses.com](http://www.tournamentofroses.com), like us on [Facebook](#) and follow us on [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#).*

**Contacts**

**Tania Llaneras (213) 229-5654 [Tllaneras@onelegacy.org](mailto:Tllaneras@onelegacy.org) [mediarelations@onelegacy.org](mailto:mediarelations@onelegacy.org)**

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**You are alive because someone from Residential School Survived...make it count...**  



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**On December 5 in 1933**, Utah became the 36th state in the United States to ratify the 21st Amendment, officially repealing Prohibition. Utah’s state convention unanimously ratified the amendment that repealed the U.S. Constitution’s 18th Amendment, which mandated a nationwide prohibition on alcohol.



# PROGRESSIVE REFORM NETWORK

Our voice matters.



[Join Native Voters Alliance Nevada and support the Native American Voting Rights Act!](#)

Tribes all across America governed democratically long before the U.S. existed. Now, our people face disenfranchisement when exercising our sacred right to vote.

There are countless barriers that make it difficult or near impossible for Indigenous Americans to cast a ballot: a lack of accessibility for voters with disabilities, geographically remote residences, lack of traditional mailing addresses, cultural disrespect and outright hostility, and persistent poverty are among a few.

**Native voters deserve to be heard. It is essential that our democracy includes our voice.**

*Native Voters Alliance Nevada understands the value of our vote, and we work tirelessly to build political power and uplift Indigenous voices.*

[Elizabeth, it's time to tell Congress to re-introduce the Native American Voting Rights Act! Can we count on you to stand up for the freedom to vote?](#)

The stakes in the 2024 election are high, and Indigenous voters will play a pivotal role in key states across the country.

During the 2020 elections, Native voters on tribal lands went to the polls at higher rates than ever before. In response, the right intensified their efforts to disenfranchise us.

**For too long, Tribal nations have been neglected and abused by the American government. We can't let voting rights be added to the long list of tragedies faced by Native Americans. We must remove the obstacles preventing many from participating in our democracy.**

[Sign on to support the Native American Voting Rights Act, which would remove systemic barriers that continue to disenfranchise Indigenous voters and impede a free and fair electoral process.](#)

Democracy is Indigenous.  
-Taylor Patterson  
Member of the Bishop Paiute Tribe

**SIGN ON**

### [Crazy Horse Memorial](#)

From August until now, the Carvers have completed 78 saw cuts removing 909.7063 tons of granite on the back side. They have also run finishing saws on 212.9 square feet of this area since the middle of October.

The reason for focusing on the back side of the Carving is because the Mountain Crew is preparing for the arrival of a tower crane in the Spring of 2024. Do you want to be involved? Please consider Crazy Horse and the Mountain Carving tomorrow (Giving Tuesday) if you would like your donation matched 2:1 toward this important purchase! Visit <https://donate.crazyhorsememorial.org> and designate your giving to the Mountain.

Thank you for tuning in. We hope you like this [#MountainMonday](#) comparison image showing the work on the back side and the amazing progress on Crazy Horse's Hand this year as well.



AP

**Barbie doll honoring Cherokee Nation leader is met with mixed emotions**

Toy maker Mattel is honoring the late, legendary Cherokee leader Wilma Mankiller with a Barbie doll as part of its "Inspiring Women" series      By SEAN MURPHY - Associated Press



*This photo provided by Mattel shows a Barbie doll of Wilma Mankiller. Toy maker Mattel is honoring the late legendary Cherokee leader with a Barbie doll as part of its "Inspiring Women" series. A ceremony honoring Mankiller's legacy is set for Dec. 5, 2023 in Tahlequah, where the tribe is based. Mankiller, who died in 2010, was the first female chief of a major Native American tribe and led the Cherokee Nation from 1985 to 1995. (Mattel via AP)*

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — An iconic chief of the Cherokee Nation, Wilma Mankiller, inspired countless Native American children as a powerful but humble leader who expanded early education and rural healthcare.

Her reach is now broadening with a quintessential American honor: a Barbie doll in the late Mankiller's likeness as part of toymaker Mattel's "Inspiring Women" series.

A public ceremony honoring Mankiller's legacy is set for Tuesday in Tahlequah in northeast Oklahoma, where the [Cherokee Nation](#) is headquartered.

Mankiller was the nation's first female principal chief, leading the tribe for a decade until 1995. She focused on improving social conditions through consensus and on restoring pride in Native heritage. She met with three U.S. presidents and received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian award.

She also met snide remarks about her surname — a military title — with humor, often delivering a straight-faced response: "Mankiller is actually a well-earned nickname." She died in 2010.

The tribe's current leader, Principal Chief Chuck Hoskin, Jr., applauded Mattel for commemorating Mankiller.

"When Native girls see it, they can achieve it, and Wilma Mankiller has shown countless young women to be fearless and speak up for Indigenous and human rights," Hoskin said in a statement. "Wilma Mankiller is a champion for the Cherokee Nation, for Indian Country, and even my own daughter."



Mankiller, whose likeness is on a [U.S. quarter issued](#) in 2021, is the second Native American woman honored with a Barbie doll. Famed [aviator Bessie Coleman](#), who was of Black and Cherokee ancestry, was depicted earlier this year.

Other dolls in the series include Maya Angelou, Ida B. Wells, Jane Goodall and Madam C.J. Walker.

The rollout of the Barbie doll featuring Mankiller wearing a ribbon skirt, black shoes and carrying a woven basket has been met with conflicting reactions.

Many say the doll is a fitting tribute for a remarkable leader who faced conflict head-on and helped the tribe triple its enrollment, double its employment and build new health centers and children's programs.

Still, some Cherokee women are critical, saying Mattel overlooked problematic details on the doll and the packaging.

“Mixed emotions shared by me and many other Cherokee women who have now purchased the product revolve around whether a Wilma Barbie captures her legacy, her physical features and the importance of centering Cherokee women in decision making,” Stacy Leeds, the law school dean at Arizona State University and a former Cherokee Nation Supreme Court justice, told The Associated Press in an email.

Regina Thompson, a Cherokee basket weaver who grew up near Tahlequah, doesn't think the doll looks like Mankiller. Mattel should have considered traditional pucker toe moccasins, instead of black shoes, and included symbols on the basket that Cherokees use to tell a story, she said.

“Wilma’s name is the only thing Cherokee on that box,” Thompson said. “Nothing about that doll is Wilma, nothing.”

The Cherokee language symbols on the packaging also are wrong, she noted. Two symbols look similar, and the one used translates to “Chicken,” rather than “Cherokee.”

Mattel spokesperson Devin Tucker said the company is aware of the problem with the syllabary and is “discussing options.” The company worked with Mankiller's estate, which is led by her husband, Charlie Soap, and her friend, Kristina Kiehl, on the creation of the doll. Soap and Kiehl did not respond to messages left by the AP.

Mattel did not consult with the Cherokee Nation on the doll.

“Regrettably, the Mattel company did not work directly with the tribal government's design and communications team to secure the official Seal or verify it,” the tribe said in a statement. “The printing mistake itself does not diminish what it means for the Cherokee people to see this tribute to Wilma and who she was and what she stood for.”

Several Cherokees also criticized Mattel for not consulting with Mankiller's only surviving child, Felicia Olaya, who said she was unaware of the doll until about a week before its public launch.

“I have no issues with the doll. I have no issues with honoring my mom in different ways,” said Olaya, who acknowledged she and Soap, her stepfather, are estranged. “The issue is that no one informed me, no one told me. I didn't know it was coming.”

Olaya also wonders how her mother would feel about being honored with a Barbie doll.

“I heard her once on the phone saying, ‘I’m not Princess Diana, nor am I Barbie,’” Olaya recalled. “I think she probably would have been a little conflicted on that, because my mom was very humble. She wasn’t the type of person who had her honorary degrees or awards plastered all over the wall. They were in tubs in her pole barn.”

“I’m not sure how she would feel about this,” Olaya said.

Still, Olaya said she hopes to buy some of the dolls for her grandchildren and is always grateful for people to learn about her mother's legacy.

“I have a warm feeling about the thought of my granddaughters playing with a Wilma Mankiller Barbie,” she said.

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And from Canada:

Congratulations to Dr. Andrew Martindale who has received the nationally prestigious [Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada \(SSHRC\) Impact – Connection Award 2023](#) for his scholarship in partnership with Indigenous communities. This work focuses on issues that respond to historic and ongoing colonial processes beginning with the theft of Indigenous land and including the development of Indian Residential Schools.

Bestowed during a special parliament session once a year, the Connection Award (\$50,000) recognizes a SSHRC-funded individual that promotes the exchange of research knowledge within and beyond the academic community. It is awarded to researchers whose initiatives have greatly influenced intellectual, cultural, social, and economic aspects of society through scholarship.

“My scholarship is a small part of the larger effort to describe the history of our country truthfully and to help those who were and continue to be disenfranchised by colonial violence and racism and who have been seeking redress. My work exists in partnership with and by permission of Indigenous communities. While I am grateful for this honour, these are the people who deserve the recognition more than I. Most of those are Indigenous people who would not qualify for SSHRC awards. I have asked the Spune’luxutth (Penelakut) Elders Committee to accept this award and use the funds in their efforts to support survivors of residential schools and in their search for missing children.”

-Dr. Andrew Martingale

For more on Dr. Martingale’s research please read the feature article published on the [Faculty of Arts website](#).

Researchers from the University of British Columbia Faculty of Arts will be partners in the newly announced [NSF Center for Braiding Indigenous Knowledges and Science \(CBIKS\)](#) – a five-year, \$30 million international NSF Science and Technology Center based at the University

of Massachusetts Amherst. The center will focus on connecting Indigenous knowledges with mainstream western science to address some of the most pressing issues of our time in a new way.

Three researchers will be contributing their knowledge and expertise in this collaborative effort, and will be co-directors for the Pacific Northwest Hub, Collaborative Research. This includes [Dr. Kristen Barnett \(Unangax\)](#) and [Dr. Andrew Martindale](#) from the Department of Anthropology, as well as [Dr. Alison Wylie](#) from the Department of Philosophy.

In addition to their co-director roles, Barnett will be the co-lead for Indigenous Story Work, and Wylie will be the co-lead for Ethics.

“CBIKS has been a shared dream among our group of collaborators and community partners. It is a significant achievement to have the commitment of our team matched by a financial commitment from NSF, allowing our shared vision to be realized.”

– Dr. Kristen Barnett (Unangax)

You can read more about this exciting new partnership on the [Faculty of Arts website](#).



Mila Hanska Tashunke Icu, or American Horse (Oglala Lakota), giving information to allotment officer Charles Bates (center), with Billy Garnett, an interpreter (left), 1907. Pine Ridge, South Dakota. Photo by Edward Truman. The Denver Public Library, Western History Collection, X-31717

What It Took to Broker a Treaty Between the Young United States and Native Nations

Learn about the role of treaties in the relationship between early American settlers and Indigenous communities

Richard W. Hill, Sr. December 4th, 2023

Extract: “Two great diplomatic traditions came into play as America sought to shape its destiny as a new republic. By the late eighteenth century, both sides had become expert at negotiating treaty relationships. The roots of American treaty making can be found in Indian relations with Dutch traders and British colonists in the early seventeenth century. For the Six Nations, treaty making goes back much further, to the era of their confederacy’s formation. Their intellectual, political, and cultural treaty-making principles had been created under Kayahnerenhkawah, or the Great Law of Peace.”

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/blogs/smithsonian-books/2023/12/04/the-origins-of-treaty-making/>

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