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A waxing gibbous moon

Warlayirti Artists - Balgo

Bajau people live in the middle of the Sea

Joyce Simmons Cheeka, a member of the Squaxin Island Tribe

Some scenes from the International Treaty Summit with the Mapuche, Temuco, Chile

Stone pyramids were built 3,000 years ago in heart of Mexico. Now researchers know why

Tahoe Conservancy acquiring 31 acres in South Lake Tahoe; Motel 6 to be demolished

Isabel Meadows was an Ohlone ethnologist

Three codices from the 16th and 17th century describe historical details about the Aztecs

Celebrating a Successful Spring Lobby Weekend

Encounter: Grand Duke Alexis Meets Buffalo Bill, Custer, Sherman and Chief Spotted Tail



Bob

Tregilus

Moon framed in the fork of an eroded branch of a *Pinus longaeva* (Great Basin bristlecone pine) at ~3,048m (10,000ft) in the White Mountains of California. (This is a single frame photo made by a human, [#notAI.](#))

Warlayirti Artists - Balgo

Marie has painted a deeply personal story about her childhood in Sturt Creek during the Stolen Generation. This work is called 'Hiding and Running'.

'Those government people came round looking for fair skinned children so they could take them away. I kept running. Other fair skinned children were taken, but not me. I kept hiding and running. Sometimes the old people would cover me in black ochre, so I wouldn't get taken away. I was eight years old.'

Marie says, 'like that Rabbit Proof Fence movie, that was my life. But I didn't get taken and that's why I didn't lose my language and culture.'

The centre of the painting features Sturt Creek, represented by the blue, with surrounding landscapes. To the bottom right of the painting, Marie has depicted the old people who looked after her, both women and men.

[#warlayirti](#) [#balgomob](#) [#warlayirtiartists](#) [#sturtcreek](#) [#kimberleys](#) [#westernaustralia](#)
[#aboriginalart](#) [#indigenousart](#)



Native Spirit Heritage

Wes Studi's has had one long enjoyable acting career. He was raised in Nofire Hollow Oklahoma, speaking Cherokee only until he started school. At 17 he joined the National Guard and later went to Vietnam. After his discharge, Studi became politically active in American Indian affairs. He participated in Wounded Knee at Pine Ridge Reservation in 1973. Wes is known for his roles as a fierce Native American warrior, such as the Pawnee warrior in *Dances with Wolves*. In *The Last of the Mohicans* he plays the Huron named Magua, which was his first major part. Soon after he got the lead role in *Geronimo: An American Legend*. He was in *Skinwalkers*, *The Lone Ranger*, and *The Horse Whisperer*. He played the Indian out in the desert in *The Doors* movie, and he was also in *Avatar*. Studi also plays bass and he and his wife are in a band called *Firecat of Discord*. Wes Studi also serves as honorary chair of the national endowment campaign, of the Indigenous Language Institute that's working to save Native Languages. He and his family live in Santa Fe New Mexico, and Wes has been in several other movies, TV shows and movies, and mini series. He also received an Academy Honorary Award, becoming the first Native American and the second North American Indigenous person to be honored by the Academy, the first was Buffy Sainte-Marie, a First Nations Canadian Indigenous musician.



[David Attenborough Fans](#)

Bajau people live in the middle of the Sea, rarely go on land, have no nationality, no fixed abode, no money and they go spear fishing without scuba gear. Not even oxygen tanks.

More details/photos: <https://bit.ly/49bERcC>

[Washington State Historical Society](#)

At the age of ten, **Joyce Simmons Cheeka**, a member of the **Squaxin Island Tribe**, was forcibly taken from her home and placed in the Tulalip Indian School. Boarding schools like this one were an attempt to strip Native children of their cultural identities. Despite spending her youth in boarding schools, Cheeka remained dedicated to her culture, becoming a highly respected ambassador for Indigenous rights. After marrying, she relocated to Neah Bay, supporting her community by teaching life skills and providing transportation services. As a mother of four, she raised her children to have a strong connection and understanding of their heritage. In 1965, her Soroptimist club named her "State Mother of the Year." She is shown here with her grandson, Thomas James, surrounded by Native art and artifacts.

Cheeka's unpublished memoir, "As My Sun Now Sets," became the basis for a biographic play titled "The Rememberer." The play centers around her appointed role to keep the memory of the tribe, its relations, and its language alive. She has proudly carried out this responsibility throughout her life, working with many communities, historical organizations, schools, and clubs to share her knowledge and culture.

Fridays in March, we will recognize Washington women and their remarkable accomplishments



in the 1960s and '70s. *Image from WSHS Collection: Joyce Cheeka James James with grandson Thomas. Olympia, WA. Creation date: November 5, 1963.*

Class of 2024

Graduation



Owyhee High School
2023-24

Save the Date

June 7
4:00 PM

[Mary Gibson](#) Some scenes from the International Treaty Summit with the Mapuche, Temuco, Chile. Check out the pine nuts!!



+21 (see Mary's FB page)



[Veronica Charley](#)

That's cool what the pinenuts taste like?

[Mary Gibson](#)

[Veronica Charley](#), the pinenuts tastes similar to the ones here in our homelands but just bigger and from a different type of tree.

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**Stone pyramids were built 3,000 years ago in heart of Mexico. Now researchers know why**

Some 3,000 years ago, stone pyramids were built in Puebla, Mexico. Now, researchers know they were used for astronomical observations

Read in Miami Herald: <https://apple.news/A7CwgaihNS0Cak479rH7ayg>

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Tahoe Conservancy acquiring 31 acres in South Lake Tahoe; Motel 6 to be demolished

<https://www.rgj.com/story/news/2024/03/21/motel-6-in-tahoe-to-be-removed/73042808007/>

Native Wolf

Isabel Meadows (July 7, 1846 – 1939) was an Ohlone ethnologist and the last fluent speaker of the Rumsen Ohlone language. She also spoke Esselen. She worked closely with the anthropologists from the Smithsonian Institution for more than five years in order to document her culture and language. Her work is considered fundamental in the study of Ohlone languages.

Isabel as a young woman.

Isabel Meadows was born on July 7, 1846, in Carmel Valley, California. Her lineage included English, Esselen and Rumsen heritage. Her father, James Meadows, worked as a whaler. He later owned a James Meadows Tract in upper Carmel Valley in the vicinity of a cave in which an Esselen child was found buried in 1952. Isabel's great-grandmother Lupecina Francesa Unegte had been baptized at the Mission San Carlos Borromeo in 1792 when about 800 Native Americans lived there. William Brainard Post worked on Meadows Ranch and married Isabel's aunt Anselma in 1850.

She spoke of her childhood community as a disordered and traumatized one, featuring abuse, abandonment and addiction, the latter resulting from pain and ending in death, she said.

Due in part to her ancestry and childhood, she was competent to fluent in Rumsen, English and Spanish. Isabel is known as the last fluent speaker of the Rumsen Ohlone language which had been commonly spoken along the Central Coast of California prior to the arrival of the Spanish. Her body was returned to Carmel for a memorial service. She was survived by one brother, Thomas Meadows of Monterey, and his children.

Smithsonian collaboration

In her later years and until her death, Isabel worked closely with Smithsonian ethnologist J. P. Harrington and shared her knowledge of her tribe's culture and languages in the Monterey, Carmel, and Big Sur regions of California. Drawing upon her ancestry, she provided oral history on the likes of Spanish missions, ranchos, and the California Gold Rush. His primary correspondent, their work was extensive and comprehensive. He insisted upon her input and their affairs were amicable as she provided personal tales, per her desire, and the fundamentals Harrington sought. She credited the fatal effect alcoholism had on her community with the lack of preservation for the Rumsen Ohlone language.

Harrington's practice functioned as salvage ethnography; Isabel was "one of the last survivors who could retrace the sweeping and succeeding colonial forms of violence by the Spanish, Mexican and U.S. American imperial and settler colonial systems in California".

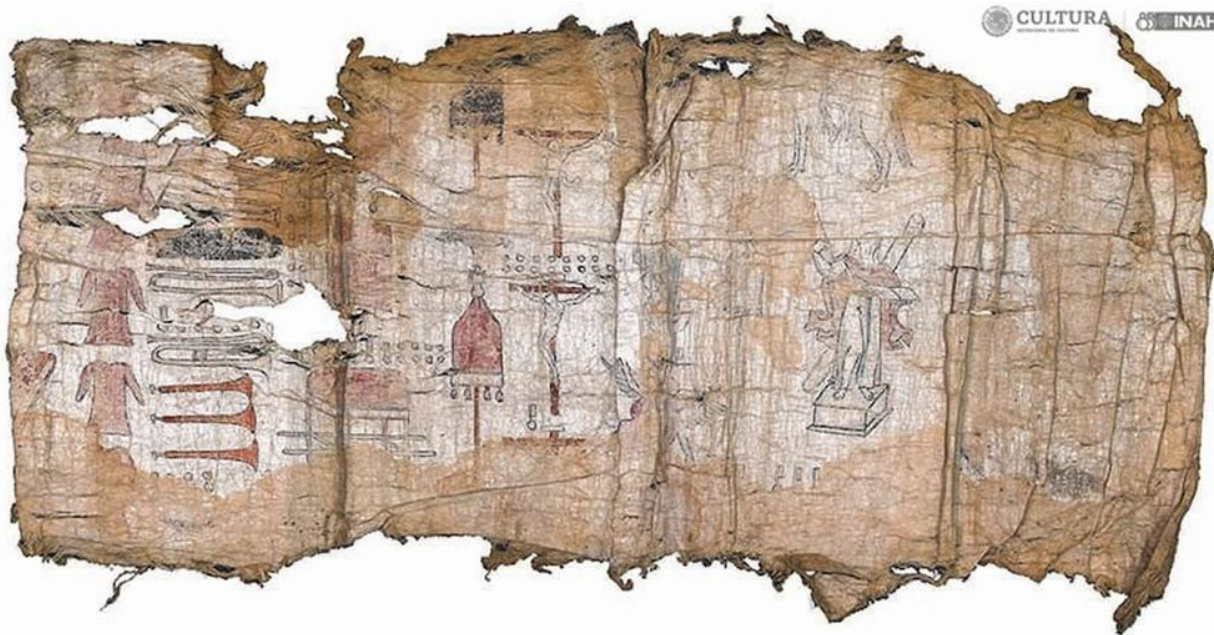
Deborah A. Miranda noted that much of Isabel's recollection functions as gossip, although expressing solidarity rather than judgement.[4] She spoke passionately in remembrance of a rape, information which was likely disseminated by gossip.



Death

Meadows and Harrington worked together until the end of her life, on May 20, 1939, at age 94, in Washington D.C. In 1949, the Meadows Cave was discovered by a survey party under the direction of A.R. Piling, then assistant Archaeologist of the U.C. Archaeological Survey. The cave was renamed after Isabella Meadows, as the last known informant on the Esselen Native Americans.

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**Three codices from the 16th and 17th century describe historical details about the Aztecs and the area that is now Mexico City.**



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

[Centuries-old Aztec texts detail history of their capital, conquests and fall to the Spanish](#)  
[Three codices from the 16th and 17th century describe historical details about the Aztecs and the area that is now Mexico City.](#)

## Celebrating a Successful Spring Lobby Weekend



### Funding for Important Indian Country Programs Continues for FY24

In early March, Congress passed an FY 2024 appropriations package (Public Law 118-42) that included funding for important Indian Country programs. Three noteworthy mentions:

- The Department of the Interior's Federal Boarding School Initiative led by Secretary Deb Haaland received \$7 million, the same as the previous fiscal year. The department is finalizing the second volume of its investigative report, informed partly by testimonies from Indian Boarding School survivors, descendants, and their family members as part of a "Road to Healing" tour to tribal communities.
- The appropriations package extends several vital public health programs including the Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI). SDPI has successfully decreased diabetes prevalence and mortality among American Indians and Alaska Natives.
- The Bureau of Indian Affairs' Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Tribal Public Safety Initiative maintained its \$16.6 million level from FY23.

#### Federal

#### Agencies Respond to "Not One More" Report

On March 5, the Department of the Interior (DOI) and the Department of Justice (DOJ) released a [joint response](#) to the findings and recommendations of the Not Invisible Act Commission. The commission's final [report](#), "Not One More," called on the federal government to declare a "Decade of Action and Healing" to address the crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous People (MMIP) for future generations.

The DOI and DOJ addressed key areas of concern such as the need to improve law enforcement and investigative resources, data collection and reporting, and resources and services for family members of people who have gone missing or been murdered.

FCNL advocated for the passage of the Not Invisible Act (Public Law 116-166) during the 116th Congress. We commend the commission and the DOI and DOJ for continuing to prioritize the MIP crisis.

#### Native American Entrepreneurial Opportunity Act (H.R. 7102)

The House passed this bill 402-16 on Feb. 29 to codify the Office of Native American Affairs



within the Small Business Administration. This office has been providing entrepreneurial development, lending, and procurement programs to American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians for decades. H.R. 7102 is now on the Senate calendar and awaiting consideration. (*Hmmmm....full circle: U.S. Congress: An Act to Regulate Trade and Intercourse with the Indian ... U.S. Congress. Excerpt from "An Act to Regulate Trade and Intercourse with the Indian Tribes". Passed on July 22, 1790 Published in The Public Statutes at Large of the United States of America, edited by Richard Peters, 1850. Through the late 1780s, Native American relations west of the Appalachians took different courses in the region north of the Ohio River and the area south of the river.*)

### **Parity for Tribal Law Enforcement Act (H.R. 4524)**

On March 12, the House Natural Resources Committee approved this legislation to amend the Indian Law Enforcement Reform Act (Public Law 101-379) to authorize tribal law enforcement officers to be considered federal law enforcement officers. This would allow eligible tribal officers to enforce federal law and **qualify for some of the same retirement benefits as other federal law enforcement officers.** (*federal only or those on tribal budgets?*)

### **Bill for Management of Buffalo on Tribal Land (H.R. 6368)**

Also on March 12, the House Natural Resources Committee advanced legislation to assist tribal governments and organizations to reestablish buffalo populations on Indian land. (*What would Wild Bill Buffalo (Cody) think? See article below this one!*)

### **What We're Reading**

- [Schatz Leads Group of Senators Urging U.S. Attorney General Garland to Allow for the Compassionate Release of Leonard Peltier](#)
- [U.S. Circuit Court Rules Against Preservation of Oak Flats Sacred Site](#)
- [The Future of the Bureau of Indian Affairs](#)
- [New Project Revisits Wampum Belts Through a Contemporary Lens](#)

**Sincerely, Cindy Darcy, Consultant, Native American Advocacy Project**

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Encounter: Grand Duke Alexis Meets Buffalo Bill, Custer, Sherman and Chief Spotted Tail by [Peter Carlson](#) 1/8/2018

The United States was born in a revolution against royalty, but every once in a while Americans go gaga over some foreigner with a fancy title. It happened when Grand Duke Alexis of Russia traveled to the Great Plains to shoot buffalo and drink champagne with Buffalo Bill Cody, General George Armstrong Custer and Chief Spotted Tail and his Sioux warriors. A glorious time was had by all except the duke's host, General Philip Sheridan, who was lucky to escape the festivities alive.

Grand Duke Alexis Alexandrovich Romanov was a son of Tsar Alexander II, the fool who'd sold Alaska to the U.S. for 2 cents an acre five years earlier. When Alexis arrived in New York in November 1871, he was 21, tall and brawny, with golden hair and long, flamboyant sideburns. The newspapers gleefully chronicled his adventures, which included meeting President Ulysses S. Grant, shopping at Tiffany's jewelry store, and trips to Harvard University, Cleveland and Chicago, where he met General Sheridan, who was happy to fulfill the duke's dream of hobnobbing with real Indians and shooting real buffalo.

Sheridan chose Custer to help run the expedition and dispatched Cody to visit Spotted Tail on his reservation and lure him to the hunt with the promise of many wagonloads of free food, blankets and tobacco. Meanwhile, Sheridan's soldiers constructed Camp Alexis on the Nebraska plains, shoveling snow and pitching two huge hospital tents, complete with floorboards and thick carpets, for the general and the duke. They also carted in plenty of chow and prodigious quantities of booze.

At dawn on January 13, a special train carrying Sheridan, Custer and the duke arrived at North Platte, where Cody waited at the station, wearing a buckskin suit trimmed with fur, his long hair dangling over his shoulders.

"Your Highness, this is Mr. Cody, otherwise and universally known as Buffalo Bill," Sheridan said. "Bill, this is the Grand Duke."

"I am glad to know you," Cody told the duke.

Buffalo Bill hopped on his horse, Sheridan and the duke climbed into a wagon and they set out for Camp Alexis. When they arrived, the Second Cavalry band greeted them with a spirited rendition of "Hail to the Chief." Soon, champagne corks popped and the party commenced.

The next day was the grand duke's 22nd birthday and he rode off to kill a buffalo, accompanied by Cody and Custer, who wore buckskins and what one reporter described as "a comical sealskin hat." Alexis rode Buckskin Joe—"probably the best buffalo-hunting horse that ever lived," Cody called him—and carried a revolver he'd been given back East.

"Of course the main thing was to give Alexis the first chance and the best shot at the buffaloes," Cody later wrote. "Alexis at first preferred to use his pistol instead of a gun. He fired six shots from this weapon at buffaloes only 20 feet away from him, but as he shot wildly, not one of his bullets took effect."

Cody handed the duke another pistol. "He again fired six shots without dropping a buffalo."

If Cody was amused to watch a man whose title contained the word "grand" miss huge bovine beasts with 12 consecutive shots at close range, he did not mention it in his autobiography. He merely handed the duke his trusty rifle, "Lucretia Borgia," and gave Buckskin Joe a whack on the butt. The horse dutifully carried the duke to within 10 feet of a buffalo.

"He fired," Cody wrote, "and down went the buffalo."

The duke stood over his kill, hollering in triumph and waving his hat, and his servants broke out the champagne.

The drinking lasted long into the night, with champagne washing down hunks of broiled buffalo.

By then, Spotted Tail had arrived with more than 100 Brule Sioux warriors, as well as his daughter Red Road, whose dazzling beauty instantly beguiled both Alexis and Custer, who began vying for her affections.

At least that's what the papers said. But this was an age when reporters didn't let facts stand in the way of a good story, and a grand duke competing with a dashing general for the love of an Indian maiden was too good to pass up. The *Nebraska State Journal* described Custer lovingly pinning earrings on Red Road:

"He consumed much more time in this pleasant occupation than was needed and having adjusted one of them in her ear, without changing his position put his arms around her neck in order to adjust the other...and the scene ended by his kissing her. It was done so graciously that old Spotted Tail had no cause to scalp him for his temerity."

It's a touching story, but believing it requires accepting the notion that Custer traveled to buffalo hunts carrying a spare pair of earrings.

After a couple days of hunting, Sheridan and Custer escorted Alexis to Denver, where a formal ball was held in his honor. Then they all headed off to kill more buffalo on the plains of Colorado. There, Custer showed off for the duke, demonstrating his horsemanship. "Throwing the reins on his neck, he guided the almost unbroken horse in a circle by the pressure of his knees," recalled a scout named Chalkley Beeson, "and drawing both revolvers fired with either hand at a gallop with as much accuracy as though he were standing on the ground."

Alas, the actual hunt did not proceed so artfully. Custer galloped off with the duke and their entourages while Sheridan stayed behind with Beeson. Hearing gunfire nearby, Sheridan and Beeson climbed a hill to observe the action, then watched in terror as several wounded buffalo charged toward them, followed by the hunters, firing wildly.

"The bullets were dropping all around us," Beeson recalled. "Sheridan was too short in the legs to run and threw himself flat on the ground with his face in the buffalo grass....Finally, they stopped and when Sheridan got to his feet I think he was the maddest man I ever saw....I don't know what kind of language Pa Romanov used to Alexis when he got mad, but that slip of royalty got a cursing from Phil Sheridan that day that I bet he will never forget."

When the expletives faded, the hunt continued. That night, Beeson recalled, "Everybody was drunk and happy."

The much-hyped hunt turned out to be great for Buffalo Bill but terrible for the buffalo. The publicity made Cody famous, launching his showbiz career, but it also attracted hordes of tourists eager to shoot buffalo, sometimes from the windows of trains. Within a decade, the beasts were nearly extinct.

Meanwhile the grand duke returned to Russia, where he took command of the imperial navy. When his fleet was crushed in the Russo-Japanese War in 1905, Alexis retired in disgrace. He moved to Paris, where he attended fashion shows and hobnobbed with actresses. He died there in 1908, a decade before the Bolsheviks overthrew the Romanov dynasty and killed his nephew, Tsar Nicholas II.

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