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Melissa “Little Wolf” Villalobos, a musician who performs w/ a variety of Native American flutes

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The latest from NARF



Melissa “Little Wolf” Villalobos, a member of the Kumeyaay Mission tribe of Native Americans from the San Pasqual reservation, is a musician who performs on a variety of Native American flutes. Kerrick James, Utah, 2021
Smithsonian Magazine 2023

Interior Department Signs Three Landmark Co-Stewardship Agreements with Alaska Native Tribes and Corporations

Agreements build on historic \$44 million committed through President's Investing in America agenda to safeguard salmon in the Yukon, Kuskokwim and Norton Sound Regions

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — The Department of the Interior today celebrated the signing of three landmark agreements with Alaska Native Tribes and Corporations to advance co-stewardship on public lands and waters. Two agreements between federal agencies and Alaska Native Tribes and the Tanana Chiefs Conference will advance efforts to safeguard salmon within the Yukon, Kuskokwim, and Norton Sound regions through the Department's [Gravel to Gravel Initiative](#). A third agreement will improve management of easements that provide access to public lands and waters across privately owned Ahnna lands.

In partnership with Tribes, Indigenous leaders, governmental agencies and community partners, the Department's Gravel to Gravel Keystone Initiative, created through funding from President Biden's Investing in America agenda, is bringing Indigenous Knowledge and the best available science together to inform plans for collective action to support resilient ecosystems and communities in the region and make immediate investments to respond to the salmon crisis. Today's agreements add to over \$44 million already invested towards the initiative.

"Since time immemorial, the Yukon, Kuskokwim and Norton Sound regions have sustained Alaska Native people, fish, birds and other wildlife, supporting strong and resilient communities and traditional ways of life," said **Secretary Deb Haaland**. "Thanks to historic resources provided through President Biden's Investing in America agenda, our Gravel to Gravel Keystone Initiative is centering Indigenous Knowledge as we work to safeguard salmon, communities and cultures in this region. By bringing together diverse perspectives and expertise, we can create effective strategies that benefit salmon and all living things who rely on them."

Salmon in the Yukon, Kuskokwim and Norton Sound regions in Alaska hold deep cultural, subsistence and ecosystem significance. Traditional Indigenous foods derived from the plant and animal life of these unique regions remain vital to food security and the vibrant cultures of the more than 100 Alaska Native Tribes who have stewarded and lived for thousands of years in reciprocity with the land, waters, and animals of the region. Due to climate change impacts, the absence of salmon has negatively impacted the cultural and spiritual health and well-being of the Indigenous Peoples who have relied on salmon for more than 10,000 years. The Gravel to Gravel Keystone Initiative partners are working to address these profound ecosystem collapses and the salmon crisis through a holistic approach that prioritizes collaboration and shared responsibility.

Gravel to Gravel Partnership Agreement

The first agreement formalizes a new partnership that will support groundbreaking efforts to champion habitat restoration and resilient ecosystems for Pacific salmon throughout the entirety of the salmon lifecycle – from gravel to gravel, where salmon life begins and ends – by bringing together science and Indigenous Knowledge.

Signatories at today's event at the seventh annual Alaska Tribal Unity Gathering in Anchorage included the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), [Bureau of Land Management \(BLM\)](#), National Park Service (NPS), [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service \(USFWS\)](#), and U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), along with the Association of Village Council Presidents, Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments, Kawerak Incorporated, Nome Eskimo Community, Native Village of Eagle,

Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC), Kuskokwim River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, and the Yukon River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission. Signatories were joined by staff from the Office of the Secretary.

Pursuant to the agreement, each party agreed to four priorities:

- Collaborate across jurisdictional and geographic boundaries through co-stewardship and co-management to restore the health of, and relationships between, salmon, people and place;
- Build and maintain trust and communication, and strengthen relationships between Tribes and federal agencies, and increase capacity and knowledge sharing around the care for salmon;
- Honor Tribal sovereignty and self-governance by advocating for Tribal stewardship and recommendations regarding decision-making and regulatory authority in wildlife ecosystems and fisheries management and;
- Work in partnership on ecosystem restoration and resilience, salmon conservation, and other projects that are within and adjacent to the Gravel to Gravel Keystone Initiative and include expertise from Indigenous and Traditional Knowledge.

Self Governance Funding Agreement with TCC

BLM, NPS, USFWS, and USGS also joined the first-ever multi-bureau self-governance funding agreement with the Tanana Chiefs Conference, a consortium of federally recognized Indian Tribes, to further the nation-to-nation relationship through stronger Tribal self-governance authorities, co-stewardship, and equity, trust and healing mechanisms.

The agreement acknowledges the role of the Tribes who comprise the TCC and the enduring reciprocal relationship with their homelands extending over 235,000 square miles of interior Alaska. The first scope of work for the self-governance agreement authorizes the TCC to administer education and outreach programs on behalf of USFWS and BLM that further subsistence and incorporate Indigenous Knowledge into plans and regulations.

Agreement for Improved Management of Access Easements through Privately Owned Ahtna Lands

The BLM and Ahtna, Inc. today also signed a multi-year self-governance funding agreement to improve management of easements that provide access to public lands and waters across privately owned Ahtna lands. This agreement transfers administration of these easements, known as 17(b) easements under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA), from the BLM's Glennallen Field Office to Ahtna, Inc., the Alaska Native Regional Corporation with lands stretching across the southcentral interior of Alaska. This groundbreaking effort is the first of its kind for the BLM under Title IV of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act and advances the Department's priority of strengthening relationships with Tribes and Native Corporations.

The BLM manages approximately 175 ANCSA 17(b) easements in the Ahtna Region. Under this new agreement, Ahtna will administer this easement program on BLM's behalf, supporting the public's continued access to public lands and waters while respecting privately owned Ahtna lands. Ahtna will advance those goals by building a common dataset of easements and improving public signage, fostering greater public understanding of land ownership patterns in the region.

Oil over life?!? New spill in Peru devastates communities

New oil spill from the North Peruvian Pipeline devastates frontline Indigenous communities amid talks of restructuring state-run oil company Petroperú

Last week, a notorious pipeline leaked at least 6,000 liters of oil, threatening the lives and livelihoods of the Indigenous Quechua and Achuar peoples.

The pipeline spans hundreds of kilometers across seven Indigenous territories and is one of the country's largest sources of toxic oil contamination, and state-run oil company Petroperú has a long track record of environmental disasters.

A week later, Petroperú has still not been able to contain the spill, let alone remediate the extensive damage it has caused. Hundreds of Indigenous people are directly affected, with the number of impacted communities rising alarmingly as the oil oozes down the Pastaza River. It has already poisoned Siwin Lake, which serves as the primary source of food and water for the Achuar people.

The spill is an unfolding humanitarian emergency that must be addressed immediately. We are amplifying the Achuar's calls to hold Petroperú accountable and begin the environmental remediation process while supporting community organizing and emergency assemblies.

For your Calendar

October 22-24, 2024: 2024 Tribal EPA & US EPA Region 9 Annual Conference

Hosted by the [Viejias Band of Kumeyaay Indians](#) and the [US Environmental Protection Agency](#). Keep an eye on the **conference website** [Tribalepa.com](https://tribalepa.com) as more information is added.

HUD's Native Homeownership & Asset Building Summit – Nov. 20-21, 2024 in Oklahoma City, OK

The [U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Office of Native American Programs](#) (HUD ONAP), is hosting the HUD ONAP 2024 Native Homeownership & Asset Building Summit: A Pathways to Economic Self-Determination V at the Sheraton Oklahoma City Downtown Hotel on **November 20-21, 2024**.

Asset-building is the process of identifying, acquiring, controlling, leveraging, and preserving meaningful assets for the benefit of individuals, families, and communities. Over the course of two days, Tribal housing professionals, Tribal leaders, and partners will convene to share their knowledge and expertise on expanding Tribal homeownership opportunities, providing financial education, and developing training curriculum targeting Native American families. The objective of this training event is homeownership and create economic opportunities for Native American communities, thereby strengthening them.

Use the link below to take advantage of **free** registration, or go to: <https://cvent.me/x0ZVkg>.

Dec. 3-5, 2024: Oklahoma Native Assets Coalition– “Building Assets for Generations in Indian Country”

The Oklahoma Native Assets Coalition, Inc., a national Native-led nonprofit, invites you to attend our national 2024 conference and philanthropic listening and matchmaking session. The events will be held in Oklahoma City from December 3–5, 2024. To ensure expenses do not hinder participation, especially for those employed by Tribal governments or Native-led nonprofits, the registration fee will be set at \$100 for all three days.

To register for the conference, go to: <https://bit.ly/ONACConference24>

April 27-29, 2025: National Tribal Housing Ecosystem Summit – Boise, Idaho

The National Tribal Housing Ecosystem Summit, April 27-29, 2025 will be held at the Boise Centre in Boise, Idaho. Join voices from across the tribal community to discuss improving housing affordability, homeownership, and local economies. Hear from speakers and tribal leaders from across Indian Country, who bring great experience, expertise, and dedication to tribal communities, including:

- [PoQueen Rivera](#), Pueblo of Pojoaque Tribe, Executive Director, White House Council on Native American Affairs
- [Wizipan Garriott](#), Rosebud Sioux Tribe, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs, U.S. Department of the Interior
- [Donald "Del" Laverdure](#), Crow Nation, Ties the Bundle Clan, Legal and Political Strategist
- [Lakota Vogel](#), Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, Executive Director, Four Bands Community Fund

[Register Today](#)

More Calendar

- Oct 30: Co-sponsored Event: [Worldly Women Collective: Women Leading the Future of Water](#) – 5:30 pm (In-person)
- Oct 31: Special Book Signing Event: [Living River: The Promise of the Mighty Colorado](#) – 3:00pm
- Nov 12: WRRRC Water Webinar: [Celebrating 60 Years of the WRRRC](#) – 12:00 pm
- Nov 12: Co-sponsored Event: [Udall Center for Studies in Public Policy PFAS Symposium: Tackling PFAS for a Sustainable Future](#) – 3:00 pm (In-person and virtual)
- May 20–21, 2025: WRRRC 2025 Annual Conference – Save the Date!

They came out with some new colors for riding season, ladies. 🤗



Get Ready for an Exhilarating Day on the Greens at NCAI's 81st Annual Convention Fundraiser Golf Tournament!

We are thrilled to invite you to the NCAI 81st Annual Convention Fundraiser Golf Tournament at the prestigious **Las Vegas Country Club** on **Saturday, October 26**—a must-attend event you won't want to miss!



Meet NFL Hall of Famers!

We're excited to announce that legends **Joe Greene, James Lofton, and Karl Mecklenburg** will be joining us on the course! This is your chance to rub elbows with these incredible athletes, hear their inspiring stories, and make unforgettable memories.



Amazing Prizes Await!

Participants will have the chance to win incredible prizes, including **autographed NFL jerseys**! Don't miss your opportunity to walk away with some exclusive memorabilia.



Register Now—Deadline is next Thursday, October 24th!

Don't wait! Secure your spot for a day filled with golf, networking, and philanthropy. Proceeds from this tournament will support the NCAI Foundation's Empowering Leaders Initiative, which provides vital professional development and leadership training for tribal leaders across Indian Country.



A Unique Experience Awaits

As part of the **NCAI 81st Annual Convention & Marketplace**, this tournament offers a unique opportunity to engage with tribal leaders, policymakers, and advocates in a vibrant setting that celebrates the spirit of Indian Country. Plus, your participation helps empower tribal youth through the NCAI Youth Commission's initiatives!



Luxurious Amenities

The Las Vegas Country Club boasts a sprawling, well-manicured course designed by the legendary Ed Ault, along with outstanding amenities like indoor tennis courts, a lap pool, a fitness center, and a driving range.



Save Your Spot!

Don't miss out on this exciting opportunity to connect with leaders in the community and enjoy a fantastic day of golf. Register by **Thursday, October 24th** to secure your place!

Oakland's iconic Fairyland sign transformed to honor Ohlone heritage

By Jessica Flores, Reporter



The colorful Children's Fairyland amusement-park sign in Oakland now reads "Children's OhloneLand" — a reference to the Ohlone people who have lived in the Bay Area for thousands of years. The change was made to honor Indigenous Peoples' Day on Monday, Oct. 14, 2024, and will remain through the new year.

Courtesy of Children's Fairyland

The iconic "Fairyland" sign on the hill above Lake Merritt in Oakland underwent a recent transformation honoring the site as Indigenous ancestral territory.

The colorful amusement-park sign on Fairyland Hill now reads "Children's OhloneLand" — a reference to the Ohlone people who have lived in the Bay Area for thousands of years. The change was made last week in a collaboration between the children's theme park and the Sogorea Te' Land Trust in honor of Indigenous Peoples' Day on Monday, Oct. 14, according to the trust. The sign will remain through the new year.

Corrina Gould, co-founder of the women-led land trust and tribal chairperson of the Confederated Villages of Lisjan and Ohlone tribes, said in a statement that the sign change helps bring visibility to the Indigenous people of the Bay Area.

"In altering this well-known sign, we are uplifting Ohlone presence and inviting Oakland to reflect on the history of this place and its original people," Gould said. "We are still here. What can you do to recognize the Native people of where you are?" she said.

Kymberly Miller, executive director of the 76-year-old park, said the change adds a new meaning to the city's beloved symbol.

"This is more than just a sign. We are celebrating the land, uplifting the voices and living history of the Ohlone people, bringing stories to life at the park, and inviting every visitor to connect with the cultural heritage of the Lisjan Nation," Miller said in a statement.

To celebrate the unveiling of the new sign and Indigenous Peoples Day, the theme park hosted an event with storytimes of traditional Indigenous tales and performances by Native American artists.

The sign change is the land trust's latest collaboration with a Bay Area institution to acknowledge the Ohlone. The land trust has worked with several city governments and local nonprofits to change [city 'welcome' signs](#), add an [Ohlone flag](#) to city buildings, [rename parks](#) and [return East Bay land](#) to Indigenous stewardship. In 2022, the city of Oakland gave the land trust exclusive rights to use about 5 acres of city land, becoming the first city in the state to use municipal land as tribal reparations.

Reach Jessica Flores: Jessica.Flores@sfchronicle.com; X: [@jesssmflores](#)

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The tragic history of the largest uninhabited island on Earth

Explore the relics of failed settlements, doomed expeditions, and ancient Inuit history on Devon Island, one of the Arctic's most unforgiving landscapes.

[https://www.nationalgeographic.com/history/article/devon-island-arctic-explorers-nasa-mars-missions?rid=C38947501E68571D7AA5496FBC02C266&cmpid=org=ngp::mc=crm-email::src=ngp::cmp=editorial::add=WeeklyEscape\\_20241016](https://www.nationalgeographic.com/history/article/devon-island-arctic-explorers-nasa-mars-missions?rid=C38947501E68571D7AA5496FBC02C266&cmpid=org=ngp::mc=crm-email::src=ngp::cmp=editorial::add=WeeklyEscape_20241016)

[https://www.nationalgeographic.com/history/article/devon-island-arctic-explorers-nasa-mars-missions?rid=C38947501E68571D7AA5496FBC02C266&cmpid=org=ngp::mc=crm-email::src=ngp::cmp=editorial::add=WeeklyEscape\\_20241016](https://www.nationalgeographic.com/history/article/devon-island-arctic-explorers-nasa-mars-missions?rid=C38947501E68571D7AA5496FBC02C266&cmpid=org=ngp::mc=crm-email::src=ngp::cmp=editorial::add=WeeklyEscape_20241016)  
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**Neverending dream where life never ends --
 where people live in perfect harmony
 where color is not wrong
 where we can walk and sing without
 laughter of putdowns
 where someone greets you with words of joy
 where loneliness and inequality become a
 speck of dirt
 in the winds of the past-
But reality must come first.**

**"Where Life Never Ends"
Red Cloud School Graduate 2005**

New Maori Queen anointed following the death of her father~



Maori Queen Nga Wai Hono i te Po was anointed on Thursday. Phil Walter/Getty Images
Wellington, New Zealand Reuters —

A new [Maori](#) Queen was anointed Thursday, taking on the role at a time when [New Zealand](#) is facing some of the biggest challenges to race relations in two decades.

A statement released by representatives said Nga Wai Hono i te Po had been chosen by Maori elders to replace her father, King Tuheitia Pootatau Te Wherowhero VII, who died aged 69 last week following surgery.

“The new monarch was raised up in a ceremony known as Te Whakawahinga, in front of thousands of people gathered for the tangihanga (funeral and burial) of Kiingi Tuheitia,” a spokesperson for the Kiingitanga or royal family said.

The new queen is not crowned and instead a bible that has been used since 1858 was placed upon her head and Archbishop Don Tamihere used sacred oils to bestow prestige, sacredness, power and spiritual essence upon her.

Thousands gathered at Tuurangawaewae, the meeting place of the King movement, to farewell him in a traditional funeral.

Following the anointment of his daughter, the King’s coffin was taken to the Waikato River by hearse before being paddled in a flotilla of traditional Maori waka or canoe to Taupiri Mountain, where he was to be buried alongside other royals and high-profile Maori.

The Maori King or Queen is considered the paramount chief of several tribes, or iwi, but is not affiliated with all of them. The monarch’s role has no judicial or legal authority in New Zealand and is largely ceremonial.

The coffin with the body of New Zealand's Maori King, Kiingi Tuheitia Pootatau Te Wherowhero VII, is carried after being transported on a waka (a traditional canoe) for burial.

Alan Gibson/AP

The role is not necessarily hereditary but voted on by representatives from iwi across the country. The new queen, or Kuini, is the only daughter and youngest child of the former King and his wife Te Atawhai Makau Ariki and is aged 27.

Radio New Zealand says that the new monarch, who has two older brothers, was favored to ascend the throne, although it had not been a foregone conclusion.

The new queen holds a Master of Arts in Tikanga (societal lore of) Maori and has served on a number of boards include that of the Te Kohanga Reo National Trust, an organization charged with revitalizing Maori language, according to 1News.

New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon said the government welcomed the new queen's appointment as she carries forward the mantle of leadership left by her father.

Her anointment comes at a time when New Zealand is struggling with race relations.

New Zealand's center-right coalition which took office last year has started [undoing policies](#) of previous governments, particularly those promoting the official use of the Maori language, the enhancement of Indigenous living standards and rights and efforts to repair some of the wrongs undertaken during colonization.

King Tuheitia [held a gathering of](#) tribes from across the country in January to discuss how to respond to government plans. As King Tuheitia told the thousands who attended that their voices matter, his daughter, the new queen stood beside him.

[Related article New Zealand's indigenous Māori king dies age 69](#)

WRRC Water Webinar: Meaningful Engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples on Inland Waters in Australia

Date & Time Oct 16, 2024 03:30 PM in

Date & Time in Australia: Thursday, October 17, 2024; 9:30–10:45 am AEDT

Speakers: Sheryl Hedges, Branch Head, Australian Government Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water Brandon Etto, Director, First Nations Engagement, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water In this WRRC Water Webinar, presenters will discuss how the effects of colonization have long-lasting and inter-generational impacts on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and their access to inland waters. Empowering Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to access, manage, and own water is crucial for ensuring their well-being and self-determination. The presentation will also discuss how meaningful engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples on inland waters is critical for shaping effective water management policies in Australia and will draw on lessons learned from Australian Government policy developers, who are increasingly recognizing the need for genuine, culturally informed engagement. Historically, top-down approaches have failed to capture the diverse voices and needs of First Nations communities, resulting in gaps in water allocation and resource management. More Info here: <https://www.wrrc.arizona.edu/events/wrrc-water-webinar-meaningful-engagement-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-peoples>

<https://arizona.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMvdeqvqjMqHdQwQ1K0nELdOwADK-aG9zI-#/registration>

University of Nevada, Reno [#DayAtTheMuseum](https://www.unr.edu/museums)

Join us for the community-wide **Day at the Museum event on October 19**, back for the first time in five years! Between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., families and friends are invited to enjoy **free admission to the University of Nevada, Reno's Museum District**, where you can learn about art, history, earth science, life science and even outer space. Attendees will also have the opportunity to interact with collaborators from the Nevada Department of Wildlife, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and off-campus museums. Collect stamps on your Day at the Museum bingo card to turn in for fun prizes!

The full list of participating museums: 🌌 Fleischmann Planetarium 💎 W. M. Keck Museum 🐍 Museum of Natural History 🐝 The Biggest Little Pollinator Garden 🎨 The Lilley Museum of Art 🖼️ Sheppard Contemporary and University Galleries 🌳 University of Nevada, Reno Arboretum 📷 Special Collections and University Archives 🔍 Shared History Gallery 📖 Nevada Historical Society 🐒 Anthropology Research Museum 🌍 Jon Bilbao Basque Library 🧭 Wilbur D. May Museum (northwest of campus) 🏛️ Nevada State Museum (tabling in Honor Court near the Quad)

Free parking is available in any of the garages and non-metered parking zones around the University of Nevada, Reno campus. Visitors are not permitted to park in 24/7 reserved spots. [For access to an interactive map of our museum locations, visit maps.unr.edu and find the “Day at the Museum” category under “Campus Events” on the main home screen. We hope to see you there!](#)

The Latest News in the Fight for Native Rights

	<h3>Seeking Review of Religious Freedom Issues</h3> <p>A total of 52 Tribal Nations and organizations urged the U.S. Supreme Court to overrule a Ninth Circuit decision that sanctions the destruction of sacred places by the federal government.</p> <p>What's at Stake →</p>
	<h3>Spotlight on North Dakota</h3> <p>A new <i>Native Voices</i>, <i>Native Vote</i> video shares the story of Tribal leaders and Native voters in North Dakota facing voter ID laws and gerrymandering that undermine Native voting power.</p> <p>Watch the Video →</p>
	<h3>Proof of Citizenship in Arizona</h3> <p>Despite a recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling, Native voters in Arizona can still use their Tribal enrollment number or other options to prove citizenship.</p> <p>Learn Why →</p>

