

Journal #5976 from sdc 5.6.5976

Spring bounty

Combat the SAVE Act

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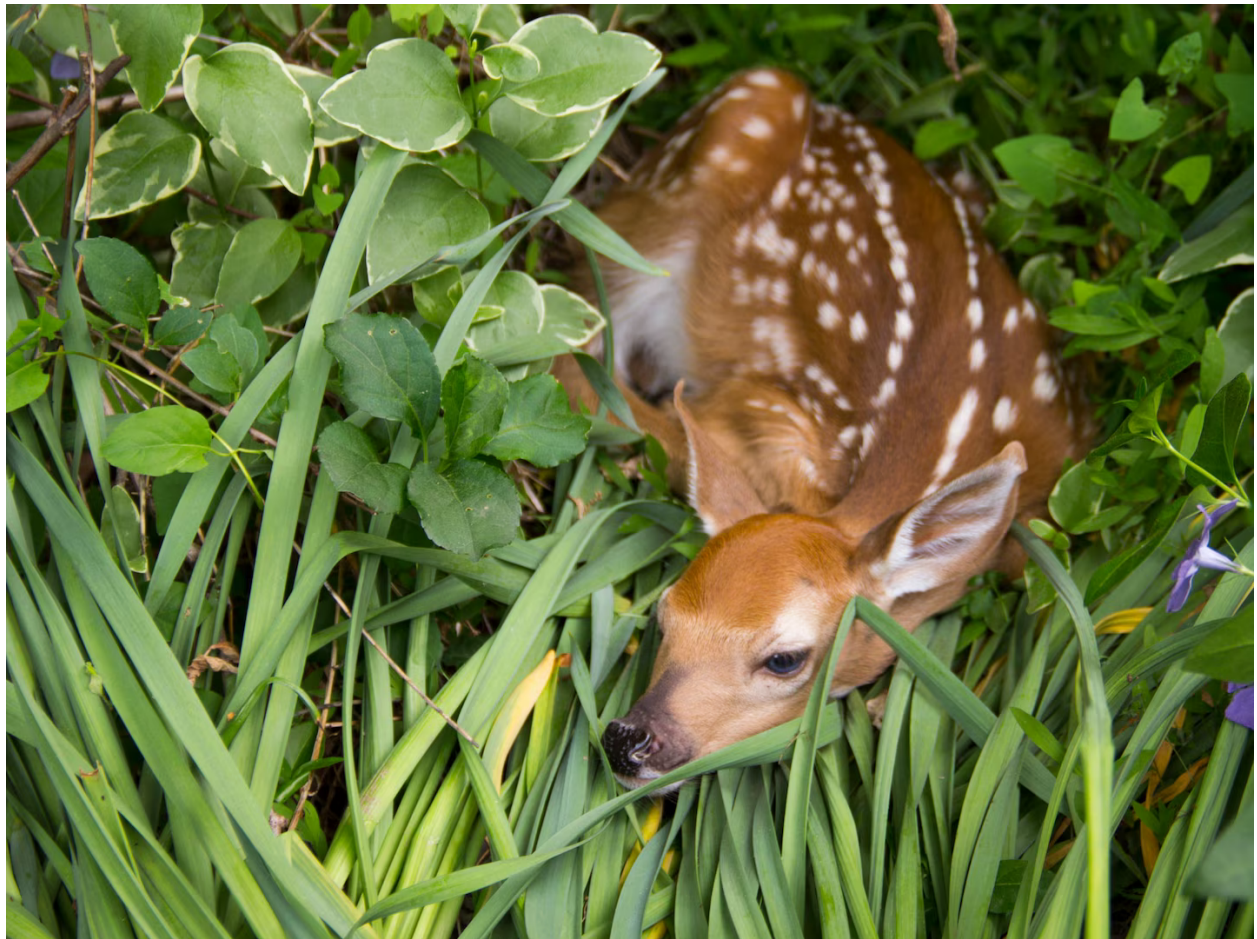
EPA funding cuts target disadvantaged communities, analysis shows

Pechanga tribe boasts a fire department that serves the state

Nevada Legislature hosts record number of interns from University of Nevada, Reno

30 student interns serving this legislative session

Myrton Running Wolf Memorial to be held May 10





Take Action – Contact Congress



There's still time to act.
Call Your Representatives - Combat the SAVE Act

This is an Urgent News Alert to inform you of current issues that are impacting Indian Country. You will never be asked for money. This communication is designed for learning and action - no fundraising appeals in updates, just the facts you need.

Over the past few months, the federal government has proposed several changes that could significantly impact our country. Many of these proposals affect how federal agencies operate and the services available to everyone. Recently, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 22 – the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) Act, a bill that could change the criteria for recognizing citizenship in the United States.

While the bill appears to focus primarily on immigration, its effects extend much further, with Native communities potentially facing unique challenges getting to, and using, the ballot box.

The SAVE Act proposes changes to birthright citizenship for children born to undocumented immigrants, non-citizen visa holders, and individuals without permanent status. In doing so, it creates an **undue burden on Native communities** – forcing them to **travel long distances**, **take time off work**, and **navigate bureaucratic red tape** simply to maintain their right to vote.

Some lawmakers have suggested that Tribal lands are **not part of the United States for citizenship purposes**. This interpretation would challenge how **Native sovereignty is understood**, and even threaten or remove Native citizens' **fundamental right to vote**.

Native people hold dual citizenship as members of their Tribal Nations and the United States, a status protected by the Indian Citizenship Act of 1924 and affirmed through decades of federal law. But under the SAVE Act, these long-standing protections become vulnerable to reinterpretation, abuse, and erasure.

Native students already face increased barriers when accessing basic rights like housing and education. The SAVE Act could add further complexity, potentially widening the challenges experienced by Native students and community members. - it poses a unique threat to Native community's ability to make their voices heard at the ballot box.

Stand with Native students. Tell your lawmakers to oppose the SAVE Act and any attempt to weaken birthright citizenship protections.

Here's a sample script to get you started:

Hello, my name is [Your Name], and I live in [Your City/State or Zip Code].

I'm calling as a constituent and as someone who supports Native students and Tribal communities. I'm deeply concerned about the SAVE Act (H.R. 22), which seeks to end birthright citizenship for people born in the U.S. to non-citizen parents.

What worries me the most is that H.R. 22 could lead to harmful changes in how citizenship is defined, especially for Native people born on reservations. Some lawmakers are suggesting that Tribal lands aren't "within" the U.S., which means Native citizens could be excluded.

This would allow more restrictive voting measures to be implemented, forcing Native communities to shoulder the burden of travel, lost wages, and more in the pursuit of their inalienable right to make their voices heard at the ballot box.

I'm asking [Representative's Name] to strongly oppose the SAVE Act and protect the citizenship and voting rights of Native peoples and all Americans born on U.S. soil.

Thank you for listening

Thank you for standing up for Native students,



Cheryl Crazy Bull
President & CEO, American Indian College Fund



Let's Not Ban Books

By Erich Obermayr April 26, 2025

Some time ago a group of people in the county where I live in northwest Nevada got the idea that our county libraries were infested with pornography, and by God they were going to get rid of it. They got organized courtesy of a local church, where some of them are members. They ride in the church van to public meetings, where they share their practiced talking points.

They've been busy as bees, and they've had some success. Two of their members have been appointed to the Library Board of Trustees, with one of them becoming Chair. For now, they are one vote short of a majority on the five-member Board.

Nor do they lack energy or persistence. They show up in full force at the Library Board's monthly meetings and step up one after another during public comment and expose the pornography they're sure exists right there on the library shelves, or as e-books, or by inter-library loan. They speak with equal parts shock, disbelief, and outrage and above all with a pious, selfless desire to protect children.

By the most amazing coincidence, they have discovered the exact same pornography in the exact same books that the exact same kind of organized groups have found in libraries across the country. To prove their point, they recite a long list of objectionable words and passages in specific books, cited by page number. This is all provided for them by various organizations specializing in mining books for these gems. When they finish, had you never set foot in one of our libraries, you would picture them as seedy, back alley porn shops lying in wait for our wide-eyed, innocent children.

The problem with all this, of course, is that there is no pornography in our county libraries. We have an experienced, professional director and staff who know their way around books and literature. At the very least, they would know pornography "when they see it," as Justice Potter Stewart once said. They are well-versed in the legal definitions found in state and federal law, especially the part about "serious literary value." The idea that they would spend their limited funds on pornography is absurd.

Being wrong never stopped God's people, as they refer to themselves. But actually getting a book banned from our libraries is a steep hill to climb. The official procedure for filing a complaint and removing a book includes two poison pill requirements. First, the complainant must have actually read the book, or at least be willing to say they did. Second, in ruling on the complaint the Library Director or ultimately the Library Board must evaluate the work as a whole. Cherry picking the bad words doesn't cut it.

That could change if God's children flip one seat on the Library Board, which they are bound and determined to do. The County Commissioners have the last word on any appointments, which is a story all its own. But what if there was a list of bad words and bad things and if any of them showed up in a book, it's gone? This transactional approach was actually proposed by the Board Chair, and would have cancelled that pesky "work as a whole" thing. The Board voted it down, but the idea certainly hasn't gone away.

Trying to pin down their definition of pornography beyond just a list of adjectives—"explicit," "obscene," "deviant" or whatever, is futile. They aren't deep thinkers. So I took a cue from Justice Stewart and went to several of the books which they would pull from the library shelves, presumably because they know pornography when they see it.

I read *Let's Talk About It* and *All Boys Aren't Blue* (not in our Libraries) and I'm far enough into *Me and Earl and the Dying Girl* and *Tricks* to see where they're going. I'll skip the plot summaries, but it's clear from the beginning that all these books have serious literary value, to borrow a term from state law explaining what pornography is not.

If you remember from your exams in lit class, you'd be asked to discuss how a book explored concepts like the "self" and its relationship to the world, and identity, and for teachers really wanting to relate to their students, "finding out who you are." These four books have the substance to supply grist for any English teacher's mill, let alone meeting the standard of literary value. And just as important, the writing and the subject matter show the authors take their readers seriously, treat them with respect, and want them to think.

To put it another way, young people reading these books can follow the characters as they experience life, perhaps see themselves in the same situations, or realize the last thing they ever want is to find themselves in these situations. Lo and behold, this often includes sex, along with a thousand other things about coming of age.

And what if young readers are cut off from these real stories of life and all its permutations simply by fiat? Simply by a book ban? Or just because the author drew from a forbidden list of words or topics? What if there is an empty space on the shelves instead of books with real questions and real answers about the world? What fills that space?

Every teenager with a library card also has a cell phone and a laptop and access to the internet and an infinity of what is, by any definition, pornography. No parent wants to hear this, but numerous studies have shown that their children do go there. So the challenge is preparing and equipping young people for coming of age in a world where pornography is not only ubiquitous but informs so much of our popular culture.

Pornography is, among other things, a one-dimensional portrayal of sex based mainly on what it looks like. It is a distorted world which places insane burdens and unreal expectations on young men and women, especially young women. It is, at its worst, a world of toxic role models, exploitation, misogyny, and violence.

Why then, would anyone want to cut young people off from portrayals of life that in fact offer the opposite of pornography? The kids can handle the truth. They can handle grittiness, desire,

love and hate, success and failure, and all those things which show life, including sex, in all its complexity. This literary experience is the antidote to the purveyors of misogyny, toxicity, and distortion. It gives young people the tools to defend themselves in a world sometimes more interested in using them than nurturing them.

The questions I've been asking are not rhetorical. Book banning does not protect children. In our case, the targets are any work touching on LGBTQ characters, subjects, or situations and any straightforward descriptions of thoughts about sex, or sex itself, no matter what the literary value.

So why do it?

Because it's not about books, or pornography, or kids. It's about power. It's about one group of people who want the power to impose their belief system and world view, with its intolerance and narrow-mindedness, on everyone in the county.

The library just happens to be their vehicle of opportunity.



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Hayes (l) w/ LA mayor [Fletcher Bowron](https://digital.library.ucla.edu/catalog/ark:/21198/zz0002rwz2) in 1947  
Los Angeles Times - <https://digital.library.ucla.edu/catalog/ark:/21198/zz0002rwz2>

*Pima Indian survivor of the Mt. Suribachi Flag-raising and Indian veteran of Bataan Death March with Los Angeles Mayor Fletcher Bowron Published caption: HEROES: Ira Hayes, left, a Pima Indian survivor of the Mt. Suribachi Flag-raising, and Sgt. Henry Reed, Indian veteran of Bataan Death March, call on Mayor Bowron. They are here on a trip to protest court rulings discriminating against their race in housing.*

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Notice from a reader: show on FB and will be on station website

KALW Live now (5.5) on Your Call, we're discussing Native activism and what it will take to ensure that indigenous voices are part of the conversation we're having about race and history.

Join us with: *LaNada War Jack, member of the Shoshone Bannock tribe, leader of the 1969 Alcatraz occupation, and first Native American student at UC Berkeley. *Eloy Martinez, member of Southern Ute tribe, participant in the Alcatraz 1969 occupation, and member of a group that still gathers on Alcatraz for sunrise ceremonies on Thanksgiving *Isabella Zizi, member of the Northern Cheyenne, Arikara, and Muskogee tribes, and founder of Earth Guardians Bay Area.

Scholarships with June 15 - 28 Deadlines

AICPA Fellowships for Doctoral Students	\$15,000	June 15, 2025
AIM Center for Independent Living Scholarship	\$1,000	June 15, 2025
ASCLS- MN Scholarship	Varies	June 15, 2025
Cherokee Nation Higher Education Scholarships	Varies	June 15, 2025
David C. Lizárraga Fellowship	\$5,000	June 15, 2025
Donald F. & Mildred Topp Othmer Scholarship Awards	\$1,000	June 15, 2025
Doves Hope Domestic Violence Scholarship	\$2,500	June 15, 2025
EPA Tribal Lands Environmental Science Scholarship	\$4,000	June 15, 2025
Genoa U.S. Indian School Wolfe Family Scholarship	\$2,000	June 15, 2025
Golden Key Undergraduate Achievement Award	\$1,000	June 15, 2025
Helen Gee Chin Scholarship	\$3,000	June 15, 2025
ISSAEF E. Eugene Schultz, Jr., Memorial Scholarship for graduate studies	\$3,500	June 15, 2025
ISSAEF George “Chip” Meadows Memorial Scholarship	\$1,500	June 15, 2025
ISSAEF Howard A. Schmidt Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship	\$3,500	June 15, 2025
ISSAEF Shon Harris WIS (Women in Security) Memorial Scholarship	\$2,000	June 15, 2025
John J. McKetta Undergraduate Scholarship	\$5,000	June 15, 2025
John Kitt Memorial AACT Scholarship Fund	\$2,500	June 15, 2025
Josh Gottheil Memorial Stem Cell Transplant Career Development Award	\$2,000	June 15, 2025
Mid-Atlantic STA Foundation Scholarship	\$5,000	June 15, 2025
NCSCLS Student Scholarship Fund	\$500	June 15, 2025
Oregon Sports Hall of Fame Scholarships	\$3,000	June 15, 2025
Osage Nation Higher Education Scholarship	Varies	June 15, 2025
Single Parent Degree Program Scholarships of Northwest Arkansas	\$2,500	June 15, 2025
Spark For the Future Scholarship	\$1,000	June 15, 2025
TELACU College Success Program	\$5,000	June 15, 2025
University of Colorado-Boulder First-Generation Scholarship	\$32,000	June 15, 2025
Whitaker Foundation Scholarships	\$2,000	June 15, 2025
William (Bill) Ezzell Scholarship	\$15,000	June 15, 2025
Zonta Club Jane M Klausman Women in Business Scholarship	\$5,000	June 15, 2025
Zonta Club Women in STEM Scholarship	\$1,000	June 15, 2025

MOGA Energy Education for Michigan Scholarships	\$500	June 16, 2025
Nola Cook Scholarship	\$750	June 16, 2025
Women in Aerospace Foundation Scholarship	\$5,000	June 18, 2025
Black Skeptics First in the Family Humanist Scholarship	\$5,000	June 20, 2025
Desire to Inspire Scholarship	\$2,500	June 20, 2025
Crowned Princess Scholarship	\$2,000	June 21, 2025
I/ITSEC Postgraduate Scholarship	\$10,000	June 21, 2025
NES Scholarship Program	\$25,000	June 24, 2025
Breakthrough Junior Challenge	\$250,000	June 25, 2025
One Earth Film Festival Young Filmmakers Contest	\$1,000	June 25, 2025
ACHE Military Educational Benefits	\$12,031	June 27, 2025
BuzzRx Bee Healthy Scholarship	\$5,000	June 27, 2025
JFNY Grant for Japanese Studies	\$5,000	June 27, 2025
AIA Central Massachusetts Scholarship	Varies	June 28, 2025
Kids' Chance of Florida Scholarship	\$10,000	June 28, 2025
Metal Supermarkets Trade School Scholarship	\$2,500	June 28, 2025
Navigate Your Future Scholarship	\$2,500	June 28, 2025
WSHA Student Scholarships	\$3,000	June 28, 2025

THE LANDSCAPE: New nature doc frames the Colorado River as an opportunity, not a crisis

Kate and Aaron speak with Len Necefer, CEO & Founder of NativesOutdoors, a native owned outdoor media, apparel and consulting company. You may also know him as the man behind the Sonoran Avalanche Center Instagram account. Len talks about his latest project, a documentary film about the Colorado River basin titled The American Southwest, and how he's advocating for public lands under the second Trump administration. (Includes Presidential budget for 2026 and proposals re National Parks and Muonuments)

[https://open.spotify.com/show/3bQAk8BENUQJYttXYoepvE?](https://open.spotify.com/show/3bQAk8BENUQJYttXYoepvE?go=1&sp_cid=af5c28f28a67dfe792ff656f5d1de537&nd=1&dlsi=b0a95760e4ac4dc4)

[go=1&sp_cid=af5c28f28a67dfe792ff656f5d1de537&nd=1&dlsi=b0a95760e4ac4dc4](https://open.spotify.com/show/3bQAk8BENUQJYttXYoepvE?go=1&sp_cid=af5c28f28a67dfe792ff656f5d1de537&nd=1&dlsi=b0a95760e4ac4dc4)

On the Leech Lake Reservation, a revitalized gymnastics program is blooming hope and talent

https://www.startribune.com/leech-lake-reservation-cass-mn-revitalized-gymnastics-program-downtown-champions/601341262?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=north_report&utm_term=Duluth?utm_source=email

RIPPLE EFFECT: Status of federal funding for water projects

Tia Cavender, CEO and Founder of Dig Deep Research, makes a return visit to discuss the status of federal funding for water projects. Tia and Dig Deep have assisted clients for over 15 years and are experts in navigating the myriad of federal grant and loan programs. We have a very timely, and sobering, discussion about how recent changes to federal funding may affect both current and future water projects and how water utilities can pivot to fund these critical projects.

[https://open.spotify.com/episode/2xnJGaeL4pylipus2tl4zx?](https://open.spotify.com/episode/2xnJGaeL4pylipus2tl4zx?go=1&sp_cid=cd005a55215205c9287fd3dde5f868de&intent=1&nd=1&dlsi=079b9724bd8e4dcd)

[go=1&sp_cid=cd005a55215205c9287fd3dde5f868de&intent=1&nd=1&dlsi=079b9724bd8e4dcd](https://open.spotify.com/episode/2xnJGaeL4pylipus2tl4zx?go=1&sp_cid=cd005a55215205c9287fd3dde5f868de&intent=1&nd=1&dlsi=079b9724bd8e4dcd)

Lawsuit seeks to eliminate new Chuckwalla National Monument

“A third-generation gold miner from Michigan and an off-road organization have sued the federal government to overturn the designation of the sweeping Chuckwalla National Monument in the California desert. Departing President Joseph Biden created the 624,000-acre monument on Jan. 15, stretching from south of Joshua Tree National Park east almost to the Colorado River and Arizona border. The complaint — filed on May 1 in the United States District Court for the eastern district of Michigan by the Texas Public Policy Foundation, a conservative, private property rights think tank based in Austin — alleges that Dan Torongo of Brighton, Michigan, whose family has held mining claims since 1978 on land in the Chuckwalla Mountains, will be prevented from mining there in retirement, or from buying or staking additional claims. ...”

[Read more from the Desert Sun.](#)

EPA funding cuts target disadvantaged communities, analysis shows

“As the nation marked the 55th anniversary of the environmental movement on Earth Day, Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lee Zeldin declared a renewed commitment to “clean air, land and water for all Americans.” But as he spoke, the EPA was choking off the funds that had promised to bring clean drinking water to a rural Black community in Maryland, to farmworkers in California and to tribal villages in Alaska. The money was also meant to tackle cancer-causing radon gas seeping into rural homes in Utah and help monitor air pollution in communities wracked with respiratory illness in Louisiana’s petrochemical corridor. All had received grants from EPA programs that have emerged as the prime targets of the budget-cutting knife under President Donald Trump: those devoted to environmental justice. ...” [Read more from Inside Climate News.](#)

[Pechanga tribe boasts a fire department that serves the state](#)

Nevada Legislature hosts record number of University of Nevada, Reno student interns this legislative session

Over 30 students are working with legislators in Carson City through the Legislative Internship Program

<https://www.unr.edu/nevada-today/news/2025/students-interning-at-the-nevada-state-legislature>

Myrton Running Wolf, ‘a force of nature,’ to be remembered at campus memorial service

Journalism faculty member known as actor, screenwriter and advocate for Indigenous peoples



Lara Rosenstock, the Hollywood agent who represented Myrton Running Wolf, always wanted to make a movie from the life story of the [University of Nevada, Reno](#) faculty member.

The mere fact that an assistant professor of race and media at the [Reynolds School of Journalism](#) had a Hollywood agent at all — let alone an agent who finds her client’s story so compelling — speaks volumes about the extraordinarily full life of Running Wolf, who lost his battle with cancer in January.

During his 56 years, he was a stellar collegiate athlete, earned graduate degrees from Stanford University, New York University and the University of Southern California, acted in film, television and theater productions, wrote award-winning scripts, became a nationally recognized academic on the portrayal of Native Americans in popular entertainment and inspired untold students as a member of the Reynolds School faculty.

The rich life of Myrton Running Wolf will be commemorated in a memorial service from 3-5 p.m. Saturday, May 10, at the Joe Crowley Student Union Theater.

Spreading his wings

The film that Rosenstock envisions might begin on the reservation at Browning, Mont., where Running Wolf grew up as an enrolled member of the Blackfeet Nation. Surrounded by poverty and raised by a single mother, he found an outlet in athletics. By his late teens, he had won a full

scholarship to Western Michigan University as a 6-4, 248-pound offensive tackle on its football team

Then maybe the movie would flash forward a few years. Preparing to complete his undergraduate degree in math and chemistry at the University of Nevada, Reno, he signed up, more or less randomly, for an acting course at Truckee Meadows Community College to meet a speech-class requirement. It grabbed him.

His math degree in hand, and his heart fired up by theater, Running Wolf earned a scholarship to New York City's American Musical and Dramatic Academy and began a career acting in New York and regional theater productions. Hollywood called, and he found supporting roles in films such as "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button."

Focusing on just portrayals

But then the movie could show a crisis: Offended by the entertainment industry's portrayal of Indigenous peoples, Running Wolf earned master's degrees from USC's School of Cinematic Arts and NYU's Tisch School of the Arts, followed by a doctorate in theater and performance studies from Stanford. His goal, Running Wolf told an [interviewer](#), was to teach corrective steps to students even while he continued his career as an actor, award-winning screenwriter of short films and production professional.

He put that vision into action with his arrival at the University in 2017.

Paromita Pain, an associate professor in the Reynolds School of Journalism, said Running Wolf sharpened her thinking about the ways that gender, class and society intersect.

"He had an incredible sense of the nuances of power, its constituents and its complexities. His views on the 'othering' of certain communities were compassionate and he did not blame folk for thinking in certain ways. Rather he always provided options to think with clarity and encouraged inclusiveness in thought," said Pain.

Just as important, she said, were Running Wolf's sense of humor, his kindness and his friendship.

"He was a fantastic storyteller, and we spent hours discussing his activism, work and talking about family," Pain said. "He loved nice restaurants, and we bonded over food, plays and sundry other very ordinary stuff. Now, they seem to be among the most important things we did."

Bringing fresh perspectives

As one of the few Native American professors in the field of film, Running Wolf brought a perspective well beyond Hollywood cliches, said Gi W. Yun, dean of the Reynolds School of Journalism.

"He had a unique ability to make people see what had been in plain sight from a different perspective," said Yun. "Because journalism and media professions require presenting all aspects of an issue, his keen ability to encourage 360-degree thinking was one of his most valuable attributes."

Running Wolf's experience in performing arts, meanwhile, created memorable moments in the classroom.

Yun was intrigued once as he watched Running Wolf ask students in his classroom to hold hands and stand.

"It was about feeling each other's physical presence in the shared space. He created a moment that was very different from a typical journalism class," Yun said. "When we had a faculty and staff retreat, he used a similar method to help faculty and staff connect with one another."

Challenging students

Jarrette Werk, a 2022 graduate of the Reynolds School, said Running Wolf was more than a teacher who held his students to very high standards.

"He was a mentor, a role model, and a true force of nature," said Werk. "That passion wasn't limited to the classroom; Dr. Running Wolf challenged everyone in his orbit to reach higher, think deeper, and step boldly into our futures."

Werk, today a reporter and photographer with the Indigenous-oriented publication [Underscore Native News](#), holds close his memory of the proudly Indigenous Running Wolf.

"His voice, his vision, and his fierce compassion will stay with me always," Werk said.

Holding family close

From its scenes at the University, the movie might then return again to Myrton Running Wolf's family.

"Growing up, I cherished the times I got to spend with him, even if he popped in for only a couple hours during the holidays as he was passing through. Between his education and acting, he was constantly on the move," said Stan Running Wolf, a nephew who looked to his uncle as a father figure.

Later, Stan Running Wolf worked with his uncle in the production of short films, ultimately serving as assistant director on some of them. Professionally and personally, he stayed close to his uncle — even through Myrton Running Wolf's final days at home and in a hospital.

"The most important lessons I learned from him were to never, ever give up on myself, and to always keep pushing to be a better person and grow within myself," said Stan Running Wolf.

Agent Lara Rosenstock, who considered Running Wolf to be like brother as well as a client, hasn't let go of her dream of keeping his vision alive in a film.

"I only hope I can do it justice," she said. "He was honest and earnest, a perfectionist. I care deeply to hold that legacy."