

## ***Journal #6057 from sdc 8.27.25***

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*Oregon nonprofits host Indigenous camping trip on Mt. Hood*

*Great Basin Native basketweaver Everett Pikyavet (1967–2025)*



**[Choctaw Nation Labor Day Festival](#) · [When: August 29-31](#) [Where: Tvshka Homma](#)**

Make your plans, bring the family, and don't miss one of the biggest celebrations of the year! For more information, visit [laborday.choctawnation.com](http://laborday.choctawnation.com). [#ChahtaLaborDay](https://twitter.com/ChahtaLaborDay)

## **Ancient Architecture Might Be Key to Creating Climate-Resilient Buildings**

Vernacular architecture is a way to use a region's heritage and resources to build strong homes and cities.



*Pueblo architecture of Mexico and the Southwestern US can handle hot weather naturally without racking up giant energy bills. RENE RAUSCHENBERGER from Pixabay [https://getpocket.com/explore/item/ancient-architecture-might-be-key-to-creating-climate-resilient-buildings?utm\\_source=firefox-newtab-en-us](https://getpocket.com/explore/item/ancient-architecture-might-be-key-to-creating-climate-resilient-buildings?utm_source=firefox-newtab-en-us)*

## **US mines are literally throwing away critical minerals**

**There's enough lithium in one year of U.S. mine waste to power 10 million electric vehicles.**

[https://grist.org/science/us-mines-are-literally-throwing-away-critical-minerals/?utm\\_source=firefox-newtab-en-us](https://grist.org/science/us-mines-are-literally-throwing-away-critical-minerals/?utm_source=firefox-newtab-en-us)

## **Reno 4th graders craft homemade Nevada ornaments for U.S. Capitol Christmas tree**

[mynews4.com](https://mynews4.com) — Fourth graders from Reno's Libby Booth Elementary School are crafting ornaments for the 2025 U.S. Capitol Christmas tree, showcasing Nevada's state symbols. This unique opportunity allows students to express their love for Nevada through their handmadecreations.

<https://dnyuz.com > 2025 > 08 > 21 > the-supreme-court-hands-down-some-incomprehensible-gobbledygook-about-canceled-federal-grants>

## **The Supreme Court hands down some incomprehensible gobbledygook about ...**

Late Thursday afternoon, the Supreme Court handed down an incomprehensible order concerning the Trump administration's decision to cancel numerous public health grants. The array of six opinions in *National Institutes of Health v. American Public Health Association* is so labyrinthine that any judge who attempts to parse it risks being devoured by a minotaur. As Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson ...

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/supreme-court-clears-way-for-canceling-nih-grants-tied-to-diversity-gender/ar-AA1KZ2eb>

### [Supreme Court clears way for canceling NIH grants tied to ... - MSN](https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/supreme-court-clears-way-for-canceling-nih-grants-tied-to-diversity-gender/ar-AA1KZ2eb)

**The Supreme Court** on Thursday cleared the way for NIH to cancel research **grants** tied to issues like gender identity and diversity, equity and inclusion.

<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/supreme-court-lets-trump-cut-783-million-of-health-research-funding-amid-anti-dei-push>

### [Supreme Court lets Trump cut \\$783 million of health research ... - PBS](https://www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/supreme-court-lets-trump-cut-783-million-of-health-research-funding-amid-anti-dei-push)

**The high court** majority lifted a judge's order blocking \$783 million worth of cuts made by the National Institutes of Health to align with Republican President Donald Trump's priorities. The ...

**WuMo:** By Mikael Wulff and Anders Morgenthaler



### **Trump administration reverses Biden approval of major wind farm in Idaho**

<https://apnews.com/article/trump-wind-farm-minidoka-idaho-26a7c0d6f0fab86f7351dc7430a4058a>

### [Trump's interior secretary must sign off on all wind and solar projects](https://apnews.com/article/trump-wind-farm-minidoka-idaho-26a7c0d6f0fab86f7351dc7430a4058a)

### [Trump administration cancels plans to develop new offshore wind projects](https://apnews.com/article/trump-wind-farm-minidoka-idaho-26a7c0d6f0fab86f7351dc7430a4058a)

### [Trump says wind and solar hike electricity prices, advocates disagree](https://apnews.com/article/trump-wind-farm-minidoka-idaho-26a7c0d6f0fab86f7351dc7430a4058a)

As “Remaining Native” makes its way throughout the USA, the film continues to draw rave reviews and inspire viewers.

# AWARDS AND RECOGNITION



**SXSW**  
SPECIAL JURY AWARD  
AUDIENCE AWARD

**DALLAS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL**  
SPECIAL JURY AWARD- CINEMATOGRAPHY

**MILWAUKEE FILM FESTIVAL**  
EMERGING DOCUMENTARY JURY AWARD

**SEATTLE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL**  
BEST DOCUMENTARY- 3<sup>RD</sup> RUNNER UP  
SIFF 2025 CRITICS AWARD- HONORABLE MENTION

**DEADCENTER FILM FESTIVAL**  
BEST INDIGENOUS FEATURE

**NEVADA CITY**  
BEST DOCUMENTARY FEATURE, BEST EDITING, BEST DIRECTOR



[+5](#)

## These ants are one of the most effective teams in the natural world

Teamwork can be more than the sum of its parts, as weaver ants demonstrate. The ants form long chains to pull on leaves to roll them up for building their nests. They lock themselves together by using their mandibles to hold onto the abdomen of the ant in front. Scientists now have discovered that while individual ants can pull nearly 60 times their own body weight, in a team of 15, each individual was able to pull over 100 times their body weight. [Read more.](#)

# Trump slams tribal sovereignty

By Bunty Anque  
Today/Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Donald Trump doesn't hold tribal sovereignty in high esteem.

The casino tycoon told a House panel Oct. 5 that "the only sovereignty Indians have is that they don't have to pay taxes."

"I listen about sovereign nations, the great sovereign nation and yet (millions) of dollars for various (federal) programs is contributed to the sovereign nation for education, for welfare, and for this and for that," he said. "I listen as to sovereign nation and yet the people of the sov-

ereign nation have the right to vote in this country.

"I want to know...Can Indians sign treaties with foreign nations? The answer is no, so how are they a sovereign nation?"

Mr. Trump, a real estate developer who owns three casinos in Atlantic City, N.J., told the House Subcommittee on Native American Affairs that organized crime is rampant in the Indian gaming industry, despite FBI testimony to the contrary.

Mr. Trump testified, "I think people have got paper bags over their faces and don't want to see what's going on. One of my executives

told me the only good thing about the Indian reservations is that we don't see (crime figures) anymore."

Tribal leaders maintain that his charges are motivated by greed.

Tim Wapato, director of the National Indian Gaming Association, denounced Mr. Trump's accusations as



Trump

an obvious attempt to protect the Trump casino empire. The association represents 95 tribal governments' gaming interests.

"The real issue here is economic competition," Mr. Wapato said. "It's not organized crime."

Rep. Neil Abercrombie, D-Hawaii, agreed.

"I think a straw figure is being beaten here," he said. "I'm not so sure that state regulation (of gaming) has been unfettered by crime. And to assert that Indian gaming is un-

Please see Trump/A2

## Trump: trading barbs with tribal leaders

FROM A1

regulated seems a little bit condescending, patronizing and even racist. In looking at this testimony, it seems everyone's afraid Indians are going to compete."

Rep. George Miller, D-Calif., noted that Indian gaming has "incredible oversight" due to the law's mandatory governmental agreements between states and tribes for high stakes gaming regulation.

Tribal leaders also demonstrate that Indian people, as individuals, do pay taxes, but tribal governments, just like state governments, are sovereign and do not.

Ada Deer, Interior Department assistant secretary for Indian affairs, pointed out that 35 of 50 states operate lotteries for public finance.

"Like states that operate lotteries, Indian tribes operate gaming enterprises for public or governmental finance, not for private business profit," she said. She also noted that "there is sufficient law enforcement presence and oversight to discourage and deter criminal elements that might be attracted to Indian gaming enterprises."

The \$3 billion per-year Indian gaming industry represents less than 3 percent of the entire gambling industry nationwide, according to recent estimates.

Mr. Trump claims the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act is unfair to states and the commercial gambling industry. He and his lobbying firm are pushing for legislation that would amend the act to restrict Indian gaming to the specific parameters of state law — changes tribes say would severely reduce the scope and success of Indian gaming.

The 1988 law empowered tribes to enter into gaming as a means of economic development and building "strong tribal governments."

The "Ramapough Mountain" people in New Jersey are seeking federal recognition as a tribe and are reportedly considering building a casino.

"It's not a fair situation," Mr. Trump said. "It's a ridiculous act. It's not fair to the states. If, in fact, Indian gaming were allowed in northern New Jersey, the funds for senior citizens in the state would be totally destroyed. The funds for medical care and all the other reasons that this tax money has paid for will be totally destroyed and I think that's a real big crime."

In his written statement, Mr. Trump noted that 8 percent of casino taxes in New Jersey goes to a state program that funds activities for senior citizens and the disabled.

Tribal leaders contend that all of the revenue generated by tribal casinos goes directly to governmental services for Indian people.

Rick Hill, chairman of the Indian gaming association, said that although Indian gaming is a small percentage of the entire gambling market, "it has enabled some tribes to build schools, clinics and sewer and water systems on their reservations."

"Mr. Trump buys yachts with his money and we build schools," he said.

The association estimates that Indian gaming has created more than 30,000 jobs nationwide, most of which are held by non-Indians.

Seventeen junior high and high school students enrolled in schools funded entirely by the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe's casino, wrote to Mr. Trump and entreated him to visit them.

"We know you are against Indian gaming, but we don't understand why," they wrote. "Please, Mr. Trump, come to our reservation to see how our government has used the money from gaming."

We could show you our new schools, our new clinic, our new water system, our new community centers, our new ceremonial buildings, our new houses and roads.

"We think that after you've seen these things, you won't be against Indian gaming anymore."

During the hearing, Sen. Daniel K. Inouye, D-Hawaii, explained the legal and historic principles of tribal sovereignty and the federal-Indian trust relationship.

"Our government recognized the sovereign nature of the governments of native peoples," he said. "This fact must be emphasized again and again. When the Constitution of the United States was drafted, our founding fathers specifically included the native peoples of this land and set forth the foundation of what we now call the trust relationship."

As the senator, who is chairman of the Senate Indian Affairs Committee, talked about tribal sovereignty, Mr. Trump stood to the side of the hearing room and rolled his eyes.

### A Connecticut slap

Mr. Trump also complained about the growing coffers of the Mashantucket Pequot Tribe of Connecticut.

The tribe's Foxwoods Casino, touted as the largest casino in the Western Hemisphere, opened last year and has been making tens of millions of dollars a month in profits.

Last January, the state of Connecticut agreed to allow slot machines in the casino provided the state gets 25 percent of the take — a share expected to top \$100 million.

"We have a group of Indians in Connecticut — I've heard 300 — why don't they distribute some of their funds to all of the other Indians throughout the United States that don't have the location close to New York City and right next to Boston?" he raved. "Why is it that these Indians, the 300 Indians, which by the way was rather recently formed, why aren't they making their contributions?"

They probably have a profit on that of \$400 or \$500 million that probably goes to a total of about 300 Indians," he continued. "Look on some of the reservations...they don't look like Indians to me and they don't look like Indians to Indians."

The casino mogul came to loggerheads with Rep. Miller, who is chairman of the House Natural Resources at the turbulent hearing.

Rep. Miller exploded, "I don't believe I've ever heard more irresponsible testimony...You say there is no regulatory scheme on Indian reservations. The fact is that there is. You want to paint the picture that these people are willy-nilly doing business. That's not true."

The California congressman cited state-tribal regulatory agreements, U.S. attorney oversight, FBI surveillance, state police oversight and management agreements as proof.

### Congressman blasts Trump

Rep. Bill Hughes, D-N.J., said Mr. Trump's "disgraceful" conduct at the hearing has undermined any chance for meaningful reform of the federal-Indian gaming law.

The congressman, whose district includes Atlantic City, said members of the Indian affairs subcommittee were "outraged by the racism, arrogance and suggestions of greed" of Mr. Trump's testimony.

He said the casino tycoon shifted the entire debate in Congress from a reasoned review of the Indian gaming law to a referendum on Mr. Trump's personal conduct and self-interest in the issue.

"Trump has embarrassed the entire gaming industry and has undercut the efforts of (members of Congress) who have been working

for months to bring about responsible changes to the Indian gaming law," he said, noting that he has assured his colleagues that Mr. Trump does not speak for the vast majority of his constituents.

"I do not understand Donald Trump's reasoning in going before a key congressional subcommittee and insulting the members with his arrogance, making unsupported, if not reckless, accusations and shouting at and rudely interrupting the committee chairman George Miller," Rep. Hughes said. "It's no wonder the New Jersey Casino Association has virtually walked away from the negotiating process. They don't even want to be associated with Donald Trump's tactics or his conduct."

Rep. Hughes said the Mashantucket Pequot tribe's successful casino is evidence that Indian tribes have the ability to conduct clean and successful operations and said Congress should encourage similar cooperation between tribes and states in crafting such well-integrated regulatory protections.

He called Mr. Trump's outbursts "inexcusable" and "outlandish." "Resorting to such tactics in order to serve his own selfish interests does nothing but make it that much harder to achieve our goals in Congress," he said.

William Johnson, chief executive officer of the Shakopee Sioux tribe's casino in Mystic Lake, Minn., agreed.

"It's absolute nonsense," he said of Mr. Trump's indictments of organized crime and lack of regulation in tribal casinos.

"We deeply resent these baseless allegations," he told the House panel. "It is wrong, it is ludicrous and it is based on unjustified jealousy."

INDIAN COUNTRY TODAY  
October 20, 1993

**The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has announced reorganization plans**, such as the centralization of Tribal relations and relocation of agency staff, that will almost certainly harm Tribal nations. The USDA's plan would reduce access to expertise, delay funding processes, disrupt essential Tribal consultation, and potentially weaken service delivery to Tribal producers and nutrition programs.

**Tribes are co-equal stewards and the federal government is required to consult Tribal governments on potential changes that impact our communities.** That's why the Native Farm Bill Coalition of more than 170 member Tribes and Intertribal/Tribal organizations, and the Alaska Federation of Natives, have submitted letters urging the USDA to hold formal Tribal consultations before the plan is implemented.

[Will you sign and send an official public comment in support of the Native Farm Bill Coalition and the Alaska Federation of Natives to demand a formal consultation now?](#)

The USDA's secretary memorandum outlining the Department of Agriculture's reorganization plan is a step in the wrong direction. If implemented as is, this new reorganization plan would:

- **Reduce Expertise and Access:** Relocating or restructuring Tribal-serving positions away from communities could weaken subject-matter expertise and create bureaucratic hurdles for Tribal governments and producers seeking USDA support.
- **Create Funding Delays:** Centralizing Tribal relations functions and consolidating regional offices may lead to slower processing of funding and applications, jeopardizing critical projects and programs.
- **Disrupt Consultation:** The plan's structure could reduce capacity and responsiveness in the Office of Tribal Relations, hindering the formal consultation process that is vital for addressing Tribal concerns.
- **Weaken Program Delivery:** Restructuring agencies like the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), and National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) could lead to service delays and reduced support for Tribal producers and nutrition programs.

The goal of increasing services, reducing red tape, and improving effectiveness and accountability at the USDA is good, but this current plan without significant feedback, coordination, and planning with Tribal nations won't succeed.

Fortunately, there's still time for the USDA to consider changes that could improve the plan, but they need to hear from the public now. Please sign and send your message immediately. With the deadline for public comment only days away, time is running out. Please submit your comment today.

Hawwih (*thank you*) for taking action in support of Tribal sovereignty.  
Judith LeBlanc (Caddo) Executive Director, Native Organizers Alliance Action Fund

## **The Nature Conservancy Colorado River Program’s new director ‘cautiously hopeful’ about interstate negotiations**

“Future water management cannot be organized how it is presently or as it was in the past, said Celene Hawkins, Durango resident and The Nature Conservancy’s new Colorado River Program director. The Nature Conservancy, a global conservation nonprofit, made Hawkins its new Colorado River Program director last month. She succeeds Taylor Hawes, who helped launch the program nearly two decades ago. Hawkins joined The Nature Conservancy in 2016 and has been involved in a number of projects in the Colorado River Program, throughout the Colorado River Basin. For most of her career, she’s worked with tribal nations, including the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe. She said she’s concerned water management in the Colorado River Basin is reaching a breaking point and collaborative solutions are needed if the next generation is to enjoy life in the basin as people currently do. ... ” [Read more from The Journal.](#)

## **The Trump Administration Dismisses the Endangered Species List as ‘Hotel California.’ But There’s Far More to the Story**

A small percentage of species protected by the law have ever recovered, but an even smaller fraction have gone extinct. With all the threats they face, including long-shrinking federal



support, that’s an achievement, scientists note.

*A female northern spotted owl catches a mouse on a stick held by a wildlife biologist on the Hoopa Valley Reservation in August 2024. Credit: The Washington Post via Getty Images*

## **Over 100 ‘dinosaur-like’ sturgeons find new home in Tittabawassee River**

MIDLAND, MI – Getting stuck in the Tittabawassee Riverbed was all worth it on a sunny Friday morning.

The Chippewa Nature Center hosted a public lake sturgeon release event at the Bob G. Caldwell Municipal Boat Launch on Aug. 22.



All told, there were 137 young sturgeons released.

Saginaw Bay Sturgeon Restoration director Michael Kelly said sturgeons have been around for about 130 million years, making them dinosaur-like in age and how they look. More: <https://www.mlive.com/news/2025/08/over-100-dinosaur-like-sturgeons-find-new-home-in-tittabawassee-river.html>

## Oregon nonprofits host Indigenous camping trip on Mt. Hood Aug. 24, 2025



*Lorenzo Oakes, an enrolled member of Saint Regis Mohawk and Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs descendant picks blueberries and huckleberries with his Uncle Max Oakes, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs as part of programming for the camping trip. Lyric Aquino, Underscore Native News + Report for America*

By Lyric Aquino | Underscore Native News + Report for America

*This story originally appeared on [Underscore Native News](#).*

In the shadow of Mt. Hood on the weekend of Aug. 8 to 10, a group of tents formed a circle underneath the towering trees of the Mt. Hood National Forest with sunlight shining down on the faces of campers laughing, as they ate a dinner of chicken and carnitas tacos. Indigenous campers, ranging in ages from teens to adults from Native Nations across the Pacific Northwest and the U.S. gathered to spend the weekend entirely in nature.

Parrott Creek Child and Family Services joined with Bark and Future Generations Collaborative to host their first camping trip for Indigenous people. The programming included cultural activities to teach traditional skills and nature-based activities to get people outside and connected with the land.

As the Trump administration rolls back funding and protection in National Parks and public lands, the ability to access these spaces is at risk.

Parrott Creek Child and Family Services cultural ecology program manager, Ameyalli Mañon-Ferguson, Osage and Mazahu, said the weekend was about trying to bring urban Natives into the mountains and create an easy and accessible plan to get them onto the land.

*A sign points the way to the campsite for Indigenous campers attending the Parrot Creek Child and Family Services and Bark camping trip. The trip which had 11 campers and four staff member campers, served as an opportunity to learn about ecology, beading, cordage making and basket weaving. Lyric Aquino, Underscore Native News + Report for America*

*Angela Hopson, Barrow Utqiaqvik Native Inupiaq, learns how to make rope from Edwin Brown, Tlingit and Selawik. During their demonstration, Brown shared their own journey with cordage making and provided green string for campers to turn into cordage. Lyric Aquino, Underscore Native News + Report for America)*

*Ameyalli Mañon-Ferguson, Osage and Mazahu and Parrott Creek Child and Family Services cultural ecology program manager watches campers swim in Timothy Lake as part of the activity scheduled for Saturday Aug. 9. Lyric Aquino, Underscore Native News + Report for America*

“Mt. Hood is such a sacred place to so many different communities and it’s really a great way to get people out on the land, especially those coming from the more urban areas like the Portland metro area,” she said. “In Portland there’s so little access to natural areas and for Native people, there’s so little culturally appropriate access to native areas.”

According to Mañon-Ferguson, Parrott Creek Child and Family Services consistently makes a conscious effort to include Indigenous peoples in their programming. Back in 2020, Clackamas County transferred ownership of 80 acres of land to Parrott Creek’s private ownership. The administration of the nonprofit knew they wanted to do a land back effort, but they didn’t know what it would look like. Together with a team of Indigenous ecologists from Friends of Tryon Creek, they decided to focus on restoring the land to be an ecologically and culturally functioning site for the community.

“All of our restoration practices and stewardship goals are ultimately for preserving the land for cultural use and then being able to bring out the wider community and our youth and kind of have it be a benefit for a lot of different marginalized groups,” Mañon-Ferguson said. “But our stewardship goals are specific, so this camping trip is kind of just an extension of that effort to connect Native people with nature as much as possible.”

With the help of Bark, a nonprofit organization watchdog that monitors logging and timber sales in Mt. Hood and Future Generations Collaborative, a collective between Native serving and Native specific organizations, Mañon-Ferguson and Parrott Creek Child and Family Services cultural ecology program coordinator Autumn Martinez began brainstorming ways to bring the camping trip to life.

“Outdoor recreation can be expensive and it can feel very exclusive,” Mañon-Ferguson said. “If you didn’t grow up knowing how to camp, hike, fish, etc. It can be really daunting to try to do.

From providing tents, sleeping bags and pads, camping chairs, lanterns, portable restrooms, lunch, dinner and gift cards to cover gas, Martinez and Mañon-Ferguson wanted to make the trip as accessible as possible.

“We wanted to meet people where they’re at and provide them with the gear they need and guide them for success and really create a safe environment for them to recreate and learn new skills and connect,” Martinez said.

*Marien Knight, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, weaves a basket starter for a berry basket. Knight taught weaving to campers as part of the programming and activities during the camping trip. Lyric Aquino, Underscore Native News + Report for America*

*Meg Waller, Bark’s restoration program manager, prepares bison chili for dinner campers to eat on Saturday Aug. 9. Dinner was accompanied by frybread made by Parrott Creek Child and Family Services cultural ecology program manager Ameyalli Mañon-Ferguson and cultural ecology program coordinator Autumn Martinez. Lyric Aquino, Underscore Native News + Report for America*

*Tents and a hammock make up a portion of the campsite for Indigenous campers attending the Parrot Creek Child and Family Services and Bark camping trip. Ameyalli Mañon-Ferguson, Parrot Creek Child and Family Services*

Throughout the weekend campers got to have a summer camp experience with Indigenous-led workshops on beading, weaving, cordage making, swimming in Timothy Lake, berry picking, hiking, and the option to go on a plant walk. They also had an optional beaver survey or “groundtruthing” survey they could participate in, which, [according to BARK](#), is hiking timber sale land proposals, closely observing the forest and then calling attention to discrepancies between the ecological conditions and the Forest Service’s approach to managing the area.

Meg Waller, Bark’s restoration program manager, was in charge of an optional beaver survey for the weekend and prepared most of the meals. As she combined ingredients together for Saturday night’s dinner of bison chili and frybread, Waller said the partnership between Bark and Parrot Creek was natural. However, Waller said a majority of the people who come on Bark camping trips are volunteers and students who aren’t Indigenous.

“One of our big priorities is accessibility and getting folks out onto Mount Hood. I think for a variety of reasons, we don’t usually have very many Indigenous folks come out with us and so it’s definitely a priority of ours to reach out to that community more and be a resource,” she said.

Edwin Brown, Tlingit and Selawik, taught cordage or rope making to campers. Brown, an urban Native, said spaces like the camping trip are important for Natives who are struggling to learn about their culture.

“I’ve been in tribal spaces that I was unfamiliar with where I did not feel very welcome, and I felt kind of looked down upon because I didn’t know all the traditions,” Brown said. “It’s really important when organizations do events like this, so that everyone feels welcomed into the community and can comfortably learn about culture.”

Having participated in several Parrot Creek sponsored events, Brown said the organization focuses on creating a safe environment for Indigenous people to find community, ask questions and learn.

“I really appreciate Indigenous organizations, especially nonprofit ones, that give back to their communities and actively engage with them,” he said. “I really like spaces like this, because they’re very healing, and they remind you to be kind of open minded and welcoming to other people.”

As Max Oakes, a member of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, relaxed in their camping chair, they reflected on the modern-day uses of Mt. Hood. A wildlife biologist for the tribe, Oakes said the camping trip was a way to bring people who have historically used the lands back.

“A lot of this area is so tied intrinsically to Warm Springs and our history. The pure number of non-tribal people who are enjoying public lands can make it difficult to access some of these areas,” Oakes said. “Paying fees for some of these areas, even just having the opportunity for

people to get out here, whether it's vehicle transport, is a huge deal. These are huge barriers for people who historically were able to move through here without facing any of those barriers.”

Oakes said the sense of the community at the camping trip was a way to heal and bond during times of uncertainty.

<https://www.oregonlive.com/native-american-news/2025/08/oregon-nonprofits-host-indigenous-camping-trip-on-mt-hood.html>

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### [Lyric Aquino, Underscore Native News + Report for America](#)

Lyric Aquino is an award-winning journalist with a passion for writing about all things relating to science, the environment and Indian Country. Originally from Ohio, she is a proud member of Ohkay Owingeh... [More by Lyric Aquino, Underscore Native News + Report for America](#)



### [Sacred Ground Imagery](#) — at [Big Sandy Rancheria](#).

For Many tribes like the Miwok ,Paiute,Yokuts,Maidu and others Acorns were considered the way of life food source they were seen as a gift from the Creator. Many tribes believed the oak trees were placed on Earth to take care of the people. The gathering of acorns wasn't only survival, it was a way of living in balance with nature and honoring the trees that fed them. Acorns were also tied to ceremony and prayer. Some tribes gave thanks to the oak trees before collecting, asking permission and showing respect. In this way, food was never just food — it was part of the spiritual relationship between people, the land, and all living things because of this deep connection, acorns became a symbol of strength, survival, and community. They nourished bodies, but also kept traditions, stories, and ceremonies alive from one generation to the next. @ChrissyAtwell [#sacredgroundimagery](#) [#california](#) [#nativeplants](#) [#nativecommunities](#)

*Provided by Dee Numa*

We are deeply saddened by the passing of renowned Great Basin Native basketweaver **Everett Pikyavet (1967–2025)**. An enrolled member of the Moapa Band of Paiute Indians, Pikyavet was born in Las Vegas and was best known for his exquisite baskets woven in the Southern Paiute and Goshute style.

The Nevada Museum of Art is honored to steward several of Pikyavet's baskets in its permanent collection. Many of them are currently on view in the exhibition, *Of the Earth: Native American Baskets and Pueblo Pottery*, where his legacy continues to inspire and educate.

