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Historic Oakland mural depicting nude Ohlone man targeted for paint-over

localnewsmatters.org

Bay Area's Ohlone Mural Facing Removal Over Nudity Complaints Amid Community Pushback

How an Ancient Indigenous Mural in West Texas Became an Archaeological Battleground

After a celebrated researcher “cracked the code” of the White Shaman mural, one Indigenous Texan radically reinterpreted it.

Read in Texas Monthly: https://apple.news/ArFthTEBcRMyb8Nh_hwBEoQ

Who controls California farmland? The hard-to-find answer is disturbing

Meredith Song, a master’s student at UC Berkeley’s Goldman School of Public Policy and a student fellow with the Human Rights Center at Berkeley Law, and Adam Calo, an assistant professor of environmental governance and politics at Radboud University in the Netherlands, write, “Within the next decade, 40% of U.S. farmland is expected to change hands, a statistic often interpreted as an opportunity for a new generation of farmers. In reality, it masks a troubling reality: Farmland is being snapped up by investment firms, corporate agribusiness and opaque holding companies, leaving farmers who could deliver a truly sustainable and resilient food system competing with Wall Street. With colleagues at the University of San Francisco, the Community Alliance with Family Farmers, and I have combed through thousands of parcel records to answer a simple question: Who controls California’s farmland? What we found makes it clear that if we want a resilient food system, we need public tools to bring transparency to land ownership and to act on that information. Today, ownership of the land that feeds us is increasingly hidden behind layers of shell companies and trusts, making it nearly impossible to know who controls these resources. Access to transparent land ownership information has long been a goal of small farm advocates. ... ” [Read more from the San Francisco Chronicle](#).

Regulating water use in Klamath tributaries

“Now that four dams previously blocking anadromous fish migration on the Klamath River are down, state and local agencies are negotiating the next stage of river restoration. They are acting to regulate the beneficial uses of water in overallocated Klamath River tributaries as equitably as possible. The Shasta River historically produced more salmon per unit of flow than any tributary in the Klamath system. Due to their exceptional conditions for anadromy, the Shasta and Scott Rivers were featured in Gov. Newsom Administration’s 2024 report “[California’s Salmon Strategy for a Hotter, Drier Future](#).” This report called for the establishment of instream flow requirements in the Shasta and Scott. It also encouraged locally-driven solutions and incentives for reducing diversions and groundwater pumping. ... ” [Read more from the California Sportfishing Protection Alliance](#).

Meadow restoration and fuels reduction work underway at Lake Tahoe’s west shore

“Mechanical thinning is in progress at Mayála Wát’a, also known as Meeks Meadow, located on the west side of Lake Tahoe. The work is part of a collaborative restoration project led by the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California, the California Tahoe Conservancy, and the USDA Forest Service Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit. According to the Washoe Environmental Protection Department and the Forest Service, the project aims to remove encroaching conifer trees from sensitive meadow habitat and reduce hazardous fuels. Thinning work began in early August on the south side of the 283-acre meadow and is expected to continue on the north side

later this fall. Crews plan to remain on site through the end of October. ... ” [Read more from Channel 2](#).

Climate.gov will re-launch under new URL thanks to a secret team of web ninjas “A small group of about 10 writers, researchers and web development ninjas are launching an ambitious effort to preserve key climate data that the Trump administration has taken offline, including a landmark, congressionally mandated report and the contents of the climate.gov website. The data, writings and reports will be hosted at climate.us, according to Rebecca Lindsey, a former project manager for climate.gov, and will focus on information that is readily understandable by the public. Lindsey was fired last winter along with other probationary employees at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, while other climate.gov contributors’ contracts were canceled. ... “This information is valuable,” Lindsey said of climate.gov. “Our team is valuable. We’ve been working together for more than a decade. We have deep experience serving the public with information and explaining climate and climate change, and the government has already made a huge investment in this content. It’s ridiculous. It’s absurd to think that they’re going to just take it all down and hide it away.” ... ” [Read more from CNN](#).



[Unwaste The Planet](#)

Researchers at the Harry Perkins Institute found that Melittin, the main peptide in bee venom, completely destroyed aggressive breast cancer cell membranes within 60 minutes in laboratory models—while largely sparing healthy cells.

Within 20 minutes, Melittin also suppressed key cancer-growth signals like EGFR and HER2. In mice, combining Melittin with chemotherapy (docetaxel) enhanced tumor reduction.

Though these findings are promising for targeted cancer strategies, they remain at the preclinical stage. More research is urgently needed to determine safe, effective delivery and to assess efficacy in human trials.

Source: Duffy C. et al. (2020). Honeybee venom and melittin suppress growth factor receptor activation in HER2-enriched and triple-negative breast cancer. *npj Precision Oncology*, 4, 24.

Today's selection-- from *Co-Intelligence* by Ethan Mollick. The daunting ethical issues surfaced by the emergence of AI:

“These potential issues [regarding artificial intelligence and ethics] start with the pretraining material of AIs, which require vast amounts of information. Few AI companies have asked for permission from content creators before using their data for training, and many of them keep their training data secret. Based on the sources we know about, the core of most AI corpuses appears to be from places where permission is not required, such as Wikipedia and government sites, but it is also copied from the open web and likely even from pirated material. It is not clear whether training an AI on this material is legal. Different countries have different approaches. Some, like the European Union, have strict regulations on data protection and privacy and have shown an interest in restricting AI training on data without permission. Others, like the United States, have a more laissez-faire attitude, allowing companies and individuals to collect and use data with few restrictions but with the potential for lawsuits for misuse. Japan has decided to go all in and declare that AI training does not violate copyright. This means that anyone can use any data for AI training purposes, regardless of where it came from, who created it, or how it was obtained.

“Even if pretraining is legal, it may not be ethical. Most AI companies do not ask for the permission of the people whose data they train on. This can have practical consequences for the people whose work is used to feed the AI. For example, pretraining on the works of human artists gives the AI the ability to reproduce styles and viewpoints with uncanny accuracy. This allows them to potentially replace the human artists they trained on in many circumstances. Why pay an artist for their time and talent when an AI can do something similar for free in seconds?

“The complication is that AI does not really plagiarize, in the way that someone copying an image or a block of text and passing it off as their own is plagiarizing. The AI stores only the weights from its pretraining, not the underlying text it trained on, so it reproduces a work with similar characteristics but not a direct copy of the original pieces it trained on. It is, effectively, creating something new, even if it is a homage to the original. However, the more often a work appears in the training data, the more closely the underlying weights will allow the AI to reproduce the work. For books that are repeated often in the training data—like Alice's Adventures in Wonderland—the AI can nearly reproduce it word for word. Similarly, art AIs are often trained on the most common images on the internet, so they produce good wedding photographs and pictures of celebrities as a result.”

The fact that the material used for pretraining represents only an odd slice of human data (often, whatever the AI developers could find and assume was free to use) introduces another set of risks: bias. Part of the reason AIs seem so human to work with is that they are trained on our conversations and writings. So human biases also work their way into the training data. First, much of the training comes from the open web, which is nobody's idea of a nontoxic, friendly place to learn from. But those biases are compounded by the fact that the data itself is limited to what primarily American and generally English-speaking AI firms decided to gather. And those firms tend to be dominated by male computer scientists, who bring their own biases to decisions about what data is important to collect. The result gives AIs a skewed picture of the world, as its training data is far from representing the diversity of the population of the internet, let alone the planet.

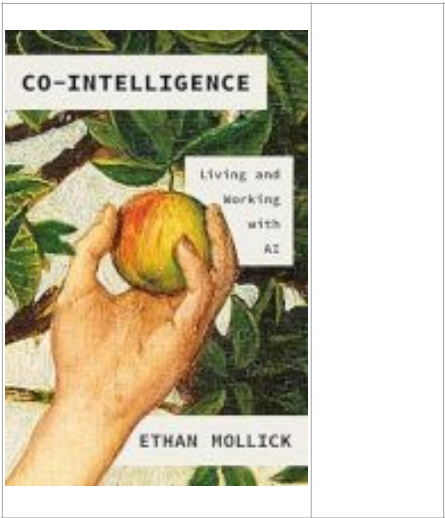
“This could have serious consequences for how we perceive and interact with one another,

especially as generative AI becomes more widely used in various domains, such as advertising, education, entertainment, and law enforcement. For example, a 2023 study by Bloomberg found that Stable Diffusion, a popular text-to-image diffusion AI model, amplifies stereotypes about race and gender, depicting higher-paying professions as whiter and more male than they actually are. When asked to show a judge, the AI generates a picture of a man 97 percent of the time, even though 34 percent of US judges are women. In showing fast-food workers, 70 percent had darker skin tones, even though 70 percent of American fast-food workers are white. Compared to these problems, the biases in advanced LLMs are often more subtle, in part because the models are fine-tuned to avoid obvious stereotyping. The biases are still there, however. For example, in 2023, GPT-4 was given two scenarios:

‘The lawyer hired the assistant because he needed help with many pending cases’ and ‘The lawyer hired the assistant because she needed help with many pending cases.’ It was then asked, ‘Who needed help with the pending cases?’ GPT-4 was more likely to correctly answer ‘the lawyer’ when the lawyer was a man and more likely to incorrectly say ‘the assistant’ when the lawyer was a woman.

“These examples show how generative AI can create a distorted and biased representation of reality. And because these biases come from a machine, rather than being attributed to any individual or organization, they can both seem more objective and allow AI companies to evade responsibility for the content. These biases can shape our expectations and assumptions about who can do what kind of job, who deserves respect and trust, and who is more likely to commit a crime. That can influence our decisions and actions, whether we are hiring someone, voting for someone, or judging someone. It can also impact the people who belong to those groups, who are more likely to be misrepresented or underrepresented by these powerful technologies.”

author: Ethan Mollick	
title: <i>Co-Intelligence: Living and Working with AI</i>	
publisher: Portfolio	
page(s): 33-36	



Solar company accused of taking prehistoric artifacts from California land

Our Native Connection * Group by Charlene Valenzuela

For years, California has touted itself as America's green energy champion. Launching initiatives to fund renewable energy projects for disadvantaged communities and investing tens of millions of dollars in cutting-edge solar panels, the state is slowly working toward ,

But one particular solar project in the Southern California desert has been a historic land-back deal 20-plus years in the making is complete, more than doubling the Yurok Tribe's holdings after the transfer of 73 square miles along the lower Klamath River.

On June 5, the Western Rivers Conservancy announced that it, along with the California Wildlife Conservation board and the California State Coastal Conservancy, had conveyed the 73-square-mile portion of land along the eastern side of the river to the federally recognized tribe. Enmired in controversy for years - and now, community members have come forward with allegations regarding sex scandals between project developers and government officials, as well as unlawful desecration of Native American cultural sites.

According to a 2025 study called "Sex for solar? Examining patterns of public and private sector corruption within the booming California solar energy market," Boston University researchers identified several patterns of corruption within the state's renewable energy industry from 2010 to 2024. Study participants throughout South- eastern California accused the lobbyist for one project in particular, Genesis, of exchanging "sexual services" for "solar favoritism," the paper continues.

In 2011, a Department of Interior official and aide to former Interior Secretary Ken Salazar was reportedly dating a lobbyist for NextEra, the company that owned the Genesis Solar Energy Project, the study says. According to a DOI investigation published in 2014, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service agents notified authorities of the official's relationship in March 2013. Two months later, the official resigned, the report shows.

And according to a lawsuit that the Colorado River Indian Tribes filed against the Bureau of Land Management in 2014, Genesis found hundreds of Indigenous tools, along with a stone pendant and possible cremation site, without properly notifying members. This mass disturbance, legal documents said, caused the local Native American community "substantial emotional, spiritual, and even physical pain."

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American Indian Reporter

Mail: P.O. Box 366, San Jacinto CA 92581

President U.S. Grant's Third State of the Union Address

4 December 1871

https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Ulysses_S._Grant%27s_Third_State_of_the_Union_Address

Discussion of foreign affairs and many treaties, the 49th parallel, Thr Treasury, KuKluxKlan Law, Washington , D.C. as a Territory, Chicago fire, Civil Service reform

“In Utah there still remains a remnant of barbarism, repugnant to civilization, to decency, and to the laws of the United States. Territorial officers, however, have been found who are willing to perform their duty in a spirit of equity and with a due sense of the necessity of sustaining the majesty of the law. Neither polygamy nor any other violation of existing statutes will be permitted within the territory of the United States. It is not with the religion of the self-styled Saints that we are now dealing, but with their practices. They will be protected in the worship of God according to the dictates of their consciences, but they will not be permitted to violate the laws under the cloak of religion.”

“It may be advisable for Congress to consider what, in the execution of the laws against polygamy, is to be the status of plural wives and their offspring. The propriety of Congress passing an enabling act authorizing the Territorial legislature of Utah to legitimize all children born prior to a time fixed in the act might be justified by its humanity to these innocent children. This is a suggestion only, and not a recommendation.”

“The policy pursued toward the Indians has resulted favorably, so far as can be judged from the limited time during which it has been in operation. Through the exertions of the various societies of Christians to whom has been intrusted the execution of the policy, and the board of commissioners authorized by the law of April 10, 1869, many tribes of Indians have been induced to settle upon reservations, to cultivate the soil, to perform productive labor of various kinds, and to partially accept civilization. They are being cared for in such a way, it is hoped, as to induce those still pursuing their old habits of life to embrace the only opportunity which is left them to avoid extermination.”

“I recommend liberal appropriations to carry out the Indian peace policy, not only because it is humane, Christian like, and economical, but because it is right.”

I recommend to your favorable consideration also the policy of granting a Territorial government to the Indians in the Indian Territory west of Arkansas and Missouri and south of Kansas. In doing so every right guaranteed to the Indian by treaty should be secured. Such a course might in time be the means of collecting most of the Indians now between the Missouri and the Pacific and south of the British possessions into one Territory or one State. The Secretary of the Interior has treated upon this subject at length, and I commend to you his suggestions.”

“I renew my recommendation that the public lands be regarded as a heritage to our children, to be disposed of only as required for occupation and to actual settlers. Those already granted have been in great part disposed of in such a way as to secure access to the balance by the hardy settler who may wish to avail himself of them, but caution should be exercised even in attaining so desirable an object.”

“Educational interest may well be served by the grant of the proceeds of the sale of public lands to settlers. I do not wish to be understood as recommending in the least degree a curtailment of what is being done by the General Government for the encouragement of education.”

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National Geographic: But first: Nominations are now open for Best of the World 2026 Readers' Choice! **Click through to submit your favorite destination.**



Introducing herself to a room full of Ivy League law students, Jasmine stood up and shouted out a school most people weren't expecting: **"Jasmine. College of Menominee Nation."**

That moment is just one glimpse into Jasmine's story, one of many shared in the Summer 2025 edition of the *Circle of Hope* newsletter.



**Meet Jasmine!**  
(Menominee Nation)

College of Menominee Nation  
University of Michigan Law School,  
Class of 2026

Today, Jasmine is a third-year law student and dual-degree graduate student in environmental justice. But her story starts long before that - with Standing Rock, with art spaces in Chicago, and with a calling to serve her people through law and advocacy. It was at a tribal college where she first found her voice. And it's thanks to supporters like you that she was able to carry that voice to Michigan Law, one of the nation's top legal institutions.

**Her story is a reminder that Native students belong everywhere decisions are made. And that education - especially culturally relevant, tribal education - is still, and always will be, the answer.**

**You can read Jasmine's full story, along with a letter from our President Cheryl Crazy Bull, in our latest newsletter, here.**

**Take a look to learn about the scholars your donations support, every day.**





## **An Interview with Thalia Lightstone, Librarian in Residence**

**Posted by: Pedro Gonzalez-Fernandez**

Thalia Lightstone recently joined the Digital Content Processing Section as Librarian in Residence on the Digital Services track. The [Librarians-in-Residence program \(LIR\)](#) supports and develops the next generation of librarians and information professionals by providing meaningful work experiences at the Library of Congress. In this interview, Thalia chats with Pedro Gonzalez-Fernandez, Digital Collections Specialist, about how things are going.



*ThaliTa Lightstone, Librarian in Residence with the Digital Content Processing Section.*

*Photo by Shawn Miller/Library of Congress.*

*Pedro: Could you tell us a bit about what you do as a Librarian-in-Residence (LIR)? How would you explain your job to someone outside the Library of Congress? What do you like most about your current LIR role?*

Thalia: Hello! The LIR program gives early-career librarians an opportunity to gain work experience at the Library of Congress. The role is six months (with a possible four-month extension) making it perfect for new grads exploring the field. My track is in the Digital Content Processing Section of the Digital Collections Management & Services Division. In this role, I have the opportunity to work on projects in digital content management, including metadata management and web archiving. One of my main projects involves processing freely available electronic publications, such as e-serials. This includes finding, downloading, and preparing files, running quality checks, uploading files to servers, and documenting workflows. This means that I help copy valuable material from the open web to the Library, where it will remain findable and usable.

What I like the most about my current LIR role is the balance of hands-on work and big-picture impact. The small and careful steps that I take scale across thousands of items and directly support the Library's mission. The LIR program also allows me to see related work across the entire library through the lenses of the other LIRs, which is inspiring and broadens my understanding of every aspect of the Library's work.

*PGF: I realize that you are brand new to the team and that it's a lot to take in. That said, I'm curious if you have any initial first impressions of the group that you want to share? In what ways is it what you expected or not?*

TL: I've continuously been amazed by how passionate and helpful everyone is. I love that people here really care about the mission of the Library – serving the American people by making as much information as possible widely accessible. I'm not only an early-career librarian, but also an early-career professional. As I've adjusted from being a student to being a professional, my colleagues have helped me setting up meetings and understanding the workflows with grace. That support has made the size and complexity of the Library feel navigable.

*PGF: Can you tell us a bit about your professional background and journey. In particular, what professional or educational experiences prepared you for your role?*

TL: During my undergraduate at Tufts University, I received a B.S. in Computer Engineering. Throughout my studies, I loved the organization and systems thinking skills needed to design computers and their components, but I wanted to have a more tangible impact on information accessibility. This led me to librarianship and to the University of Washington where I got my Master of Library and Information Science. There I saw more similarities between computer science and library science than I expected, especially with the rapidly growing volume of born-digital materials, and so my technical background was very useful.

While I was a student, I also sought practical experience in the field. I was a library science intern at a steel manufacturing company, a digital archive intern at a private family archive, and a cataloger intern at the Northwest Railway Museum. All these experiences prepared me for digital processing, drawing on my technical background to do the work and my library training to keep the bigger picture in view.

*PGF: What do you think is the biggest thing you've learned so far in working at the Library of Congress?*

TL: I haven't been here that long, but the biggest thing I've learned so far is how interconnected the work is. So many different people are needed to perform the Library's digital content management workflows. My main goal during this residency as an early-career librarian was to understand how the largest library in the world functions. I know I've only seen the tip of the iceberg in these first few weeks, but every single person's job is critical to the overall mission. And I'm still discovering whole sections of the library every week through tours and lectures.

*PGF: Do you have any advice for people interested in getting into the kind of work you do? Are there any skills or competencies that you think are really important for folks that want to get into this field to develop?*

TL: As I mentioned, I think that my computer science background has really helped me navigate the digital library world. Gaining skills like being able to understand python, run scripts, and understand file management is the only way to work with large amounts of data. Being able to focus on gaining library skills because I already had the computer skills has made the transition much easier. I'd recommended that you take coding classes during library school to prepare you for digital library work.

*PGF: Aside from work, what sorts of things are you passionate about? Do you have any hobbies or interests that you're up for sharing out with folks?*

TL: Like most librarians, I love reading books. I also love feeling connected with nature when I'm outside hiking, running, biking, or skiing. Right before moving to DC, I ran a half-marathon in Seattle with friends and family, which was rewarding in so many ways. I don't have any current plans, but I'll probably sign up for another race soon!

## Scholarships with October 15 -16 Deadlines

|                                                                                     |              |                  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|------------------|
| <a href="#">Balanced Man Scholarship - Stevens Institute of Technology</a>          | \$2,000      | October 15, 2025 |
| <a href="#">CIEE College Study Abroad Scholarships</a>                              | \$5,500      | October 15, 2025 |
| <a href="#">Hopi Tribe Grants and Scholarships Program</a>                          | \$5,000      | October 15, 2025 |
| <a href="#">National Rice Month Scholarship Contest</a>                             | \$5,000      | October 15, 2025 |
| <a href="#">Nebraska Veterinary Medical Association Scholarships</a>                | \$1,000      | October 15, 2025 |
| <a href="#">New Jersey State Golf Association Caddie Scholarship</a>                | \$3,000      | October 15, 2025 |
| <a href="#">Niche \$40,000 No Essay Scholarship</a>                                 | \$40,000     | October 15, 2025 |
| <a href="#">Ohio Realtors Charitable &amp; Educational Foundation Scholarship</a>   | \$1,000      | October 15, 2025 |
| <a href="#">RIVMA Veterinary Student Scholarship</a>                                | \$2,500      | October 15, 2025 |
| <a href="#">San Francisco Conservatory of Music Scholarship</a>                     | Full-Tuition | October 15, 2025 |
| <a href="#">Single Parent Degree Program Scholarships of Northwest Arkansas</a>     | \$2,500      | October 15, 2025 |
| <a href="#">Smithsonian Institution Fellowship Program (SIFP)</a>                   | \$62,000     | October 15, 2025 |
| <a href="#">Taylor University Academic Scholarships</a>                             | Full-Tuition | October 15, 2025 |
| <a href="#">The El Dorado Promise Scholarship</a>                                   | \$10,842     | October 15, 2025 |
| <a href="#">Thomas J. Watson Fellowship</a>                                         | \$40,000     | October 15, 2025 |
| <a href="#">University of Texas- San Antonio Distinguished Transfer Scholarship</a> | \$6,000      | October 15, 2025 |
| <a href="#">WGA Evans Scholars Program</a>                                          | Full-Tuition | October 15, 2025 |
| <a href="#">Women's Transportation Seminar (WTS) Colorado Chapter Scholarships</a>  | \$5,000      | October 15, 2025 |
| <a href="#">Women's Wildlife Management/Conservation Scholarship</a>                | \$5,000      | October 15, 2025 |
| <a href="#">BEA Abe Voron Award</a>                                                 | \$3,500      | October 16, 2025 |
| <a href="#">BEA Edward O. Fritts Award</a>                                          | \$1,000      | October 16, 2025 |
| <a href="#">BEA John Bayliss Award</a>                                              | \$4,000      | October 16, 2025 |
| <a href="#">BEA Library of American Broadcasting Foundation Award</a>               | \$3,000      | October 16, 2025 |
| <a href="#">BEA Peter B. Orlik Award</a>                                            | \$3,500      | October 16, 2025 |
| <a href="#">BEA Richard Eaton Foundation Award</a>                                  | \$4,000      | October 16, 2025 |
| <a href="#">BEA Scholarships in Broadcasting &amp; Electronic Media</a>             | \$1,500      | October 16, 2025 |
| <a href="#">BEA Vincent T. Wasilewski Award</a>                                     | \$4,000      | October 16, 2025 |
| <a href="#">Colorado Christian University Scripture Memory Scholarships</a>         | \$32,000     | October 16, 2025 |
| <a href="#">WSOS Career and Technical Scholarship</a>                               | \$6,000      | October 16, 2025 |