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It's that time of year

Ancient Stories from Spirit Cave is here!

New Trump Order Among 'Scariest Things I've Seen in US Politics,' Civil Rights Attorney Says

Christian Nationalism Resurrected as Trump Promotes Prayer in Public Schools

Ethnic studies was supposed to start in California schools. What happened?

Petroglyphs estimated to be between 700 and 1,000 years old lilegedly damaged by construction crews

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Lucy Telles, also known as Pa-ma-has, with her largest basket, which took four years to complete

MAGA gerrymandering is diluting Native voices, and it is spreading to other states

Standing with our Relatives at the Lummi Nation's House of Tears Carvers and Se'Si'Le

Discovery of insects trapped in amber sheds light on ancient Amazon rainforest

"I Have Not Surrendered": Leonard Peltier Remains Committed to Indigenous Rights

AI can forecast your future health - just like the weather

AI cameras are spotting wildfires across California — often before humans call 911

Regulations called for stricter rules on Nevada's battery sector. Tesla objected, and won

"An exceptionally rare set of Native American wampum beads was discovered

History Bits

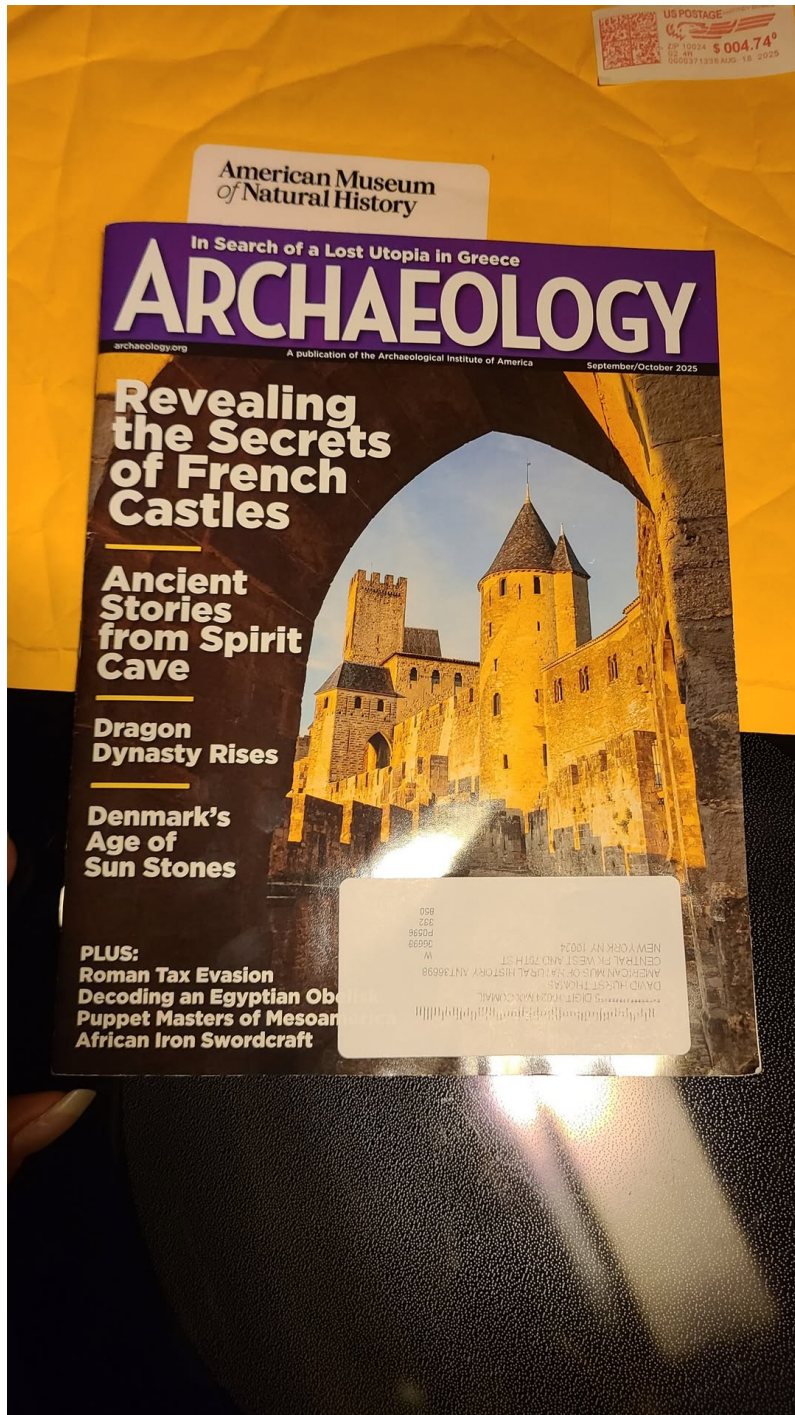
Dmitri Brown - Assistant Professor North American specializing in Native American modernity

Isabella Tapia—of Maya heritage—chosen as Mexico's first Indigenous astronaut candidate.



It's that time of year!

Leslie Hawley



[Donna Cossette: It's finally out!](#)

[New Trump Order Among ‘Scariest Things I’ve Seen in US Politics,’ Civil Rights Attorney Says](#)

[Christian Nationalism Resurrected as Trump Promotes Prayer in Public Schools](#)

Ethnic studies was supposed to start in California schools. What happened?
<https://calmatters.org/education/k-12-education/2025/09/ethnic-studies-california/>



A petroglyph panel in Northern Arizona displaying Sinaguan or Hohokam traditional markings
(Photo: DOUGBERRY/Getty Images) *Madison Dapcevich*

A series of petroglyphs estimated to be between 700 and 1,000 years old was allegedly damaged by construction crews renovating a church north of Phoenix, Arizona.

According to news outlet [AZ Family](#), the rocks containing the ancient symbols were damaged by construction workers in early September. On September 10, news station [12 News](#) toured the site where the petroglyphs used to sit. The site is now an empty field of dirt.

Phoenix city officials told *Outside* that when city staff went to the site on September 12, it appeared as if rocks, including those that contained the petroglyphs, may have “been pushed around by heavy machinery.” The stones were not removed from the property, officials said.

“The City of Phoenix is working with church leaders and representatives from the Salt River Pima-Maricopa and Gila River Indian Community Tribal Historic Preservation Office to assess petroglyph damage,” city officials told *Outside* in an email

“The City will coordinate a site visit with Tribal representatives, conduct an archaeological survey, and educate the community and church about the significance of these petroglyphs and hilltop archaeological sites to local descendant communities and the importance of their

reservation for future generations. We remain committed to a respectful and informed resolution.”

The full extent of the damage is unclear, though some social media users have stated that the petroglyphs were “[bulldozed](#).”

Local news outlets [AZ Family](#) and [12 News](#) reported that the petroglyphs were located on property owned by Christ’s Church of the Valley in North Phoenix.

“There have been no boulders removed from our area at this time. Our focus is on responsible stewardship—supporting preservation efforts into the future,” the church told *Outside* in an email. The church did not directly acknowledge whether the petroglyphs had been damaged.

The City of Phoenix told *Outside* that the “petroglyphs are associated with a recorded archaeological site, named AZ T:8:101(ASU).”

“We are still gathering background information about the petroglyphs in question, but records suggest that the petroglyphs date between 1000 and 1300 AD,” officials added.

[Petroglyphs](#) in Arizona are [protected](#) by the Archaeological Resources Protection Act. State laws also provide for both felony and misdemeanor prosecution with imprisonment and fines.

Outside also contacted Christ’s Church of the Valley for more information on the petroglyphs, but did not receive a response. In a statement to Arizona television station [AZ Family](#), the church wrote: “During routine perimeter campus maintenance a neighbor raised concern that work on our property might affect nearby petroglyphs. We are in consultation with Dr. Christopher Schwartz, city of Phoenix Archaeologist, to review and advise any appropriate next steps. None of the petroglyphs have been removed from our property and our priority is ensuring preservation standards are upheld and that any work on our property reflects the proper precautions. We will continue to follow the city’s guidance closely.”

As the Arizona NBC affiliate station 12 News reported, the carvings are believed to be linked to the Hohokam people. Nearby similar petroglyphs are estimated to be between 700 and 1,000 years old.

Petroglyphs are ancient illustrations created by carving away the outer, darker layer of stone to expose lighter stone beneath. They differ from pictographs, which are rock paintings created using mineral pigments, such as hematite or charcoal.

According to the [City of Phoenix](#), petroglyphs in the region were primarily created by the Hohokam, who occupied the area from 450 to 1450.

<https://www.outsideonline.com/outdoor-adventure/environment/arizona-church-petroglyphs/>



Climber Bolts 5.3 Over 1,000-Year-Old Petroglyphs in Moab

<https://www.climbing.com/news/climber-bolts-5-3-over-1000-year-old-petroglyphs-in-moab>

[Vandals Scrawl Racist, Obscene Graffiti Over 1,000-Year-Old Rock Art in Moab](#)



<https://www.backpacker.com/news-and-events/news/vandals-scrwl-racist-obscene-graffiti-over-1000-year-old-rock-art-in-moab>

[A Visitor to Big Bend Carved Their Name in a Rock—and Damaged a 5,000-Year-Old Petroglyph Forever](#)



<https://www.backpacker.com/news-and-events/news/someone-vandalized-a-petroglyph-in-big-bend-national-park>



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2.34 Billion Tons Of Rare Earth Found In Wyoming

Experts believe this bonanza could result in a mining frenzy that hasn't been seen since the California Gold Rush

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Nevadaworks · Employee Spotlight: Thurman Roberts

As Nevadaworks' Tribal Career Navigator, Thurman goes beyond connecting people to jobs. He builds bridges between Tribes and the workforce system, keeps open communication with Tribal communities, identifies opportunities for collaboration, and supports Tribal practices and

cultures. Thurman often says he feels like a “translator between two worlds, cultures, and communication styles.”

Before joining Nevadaworks, he worked with California tribes establishing forestry and fire crews, coordinating with CAL FIRE, consortium groups, and county stakeholders, while gaining experience in nonprofit management and grant work.

Thurman loves bringing real change to Tribal life across northern Nevada, helping communities access resources and opportunities they need.

When he is off the clock, you will find him playing on a Native American volleyball team or exploring the mountains for berries, hunting prep, and winter readiness.



Yosemite National Park Pictured is Lucy Telles, also known as Pa-ma-has, with her largest basket, which took four years to complete.

Born in 1885 to Miwok and Paiute parents, Lucy spent most of her life between Mono Lake and Yosemite Valley. The art of weaving was passed to her by her mother, and Lucy quickly became skilled. She gained recognition for her intricate and innovative designs and excelled in the Yosemite Indian Field Days basket competitions.

Each basket begins with the basket maker's deep understanding of climate and seasonality. The materials used in Lucy's baskets—bracken fern root, redbud, and sedge root—were carefully harvested at their prime, stored, and prepared for the coiled weaving style she employed. Because the availability of materials directly impacts basket making, weavers like Lucy are deeply attuned to long-term resource stewardship and the ecological needs of each plant they use.

Whether a basket serves a utilitarian purpose or is purely decorative, it carries a wealth of knowledge within its coiled frame. This includes generational knowledge of weaving, sustainable resource management, an understanding of plants and their ecosystems, as well as the creator's observations of their surroundings, reflected through motifs of natural elements, plants, and animals.

Stories of Yosemite's weavers and their work can be found at https://www.nps.gov/.../exh.../yosemite_basketry/design.html

MAGA gerrymandering is diluting Native voices, and it is spreading to other states.

Our voices and our democracy are under siege by MAGA forces! Across Texas and other red states, Republican lawmakers are resurrecting an insidious tactic to silence Native voices: gerrymandering.

In recent Texas redistricting hearings, maps have been drawn to split Tribal communities across multiple districts - cracking neighborhoods apart to dilute Indigenous voting power. This is not a new strategy; it's the same oppressive playbook that has marginalized Native people for generations, keeping us sidelined in the political arena.

We have the power to stop this, but we must act decisively. We need to build grassroots strength, elect champions who will stand for our rights, and defend our communities in every state, starting right here at home.

When we mobilize and turn out Native voters, we can flip races, safeguard our rights, and hold our leaders accountable.

We've seen this before. From broken treaty promises to the allotment era that shattered communal lands, from discriminatory literacy tests to at-large elections that drown out Native-majority precincts, power brokers have consistently redrawn lines - both legal and literal - to undermine our Indigenous power.

Today's partisan mapmaking is just a modern twist on this troubling history, leveraging data science instead of poll taxes to achieve the same outcome: fewer Native voices at the table where decisions that impact our lives are made.

At Native Voters Alliance Nevada, our mission is building political power and electing Native Americans and allies who will champion the issues that matter to us - sovereignty, health care access, land and water protections, economic opportunity, and the dignity we deserve at the ballot box.

Our votes matter. Our communities matter. Our future is at stake. Stand with us today!

In the trenches with you. Native Voters Alliance Nevada

Native Voters Alliance Nevada (NVAN) is the only 501(c)(4) organization in Nevada that is led by Native Americans for Native Americans. NVAN works to uplift the Indigenous community by building political power. This power is built through mobilizing voters, electing officials that advocate for our issues, and promoting legislation that benefits our people.

Native Voters Alliance Nevada 300 S 4th St, Floor 6 Las Vegas, NV 89101



This week, we're standing with our Relatives at the Lummi Nation's House of Tears Carvers and Se'Si'Le, who have been important leaders and partners in the movement to defend sacred places.

They're joining Tribes across Turtle Island in **speaking up to stop a new threat to Indigenous homelands: the potential repeal of the Roadless Rule**, which has protected 60 million acres of public forests from road construction, mining, and logging.

Removing the Roadless Rule will result in the harm of Indigenous sacred places where we continue to practice our traditions, and will drastically reduce the role these forests play in absorbing carbon dioxide and lowering temperatures.

Right now, Se'Si'Le and the House of Tears Carvers are holding a series of events in the Pacific Northwest to raise awareness about the Roadless Rule and its role in protecting ancient forests, salmon habitat, and Tribal sovereignty.^[1]

We've been reaching out to the media to encourage coverage of these events. We're also working with the Blackfeet Nation's Tribal Preservation Office and The Wilderness Society to highlight cultural events next week on the Blackfeet Reservation in Montana, which will bring attention to the Roadless Rule.

We've also been uplifting statements from Tribal leaders who've spoken out about the need to maintain the Roadless Rule -- and we're uplifting our Tribal partners' voices by submitting comments to defend these protections.

Hawwih (*thank you*), Judith LeBlanc (*Caddo*), Executive Director, Native Organizers Alliance

^[1] [Xaalh and the Way of the Masks: Honoring Ourselves, the Lands, Waters, and Forests 2025](#)

Discovery of insects trapped in amber sheds light on ancient Amazon rainforest

[https://apnews.com/article/prehistoric-amber-insects-ecuador-evolution-gondwana-85cc378ddc1f4ac55160dff08e5c4e68?](https://apnews.com/article/prehistoric-amber-insects-ecuador-evolution-gondwana-85cc378ddc1f4ac55160dff08e5c4e68?utm_source=The+Nevada+Independent&utm_campaign=86160e0969-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2025_09_15_10_58&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_-86160e0969-457488821)

[user_email=e073fe83cf6e594f0fa68c85167471226da0e93d55247b60e6f1153aa19d8ac8](https://apnews.com/article/prehistoric-amber-insects-ecuador-evolution-gondwana-85cc378ddc1f4ac55160dff08e5c4e68?utm_source=The+Nevada+Independent&utm_campaign=86160e0969-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2025_09_15_10_58&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_-86160e0969-457488821)

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- **“I Have Not Surrendered”: Leonard Peltier Remains Committed to Indigenous Rights** | Amy Goodman | Democracy Now!

PICK OF THE WEEK

AI can forecast your future health – just like the weather

[Find out more](#)

[AI cameras are spotting wildfires across California — often before humans call 911](#)

Regulations called for stricter rules on Nevada's battery sector. Tesla objected, and won.

When regulators proposed new hazardous material rules, electric vehicle behemoth Tesla pushed back. Records show the rules were then dropped. Amy Alonzo

[https://thenevadaindependent.com/article/regulations-called-for-stricter-rules-on-nevadas-battery-sector-tesla-objected-and-won?](https://thenevadaindependent.com/article/regulations-called-for-stricter-rules-on-nevadas-battery-sector-tesla-objected-and-won?utm_source=The+Nevada+Independent&utm_campaign=86160e0969-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2025_09_15_10_58&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_-86160e0969-457488821)

[utm_source=The+Nevada+Independent&utm_campaign=86160e0969-](https://thenevadaindependent.com/article/regulations-called-for-stricter-rules-on-nevadas-battery-sector-tesla-objected-and-won?utm_source=The+Nevada+Independent&utm_campaign=86160e0969-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2025_09_15_10_58&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_-86160e0969-457488821)

[EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2025_09_15_10_58&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_-86160e0969-457488821](https://thenevadaindependent.com/article/regulations-called-for-stricter-rules-on-nevadas-battery-sector-tesla-objected-and-won?utm_source=The+Nevada+Independent&utm_campaign=86160e0969-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2025_09_15_10_58&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_-86160e0969-457488821)

Archaeology Magazine on X: **"An exceptionally rare set of Native American wampum beads was discovered** during excavations at the seventeenth-century site of Ferryland in Newfoundland, Canada, one of the earliest English colonial settlements in North America. <https://t.co/4y1bJ9X0Al> <https://t.co/xPqHAY7dMQ>" / X <https://share.google/sIWfNq5eYfCt1wt3s>

History Bits

- 1868 Sep 24** The Winnemucca Argonaut reported heavy duck hunting on the Humboldt River. "Shotguns are all day popping during daylight and sometimes later. The game is worth the powder, too. The Paiutes capture large numbers of the birds."
- 1867 Sep 24** A telegram arrived at Utah Agency stating Komas, voice of Utes, had died.
- 1879 Sep 27** The *Nevada State Journal* "The Paiutes will gather in Virginia City from all portions of the State to participate in the reception of General Grant."
- 1909 Sep 13** The "**Willie Boy**" manhunt begins. A film of this incident was made years later.
- 1924 Sep 22** Arguments for/against exceptions to Orr Ditch Decree held.
- 1924 Sep 24** Frank Norcross, arguing a water rights case in Nevada federal court, belittled validity of PL tribal rights cited by federal court masters.
- 1924 Sep 27** Senator Tasker Oddie asked for a DOI opinion, in view of grant of U.S. citizenship to Native Americans, if there were any reason to continue Indian schools such as Stewart.
- 1926 Sep 28** Native American and two prison inmates were missing/presumed dead and Lake Tahoe resort and prison guard badly burned and expected to die in wildfire, started near Clear Creek, swept north around Big C Hill into King's Canyon toward Lake Tahoe.
- 1937 Feb 23** A new Greyhound bus, named the Carson City, was dedicated in Nevada's Capitol with the Stewart Indian School band taking part in the ceremony.
- 1977 Sep 26** The Yerington Paiute community center was completed.
- 2000 Sep 25** DOI Secretary Bruce Babbitt ruled remains of Kennewick Man are "culturally affiliated" with Native Americans and ordered them turned over to five tribes. (The federal courts later overruled, ordered scientists be permitted to examine the remains.)
- 2005 Sep 26** The U.S. DOT designated 101-mile Native American Scenic Byway in South Dakota.
- 2007 Sep 26** The **Duckwater Shoshone Tribe** and USFWS signed a safe harbor agreement, reintroducing threatened Railroad Valley springfish back into the Big Warm Spring.



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Dmitri Brown Assistant Professor North America

I am a historian of the United States, specializing in Native American modernity. My current research develops a Tewa Pueblo history of the Manhattan Project and the atomic age. I am especially interested in the ways in which Indigenous philosophy, epistemology, and cosmology open new questions about science and history. I am a member of Santa Clara Pueblo, and much of my work is rooted in family and community relations.

Before coming to Berkeley, I was a postdoctoral scholar in the Society of Fellows and assistant professor of American Studies at the University of Michigan.

Education BA: University of Puget Sound, 2012; PhD: University of California, Davis, 2022



In Chiapas, barefoot on her ancestral land, Isabella Tapia—of Maya heritage—received life-changing news: she has been chosen as Mexico’s first Indigenous astronaut candidate.

Her path began with physics books passed down through generations and nights spent under the stars, guided by her grandparents’ stories and a small flashlight.

Now, Isabella faces the challenges ahead: intense training, complex simulations, and the silent weightlessness of space. Her mother weeps with pride, while her community sings with hope. She carries not only knowledge, but also the names, languages, and traditions too often missing from Mexico’s scientific halls.

When she rises, the Mexican flag will rise with her, and the voices of her people will echo across the stars. The horizon of possibility will stretch far beyond space—into every classroom where Indigenous girls dare to dream. [#BreakingBarriers](#) [#IndigenousPride](#) [#MexicoInSpace](#) [#WomenInSTEM](#) [#Inspiration](#) [#DreamBig](#)