

## ***Journal #6102      from sdc      10.29.25***

*The Road to Area 51*

*In 1789, George Washington borrowed a copy of 'The Law of Nations' from the library*

*Tribe regains ownership of ancestral land along Fall River in California*

*Early horse burial in Wyoming indicating native acquisition of horses earlier than previously believed*

*KQED to air "compelling" stories in November for Native American Heritage Month*

*Bay Area booksellers fear losing business as chains buy indie stores, keep their old names*

*Remaining Native*

*By the shrinking Colorado, AZ Dems and environmentalists rally for climate action*

*Court says no to pipe that would bring water from Utah — through Wyoming — to Colorado*

*Federal Reserve Bank launches first national survey of tribal government finances*

*Today at 9:30 AM ET, Senate Committee on Energy&Natural Resources convenes on Section 106*

*National Geographic's Best of the World 2026: Places to go - North Dakota Badlands*

*The West's new gold rush is the data center boom*



**The Road to Area 51**

## The Historians Den

**In 1789, George Washington borrowed a copy of 'The Law of Nations'** by Emer de Vattel from the New York Society Library, shortly after becoming the first U.S. president. The book, which outlines principles of international law and diplomacy, was never returned, quietly remaining missing for over two centuries.

In 2010, a staff member at the library discovered the overdue entry while digitizing old records. The head librarian jokingly remarked that while they weren't pursuing the fines, they'd appreciate the book's return. The story gained media attention, highlighting the unusual presidential oversight. A month later, the Mount Vernon estate responded by returning the book, 221 years late. Though no penalty was issued, the gesture was seen as a symbolic act of historical reconciliation.

When George Washington borrowed The Law of Nations in 1789, the New York Society Library was actually the de facto Library of Congress because New York City was the U.S. capital at the time. So technically, the first U.S. president checked out a foundational text on international law from what was then the nation's central library... and forgot to return it for over two centuries.

[#books](#) [#thehistoriansden](#)



George Washington borrowed The Law of Nations from the New York Society Library and never returned it. In 2010, the librarian joked about the overdue fines. A month later, Mount Vernon returned it, 221 years late.

*Certainly made my day!*

Hi Shayne!

That's a remarkable achievement, 6100 and all ... and you solicited feedback, so here's mine.

I stumbled upon your Journal a few years back, and so glad I did! As a Founding Trustee of the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian, I've been a practice Nevada archaeologist for five decades. **Despite a lousy record of working with Indigenous Great Basin tribes early in my career, we're deliberately trying to bridge that gap by employing tribal members in all our archeology these days. (my bf)**

I have found your Journal to be a terrific way to keep up with Indigenous doings in Nevada and elsewhere. I read every single issue, keep them all, and often pass individual versions along to colleagues.

Although we've never met, please accept my sincere thanks for a job-well-done, and hope you'll keep up the good work.

Thanks, so much ... dave

David Hurst Thomas, Ph.D., D.Sci., RPA, Senior Curator in Residence, Division of Anthropology

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***Had to remove the pics (too much MG) <https://hadl.handle.net/2246/6>***

By David Hurst Thomas (Anthropological Papers of the American Museum of Natural History)

Alpine Archeology of Alta Toquima and Mt Jefferson Tablelands (Nevada)  
Number 104 (2020)

Defining the Central Mountain Archaic: Great Basin Natural and Cultural Biographies  
Number 106 (2024)

<https://digitallibrary.amnh.org/collections/a6ce3755-a7da-48a0-8a47-1678c57ef5f1/browse/>

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**Tribe regains ownership of ancestral land along Fall River in California**

“The Pit River Tribe has regained ownership of 270 acres of ancestral land along the Fall River. The Western Rivers Conservancy purchased the Pope Jensen Ranch in early September and transferred it to the tribe, according to a community announcement. The move will allow the tribe to begin restoration efforts on nearly 135 acres of freshwater wetlands. The property is located within the ancestral lands of the Ajumawi Band of the Pit River Tribe and holds historical and cultural significance. ... ” [Read more from the Redding Record Searchlight.](#)

From CS:

**Interesting video about very early horse burial in Wyoming indicating native acquisition of horses earlier than previously believed**

<https://youtu.be/m-xWs71B-Ks?si=n2FGn514t8Uz8eqj>



Check out your guide to the most compelling stories airing on KQED, curated by one of our very own — Emma Casley, TV Programming Manager at KQED. In the month of November, she features special programming for Native American Heritage Month. Check out these must-sees: *Bring Them Home*, *In the Wake of Justice Delayed* and *Stroke: Circle of Healing*.

**[Bay Area booksellers fear losing business as chains buy indie stores, keep their old names](#)**

**Chronicle, J.K. DINEEN:** "Barnes & Noble CEO James Daunt says he bought the nine-store Bay Area Books Inc. for a simple reason: The company had filed for bankruptcy, and he didn't want to see the bookstores close.

"It's a mystery that, throughout my professional life, many many wonderful bookstores have gone out of business," Daunt said. "Since I am in a position to do something about it, I do."

## REMAINING NATIVE

It's been a busy October and we have so much to look forward to next month, with lots of great announcements on the way. But before we share all that we have in the works, we wanted to take a brief moment to appreciate everything that's happened since we last wrote at the end of September.

Remember Remaining Native is now available on KINEMA. As a part of the Indigenous Impact Alliance, you can bring Remaining Native to your community for free alongside four other incredible films.

Learn more and sign up by visiting: [IndigenousImpactAlliance.org](https://IndigenousImpactAlliance.org)

Thank you for your continued support of Remaining Native and be sure to check out a newsletter from us next week!

-The Remaining Native Team

## Orange Shirt Week

Remaining Native hosted a series of free screenings in Nevada (and beyond) in recognition of September 30, The Day of Remembrance for U.S. Indian Boarding Schools, also known as Orange Shirt Day—a time to honor and remember the children taken from their families and placed in residential schools.

University of Las Vegas Nevada - We partnered with Tammi Tiger, Director of the San Manuel Tribal Education Initiative to host a screening at UNLV in the Philip Cohen Theater in the Student Union. We began with the short film POW! By Joey Clift, and were honored to welcome Native American actor Derek Hinkey to the audience! We followed up with a Q&A panel with Remaining Naive and POW cast and crew moderated by Annie Delgado, and Ku received the first ever UNLV Proclamation of Recognition of the National Day of Remembrance.

The Heard Museum in Phoenix Arizona hosted two special screenings of Remaining Native with guest speakers Elena Selestewa (Hopi), Visitors Center Specialist at the Phoenix Indian School Visitors Center, and boarding school survivor Patty Talahongva (Hopi), Chief Programming and Engagement Officer at the Heard Museum — who shared their personal histories and connections to Boarding Schools. The screenings were shown to packed houses and the Museum brought us back for two encore showings!

Stewart Indian Museum, Carson City Nevada - The weather turned cold and rainy so we brought Remaining Native into the gym (Moccasin Square Garden) for a cozy event with concessions, a raffle, and live t-shirt silk screening by Laika Press (design by Kutoven Stevens).

It was fantastic to screen Remaining Native in a tribally owned theatre - Fox Peak Cinema! Thank you to the Fallon Paiute Shoshone Tribe for inviting us to screen for 2 days in your awesome theater!

## Tha Hamptons International Film Festival

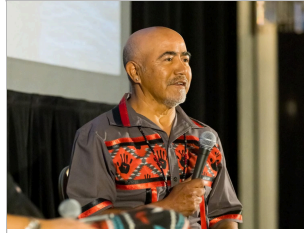
Remaining Native screened at the Hamptons International Film Festival on Thursday, October 9th, and Friday, October 10th. Right in the middle of those two events, we were able to put on an incredible community run, with large thanks to Gubbins Running Ahead Store and the Hamptons Run Club! New Balance joined on as a partner, so that runners could do a shoe demo. It was a celebratory morning where we came together to build community, drink amazing coffee courtesy of the Hamptons Coffee Company, and raffle off some exciting items thanks to HCC, Amber Waves, and New Balance. We were also joined by Kelly Dennis, who came to offer a song for runners. It was a beautiful morning where we ran to the beach and back and were able to bring local runners, Shinnecock Nation community members, walkers, and more to raise critical awareness around the history and legacy of Indian Boarding Schools.

Photo credit: @jessicadalenephotography for @hamptonsfilm

## Hot Springs Film Festival

Delmar Stevens represented Remaining Native at the Hot Springs Film Festival in Arkansas October 13th and 14th, and participated in a live storytelling event with author Kai Coggin, held in front of a faux roaring fire, designed to enthrall, entertain, surprise, & inspire.

We were happy to host a special packed house screening for students; they were such an enthusiastic audience! Remaining Native partnered with the Spa Pacers to bring local runners and Indigenous communities together for a 5k run/walk to build connections through movement!



## Buffalo International Film Festival

Paige Bethmann headed to the Buffalo International Film Festival on October 15th and partnered with Run Like A Native, a non-profit started by Ross John. Jr (Seneca), dedicated to uplifting Indigenous runners and carrying messengers from our ancestors. A group of 50 runners came out and enjoyed homemade corn soup!

Remaining Native won the Best Feature Documentary Jury Award.



## Ridgeway Film Festival

Remaining Native screened to two packed houses October 17th and 19th at the Ridgway Independent Film Festival! Delmar and Misty Stevens and composer Keno Benalli enjoyed the amazing hospitality and friendliness of Ridgway, found a home away from home at Greenwoods Restaurant, and participated in some amazing Fall leaf peeping!

We had two fantastic Q&A panels with a local history teacher Craig Spearman and high school cross country runners Natasha and Ariel Hessler and their mom Leslie Chang. The community came out in force for our 5k run and gathered in the park for a powerful dance performance by the Northern Utes. Special thanks to festival organizer Avery MacKenzie for an incredible weekend!

## More on Indigenous Impact Alliance

The five Indigenous documentary teams chose collaboration over competition, creating a powerful model for collective impact. This initiative prioritizes community healing through authentic storytelling and these films address issues you care about - from land connection and decolonization to environmental restoration and social healing - all told through Indigenous voices and perspectives that highlight innovative, community-based solutions.

Are you ready to host a screening that could spark lasting change in your community? Book your FREE screening now: [IndigenousImpactAlliance.org](https://indigenousimpactalliance.org)

Want to share about the Indigenous Impact Alliance? Post about it! Using our [SOCIAL MEDIA TOOLKIT LINK](#)  
[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1wYVx5sUVry7utzJ6bk3-my-sBKjJnX\\_w/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1wYVx5sUVry7utzJ6bk3-my-sBKjJnX_w/view)

## By the shrinking Colorado, AZ Dems and environmentalists rally for climate action



“Southern Arizona politicians joined representatives of the Sierra Club by the banks of the Colorado River on Oct. 27 to call on Washington to protect the waterway by taking action against climate change. The officials, including Democratic U.S. Rep.-elect Adelita Grijalva, were demanding an end to what they called major rollbacks in climate protections, most prominently the Trump administration’s plan to overturn the endangerment finding that enables the Environmental Protection Agency to regulate greenhouse gas emissions. Grijalva and others connected that action and the revocation of clean energy incentives with the prospect of drought and drying reservoirs that could keep water from flowing to Yuma in the future. ...” [Read more from the Arizona Central](#).

## Court says no to pipe that would bring water from Utah — through Wyoming — to Colorado

“Utah’s Supreme Court has rejected a proposal to pipe tens of thousands of acre feet of water from Utah through Wyoming to Colorado. [Water Horse Resources LLC](#) says it wants to deliver at least 55,000 acre feet a year to meet the Colorado Front Range’s water needs. The pipe would start in Northeast Utah at the Green River, the largest tributary of the Colorado River, then funnel water along Wyoming’s Interstate 80 corridor to potentially be stored in Cobb Lake near Fort Collins, Colo. Water Horse has said this could be part of Colorado’s river water allocation, though [some environmental groups](#) dispute this logic. The state of Utah has denied the project, arguing it’s protecting its scarce resources. The Utah Supreme Court has now affirmed a district court decision. In [an opinion filed on Oct. 17](#), the justices said Water Horse failed to show the

resource can be put to “beneficial use” in Colorado. ... ” [Read more from the Wyoming Public Radio](#).

## **Federal Reserve Bank launches first national survey of tribal government finances**



*Kitcki Carroll, left, executive director of United South and Eastern Tribes, and Phil Gover, senior policy analyst at the Center for Indian Country Development, discuss the launch of the Survey of Native Nations during a panel at the center's 10th anniversary event and data summit on Oct. 9 in Minneapolis. (Photo: Courtesy of Minneapolis Fed/Caroline Yang)*

By [Brian Edwards](#)    [October 12, 2025](#)

**MINNEAPOLIS** — The Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis formally launched its Survey of Native Nations to all federally recognized tribes Thursday, expanding a data collection effort that tribal leaders say addresses critical gaps in economic information about Indian Country.

The announcement came during a [panel discussion](#) at the 10th anniversary event and annual data summit for the Center for Indian Country Development, the Federal Reserve's research and policy institute focused on tribal economies.

“Without this data, it literally would cost us hundreds of millions of dollars,” said Chairman Gerald Gray of the Little Shell Tribe of Montana, which participated in the two pilot phases of the survey. “We use it for a whole variety of things. When you're talking about local economies, state economies, federal — everything we do is reliant on data.”

The Center for Indian Country Development spent more than two years developing the survey's infrastructure and tribal governments in Montana in summer 2023, then expanded to tribes in the Pacific Northwest and along the East Coast in 2024. The pilot phases collected fiscal year 2022 data. The effort stems from the center's data initiative, announced three years ago, which committed to making economic data about Indian Country more accessible to tribal governments.

Phil Gover, senior project manager at the center and one of the project leads, said public data sources often fail to adequately capture tribal economies. Geography-based datasets rarely consider tribal geographies in their design, and data masking techniques used to protect anonymity can make information about smaller communities inaccurate or absent entirely.

The survey addresses these limitations while prioritizing tribal data sovereignty. Tribes maintain ownership of their data and control how the Federal Reserve uses it through data use agreements. The survey's flexible design allows tribes to choose which questions to answer and what type of data to share, with estimates and ranges acceptable.

“In an era of federal funding uncertainty, understanding how federal transfers flow through the public economy at the local level can help tribes plan and advocate for themselves,” Gover said. “This data can contextualize how tribal governments impact the local economy and deliver programs and services, as well as showing tribes gaps in the local public service provision.”

Building trust with tribal governments was essential to the survey’s development, according to tribal leaders who participated in the pilot phases.

“Data gathering efforts in Indian Country haven't always been performed in good faith and have even been used to harm our communities,” said Amber Schultz-Oliver, executive director of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians. “That's why I really appreciate CICD's approach to this project — taking a sort of a slow build and really patience working on trying to identify those metrics that are going to be most impactful and most useful to tribes.”

The center worked with the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians and the United South and Eastern Tribes to [expand the survey](#) to their member tribes during the second pilot phase. Eleven tribes from nine states participated in that phase, which ran from September 2024 through April 2025.

The reports tribes receive include three sections: a profile using public data about the tribe's geography and demographics; comparisons between the tribe's fiscal data and local county or municipal governments; and anonymized, aggregated data from other participating tribes that can be compared to the tribe’s data response.

Kitcki Carroll, executive director of United South and Eastern Tribes, said the survey supports tribal decision-making rather than just grant justification. “This is a survey of nations, of government structures, not clubs,” Carroll said. The data conversation, he said, should be about tribal decision makers, elected officials and tribes' governance structures having “the data to make decisions that are about their community, their nations. That's what sovereignty is about, making those decisions that are best for our people ... not satisfying some sort of artificial need justification measure in order for a promise to be fulfilled.”

Chairman Gray noted the survey's particular value for the Little Shell Tribe, which gained federal recognition in December 2019. The tribe participated in both survey pilots, providing a baseline comparison of its economy before and after federal recognition, including the period when it received pandemic relief funding.

Tribes interested in participating in the survey can contact the Center for Indian Country Development through [its website](#). Participation requires approval from tribal leadership and coordination with tribal finance staff to complete the survey submission. There is no cost to participate beyond staff time needed to compile the response.

[Register Now](#)

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Are you a local artist or part of a small group like a nonprofit, school, library, tribe, or town office, looking to bring more art and visitors to your community? The Nevada Arts Council and Travel Nevada offer grants that can help make that possible.

We are teaming up with the Travel Nevada team and hitting the road to Eureka, Caliente, Moapa Valley, Boulder City and Las Vegas, for the first leg of this road trip.

Please register to attend one of our in-person grants information session. Registration is encouraged.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**On Wednesday, October 29, 2025, at 9:30 AM ET, the Senate Committee on Energy & Natural Resources will convene a hearing "[to Examine the Section 106 Consultation Process Under the National Historic Preservation Act](#)."**

Among the witnesses will be Steven Concho, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) for the Pueblo of Acoma and a member of the Board of Directors for the National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (NATHPO).

Reviewing federally connected projects under Section 106 is one of the core functions of a THPO, both in statute and in practice. These reviews are vital because they are one of the only opportunities required under federal law for Tribal Nations to preserve their sacred places and cultural resources, and they are a critical part of protecting the shared heritage Americans enjoy.

[According to the Committee](#), "The hearing will be held on Wednesday, October 29, 2025, at 9:30 am in room 366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, DC ... The hearing will be webcast live on the Committee's website, and an archived video will be available shortly after the hearing concludes. Witness testimony will be available on the website at the start of the hearing."

Who we are – NATHPO is a national non-profit 501(c)(3) membership organization, founded in 1998, of Tribal preservation leaders protecting culturally important places that perpetuate Native identity, resilience, and cultural endurance. Connections to cultural heritage sustain the health and vitality of Native peoples. We provide guidance to preservation officials, elected representatives, and the public about national historic preservation legislation, policies, and regulations. We promote Tribal sovereignty, develop partnerships, and advocate for Tribes in governmental activities on preservation issues. For more information visit our website at [www.nathpo.org](http://www.nathpo.org).

**National Geographic Best of the World 2026: Places to go-North Dakota Badlands**  
(*Great pic*) [https://www.nationalgeographic.com/travel/article/best-of-the-world-2026?rid=C38947501E68571D7AA5496FBC02C266&cmpid=org=ngp::mc=crm-email::src=ngp::cmp=editorial::add=Compass\\_20251025](https://www.nationalgeographic.com/travel/article/best-of-the-world-2026?rid=C38947501E68571D7AA5496FBC02C266&cmpid=org=ngp::mc=crm-email::src=ngp::cmp=editorial::add=Compass_20251025)

**Why go:** The Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library reflects a complex man—and an enigmatic landscape

Theodore Roosevelt was a native New Yorker, but North Dakota's Badlands are where he sought refuge, first to hunt bison in 1883, then to grieve the simultaneous deaths of his wife and his mother in 1884. The rugged landscape and its then disappearing wildlife shaped the 26th president's character and thoughts on conservation. Next summer (July 4, 2026), Teddy's stomping grounds will welcome the 93,000-square-foot Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library, perched high on a butte above the wild little frontier-throwback town of Medora. Interactive exhibits will transport visitors to crucial periods and places in Roosevelt's life—from his family brownstone in Manhattan to his time in the White House to his expeditions in Africa and the Amazon. The institution aims to "humanize, not lionize" the president, who, for all his political and environmental leadership, held some deeply racist views. Designed by the Norwegian architectural firm Snøhetta, the building disappears into the landscape, built with compressed wood beams and a walkable roof covered in native vegetation. The roof itself is part of a 1.3-mile trail with outlooks toward adjoining Theodore Roosevelt National Park, where visitors can see bison, the ancient ungulate that Roosevelt had the vision to protect after watching them hunted to near extinction.

While in the area, consider a visit to the nearby new Three Affiliated Tribes National Park, formerly a 2,100-acre ranch on the traditional homelands of the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara (the tribes had to purchase the ranchland after it was taken from them). Visitors can participate in photography workshops and Indigenous ranger-led hikes that explore the breathtakingly spare Little Missouri Badlands. — *Stephanie Pearson*

*Plan your visit to the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library and Three Affiliated Tribes National Park with our destination spotlight guide to the [North Dakota Badlands](#).*

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## **The West's new gold rush is the data center boom**

"A new kind of gold rush is sweeping the West, and this time the prize isn't minerals but megawatts. From Phoenix to Colorado's Front Range, data centers are arriving with outsize demands for power and water. In a new report, the regional environmental advocacy group Western Resource Advocates (WRA) warns that without stronger guardrails, the financial and environmental costs could fall on everyday households. Across Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico and Utah, new data centers are expected to create a surge in resource use, raising consumers' power bills while jeopardizing climate goals. By 2035, the surge in new data centers could send the Interior West's electricity demand soaring by about 55 percent, WRA warns. The unprecedented extent of the industry's energy requirements risks derailing decarbonization goals in several states. Energy experts say the astronomical power needs may keep fossil fuels like coal and gas in use longer. NV Energy, Nevada's main utility, now expects its carbon emissions to rise 53 percent over 2022 estimates because of new data center growth. ... " [Read more from Grist](#).