

Journal #6120 from sdc 11.24.25

Sloths give rare glimpse into the mix of creatures once encountered

Alaska Native villages have few options and little US help as climate change devours their land

Trump outright deletes report on murdered/missing Native Americans, calling it 'DEI content'

Archaeologists discover 10-000 y-o evidence bridge between americas was guarded by beasts

Did a Grand Canyon Ranger Uncover Something the Smithsonian Has Denied for Decades?

Posted notes at the GOOD FIRE exhibit (Oakland Museum of California) Senate committee advances a Trump-aligned pick for HHS watchdog, a role long seen as nonpartisan

Trump nominates new CFPB director, but White House says agency is still closing

Trump administration makes major changes to a report it commissioned on FEMA reforms

Congress approves measure to overturn Biden-era management plan for Alaska petroleum reserve

Schools fear disruptions as the White House begins dismantling the Education Department

Tribal leaders say Trump administration failed to consult with them on Education Department changes
Historic Staple Vanishes

Tribal/environmental advocates challenge certification of consistency of the Delta Conveyance Project
The Outdoor Learning School & Store

When Government Closes Its Doors, Indian Country Knows Exactly What Comes Next

History Bits

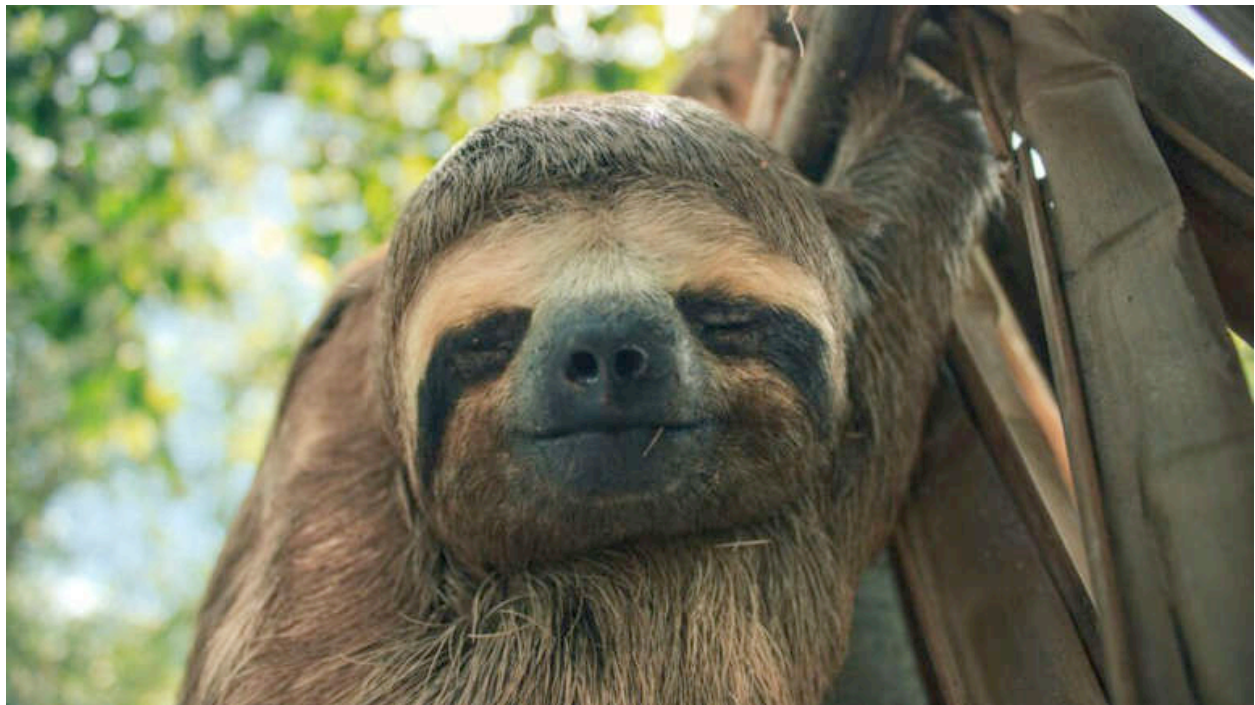
The Outdoor Learning School & Store

The story of the captives transported on the HMS Beagle with Darwin

Teaching with Museum Collections in the Age of AI

Colorado River Tribes Grant Historic Personhood Status to Namesake River

*David Attenborough **views hope as a necessary motivation for collective action on environmental issues***



Fossils of giant sloths, saber-toothed cats, and armored glyptodons give scientists a rare glimpse into the mix of creatures people once encountered.

[Alaska Native villages have few options and little US help as climate change devours their land](#)

Trump outright deletes report on murdered and missing Native Americans — calling it 'DEI content'

https://open.substack.com/pub/unpresidented/p/trump-outright-deletes-report-on?utm_source=share&utm_medium=android&r=5z4zi5

Archaeologists-discover-10-000-year-old-evidence-that-bridge-between-north-and-south-america-was-guarded-by-beasts

Ancient Land Bridge Connecting the Americas ©Source: Pexels

Ten thousand years ago, a strip of land joined North and South America in Panama. It acted like a natural bridge where people and animals passed through on their journeys. Fossils found in the area point to creatures that once moved across that same ground. The crossing gave humans a way to spread farther, and it also connected wildlife that had never shared the same space before. So the bridge became a meeting point in history.

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/world/archaeologists-discover-10-000-year-old-evidence-that-bridge-between-north-and-south-america-was-guarded-by-beasts/ss-AA1PJndP?ocid=socialshare#image=15>

Did a Grand Canyon Ranger Uncover Something the Smithsonian Has Denied for Decades?

A new discovery in the Grand Canyon has revived one of America's oldest and most puzzling historical mysteries. ©Image license via PickPik

A Grand Canyon park ranger claims to have uncovered evidence linked to a century-old Smithsonian controversy that has long fascinated historians and conspiracy theorists alike. The find allegedly connects to reports from the early 1900s describing hidden chambers filled with ancient artifacts — discoveries the Smithsonian has repeatedly denied. Now, new details are reigniting debate over whether the story was myth, misunderstanding, or something the museum never wanted the public to know.

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/travel/tripideas/did-a-grand-canyon-ranger-uncover-something-the-smithsonian-has-denied-for-decades/ss-AA1PW5iJ?ocid=socialshare#image=1>

Posted notes at the GOOD FIRE exhibit (Oakland Museum of California)

**CULTURAL FIRE
is sovereignty**

**It is
Managment
It is a
Reistance**

It is about **returning** leadership to those who have managed these land since
time immemorial

Here are several of our favorite reports co-authored by Indigenous leaders in fire
and land management

Together, they outline steps and transormations to restore balance through
indigenous-led fire stewardship—from and access to funding, from legal rights
to agency reform

GOOD FIRE II REPORT
by Karuk Tribe

IFMAT IV REPORT
by Intertribal Timber Council

BRANDING INDIGENOUS AND WESTERN KNOWLEDGE FOR CLIMATE-
ADAPTED FORESTS ECOCULTURAL STATE OF SCIENCE REPORT

ON FIRE REPORT
by Wildland Fire Mitigation and Management Commission

YOU COULD EMPHASIZE THE NEED TO:

Create continuous and dedicated funding for Tribal and Indigenous-led land and
fire programs.

Recognize cultural burning as an inherent Tribal right, defined by Tribes.

Train all government agency staff to know and support Tribal law, history, culture

Expand meaningful land coop-management and re-matriation. ...

Land Back !

Write to

DECISION-MAKERS
FireGenCollab.org

- [Senate committee advances a Trump-aligned pick for HHS watchdog, a role long seen as nonpartisan](#)
- [Trump nominates new CFPB director, but White House says agency is still closing](#)
- [Trump administration makes major changes to a report it commissioned on FEMA reforms, AP sources say](#)
- [Congress approves measure to overturn Biden-era management plan for Alaska petroleum reserve](#)
- [Schools fear disruptions as the White House begins dismantling the Education Department](#)
- [Tribal leaders say Trump administration failed to consult with them on Education Department changes](#)

Historic Staple Vanishes—208 Years Gone in a Flash



Americans face the shocking end of a two-century tradition as the Farmers' Almanac ceases publication, signaling the erosion of another pillar of common-sense American culture...

→ Read More

Tribal and environmental advocates challenge certification of consistency of the Delta Conveyance Project



San Joaquin River, South Delta.

“A coalition of Tribes and environmental advocates have filed a formal appeal challenging the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) Certification of Consistency for the proposed Delta Conveyance Project (DCP), arguing the project violates state law and poses an imminent threat to Delta communities, its ecosystem and cultural heritage. The coalition, consisting of the Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians, the Winnemem Wintu Tribe, San Francisco Baykeeper, Center for Biological Diversity, California Sportfishing Protection Alliance, Little Manila Rising, Friends of the River, California Indian Environmental Alliance, Sierra Club California and Restore the Delta, are urging the Delta Stewardship Council to overturn the certification citing

inconsistencies with the Delta Reform Act and Delta Plan. ... ” [Read more from Restore the Delta.](#)



REMAINING NATIVE WILL BE TAKING DONATIONS OF NON-PERISHABLE GOODS ALL WEEK AT THE THEATER.

STATEMENT FROM DIRECTOR PAIGE BETHMANN

My thoughts on the NYC theatrical release of Remaining Native during the week of Thanksgiving...

As a Haudenosaunee person, giving thanks is a main component of our identity. The Ohen:ton Karihwaterhkwen (The Words Before All Else), known colloquially as the Thanksgiving Address, is a foundational part of our ceremonies, social gatherings, family meals, and everyday life. These words are not a prayer, but an expression of gratitude meant to bring our collective attention together to acknowledge the interconnectedness of life and the natural and celestial worlds. The Ohen:ton Karihwaterhkwen is a tool that brings people together with an awareness of their identity in the wider world. It is a blueprint to a culture of reciprocity.

Since March of this year, Remaining Native has had over 70+ screenings, has won various awards, hosted community 5K runs globally, and has formed over 200 partnerships with Indigenous organizations, run clubs, and community orgs reaching a wide array of audiences all with one goal in mind: to share the power of Ku's story while creating space for healing, honoring land, and bringing Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities together to raise critical awareness of the legacy of Indian boarding schools.

Now as we approach Thanksgiving, and the largest running day of the year (who knew over 1.5 million runners take to the streets on Thanksgiving!?), we're arriving in New York City to Indigenize the space with truth and reciprocity, celebrating culture, self, and community.

Open Letter to Carson City: When Government Closes Its Doors, Indian Country Knows Exactly What Comes Next

NEVADA – During an extraordinary special legislative session marked by restricted public access and rushed high-impact policy decisions, Native Voters Alliance Nevada (NVAN), the only 501(c)4 Native advocacy organization in the state, has issued an open letter highlighting the Nevada Legislature's continued pattern of exclusion that echoes generations of government-inflicted trauma against Tribal Nations. The Assembly's refusal to allow telephonic public comment prevented working families, Tribal citizens, and everyday Nevadans from participating in deliberations on a 1.8 billion dollar corporate welfare tax credit. The letter outlines serious concerns raised by lawmakers and community partners regarding transparency, accessibility, and the erosion of democratic participation. NVAN urges state leadership to end practices that silence communities most impacted by economic hardship and to commit to meaningful public involvement in decisions that shape the future of Nevada.

Copied below is the full text of the letter from NVAN:

Hello,
NVAN stands firm in the belief that leadership must honor Tribal sovereignty, respect working families, protect democratic participation, and defend every Nevadan's right to be heard. These are not abstract principles. They are the values our communities live by and the protections we have fought generations to secure.

Our relatives know better than anyone what happens when the government chooses silence over participation. For generations, our communities have carried the weight of decisions made about us without us. We carry the trauma of being erased, ignored, and pushed out of the rooms where our futures were determined. Today, we are breaking those cycles. We are standing up when the government finds new ways to silence our people and inflict more pain on Nevadans who are already struggling in an economy that feels impossible to survive.

At the start of this special session, the Assembly chose to shut off telephonic public comment. Everyday Nevadans were told that the only acceptable way to participate in their government was to take off work, find childcare, drive across the state or city, and sit for hours in a building with no guarantee they would be allowed to speak. That is not public input. That is manufactured exclusion. The technology to allow full participation exists. The refusal to use it makes clear that access to government is treated as a privilege instead of a right.

While Speaker Yeager claimed he wanted [robust public input](#), the Assembly restricted testimony in ways that left countless Nevadans unheard. Parents had to leave to pick up their children. Workers had to leave to protect their paychecks. People who waited for hours never got their turn. Several members of the Assembly raised these concerns and put them on the record. Community partners spoke up. During Committee, legislators were told to [discuss the issue with the Speaker](#) and that the lack of telephonic testimony occurred because of [a staffing issue](#), despite the fact that the technology exists and the Senate is allowing phone testimony. Instead of fixing the problem, Speaker Yeager [dismissed](#) and talked down to colleagues who disagreed with him.

In addition, it is proving to be a little confusing as to why Speaker Yeager believes that two Republican Assembly members can participate electronically so they can prepare for vacation, yet refuses to allow Nevadans to participate in public testimony telephonically. When an

Assemblymember requested an opportunity to debate the issue, the Speaker stated: I'm choosing not to recognize you.

It is clear that Speaker Yeager is committed to not recognizing those who disagree with him.

This is not how a democracy behaves. [A government that only hears from the privileged is not a democracy](#). It is a gatekeeping system built to keep everyone else out.

Nevadans are already suffering under an economy that has stretched families past their breaking point. They are drowning in housing costs, food prices, medical bills, and instability. They needed leadership that listened to them. Instead, they got a process that shut them out and a bill that forces another burden they cannot afford. Silencing the public while advancing a 1.8 billion dollar corporate welfare tax credit is not leadership. It is a betrayal of the people who will have to carry that cost. We are tired of the tactics that pit labor and progressives against each other to [justify jobs that offer no long term stability](#) and no real benefit to the people who live here.

Our responsibility is to the people of this state. Not to titles. Not to power. And not to anyone who closes the doors of government in the faces of the communities we fight for.

Nevada deserves leaders who open the doors wider. NVAN will always stand with the people who are demanding to be heard. And we will not ignore any effort, old or new, to silence our communities.

Because we have seen this film before and we did not like the ending. Our people have lived through generations of being pushed out of the rooms where decisions about our land, our children, our rights, and our futures were made. We know exactly what it looks like when government decides who deserves a voice and who does not. And every time, it has been people who look like us who are told to wait outside.

We will not accept that ending again. Not for our children. Not for our communities. Not for Nevada.

Signed, 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 strategy to protect sovereignty, land, and future generations.



300 S 4th St, Floor 6 Las Vegas, NV 89101

The Outdoor Learning School & Store

Eight presenters. Countless perspectives. Deepen your understanding of land, culture & connection.

Don't miss your season of learning. November 30th is the very last day to join the course.

Season 1: Foundations of Knowledge – Canadam

An Indigenous-led Learning Opportunity open to EVERYONE

Starting November 2025 and running until May 2026 12 hours of Foundational Learning

We invite you to take this first before moving on to other seasons (years) of learning. If you have already completed the 4 Seasons of Reconciliation Modules (through Reconciliation Education) we invite you to register for [Season 2: Learning from the Land](#).

Modules in this course cover:

Areas covered include:

1. Colonialism
2. Racism
3. History
4. Treaties
5. Residential Schools
6. Terminology
7. Relationships
8. Reconciliation
9. Restitution

Review the Course Syllabus.

https://outdoorlearning.com/event/season-1-canada-2025-2026/?utm_medium=paid&utm_source=fb&utm_id=6897481351168&utm_content=6919971834568&utm_term=6905417164168&utm_campaign=6897481351168&fbclid=IwY2xjawOK9gBlcHRuA2FlbQEwAGFkaWQAAAZLW1-K0HNydGMGYXBwX2lkEDIyMjAzOTE3ODgyMDA4OTIAAR6dnSh6nRjLkwwCEChT2GVpT6KH-ceG3W7aIW3a3ZSui-Esg4MnLvl29VqSQ_aem_pg7lnQ6CcRN0N_R79A0MDA

The story of the captives transported on the HMS Beagle with Darwin

‘The American aborigines, Negroes and Europeans differ as much from each other in mind as any three races that can be named; yet I was incessantly struck, whilst living with the Fuegians on board the “Beagle”, with the many little traits of character, showing how similar their minds were to ours.’ – Charles Darwin in *The Descent of Man, and Selection in Relation to Sex* (1871)

Charles Darwin had a complex relationship with race. In his writings, passages reflecting convictions of European superiority, then common among his peers, today read as nakedly racist. However, he found reason to oppose slavery in his firm belief that all humans were part of a single, unified species, and through his personal experiences, including the cruelties he observed during his travels. The complexities of his views are well captured in his writings on the

Indigenous peoples of Tierra del Fuego – an archipelago at the tip of South America – to whom he ascribed a ‘savage’ character, yet in whom he recognised a common humanity and an extraordinary ability to survive in a rugged landscape.

The first ‘Fuegians’ he encountered weren’t in South America but aboard the first leg of his famed voyage on HMS Beagle in 1831. Two young men and a girl of the Alacaluf people and one Yahgan boy had been kidnapped by the ship’s captain, Robert FitzRoy, during an expedition in the previous year and were later brought to England in an attempt to ‘civilise’ them. One of the men died soon after arriving in Plymouth.

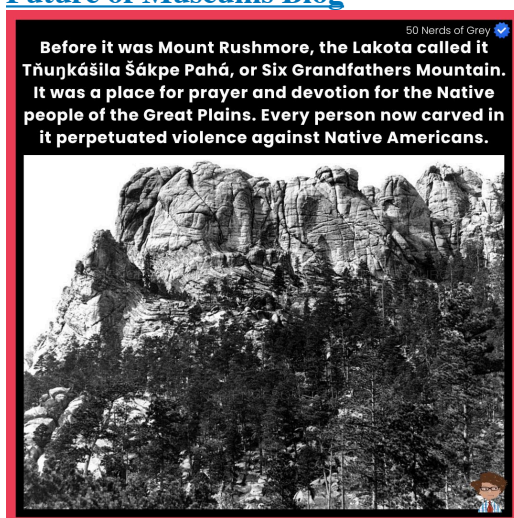
The latest short from the Swiss animator [Georges Schwizgebel](#), *Darwin’s Notebook*, envisions the experience of these captured people’s journey from their home to England and back again in his distinctive painterly style. By exploring this little-known story with breathtaking artistry, Schwizgebel highlights not only their kidnapping but broader themes of colonialism, racism and modernity. Director: [Georges Schwizgebel](#)/Composer and sound designer: [Judith Gruber-Stitzer](#)

<https://aeon.co/videos/the-story-of-the-captives-transported-on-the-hms-beagle-with-darwin>

Teaching with Museum Collections in the Age of AI

I started writing about artificial intelligence and the implications for museums [back in 2017](#). In the ensuing years, the technology has gone from “on the horizon” to a major disruptor of [work](#), [jobs](#), [parenting](#), [dating](#), and, well, life. Is there anything AI can’t (or shouldn’t) do? Today on the blog, Professor Sarah Anne Carter talks about one area which AI may be unable to improve—object based inquiry. —Elizabeth Merritt, VP Strategic Foresight and Founding Director, Center for the Future of Museums, American Alliance of Museums. [Center for the](#)

[Future of Museums Blog](#)



History Bits

1789 Nov 26 President George Washington declared a day of thanksgiving for the US.

- 1859 Nov 29** The Pyramid Lake reservation was established.
- 1864 Nov 29** Colorado Territory militia led by Colonel John Chivington (a Methodist minister) attacked and destroyed a village of Cheyenne and Arapaho at Sand Creek; Chivington was never tried or disciplined because of a post-Civil War amnesty.
- 1933 Nov 27** 200 county officials met in Reno with federal relief administrator and state labor commissioner who briefed them on how to administer 3,000 federally created jobs in the state.
- 1868 Nov 27** Colonel George Custer, under cloud for conviction of being absent without leave from command and conduct to the prejudice of good order and military discipline (mistreating his men), attacked without provocation a peaceful Cheyenne settlement.
- 1974 Nov 24** President Grant revoked previous orders establishing Indian lands in the Tulerosa Valley of New Mexico
- 1877 Nov 30** **Chief Winnemucca** and his son **Natchez** passed through Reno on their way to Virginia City after returning from San Francisco where they interviewed federal officials.
- 1885 Nov 24** The Corps of Discovery voted to winter along the Columbia, a poll in which all members of the party participated, causing some to claim that this was the first election by US citizens in the West.
- 1933 Nov 28** In a program to reduce number of sheep growing on Navaho reservation in order to reduce soil erosion, the Federal Emergency Relief Administration planned to purchase 100,000 some of which would be distributed as food to Nevada tribes.
- 1933 Nov 26** United Press reported that the Roosevelt administration was considering putting nonproductive farm land into the public domain to be used for grazing.
- 1940 Nov 24** **The Goshute people** of Nevada and Utah incorporated as the Confederated Tribes of the Goshute Reservation. American Alliance of Museums

~~~~~

## **Colorado River Indian Tribes Grant Historic Personhood Status to Namesake River -Part One of Five: A Historic Vote**

Arizona Silver Belt, 11/20/2025 - On Nov. 6, 2025, the Colorado River Indian Tribes Tribal Council made history with a unanimous vote that fundamentally changes how the Colorado River is recognized under tribal law. The council granted legal personhood status to the Colorado River itself, making CRIT the first community anywhere to bestow such recognition on the 1,450-mile waterway that sustains 40 million people across seven states.

~~~~~

AI Overview

David Attenborough **views hope as a necessary motivation for collective action on**

environmental issues, not as a passive belief but as a driving force for change, according to [Global Citizen](#) and [The Independent](#). He believes that humanity's ingenuity and adaptability, combined with unified global efforts like protecting ecosystems and transitioning to sustainable practices, can lead to a more thriving future. He stresses that this hope should stem from the power of our collective action, not from fear.

Key aspects of Attenborough's view on hope:

- **Hope as an active force:** Attenborough frames hope not as a wishful feeling but as the necessary foundation for action. He stated at the COP26 conference that hope is why the world looks to leaders to act.
- **The power of human ingenuity:** He points to human adaptability and resourcefulness as reasons for optimism, arguing that if these traits are directed towards protecting the natural world, the planet can be saved.
- **Collective action is key:** Attenborough emphasizes that working together is crucial for saving the planet, just as working apart has led to its destabilization. He highlights successful conservation efforts, such as the protection of mountain gorillas, as evidence of what can be achieved when people collaborate.
- **Hope over fear:** He advocates for motivation to be based on hope rather than fear, suggesting that focusing on the possibility of a positive outcome is a more powerful and effective approach for achieving the necessary change.
- **Tangible reasons for hope:**
 - **Conservation successes:** He points to examples like the recovery of marine life in protected areas, where a third of the ocean could potentially lead to a more abundant world if we protect it.
 - **Global agreements:** He sees the potential for global agreements to work towards common goals, as seen with the promise to protect a third of the ocean.

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/article/ocean-david-attenborough-marine-conservation>



(whoops! lost provenance)

