

Journal #6122 from sdc 11.26.25

How Nevada got the first recreation area

Classroom refocus without cell phones

Trump administration plan to reduce access to some student loans angers nurses, health care groups

Trump signs executive order for AI project called Genesis Mission to boost scientific discoveries

A dramatic stretch of desert is being proposed as California's next national monument

Inconvenient Indian writer has no indigenous roots

Locked Out at MLK: Cal Shuts Multicultural Hub Without Warning

We honor how Indigenous cultures embrace storytelling to keep our traditions alive

Two College Students Are Building a Robot to Replant Burned Forests

The big data center buildup

A sperm whale floats amid shards of polar pack ice, dead and decomposing

Driverless cars expand territory

Trump Administration takes steps to dismantle the Education Department

Pitching United States public lands to immigrants... but only the right sort, please!

Cartoon map taking aim at the Guggenheim mining empire

President US Grant's Sixth State of the Union Address December 7, 1874

How Nevada got the first recreation area, but became one of the last to get a national park.[https://](https://knpr.org/podcast/nevada-yesterdays/how-nevada-got-the-first-recreation-area-but-became-one-of-the-last-to-get-a-national-park)



knpr.org/podcast/nevada-yesterdays/how-nevada-got-the-first-recreation-area-but-became-one-of-the-last-to-get-a-national-park

Classrooms refocus without phones: Nevada districts are locking phones in Yondr pouches, reporting fewer distractions and behavior issues, as Carson City and Washoe lead ahead of a July statewide requirement, despite mixed reactions -- [see how Nevada schools adapt](#).

- [Trump administration plan to reduce access to some student loans angers nurses, health care groups](#)
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- [Trump signs executive order for AI project called Genesis Mission to boost scientific discoveries](#)

[A dramatic stretch of desert is being proposed as California's next national monument](#)

Chronicle, KURTIS ALEXANDER: "The Amargosa River is a rare force of life in California's Mojave Desert, nourishing a dramatic landscape of ancient lakebeds, lush canyons and warm springs in one of the hottest, driest places in North America.

Now, the river is at the center of a growing campaign to create a new national monument."



Inconvenient Indian writer has no indigenous roots

Thomas King, who focused on indigenous stories, said he feels "ripped in half" after learning he is not part Cherokee.

[More on this >](#)

[Locked Out at MLK: Cal Shuts Multicultural Hub Without Warning](#)

UC Berkeley closed the Multicultural Community Center; student staff say they were blindsided.

“ Censorship is to Art as Lynching is to Justice” — Henry Louis Gates Jr.

This Native American Heritage Month, **we honor how Indigenous cultures embrace storytelling to keep our traditions alive.**

Creating space for Native art to be celebrated is one of many forms of resistance.

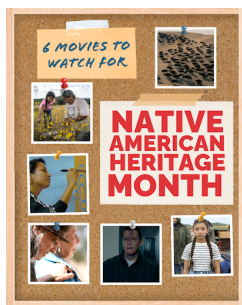
So we're highlighting a mix of six Native documentaries and fiction films about Native movements and relationships.

This is just a small peek into Native cinema. Many different Native filmmakers and storytellers use this medium (film) to engage people with our belief systems and ways of life -- and interrupt the narrative of what being Native really means today.

With your support, Native Organizers Alliance is also disrupting dominant national narratives -- including the myth of Thanksgiving and the truth about our actual legal and inherent relationship with public federal lands -- these remain part of our Native homelands, which Tribal Nations have the right and responsibility to co-manage with the federal government.

To celebrate Native Heritage Month, check out our list of movies to watch below -- and if you're able to, please give to Native Organizers Alliance. Together, we can ensure a growing, powerful movement led by Native peoples who can mobilize a majority to protect our lands, waters, resources, and human rights.

Hawwih (*thank you*) for supporting our urgent work to re-Indigenize our lands and society.



Note: All of the below movies are currently available for free on [Kanopy](#) (a streaming service that only requires a school email or local library card to access).

Dadiwonisi: We Will Speak by Schon Duncan and Michael McDermitt

Dadiwonisi (We Will Speak) highlights the critical work of language activists, artists, youth, and elders who are now leading a growing movement of urgent radical revitalization efforts to help save the Cherokee language from the brink of extinction. The film also delves into the history of the Cherokee syllabary, the destructive assimilationist legacy of boarding schools, the lasting impacts of the Trail of Tears, and the ways in which members of the Cherokee Tribe reconcile their relationship to American identity.

Bring Them Home (Aiskótkapiyaaya) by Ivy MacDonald, Ivan MacDonald, and Daniel Glick

Bring Them Home tells the story of a small group of Blackfoot people and their mission to establish the first wild buffalo herd on their ancestral territory since the species' near-extinction a century ago -- an act that would restore the land, re-enliven traditional culture, and bring much-needed healing to their community.

Beans by Tracey Deer

Twelve-year-old Beans is on the edge. She's torn between innocent childhood and reckless adolescence, forced to grow up fast and become the tough Mohawk warrior she needs to be during the Oka Crisis -- the turbulent Indigenous uprising that tore Quebec and Canada apart for 78 tense days in the summer of 1990.

Gather by Sanjay Rawal



Gather is an intimate portrait of the growing movement among Native Americans to reclaim their spiritual, political and cultural identities through food sovereignty, while battling the trauma of centuries of genocide.

Barking Water by Sterlin Harjo

Hoping to see his daughter and grandchild, a terminally ill man embarks on a road trip with his former lover.

Wild Indian by Lyle Mitchell Corbine Jr.

Decades after covering up his classmate's murder, Michael has moved on from his reservation

and fractured past. When a man who shares his violent secret seeks vengeance, Michael goes to great lengths to protect his new life with his wife and boss from the demons of his past.

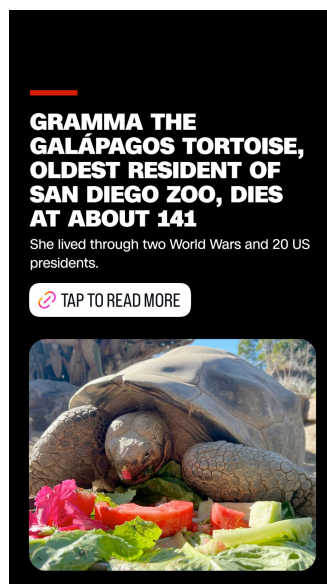
Of course, there are many additional incredible Native films and TV shows. If you have other favorites you want to recommend, please reply to let us know. Let's keep supporting Native art and creatives together!

In solidarity, Judith LeBlanc (Caddo)

Two College Students Are Building a Robot to Replant Burned Forests

Marta Bernardino and Sebastião Mendonça invented Trovador, a six-legged, A.I.-powered robot that can plant trees in hard-to-reach, wildfire-damaged terrain

https://www.smithsonianmag.com/innovation/two-college-students-are-building-a-robot-to-replant-burned-forests-180987751/?is_pocket=1&utm_source=firefox-newtab-en-us



The big data center buildup

An AI server farm tsunami threatens to overwhelm the West's power grid and water supplies.

<https://hcn858.activehosted.com/index.php?action=social&chash=fde9264cf376fffe2ee4ddf4a988880d.1975&s=5e3b825d7fb5786add77fab67f3bf3c5> (copy and put in search engine)



A sperm whale floats amid shards of polar pack ice, dead and decomposing, mouth hanging open. When photographer Roie Galitz captured the scene with a drone, the image was so arresting that it took a moment to notice the hungry female polar bear stretching her jaw to break through the whale's leathery skin. "I had an idea of what to expect," he says, "but I didn't expect it to be that epic." Galitz was leading a photography expedition along Norway's Svalbard archipelago when he spotted a blackened blob floating on the horizon. As the icebreaker drew close, he could see (and smell) that the blob was a massive decaying carcass releasing an occasional exhalation of noxious gas, "like a big air cushion," says Galitz. "With the Arctic, it's like being in a big freezer, but sometimes you get a sniff."

The encounter raised a curious question: What was a sperm whale doing here? "It's super rare," explains Galitz. The species prefers temperate climes, but as Arctic waters warm, some whales are moving beyond their traditional range. Strong currents and winds might also have pushed it north, a happy surprise for both Galitz and the bear, which worked hard for the feast. "You can see she's trying to get in and get through, but the hide is just so thick," says Galitz. As for a cause of death, scientists have not been able to determine what killed the whale. It might have been old age or injury from a boat. "Without better indications, I think it's impossible to find out."

The following week, Galitz returned with another expedition, but the whale was already gone. "It's so unpredictable and fragile," he says. "A scene you saw today will probably not be there tomorrow."

From: https://www.nationalgeographic.com/photography/graphics/pictures-of-the-year-2025?rid=C38947501E68571D7AA5496FBC02C266&cmpid=org=ngp::mc=crm-email::src=ngp::cmp=editorial::add=Sunday_NL_Photo_20251123

[Native American Indians](#) ·

Auckland Becomes the Heart of the World's Largest Indigenous Gathering

Auckland made history this week, transforming into the epicentre of global Indigenous pride as thousands of leaders, elders, educators, and cultural guardians gathered for the largest Indigenous festival ever held in Aotearoa. Delegations travelled from across the Pacific, the Americas, Australia, Asia and beyond — all uniting under one kaupapa: to celebrate identity, protect culture, and strengthen bonds between nations.

From the moment the pōwhiri thundered across the marae, the energy was powerful. Ceremonies, hongi, traditional regalia, chants, drumming, haka, carving, storytelling and shared knowledge created a breathtaking atmosphere of unity. Every handshake, every greeting, every cultural exchange marked a step toward deeper connection and global understanding.

This festival wasn't just an event — it was a declaration. A declaration that Indigenous culture is alive, thriving, and leading with strength. A reminder that whakapapa reaches across oceans. And a celebration of the resilience, mana, and shared purpose of Indigenous peoples worldwide.

Auckland stood tall, proud, and united — showing the world what true cultural solidarity looks like.

Driverless cars expand territory

Amazon's Zoox began offering robotaxi rides to the public in San Francisco yesterday, challenging Alphabet-owned Waymo's Bay Area dominance and marking the first time two rivals are operating in the same city.

Founded in 2014 by an Australian designer and the son of Apple's chairman, Zoox was acquired by Amazon for roughly \$1.3B in 2020. Zoox builds its boxy, all-electric, steering-wheel-free vehicles, while Waymo installs its technology into cars from manufacturers such as Jaguar and Chrysler. This summer, Amazon announced the conversion of a former California bus factory into a Zoox plant projected to make 10,000 robotaxis annually. Roughly 50 Zoox vehicles now operate between San Francisco and Las Vegas, where the company first began offering public rides in September. Rides in both cities are currently limited to select areas and are free, pending regulatory approvals.

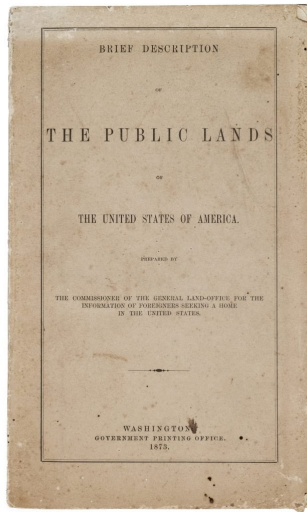
Waymo, which has charged for rides in San Francisco since 2023, expanded its routes last week to highways around San Francisco, Los Angeles, and Phoenix.

> **Trump administration takes** steps to dismantle the Education Department by transferring key programs to four other agencies, which include the departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, State, and Interior ([More](#))

“There are only four kinds of people in the world - those that have been caregivers, those that are caregivers, those that will be caregivers, and those that will need need caregivers.

—Roslyn Carter

Pitching United States public lands to immigrants... but only the right sort, please!



Willis Drummond, Commissioner of the General Land-Office, *BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PUBLIC LANDS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA PREPARED BY THE COMMISSIONER OF THE GENERAL LAND-OFFICE FOR THE INFORMATION OF FOREIGNERS SEEKING A HOME IN THE UNITED STATES*. Washington: Government Printing Office, **1873**.

Pamphlet, 16pp plus large folding map (16”h x 26”w at neat line). String tied and tipped into printed paper wraps. Minor soiling and dog-earing, a bit of insect damage to lower-right corner of final leaf. 1” binding tear to map. Wraps toned and somewhat worn and soiled. \$750 Add to cart

Prepared by the U.S. [General Land Office](#), this pamphlet was issued to guide and encourage would-be European emigrants by addressing the steady flow of inquiries about the [United States](#) and its vast public domain. It outlines the structure of federal and state governments, sketches the country’s major physical regions, and describes climate, soils, and agricultural prospects across its regions. To clarify the workings of the public-land system, it explains survey methods, purchasing options, pre-emption and homestead rights, and the essentials of naturalization. A small diagram on page 9 illustrates the federal rectangular survey—townships, sections, and ranges—helping readers understand how land was organized and described. Supplementing the narrative, the pamphlet concludes with a roster of U.S. land offices on page 14, and, on page 15, a detailed accounting of immigrant populations from major Northern European nations (generally speaking, the only ones whose immigrants were seen as desirable), broken down by state and territory.

The pamphlet is illustrated by a large, folding “Map of the United States of America”, delineating state and territorial boundaries, locating major cities and towns, and showing the fast-growing network of railroad routes spanning the country, with different line styles indicating routes in operation, those under construction, and those proposed. The title is given in English, French, German, and Swedish.

Together these elements formed an authoritative, practical guidebook for newcomers, setting out both the opportunities and the procedural pathways by which an immigrant might obtain land, establish a farm, and ultimately secure citizenship.

The pamphlet is surprisingly scarce on the market: Searches of AbeBooks and Google yield no copies of any edition currently offered for sale, and Rare Book Hub lists only two having appeared on the market since 1990.

Interpretation

The pamphlet constructs a carefully managed portrait of the United States intended to encourage and reassure prospective settlers—above all those from Northern and Western Europe.

The text presents the United States as a republic of orderly institutions, predictable climate, and boundless agricultural promise. The rugged climate of much of the public domain is softened, and regional extremes muted: the autumn in the northern states, for example, is said to be “*the most enjoyable season... the days are bright and warm...*” (p. 7). The public lands are described as essentially waiting to be claimed, with no acknowledgment of the violent dispossession of Indigenous nations that made such lands “public” in the first place.

The most revealing passages concern the land system itself. The homestead law, for instance, is celebrated as a beneficent mechanism “*to place within the reach of every industrious man, an opportunity to secure for himself a comfortable home*” (p. 10). The statement reads as both invitation and ideology: the westward settler is implicitly imagined as a hardworking white European farmer, operating within a level playing field, unimpeded by speculation, corporate influence, or environmental hardship. Citizenship, too, is framed as straightforward and accessible; the United States is described flatly as “*the favorite land of the immigrant*” (p. 12), concealing deep contemporary anxieties about immigrants outside the Northern European mold and entirely ignores racial exclusions embedded in federal law.

This bias is reinforced by the demographic table on page 15. This tallies foreign-born residents solely from *England, Ireland, France, Germany, Norway, Sweden, and Denmark*, effectively defining who the government viewed as desirable settlers. That selectivity is mirrored in the text’s repeated emphasis on agricultural familiarity and Protestant-leaning civic ideals—traits assumed to characterize emigrants from those regions.

Taken together, these passages reveal the pamphlet as a promotional document shaped by the confident, assimilationist perspective of the Reconstruction-era federal state. Its assurances, omissions, and categorical framing illuminate how the government sought to populate the West, expand the tax base, and encourage immigration by those it viewed as culturally and politically suited to the national project of continental settlement.

References

OCLC #21492130 et al, giving perhaps 10 institutional holdings of this edition. OCLC also records editions of 1871 and 1872, which aside from the dates appear textually identical other than minor resettings of type.

Cartoon map taking aim at the Guggenheim mining empire



William Henry Walker, The United States of Guggenheimeria ? One G-Heim: SAY, OLD CHAP, WE'LL MATCH YOU FOR THE WHOLE. [New York:] Life Magazine, [March 28,] 1912. Offset lithograph, uncolored. \$250 [Add to cart](#)

An unusual and mildly anti-Semitic cartographic cartoon from 1912 taking aim at the power of the Guggenheim Family and their purported corrupt dealings in [Alaska](#).

The cartoon depicts the [United States](#) in outline, towered over by eight of its industrial titans. East of the Mississippi are Morgan, Rockefeller and Carnegie, glaring across the river at five of the Guggenheim brothers, heirs to their father Meyer's mining empire. At the fore is Senator Simon Guggenheim at the fore and just behind him is brother Benjamin, who would die in the Titanic disaster just a few weeks later.

As often happens when cataloging [persuasive maps](#), I take the liberty of quoting at length from PJ Mode:

“This satirical [political cartoon](#) had its origin in the Ballinger-Pinchot affair of 1909, which involved a noisy public scandal over the allegedly illegal distribution of 33 federal coal land claims in Alaska to the Guggenheim mining interests. A Congressional investigation followed in 1910, with further massive publicity. By 1912, partly as a result of the affair, Theodore Roosevelt had broken from President Taft, his former ally, and determined to challenge him for the Republican nomination. In February 1912, as a further consequence of the affair, Taft proposed legislation that would make Alaska a formal Territory of the U.S. but maintain tight government control over land and other natural resources....

“This cartoon appeared in the run up to the Republican convention and while the Alaska legislation was pending in the Congress. Among other things, it highlights the split between the old money of America and the new. West of the Mississippi, under a sign reading “Alaskaheim,” are the five Guggenheim brothers (caricatured as stereotypical Jews). In the East are Morgan (hat in hand), Rockefeller and Carnegie. Under the title is the dialog: “One G-Heim: Say old chap, we'll match you for the whole.”

Ed note: the articles above are from Boston Rare Maps (I once sat on a panel with the owner.) In include them because they often point the way to materials not often seen/lesser known archives, often provid excellent interpretation/analysis and also the sale prices are often amusing. sdc

President US Grant's Sixth State of the Union Address December 7, 1874

“Since the convening of Congress one year ago the nation has undergone a prostration in business and industries such as has not been witnessed with us for many years. “

“During this prostration two essential elements of prosperity have been most abundant--labor and capital. Both have been largely unemployed. Where security has been undoubted, capital has been attainable at very moderate rates. Where labor has been wanted, it has been found in abundance, at cheap rates compared with what--of necessities and comforts of life--could be purchased with the wages demanded.”

Comments on banking system; treaty with Belgium expiring/other treaties;South American relations; post-reconstruction comments/claims by British subjects during Civil War; negative reasons for Chinese immigration;opening of Japan Empire; “happy to announce that the field work of the commission has been completed, and the entire line from the northwest corner of the Lake of the Woods to the summit of the Rocky Mountains has been run and marked upon the surface of the earth”; Mexican Claims Commission (precursor to Indian Claim Commission); unsatisfactory condition of the existing laws with reference to expatriation and the election of nationality/birthright citizenship; national debt/tariffs; status of Army/Navy(ironclad v wood ships).

Trouble with southern states. Debate over Executive interference with local politics. “Treat the negro as a citizen and a voter, as he is and must remain, and soon parties will be divided, not on the color line, but on principle. Then we shall have no complaint of sectional interference.”

War of 1812 pensioners; coming Centennial Exposition;courts' civil service; “I have stated that three elements of prosperity to the nation--capital, labor, skilled and unskilled, and products of the soil--still remain with us. To direct the employment of these is a problem deserving the most serious attention of Congress. If employment can be given to all the labor offering itself, prosperity necessarily follows.”

“Extracts: “The policy adopted for the management of Indian affairs, known as the peace policy, has been adhered to with most beneficial results. It is confidently hoped that a few years more will relieve our frontiers from danger of Indian depredations.

I commend the recommendation of the Secretary for the extension of the homestead laws to the Indians and for some sort of Territorial government for the Indian Territory. A great majority of the Indians occupying this Territory are believed yet to be incapable of maintaining their rights against the more civilized and enlightened white man. Any Territorial form of government given them, therefore, should protect them in their homes and property for a period of at least twenty years, and before its final adoption should be ratified by a majority of those affected.

The report of the Secretary of the Interior herewith attached gives much interesting statistical information, which I abstain from giving an abstract of, but refer you to the report itself.”