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Native American Indian ruins at Wupatki National Monument

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Special Diabetes Program for Indians Gains Temporary Extension

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Twenty Poets to Read for Native American Heritage Month

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Environmental groups, tribal leader decry Colorado River stalemate

5th Annual Colorado River Forum: Key takeaways, insights, and the path to 2026

As E.P.A. shrinks wetland protections, some Mountain West states step up

How two NASA satellites survived Trump's climate purge

She was uprooted from her home and placed in a boarding school designed to erase her identity

Denmark's PM apologized for a campaign that saw Inuit women fitted with birth control devices

The brain's five phases

The Twin Cities is home to one of the largest urban Indigenous communities in the nation

Location of historic Indian village was unknown — until now

The Right Wants to Write Indigenous People Out of US History. We Won't Let Them.

Picture the Arctic—where one clothing mistake means freezing to death in minutes

Manchester Museum Returns 174 Artifacts to Indigenous Australians

Native American Hall of Fame



Native American Indian ruins at Wupatki National Monument in winter, Flagstaff, Arizona
Photo by Bo Shen/Shutterstock

Senate Committee Holds Hearing on Lumbee Recognition Bill

On November 5, 2025, the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs held a [legislative hearing](#) on S. 107, the [Lumbee Fairness Act](#), which would grant the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina full federal recognition. Supporters of the bill, including bill lead Sen. Thom Tillis (NC), Lumbee Tribal Chairman John Lowery, and attorney Arlinda Locklear, testified to the tribe's historical, genealogical, and anthropological documentation and discussed the limitations created by [the 1956 Lumbee Act](#), which acknowledged the tribe but withheld access to federal services.

Committee members asked questions related to the tribe's history, the implications of the 1956 statute, and the differences between legislative recognition and the Bureau of Indian Affairs' [administrative acknowledgment process](#). Senators also sought clarification on the documentation submitted by the Lumbee and on the procedural steps required under each recognition pathway.

Witnesses offering opposing views included Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians Principal Chief Michell Hicks and Shawnee Chief Ben Barnes, who described the Bureau of Indian Affairs' Office of Federal Acknowledgment procedures and outlined how that process is typically used to evaluate recognition petitions. They referenced the types of records and verification standards applied during administrative review and commented on the role of congressional action in tribal recognition.

What We're Reading

- ['Story is Medicine': Fighting for the Rights of Native Peoples | Indian Country Today](#)
- [Special Diabetes Program for Indians Gains Temporary Extension in Deal to End Government Shutdown | Indianz.com](#)
- [Native American Kids Less Likely than Others in WA to be Offered Second Chance in Juvenile Court, Data Shows | InvestigateWest](#)
- [Religious Sisters Announce Historic Land Return to Wisconsin Native American Tribe | Catholic News Agency](#)
- [20 Poets to Read for Native American Heritage Month | New York Public Library](#)

Kaylin Henderson, Program Assistant for Native American Advocacy
Rachel Overstreet, Legislative Representative for Native American Advocacy
Friends Committee on National Legislation

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## Today in History - November 28

Three ships under the command of Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan entered "The Sea of the South" on November 28, 1520. [Continue reading](#).



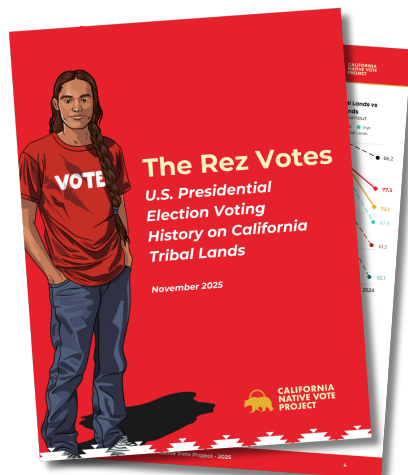
## Secretive startup seeks permits to test explosives near Burning Man

Some Gerlach residents are touting the move as a chance for economic growth, while wildlife advocates are adamantly opposed.

<https://thenevadaindependent.com/article/secretive-startup-seeks-permits-to-test-explosives-near-burning-man>

**WuMo:** By Mikael Wulff and Anders Morgenthaler





## About the Report:

The first report to utilize Political Data Intelligence's (PDI) recently identified registered voters who live on California Designated Tribal Lands (reservations, rancherias, etc.). Overview of the data and a deep dive into the top four counties with the largest tribal lands voters.

### Deep Dives included for the following counties:

- Humboldt County
- Inyo County
- Riverside County
- San Diego County

Sponsored by: [California Native Vote Project](#)

[Download here](#)

## The Secret Treaties with California's Indians

[National Archives \(.gov\)](#)

<https://www.archives.gov> > [prologue](#) > [fall-winter](#)

The treaties, made 1851-1852, had Indians cede land for reservations, but were rejected by the Senate, leaving land title unresolved. 8 pages

### Interior cuts red tape to speed water infrastructure in the West

“The Department of the Interior today announced Secretary’s Order 3446, which streamlines federally funded construction projects at Bureau of Reclamation facilities across the 17 Western states. The order reduces administrative burdens, cuts costs for water and power users and supports faster delivery of critical infrastructure across the West. The order directs Reclamation to work with local water and power partners to modify certain contracts and establish new contract terms that allow qualified partners to manage portions of the procurement process on some federally funded projects. This partner-led approach is designed to speed up project delivery and improve efficiency while maintaining federal oversight. “The Trump administration is focused on unleashing American infrastructure, cutting unnecessary red tape and lowering costs for families, farmers and communities,” said Secretary Doug Burgum. “By empowering local partners and simplifying federal processes, we can deliver water and power projects faster to make life more affordable for American families while strengthening economic growth throughout the West.” ... ” [Continue reading from the Department of Interior.](#)

### **Environmental groups, tribal leader decry Colorado River stalemate**

The window is closing fast to secure the Colorado River's future "and move beyond crisis-driven policymaking," says a coalition of seven Western environmental groups. Two other environmental groups say it's clear that state and federal negotiators can't produce a meaningful management regime to deal with the Colorado's dwindling reservoir levels. "The federal government's deference to the states has got to stop," one group's leader says. And the Gila River Indian Community says it will not stand for any plan that takes away its water rights without its consent. It has by far the state's largest share of rights to Central Arizona Project water from the Colorado River. "We can and will simply say 'no' if we believe that our trust-protected water rights are not being protected and respected as they need to be," said Stephen Roe Lewis, tribal governor of the Gila River Indian Community. ... " [Read more from the Arizona Daily Star.](#)

### **5th Annual Colorado River Forum: Key takeaways, insights, and the path to 2026**

"Nearly 30 western state legislators gathered in Santa Fe for the 5th Annual Colorado River Forum at a pivotal moment for the basin. With the current operating guidelines expiring in 2026 —and the river's hydrology steadily declining—lawmakers, experts, tribal leaders, and water managers spent three days digging into what the next century of Colorado River management must look like. Across the forum, one message was unmistakable: the clock is running out. Without new post-2026 operating agreements, the basin defaults back to outdated 1970 criteria that cannot meet the challenges of modern hydrology, climate change, or the 40 million people who depend on the river. ... " [Read more from the Council of State Governments.](#)

### **As E.P.A. shrinks wetland protections, some Mountain West states step up**

"A large portion of wetlands in the Mountain West could lose federal protections under a new proposal from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). But a couple of states in the region are working to build their own safeguards. On Nov. 17, EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin and the Army Corps of Engineers announced a proposal for a narrowed definition of "Waters of the United States" (WOTUS), the designation that determines which rivers, streams and wetlands qualify for protection under the Clean Water Act. Under the proposal, wetlands would be excluded unless they are connected to other protected waters and hold surface water for part of the year. The definition also removes protections for interstate waters "to make clear that such waters no longer gain jurisdiction by simply crossing state lines." Industry groups praised the proposal for cutting red tape. ... " [Read more from KANW.](#)

### **How two NASA satellites survived Trump's climate purge**

"NASA has sent two new satellites into space over the past six months to monitor many of the ways global warming is affecting the planet. Just don't call them climate satellites. The launches of the NISAR satellite in July and the Sentinel-6B satellite last week have earned applause from climate scientists worldwide, but the missions have gone largely unheralded by the Trump administration. NASA officials have touted the satellites' ability to provide life-saving information for search-and-rescue teams and commercial applications for real estate and energy — but they've said almost nothing about their potential for climate science. The lack of attention is hardly a surprise. Since President Donald Trump returned to the White House in

January, his administration has sought to purge climate research throughout the federal government. ... ” [Read more from E&E News.](#)

*When asked how Fascism starts, Bertrand Russell once said: "First, they fascinate the fools. Then, they muzzle the intelligent."*

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[PowWows.com](#) ·

She was uprooted from her home and placed in a boarding school designed to erase her identity. Instead of losing herself, she held onto her heritage with fierce determination and turned her education into a powerful tool.

She learned classical music, merged it with her culture, and created the first Native American opera—a masterpiece that honored the traditions others tried to silence. Through creativity, she preserved the songs, language, and stories that shaped her people. Her legacy lives on as a reminder that resilience can turn oppression into expression, and culture into something that flourishes despite adversity.

**SHE WAS SENT TO A BOARDING SCHOOL TO ERASE HER CULTURE.
INSTEAD, SHE MASTERED CLASSICAL MUSIC AND USED HER
EDUCATION TO WRITE THE FIRST NATIVE AMERICAN OPERA,
PRESERVING THE VERY TRADITIONS THEY TRIED**



- **Contraception scandal:** In September, Denmark's PM apologised for a campaign that saw Inuit women fitted with birth control devices.

The Brain's Five Phases

For the first time, scientists have identified four ages at which the average human brain rewires: ages 9, 32, 66, and 83. The resulting transitions provide [five distinct stages](#) of human brain development, according to a new study released yesterday.

Researchers studied [roughly 3,800 people](#), from babies to individuals age 90, using MRI diffusion scans to examine how water molecules move through the brain. They saw that from birth to age 9 (childhood), gray and white matter rapidly increase, and extra synapses are pruned. From age 9 to age 32 (adolescence), white matter continues to grow, and cognitive performance improves. From 32 to 66 (adulthood), brain architecture stabilizes, leaving personality and intelligence mostly unchanged. Early aging begins at age 66, when neural activity is largely concentrated in subnetworks, and late aging begins at age 83, when connectivity decreases further.

The findings suggest cognition doesn't simply increase until a certain age and then decline. Read the full study [here](#).

The Twin Cities is home to one of the largest urban Indigenous communities in the nation—and they're driving a cultural revolution. From sacred land restoration to award-winning restaurants like the award-winning Owamni, here's your guide to experiencing Minneapolis and St. Paul's Native American renaissance. Read More: https://www.midwestliving.com/native-american-cultural-revolution-twin-cities-11835638?utm_source=emailshare&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=mobilesharebutton2

Location of historic Indian village was unknown — until now

https://www.washingtonpost.com/dc-md-va/2025/11/27/native-american-tribe-village-virginia-artifacts/?utm_source=newsshowcase&utm_medium=gnews&utm_campaign=CDAqDwgAKgcICjC01JQKMLfRdDDDquAE&utm_content=rundown&gaa_at=g&gaa_n=AWETSqeDHo9Y3rzL38meo8p2NgyxJP-Baw_nZFHjczcWz74pVaK7YEhjrN0zN2ujRdNM_ZEfU7W9knwTRngT&gaa_ts=6928af9a&gaa_sig=jGd3vXsgsGIwL9x1GzYess03rKnF1jlnhq4sMX2wDP7RYoQ6BDG8IDx8SAuae8EnlnS1UU4Ty_fRo840kKSM0Q%3D%3D

The Right Wants to Write Indigenous People Out of US History. We Won't Let Them.

<https://truthout.org/articles/the-right-wants-to-write-indigenous-people-out-of-us-history-we-wont-let-them/>

Picture the Arctic—where one clothing mistake means freezing to death in minutes. Where ocean spray at -40°F can kill you before you reach shore.

Indigenous Arctic peoples faced an impossible engineering challenge: create fabric that keeps freezing water OUT while letting body sweat ESCAPE. Because in the Arctic, trapped sweat is as deadly as seawater. Both cause hypothermia. Both kill.

Modern science "solved" this in 1969 when Bob Gore invented Gore-Tex—a revolutionary synthetic membrane with microscopic pores. Too small for water droplets to enter. Large enough for sweat vapor to escape. It changed outdoor clothing forever.

But here's what they don't teach you: Indigenous seamstresses had been wearing this exact technology for 4,000 years.

The Inupiat of Alaska. The Yupik of Siberia. The Inuit of Greenland. Across thousands of miles, they independently discovered the same solution: intestines.

Seal intestines. Walrus intestines. Whale intestines. Even bear intestines.

These weren't crude survival tools. They were masterpieces of textile engineering.

Mammal intestines have a natural membrane structure that works like nature's Gore-Tex. The outer surface is dense enough to block rain and ocean spray. The inner surface has microscopic pores that release water vapor from your sweat.

Water drops stay out. Sweat escapes. Perfect breathable waterproofing.

But the engineering brilliance wasn't just the material—it was the construction.

Seamstresses (almost always women, deeply respected for their expertise) would harvest intestines from freshly killed animals. Clean them meticulously—any remaining tissue would rot the fabric. Wash them repeatedly in Arctic water. Then inflate them like translucent balloons and hang them to dry in subzero air.

When dried, intestines became thin, papery, remarkably strong material. A single intestine stretched 6-10 feet long.

Then came the real mastery: waterproof stitching.

Regular seams leak. So these women invented specialized techniques—overlapping strips precisely, using sinew thread, coating seams with seal oil. Each stitch tight enough to prevent leaks, flexible enough to allow movement.

A single parka used intestines from dozens of animals. Thousands of individual stitches. Months of work.

The result? Garments weighing just 85 grams—lighter than your smartphone—that could keep hunters dry through hours of Arctic storms and ocean spray.

They were translucent. Light glowed through them like frosted glass. Some seamstresses added dyed strips, creating patterns that transformed survival gear into wearable art.

For a kayak hunter, these parkas were as essential as the paddle itself. One wave over the bow with regular clothing meant death in minutes. The gut parka was the difference between life and drowning in icy water.

For 4,000 years, this knowledge passed from mother to daughter. Master seamstress to apprentice. The skills survived through practice, necessity, and the simple truth that your family's survival depended on your ability to make clothing that worked.

Then the 20th century arrived.

Synthetic fabrics. Rubber raincoats. Nylon. Gore-Tex. Materials you could buy instead of make. Materials that didn't require months of skilled labor.

Traditional gut parka production collapsed. First slowly. Then rapidly.

By the late 1900s, elders who remembered the techniques were dying. Young people learned Western methods instead. The waterproof seam techniques, the specific stitching patterns, the intestine preparation secrets—all nearly extinct.

Some techniques were lost forever.

But not all.

Today, Indigenous communities across the Arctic are fighting to revive this knowledge. Elders teaching younger generations. Museums documenting historical garments. Artists experimenting to reconstruct lost methods.

In 2022, a Sugpiaq elder in Cordova, Alaska, led artists in creating a bear gut parka—one of the first made in generations. They spent months relearning preparation techniques, problem-solving when modern needles didn't work like traditional bone needles.

They succeeded. They recreated 4,000-year-old technology that still works perfectly today.

This isn't just preserving history. This is recognizing that "primitive" peoples were brilliant engineers who understood breathable waterproofing principles thousands of years before our laboratories "discovered" them.

Modern outdoor companies spend millions developing waterproof-breathable fabrics. They patent molecular structures. They market "revolutionary" materials.

Every single principle was already understood and applied by Arctic seamstresses 4,000 years ago.

They didn't have electron microscopes or chemical labs. They had observation, experimentation, and generations of accumulated wisdom. They tested materials, refined techniques, and created clothing that worked in Earth's most extreme environment.

The intestine parkas prove something powerful: human ingenuity isn't about technology level.

It's about solving problems with what you have. Observing nature's solutions. Respecting the knowledge of those who came before.

4,000 years before Gore-Tex, Arctic peoples invented waterproof, breathable fabric. They created garments lighter than modern rain jackets, more flexible than synthetic shells, perfectly adapted to their world.

Then Western culture called them primitive and almost erased their knowledge.

Now — finally — we're beginning to understand what nearly vanished.

And across the Arctic, seamstresses are stitching those connections back together, one intestine at a time.

for pic: <https://www.facebook.com/Asolotraveler3/posts/picture-the-arcticwhere-one-clothing-mistake-means-freezing-to-death-in-minutes-/1335430515288934/>



Manchester Museum Returns 174 Artifacts to Indigenous Australians

Native American Heritage Month:

Native American Hall of Fame

November is Native American Heritage Month, and Tanka Fund was honored to attend the recent National Native American Hall of Fame celebration at the OKANA Resort and Indoor Waterpark in Oklahoma City.

We were invited by our rancher partners Tim Harjo (Chiricahua Apache, Comanche, and Seminole) and Jessica Harjo (San Carlos Apache). Tim proudly serves on the Hall of Fame's Board of Directors.

This year's inductees included:

Ross Anderson — Cheyenne & Arapaho Tribes / Mescalero-Chiricahua Apache (Athletics)

Notah Begay III — Navajo (Athletics)

Dwight W. Birdwell — Cherokee Nation (Military)

Deb Haaland — Laguna Pueblo (Government)

W. Ron Allen — Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe (Government)

Lynn Valbuena — Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation (Government)

Leaders such as Oklahoma City Mayor David Holt (Osage Nation) and Representative Sharice Davids (Ho-Chunk Nation) were in attendance to show their support and celebrate these outstanding honorees.

Founded in 2016, the National Native American Hall of Fame recognizes and honors the contemporary achievements of Native Americans from the Civil War era to the present. Through its exhibits, education programs, and ongoing initiatives, the Hall preserves and shares the stories of those who have made lasting contributions to their communities and to the nation.

It was an inspiring evening celebrating leadership, legacy, and Native excellence.

[SEE MORE PHOTOS](#)