

Journal #7005

from sdc

3.23.26

Where in the West?

California pledges to open 7% of its land and waters to Indigenous tribes

Wyden pushes for federal action to save Klamath Basin water

Arizona ranch families pushed out as corporations cash in on cheap grazing leases

Arizona tribes seek \$5B in federal funding to implement landmark water rights agreement

Indigenous mapmaker brings geography to life blending layers of history w/ ignored perspective

How Forester Kira Hoffman is harnessing the healing power of fire

Architect Francis Kéré is designing creative solutions for a rapidly changing world

OU: Learn impact and challenges of Water Management (MS Envi Sci in Hydrology/Water Security)

Student loans to go to Treasury Department as Trump continues to dismantle Education depart

SF nonprofit archiving deleted federal web pages to preserve the public record as Trump purges

With Gaza's Libraries in Ruins, Palestinians Fight to Preserve Historical Memory

History Bits

Scholarships with April 20-26 Deadlines

Smith College women played the first women's basketball game in private

Trump places statue of Christopher Columbus near White House

She gives to the Navajo elders, and they give to her



California pledges to open 7% of its land and waters to Indigenous tribes — a step toward healing a 175-year-old broken promise

“California unveiled a plan Tuesday to bring at least 7.5 million acres of land and coastal waters under the care of Indigenous tribes. That number represents roughly 7% of the state’s land and waters. It also corresponds with the amount of land the federal government promised it would hold as reservations for Indigenous tribes after California joined the union in 1850. Congress ultimately rejected these treaties in a secret meeting — after pressure from the state — and failed to notify tribes, many of whom upheld their end of the agreement to relocate. The new policy, set by the California Natural Resources Agency, aims to start healing the harm caused by the state’s actions to bar tribes from their homelands and criminalize their cultural and land management practices. These actions not only harmed Native communities, whose cultures and ways of life are intimately tied to the plants, animals and landscape of their homelands, but also caused well-documented harm to ecosystems through the loss of biodiversity, takeover of invasive species, degradation of water quality and increase in wildfire risk. ... ” [Read more from the LA Times](#).

SEE ALSO: [Landmark policy to expand tribal stewardship for at least 7.5 million acres in California](#), press release from the Natural Resources Agency

Wyden pushes for federal action to save Klamath Basin water

“Sen. Ron Wyden is urging the federal government to step up its involvement in water management. Wyden believes the focus should include protecting water infrastructure and fulfilling tribal obligations. Wyden is backing new legislation aimed at improving water management, particularly in regions like the Klamath Basin. “Those are individuals who need the reassurance of knowing that the people representing them are doing everything they can to protect this critical water resource,” Wyden said. He describes the West as facing a “one-two punch” of historic drought and record-low snowpack, leading to uncertainty in water supplies. Wyden points to the Klamath River Basin, where disputes over water use have affected tribes, ranchers, and local communities. ... ” [Read more from KDRV](#).

Arizona ranch families pushed out as corporations cash in on cheap grazing leases

“Take a drive east from Phoenix to Safford, Arizona, then keep driving east, past where the pavement turns to dirt, and you are likely to run into the Menges Ranch. You might even see Ben Menges riding a horse, rounding up his herd of Black Angus. “A lot of things that we do, people were doing it the same way 100 years ago,” said Menges, who is a 5th-generation cattle rancher. The Menges Ranch spans 83,000 acres. Most of it is public land, owned by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management. “We have a small piece of private land, but most of it is federal grazing lease,” said Menges. ... ” [Read more from Arizona Family](#).

Arizona tribes seek \$5B in federal funding to implement landmark water rights agreement

“Arizona U.S. Sen. Mark Kelly wants Congress to approve \$5 billion in funding to implement a landmark water rights deal for three Native American tribes. Kelly introduced a bill to fund a tribal plan called the Northern Arizona Indian Water Rights Settlement Agreement and pleaded for its passage during a Senate Committee on Indian Affairs hearing on March 11. He was joined by leaders of Hopi Tribe, Navajo Nation and San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe, who completed the

water rights settlement in 2024 but need Congress to approve the funding. ... ” [Read more from KTAR.](#)

The Indigenous mapmaker brings geography to life by blending layers of history with a perspective others have ignored.

Margaret Wickens Pearce’s home studio is in Rockland, Maine, within the traditional territory of the Penobscot people. By Joseph Lee

This story is part of the [National Geographic 33](#), our celebration of visionary changemakers. **The river that** most contemporary maps label “Mississippi,” a French adaptation of an Ojibwe name, is undoubtedly one of the world’s most charted. Not incidentally, it’s also one of the most manipulated—leveed, diverted, dredged, and dammed to control flooding and ease passage for commercial traffic. Most [contemporary maps](#) of its 2,350-mile course reflect all that engineering.

But cartographer Margaret Wickens Pearce, who works out of her home studio in coastal Maine, is concerned with all that those maps *don’t* show: how the Mississippi looked before the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reshaped it, and how Indigenous people [living alongside it](#), past and present, have adapted to its fluctuations and flood cycles. Pearce believes that revealing those layers of understanding—amplifying Indigenous knowledge, history, and presence—can inspire us to more sustainably address issues like habitat loss, aging infrastructure, and increasingly severe flooding.

It’s why Pearce, a Citizen Potawatomi tribal member and [National Geographic Explorer](#), is promoting a vision of an indigenized Mississippi with a series of large-scale map installations placed all along it. The project, which she calls Mississippi Dialogues, is a collaboration with tribal nations whose traditional territories include the river, and it aims to correct what Pearce calls a “pervasive misunderstanding” of the Mississippi as a line, a thing to be crossed or traveled up and down rather than a living artery at the heart of many homelands.

“What we see now is all Army Corps maps,” she says. “We just see the locks and dams, the ways that the river is controlled and paved. And this map is opening up an unpaved river.”

The project is a high-visibility example of an [Indigenous-led movement](#)—both within and outside the field of cartography—to challenge what generations of mapmakers, historians, and policymakers have chosen to prioritize, and reclaim what they’ve left out. But Pearce’s work is no simple rebuttal. It’s an artful reminder that maps can be more than scaled diagrams. Hers are repositories of stories and memories. They are text rich, with narratives that unspool, a few lines at a time, across soft washes of color. And they link eons of history, showing modern highways wending past details from creation stories and sites of 19th-century colonial violence.

Packing all that into a legible map requires painstaking effort. A map set she recently finished of Inuit homelands in Canada, commissioned by the University of Maine, took more than 200 drafts to complete.

For Pearce, whose maps derive from extensive interviews and close work with tribal partners and others, the tools of a reporter are as integral as those of a cartographer.

Pearce looks over one of her recent maps, depicting Inuit stewardship of Arctic lands. That's not the only way in which Pearce's work rewards patience. Her Mississippi project is seven years in the making, years she spent visiting tribal communities, elders, and culture bearers all along the river, collecting stories and insights about river stewardship that she weaves into the maps. She seeks permission to learn and to share Indigenous place-names considered cultural property (though some knowledge remains reserved for Indigenous communities), and her maps might encompass the homelands of dozens of peoples.

Even mapping her own backyard involves significant legwork. To make a map depicting place-names in the Penobscot language, Pearce spent three years visiting sites across Maine with Carol Dana, a language teacher and elder from the Penobscot Nation. Dana praises the cartographer's way of working, which she says is about more than just relabeling. "Trying to make people more aware of the place-names that we named them originally," Dana says, "for us to see it and experience it, it heals us."

Increasingly, it's not just tribal nations and organizations embracing this approach. Last year, Pearce became the first ever cartography-focused recipient of the prestigious [MacArthur Fellowship](#), an \$800,000 prize popularly known as the genius grant. It will help fund the Mississippi project's first two installations—of an envisioned 14—to be put up as soon as this fall in a city park in Minnesota and at a nature preserve in Illinois.

Pearce knows others look to her work as a blueprint for what "Indigenous cartography" can be, but she rejects the label, believing that mapmaking is "infinitely expandable and flexible," with many means of mapping Indigenous ways of life. "The more I hear the idea of 'Indigenous cartography' pushed into a corner and labeled as a particular way of mapping," she says, "I just really want to smash that open and show people that it's an entire world of possibility."

https://www.nationalgeographic.com/culture/nat-geo-33/article/margaret-wickens-pearce-2026?rid=C38947501E68571D7AA5496FBC02C266&cmpid=org=ngp::mc=crm-email::src=ngp::cmp=editorial::add=NG33_20260317

How Forester Kira Hoffman is harnessing the healing power of fire

The fire ecologist is working with Indigenous communities—and employing time-honored techniques—to restore ecosystems.

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/culture/nat-geo-33/article/kira-hoffman-2026>

To read about some really interesting other initiatives:

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/culture/nat-geo-33/graphics/2026>

Extract:

Architect Francis Kéré is designing creative solutions for a rapidly changing world


He honed his climate-responsive designs in some of the planet's fastest warming regions. Now, the Burkina Faso-raised Kéré is scaling up his trailblazing approach with ambitious projects across the globe.

Kéré wants to show that even in a place like Las Vegas—an energy-devouring desert metropolis reliant on air-conditioning, and one of America’s [fastest warming cities](#)—we can build in ways that complement nature rather than fight against it. Yes, this time he’s using concrete (a structural necessity), but the 60,000-square-foot museum will be clad in locally sourced stone, a ventilated facade that both mimics the red-rock surroundings and allows heat to escape, which will help keep the building cool. The Museum Ehrhardt, meanwhile, will primarily use rammed earth and wood.

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/culture/nat-geo-33/article/francis-kere-2026>

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### **Student loans to go to Treasury Department as Trump continues to dismantle**

The Education Department is handing off a portion of its student loan portfolio to the Treasury Department, a first step toward shedding management of all student loans as Trump administration officials dismantle the federal education agency. [Read more](#)

Under an agreement announced Thursday, the Treasury Department will take over management of student loans whose borrowers are in default, meaning they are months behind on payments. Those loans add up to about \$180 billion, or 11% of the government’s \$1.7 trillion student loan portfolio. Eventually, the Treasury Department is to take responsibility for all student loans, according to the agreement.

Breaking off the student loan operation would mark the biggest step yet in closing the department, which President Donald Trump ordered to be dismantled almost exactly a year ago. Borrowers do not need to do anything as the change goes through, the administration says. They will continue to work with the same loan servicer and repay their loans the same way.

**San Francisco nonprofit is archiving deleted federal web pages to preserve the public record.**

SF group races to save federal web pages

<https://www.axios.com/local/san-francisco/2026/02/19/how-internet-archive-preserve-deleted-federal-websites>

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Libraries and Archivists Are Scanning and Uploading Books That Are Secretly in the *Public Domain*. Pamela Rouse and 19 others. 20 reactions ·

**[As the Trump administration purges web pages, this group ...](#)**

**NPR** <https://www.npr.org/2025/03/23/nx-s1-5326573> > [i...](#)

Mar 23, 2025 — As one of the few large-scale archivists to back up the *web*, the *Internet Archive* finds itself in a particularly unique position right now.

**Wikipedia:**

The **2025 United States government online resource removals** are a series of [web page](#) and [dataset](#) deletions and modifications across multiple [United States federal agencies](#) beginning in January 2025. Following [executive orders](#) from [President Donald Trump's administration](#), government organizations removed or modified over 8,000 web pages and approximately 3,000 datasets. The changes primarily affected content related to [diversity, equity, and inclusion](#) (DEI) initiatives, [gender identity](#), [public health](#) research, [environmental policy](#), and various [social programs](#), and other topics Trump and the Republican Party has expressed opposition to. Major affected agencies included the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#), which saw over 3,000 pages altered or removed, and the [Census Bureau](#), which removed about 3,000 pages of research materials. While some content was later restored, the modifications represented significant changes to federal government data accessibility and sparked legal challenges from healthcare advocacy groups.

**Straight ArrowNews:** The Internet Archive, which has archived over one trillion pages, provides a vital public record of government digital history.

**The "Save Page Now" Tool: The Internet Archive adds over a billion URLs daily and allows users to submit URLs to be archived in near real-time.**

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With Gaza’s Libraries in Ruins, Palestinians Fight to Preserve Historical Memory
More than 87 public libraries and archives in Gaza have been partially or completely destroyed by Israel’s genocide.

truthout.org/articles/with-gazas-libraries-in-ruins-palestinians-fight-to-preserve-historical-memory/?utm_source=Truthout&utm_campaign=15f51ddaae-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2026_03_22_06_05&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_bbb541a1db-15f51ddaae-654259769

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## History Bits

**1806 Mar 23** Lewis and Clark's Corps of Discovery departed Fort Clatsop on the Oregon coast, beginning their return journey across the continent. They had reached the Pacific Ocean the previous November, achieving the expedition's primary goal though discovering no Northwest Passage—the water route through North America that Jefferson had hoped existed. The expedition had endured unimaginable hardships: near-starvation, hostile encounters, treacherous terrain, and brutal weather. Now they faced the equally daunting task of getting home. The return journey would prove faster than the outbound trip—they reached St. Louis in September 1806, having been gone over two years and presumed dead by many.

The expedition's achievements were monumental. Lewis and Clark mapped vast territories, documented hundreds of plant and animal species unknown to [science](#), established diplomatic relations with dozens of Indigenous nations, and demonstrated that overland travel to the Pacific was feasible. Their journals provided the first detailed descriptions of the American West, fueling the imagination of a nation eager to expand. The expedition also had darker consequences: it paved the way for settlement that would displace and destroy Indigenous peoples, initiating conflicts that would continue for generations. Lewis and Clark's journey represented both Enlightenment ideals of [scientific](#) exploration and the beginning of expansionist policies that would devastate Native populations. Their departure from Fort Clatsop marked not just a homecoming but the transformation of American ambitions from theoretical to practical—the West was no longer unknown, and that knowledge would change everything. The expedition proved that Americans could cross their continent, but that achievement came with costs measured in broken treaties, stolen lands, and shattered cultures.

[https://this.dayinhist.com/posts/march-23-explorers-return-ok-appears-a-star-dies?utm\\_source=1&lctg=535726f0-9fe7-4a33-8f43-bd889b312a87#google\\_vignette](https://this.dayinhist.com/posts/march-23-explorers-return-ok-appears-a-star-dies?utm_source=1&lctg=535726f0-9fe7-4a33-8f43-bd889b312a87#google_vignette)

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1873 Mar 23 Mormon John Lee, former U.S. Indian agent/Utah state legislator, executed by firing squad for leading Mountain Meadows massacre.

1879 Mar 23 **Cheyenne Little Wolf**, one of the most successful military giurewews in U.S. history, surrendered forces.

1974 Mar 23 Kwakwaka 'wakw First National established U'mista Cultrural Society in Alert Bay (BC) its purpose - to repatriate objects that were confiscated bythe Canadian Government.

1920 Mar 24 Elder and spiritual leadersfrom Newe Sogobia, **Corbin Harney**, was born.

1925 Mar 24 The Reno Chamber of Commerce sent a wires to Nevada U.S. Senator Tasker Oddie protesting the plans to close the Reno office of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

- 1933 Mar 25** Birth of **Vine Deloria, Jr.**, near the Pine Ridge Oglala Reservation. As a historian, author, Episcopal theologian, and national leader his seminal "*Custer Died for your Sins*" and other books educated a generation on Native American history.
- 1977 Mar 25** Superintendent Earl Wooster, who contended the 1944 shutdown of Washoe Indian School and integration of Indians into the white Orvid Ring School among his most important achievements, walked on in Reno.
- 1894 Mar 26** Congress approved legislation providing the President "a sum not exceeding fifteen thousand dollars....for the purpose of extinguishing Indian claims."
- 1878 Mar 26** Days after an Indian was murdered, a procession of tribal family and friends passed through Reno to Hillside Cemetery where the body was exhumed, removed from the coffin, and returned and buried in tribal rites.
- 1861 Mar 27** *The Wilmington Daily Journal* (North Carolina) reported the creation of the Territory of Nevada by printing the entire congressional act creating the territory.
- 1886 Mar 27** The Buffalo Bill Dramatic Combination appeared in Reno a day after it was in Carson City and two days after a Virginia City performance.
- 1934 Mar 27** Nevada Native American leaders **Dewey and Harry Sampson** said the state's tribes would spend some time studying U.S. Senator Burton Wheeler's legislation restoring political liberty and local self rule to Native Americans before deciding whether to support it.
- 1851 Mar 28** The Provisional Government of Deseret ceases to exist.
- 1953 Mar 28** The Reno Sparks Indian Colony formed a planning board to prepare for release of the colony's residents from wardship and resultant securing of deeds to their properties.
- 1953 Mar 28** **Jim Thorpe**, aka Bright Path of the Sac and Fox Nation, died; the tiny towns of Mauch Chunk and East Mauch Chunk (PA) merged, changing their name to Jim Thorpe, all by public vote and Mr. Thorpe was buried there in 1954.
- 1890 Mar 29** *NSJ*: There will have to be imitation savages in the circuses this summer, as the Secretary of the Interior has decided that no more Indians shall be allowed to leave the agencies for this purpose because of the demoralizing effects upon them.
- 1932 Mar 29** A three story limestone pueblo was being excavated near the Verde River in Arizona.

Scholarships with April 20-26 Deadlines

<u>American Sports Builders Foundation Scholarship</u>	\$2,500	April 20, 2026
<u>Lisa Higgins Hussman Scholarship</u>	\$3,000	April 20, 2026
<u>Schwallie Family Scholarship</u>	\$3,000	April 20, 2026
<u>Synchrony Scholarship for Autistic Students of Color</u>	\$3,000	April 20, 2026
<u>APCF Bank of the Sierra Scholarship</u>	\$2,000	April 21, 2026
<u>APCF Best Formulations Scholarship</u>	\$10,000	April 21, 2026
<u>APCF Cathay Bank Foundation Scholarship Program</u>	\$2,500	April 21, 2026
<u>APCF Royal Business Bank Scholarship</u>	\$1,000	April 21, 2026
<u>APCF State Bank of India (California) Scholarship</u>	\$1,000	April 21, 2026
<u>Chao Family Foundation Scholarship</u>	\$20,000	April 21, 2026
<u>CRA All-Access Scholarship</u>	\$5,000	April 21, 2026
<u>NCCA VS Scholarship Opportunity</u>	\$20,000	April 21, 2026
<u>NCITD International Trade Scholarship Program</u>	\$1,000	April 21, 2026
<u>Preferred Bank Scholarship Program</u>	\$2,000	April 21, 2026
<u>SVCF Honmyo Nguyen Family Trust Scholarship</u>	\$2,500	April 21, 2026
<u>Waukegan Park District Scholarship</u>	\$1,000	April 21, 2026
<u>AIGA Worldstudio Scholarships</u>	\$5,000	April 22, 2026
<u>Central Coast Greenhouse Growers Association Scholarship</u>	\$1,500	April 22, 2026
<u>New Mexico Engineering Foundation Scholarships</u>	\$3,000	April 22, 2026
<u>Wilt Chamberlain Memorial Fund Scholarship Program</u>	\$20,000	April 22, 2026
<u>The Hyacinth Scarlett Music Memorial Scholarship</u>	\$500	April 23, 2026
<u>7X24 Exchange Rocky Mountain Chapter Scholarship</u>	\$5,000	April 24, 2026
<u>Anthony Muñoz Scholarship Fund</u>	\$20,000	April 24, 2026
<u>Davis Memorial Foundation Scholarship</u>	\$5,000	April 24, 2026
<u>Girls on the Run Molly Molk College Scholarship</u>	\$1,500	April 24, 2026
<u>New England Service Scholarship</u>	\$1,000	April 24, 2026
<u>NURSE Corps Scholarship Program</u>	\$1,626	April 24, 2026

Parkinson Association of the Rockies Eric Wright Memorial Fund	\$20,000	April 24, 2026
Texas Women in Public Finance Scholarship	\$3,500	April 24, 2026
WGA Celebrate The West High School Art Competition	\$600	April 24, 2026
AADE Appalachian Chapter Scholarship	\$2,000	April 25, 2026
AIANTA Tourism & Hospitality Scholarship	\$2,000	April 25, 2026
Builders League of South Jersey Scholarship Foundation	\$7,500	April 25, 2026
Butkus-Sylvester Family Scholarship	\$23,420	April 25, 2026
CCPA Native American Scholarship	\$1,500	April 25, 2026
COMTO Philadelphia Scholarship Program	\$2,000	April 25, 2026
Couch Oil Cares Scholarship	\$2,000	April 25, 2026
Illinois Engineering Initiative Scholarship	\$2,000	April 25, 2026
Linda Craig Memorial Scholarship	\$2,500	April 25, 2026
Marylinn Munson & Bio Nebraska STEM Scholarship	\$2,500	April 25, 2026
NENAWC Career Scholarship	\$2,000	April 25, 2026
NSPE-NH State Scholarship Program	\$1,000	April 25, 2026
Peppy Moldovan Memorial Award	\$1,000	April 25, 2026
SDC-Harris Education Scholarship	\$1,000	April 25, 2026
SENEDIA STEM Scholarship	\$2,000	April 25, 2026
The Emma Nylén Scholarship	\$6,000	April 25, 2026
The FAB Scholars Scholarship	\$1,000	April 25, 2026
The Weston Scholarship	\$1,000	April 25, 2026
Vermont Federal Credit Union Educational Scholarships	\$2,000	April 25, 2026
Vermont Retail & Grocers Association Scholarship	\$1,500	April 25, 2026
WHFF Plein Environmental Scholarship	\$5,000	April 25, 2026
Women's Metropolitan Golf Association Foundation Scholarship	Varies	April 25, 2026
Allegra Ford Thomas Scholarship	\$5,000	April 26, 2026
Greek Women's University Club National Music Competition	\$1,000	April 26, 2026
Saint Patrick's Scholarship Fund	\$24,000	April 26, 2026
St. Boniface Young Artist Showcase	\$1,500	April 26, 2026
The Agnes Cooke Scholarship	\$3,000	April 26, 2026

Smith College women played the first women's basketball game in private – because claiming the court required doing it away from scrutiny that might have stopped them.

https://this.dayinhist.com/posts/march-22-a-tax-imposed-a-game-acplayed-rights-proposed?utm_source=1&lctg=bf0abd74-444e-40f4-8c34-7f6efa5b2bba



AP

[AP News](#)

[Trump places statue of Christopher Columbus near the White House](#)
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[The New York Times](#)



[Christopher Columbus Statue Is Installed on White House Grounds](#)
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She gives to the Navajo elders, and they give to her

<https://www.deseret.com/utah/2026/03/22/she-gives-to-the-navajo-elders-and-they-give-to-her/>