

Journal #2530

from sdc

2.20.12

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Job Announcement: The Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe is looking for a passionate, inspired person to help us with the Low Impact Design Vegetated Swale Project. If you're interested, download the job announcement here:

<https://docs.google.com/open?id=0B0vGegJibimOMDM1MDU5MjgtNzk1MS00NTAzLTg5MWEtMzgyNzhmNWMxYTMy>

David Gibson

Envirolution is excited to announce that we have two AmeriCorps positions available starting in mid-April! We are accepting applications through March 4. The positions are for an 'Elementary Sustainability Educator' and a 'Green Service-Learning Program Coordinator'. Full Descriptions of both positions are available at: <https://my.americorps.gov/mp/listing/search.do?criteria.programTypesString=VISTA%3BVLDR&criteria.programState=Nv> Contact me with any questions or applications.

Lindsay Bridges Nevada Volunteers is excited to announce our Notice of Funding Opportunity for the 2012/13 AmeriCorps*State 'Formula' Grant! Visit our website for more information today! <http://bit.ly/w4rkd7>

The annual **National History Day**, Nevada for northern Nevada is scheduled for Saturday, March 31st. Judging will take place at Wooster High School in Reno. This is a program largely organized and executed by volunteers and we are putting out a call for volunteers to help with judging, registration, orientation and keeping order. The volunteer support groups from our museums have been generous in supporting this event in the past and we hope they will do so this year as well. Schedules can be as long or as short as you want.

Please see the attachments to this email. I would appreciate it if you would make these available to your anyone you might think would be interested and encourage participation. Thank you.

If you have any questions, please contact me or Christine Hull, Nevada Department of Education
700 E. Fifth St., Carson City, NV 89701-5096 Email: chull@doe.nv.gov Phone 775-687-9189

For more information about National History Day please visit www.nationalhistoryday.org or
<http://nevadanhd.weebly.com>

Attachments: [Nevada History Day One Pager.pdf](#) [Volunteer Flyer.pdf](#)

» **The Fuel Cell and Hydrogen Industries: Ten Trends to Watch in 2012 and Beyond Pike Research** www.pikeresearch.com

The fuel cell industry continues to be a dynamic market as it makes the transition from the R&D stage to full commercialization. Along this path, breakout applications are continuing to emerge and business models and market structures are evolving rapidly. Some technologies and applications are prov...

Intergovernmental Preparedness for Essential Records (IPER)

The Nevada State Library and Archives, Records Management is offering 2 days of training on Preparedness for Essential Records. This training is offered free of charge and is intended for Nevada governmental entities.

*Council of State Archivists (COSA) is leading this project to train state and local governments nationwide. The Intergovernmental Preparedness for Essential Records (IPER) project is made possible by a \$2.6 million award from the **Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Competitive Grants Training Program.***

The course is approved and certified by FEMA and is recommended for FEMA's Professional Continuity Professional Level I certificate. The International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC) will grant one Certified Municipal Clerk (CMC) Experience point or one Master Municipal Clerk (MMC) Advanced Education point for each course. The webinar also counts toward the Local Government Archives and Records Administration Certificate offered by the National Association of Government Archives and Records Administrators (NAGARA).

WHEN: March 22 & 23, 2012 **TIME: 8:30 – 5:00**

WHERE: Nevada Legislative Building, Room 1214 401 S. Carson Street, Carson City,

INFORMATION: Records@admin.nv.gov

REGISTRATION: To secure a spot in the seminar, please register through NEATS. You will receive additional information about preparing for the seminar once you have signed up. Space is limited so please act early. To receive full credit you must attend both sessions.

WHAT IS COVERED IN THIS COURSE?

Session One, Essential Records (ER): March 22, 2012

Identify Essential Records

- Distinguish between nonessential and essential records
- Identify essential records by examining critical business needs and functions

Protect Essential Records

- Identify and evaluate hazards and risks
- Determine and evaluate preparedness and mitigation strategies

Access Essential Records

- Ensure access to essential records

Incorporate Essential Records into COOP Plans

- The essential records template

Session Two, Records Emergency Action Plan (REPR): March 23, 2012

Preparing a REAP

- Overview
- Planning for the REAP
- Developing the REAP
- Maintaining the REAP

Records Emergency Response and Recovery

- Assessing the damage to records
- Developing the response
- Implementing the response
- Comparison of recovery techniques

WHO SHOULD TAKE THIS COURSE?

State, local, territorial, and tribal government employees who are responsible for creating and maintaining records of any kind and in any format, both paper and electronic:

- City and county clerks
- Recorders
- Administrators
- COOP and emergency preparedness personnel
- Information technology staff

Those unfamiliar with basic records management concepts and terminology are encouraged to take the 90-minute self-directed course, Introduction to Records and Information Management (RIM), before enrolling in this webinar.

It is available free of charge at www.StateArchivists.org/iper/RIM. The Introduction to RIM course presents key records management tools and procedures and explains how they support disaster preparedness and continuity of operations.

****BROADCAST:** These sessions will be broadcast live through the Nevada Legislature LIVE MEETING internet access. If cannot attend the sessions in person you may be able to attend via the broadcast. For more information, please contact Teri Mark at 775-684-3323, tmark@admin.nv.gov.

****MORE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:** If you are not able to attend in-person or broadcast training, a Webinar hosted by COSA is also available in March. The ER Webinar will take place on March 6th from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm PT. The REPR Webinar will be held on March 15 from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm PT. For more information on registration, please contact Teri Mark at 775-684-3323, tmark@admin.nv.gov.

[Make Room for Desert](#)

Peruse prickly flora, move to the beat at the Musical Instrument Museum, and let Native American spa treatments nurture your spirit with “Your Adventure in Phoenix.”

[Click this to start your adventure](#)

[Let’s Go Geocaching!](#)

[Join Ranger Rick and his pals on their latest outdoor adventure. Find a trail or start one near you! Learn how.](#)

National Service In Your State - Nevada(*similar reports available for all states*) 2011 - 2012

Meeting community needs in Nevada. More than **4,100** people of all ages and backgrounds are helping to meet local needs, strengthen communities, and increase civic engagement through national service in Nevada. Serving with more than **420** national and local nonprofits, schools, faith-based organizations and other groups, these citizens tutor and mentor children, support veterans and military families, provide health services, restore the environment, respond to disasters, increase economic opportunity, and recruit and manage volunteers. This year, the Corporation for National and Community Service will commit more than **\$7,200,000** to support Nevada communities through national service initiatives including:

Download:

- [National Service in Nevada - Full Report](#) (PDF)
- [Nevada Overview](#) (PDF)
- [Nevada At a Glance](#) (PDF)

[> Our Role and Impact > National Service In Your State >](#)
[Nevada State Impact Report \(PDF\)](#)

View:

[National Service Contacts in Nevada](#)

Archive:

More than **2,900** seniors in Nevada contribute their time and talents in one of three Senior Corps programs. Foster Grandparents serve one-on-one as tutors and mentors to more than **1,800** young people who have special needs. Senior Companions help more than **430** homebound seniors and other adults maintain independence in their own homes. RSVP volunteers conduct safety patrols for local police departments, protect the environment, tutor and mentor youth, respond to natural disasters, and provide other services through more than **380** groups across Nevada.

Download: [Senior Corps in Nevada \(PDF\)](#) [About the Corporation](#)

Beyond SATs, Finding Success in Numbers

By **TINA ROSENBERG** NYT February 15, 2012, 9:09 am

[Fixes](#) looks at solutions to social problems and why they work.

In 1988, Deborah Bial was working in a New York City after-school program when she ran into a former student, Lamont. He was a smart kid, a successful student who had won a scholarship to an elite college. But it hadn't worked out, and now he was back home in the Bronx. "I never would have dropped out of college if I had my posse with me," he told her.

The next year Bial started the [Posse Foundation](#). From her work with students around the city, she chose five New York City high school students who were clearly leaders — dynamic, intelligent, creative, resilient — but who might not have had the SAT scores to get into good schools. Vanderbilt University was willing to admit them all, tuition-free. The students met regularly in their senior year of high school, through the summer, and at college. Surrounded by their posse, they all thrived.

Today the Posse Foundation selects about 600 students a year, from eight different cities. They are grouped into posses of 10 students from the same city and go together to an elite college; about 40 colleges now participate in the program.

Most Posse Scholars would not have qualified for their colleges by the normal criteria. Posse Scholars' median combined SAT score is only 1056, while the median combined score at the colleges Posse students attend varies from 1210 to 1475. Nevertheless, they succeed. Ninety percent of Posse Scholars graduate — half of them on the dean's list and a quarter with academic honors. A [survey](#) (pdf) of 20 years of alumni found that nearly 80 percent of the respondents said they had founded or led groups or clubs. There are only 40 Posse Scholars among Bryn Mawr's 1,300 students, but a Posse student has won the school's best all-around student award three times in the past seven years. Posse is changing the way universities look at qualifications for college, and what makes for college success.

Sheila Griffin Posse Scholars graduated from Hamilton College in 2010.

Sheyenne Brown went to Adlai Stevenson High School in the Bronx, which before its closure in 2009 was one of the worst schools in New York City. Her parents had always worked — her mother as an administrative assistant, her father in sales. But in her junior year, her family was evicted from their home — by marshals — the same day her father lost his job. They moved into a series of homeless shelters, some of them decent, some like prison cells. “We were people who do the right thing and follow the path, and you still end up in a situation you believe only happens to you if you do the wrong thing,” she said. Brown went to work at McDonald’s, putting in between 20 and 48 hours a week for \$5.15 per hour. Her combined SAT score was 1080. She did not seem destined to attend an elite college.

But in her senior year, at least one of her teachers nominated her to be a Posse Scholar. She competed against thousands of other New York City students (with 14,000 nominations nationwide for 600 slots, the program is more competitive than Harvard) and won a place with 10 other students at Middlebury, a tiny liberal arts college in Vermont. She had never heard of it.

Starting in January, Brown and the 10 others in her posse began to meet weekly with a Posse staff member. The purpose of the sessions was to solidify the group and teach them what they needed to succeed at Middlebury: how to write at a college level, but just as important, how to negotiate the social world: how to deal with a diversity of race and socioeconomic status, how to communicate with people who were very different — “finding ways to express what you want to say so that people get your point and don’t feel disrespected,” she said. She was living in the shelter at the time.

“In a way Middlebury was exactly what I needed,” she said. “It was a convenient bubble where everything was safe and O.K. and you don’t have to tell everybody your business.”

The posse was key. “It’s so easy to get lost. I couldn’t imagine going to college without a group of people I already knew. I don’t think I would have made it.” They were all studying different things, she said. They didn’t do homework together, but they held each other accountable for doing it. “If you needed somebody to get you out of bed and get you to the library, Antoinette” — a Posse member — “would get you to the library.” The Posse members, she said, held each other up to the standard they had set: “how are you doing in class, how you behaved socially and whether you were supporting people you agreed to support.”

Brown graduated in 2009, cum laude. Conscious of her good fortune and eager to give back, she joined Teach for America and taught 6th grade social studies at a KIPP charter school in Newark. Now she is in graduate school at Columbia, studying theater.

Of Brown’s posse of 11, one man didn’t graduate — he’s in the Navy. Of the others, one worked after graduation at the United States embassy in Egypt. One is at MTV. One in AmeriCorps, one in the Peace Corps, one in Buenos Aires running a bar-restaurant.

The aforementioned Antoinette is Antoinette Rangel — “a firecracker,” said Brown. At LaGuardia High School of Music and Art and Performing Arts, a highly sought-after public school, Rangel was a great student and community leader. “But not a standardized test-taker,” she said. “I took a prep course and studied tons. But I got a terrible score. It was going to hold me back — that’s what was so great about Posse.”

Middlebury was a different world. “My classmates would talk about their high school experience taking a seminar with eight students on the Vietnam War, taught by a Ph.D.,” she said. “I’d say, yeah, that’s just like my experience — classes of 45 people with teachers who just graduated from college.

“When I was feeling overwhelmed the first couple of months I could call Sheyenne or Danny and go to their dorm room and cry on their shoulder. The Posse was people you pulled all-nighters with.”

She was always in student government, leading it her senior year. She played rugby, sang jazz (“half or more of the Posse was at every recital”), taught English, volunteered at a senior citizens’ home and led a trip to the Dominican Republic. She started law school at Northeastern, interned with a federal judge, then took leave from law school to start her current job, working in the White House as a press assistant.

The stories of Brown and Rangel tell us not just that the SAT is an inadequate predictor of college success, but that it can be malignant. Many colleges acknowledge its limitations. DePauw University, a Posse partner school, asked its institutional research department to do a study of past students to see which factors correlated with academic success. “The one thing that made no difference whatsoever was standardized test scores,” said Cindy Babington, vice president for student services at DePauw.

But colleges are finding it hard to move away from their heavy dependence on those scores. “We couldn’t admit a class of 640 students going through the process Posse does — it’s too time-intensive,” Babington said.

Sheila Griffin Student nominees participated in Posse’s Dynamic Assessment Process. Posse chooses its scholars through a series of group and individual interviews, a system it calls the Dynamic Assessment Process. It brings hundreds of kids into a room and puts them through activities that test their problem-solving, leadership, communication and collaboration skills, their initiative and resourcefulness. “If you’re hiring someone for a leadership position in a company,” said Bial, “those are the very things we’re looking for.”

Posse offers schools an efficient way to find the kind of students it chooses — they can ride on its selection process. After it chooses its winners, it releases the list of finalists who didn’t win. The 40 colleges that are Posse partners can then recruit from the list. “Every single one of these students has been approached at least three times by partner schools,” said Bial.

The second way that Posse is subversive is that it shows that academic chops do not completely determine college success. It demonstrates other important factors: whether a student has social support, a sense of belonging and a network that can offer advice. People from a dominant culture take these things for granted, but minority students have to build them. Posse helps. Every Posse member I talked to said having the group is crucial.

Related [More From Fixes](#)

[Read previous contributions to this series.](#)

At DePauw, Babington said that the success of the Posse model inspired the school to put all first-year students — not just those from Posse — into small groups with an upper-class student

as a mentor. They meet regularly to talk about topics like time management, high-risk drinking and preparing for midterms.

Babington said that at the same time it instituted this program, called First Year Experience, the school also moved its fraternity and sorority recruiting to later in the year and built more student housing. The changes “dramatically improved the retention rate,” said Babington, from 86 or 87 percent of freshmen returning the next year to 91 or 92 percent. “I do attribute a lot of it to First Year Experience.”

There’s one other provocative issue raised by Posse’s results: the damage wreaked by stereotype threat. The objects of a stereotype can find their performance greatly affected by simply being reminded that the stereotype exists. Researchers, for example, gave a [math test](#) (pdf) to a group of Asian female students. Before the test, the women filled out one of three types of questionnaires. One asked about their gender, one about their ethnicity, and one asked about neither. Those who were reminded they were Asian did the best on the math test. Those reminded they were female did the worst. Another researcher found that when black adults were given tests four times in 2008, on two of those occasions their scores were much higher than the other two. What made the difference? [Barack Obama](#). When the test was given right after his speech accepting the Democratic nomination, or just after his election, the scores of black test-takers were statistically equal to the scores of whites. On the other occasions, the whites scored higher.

The Posse program offers more support for the existence of stereotype threat. Maybe one reason that Posse students of color do well is that the Posse brand identity is so strong. “The buzz around the school is that these Posse kids are cool and smart,” said Carlos Salcedo, a Brandeis Posse scholar who is now a vice president in equity derivative sales at Barclays. Perhaps students who are reminded all day that they are Posse scholars find it is a stereotype that lifts them.

The Posse program reveals the poverty of the conventional wisdom governing academic success. Our rules for college admission, and ideas about college achievement, are linear, but in reality, college achievement is complex. The factors are much more diverse than our educational system is built to accommodate. So are the people who succeed.

Join [Fixes on Facebook](#) and follow updates on [twitter.com/nytimesfixes](#).

Tina Rosenberg won a Pulitzer Prize for her book “[The Haunted Land: Facing Europe’s Ghosts After Communism](#).” She is a former editorial writer for The Times and now a contributing writer for the paper’s Sunday magazine. Her new book is “[Join the Club: How Peer Pressure Can Transform the World](#).”

Ambitions Rekindled at Public Library

By *ROBIN POGREBIN*

After a pause because of the economic downturn, the New York Public Library on Wednesday revived its \$1 billion plan to overhaul its branches and renovate its Fifth Avenue flagship.

EDITORIAL LVRJ

[After Yucca](#)

A commission's suggestion of wooing, rather than bullying, states to accept nuclear waste is a sensible approach.

Las Vegas groups to announce record in-kind donation

By [Jennifer Robison](#) LAS VEGAS REVIEW-JOURNAL Feb. 16, 2012

It's a gift to dwarf all gifts.

Two local groups, a business organization and a charity, will on Friday announce the largest in-kind donation ever made to the Public Education Foundation, a nonprofit that coordinates philanthropic aid to the Clark County School District.

The Latin Chamber of Commerce and Another Joy Foundation plan to give \$6.8 million worth of textbooks to the Public Education Foundation, which will then work with the school district to determine where the books are needed.

Judi Steele, president of the education foundation, said the charity has received \$500,000 or \$1 million in in-kind donations, including artwork and personal computers, but never anything approaching the size of this latest contribution.

But more importantly, the gift "represents a partnership with a lot of different organizations," Steele said. "It represents a strategic alliance that includes a lot of people who care about the community."

The groups will formally announce the donation at the Latin Chamber of Commerce's Feb Joy has delivered medicines, medical supplies and education materials across the world, but the nonprofit's executives saw need in their own back yard. They reached out to the Latin Chamber to discuss giving, and Javier Trujillo, the group's chairman and a former Clark County School District teacher, connected the group with the Public Education Foundation.

Textbook aid immediately made sense. With Southern Nevada struggling to recover from recession, local families could use help coming up with books, said Another Joy founder Alden Crowley. Plus, education budget cuts -- in particular, "dramatic" reductions in textbook dollars -- made the need for help with books all the more acute, Trujillo said.

Big textbook publishers including McGraw-Hill and Pearson sealed the deal by offering huge surpluses of unused books from 2006 or later.

Those books, all 122,600 of them, will start making their way into classrooms in at least 25 local schools in the next month. The texts, many of them for bilingual students, will cover areas such as math, science and language arts in all grades. Some of them will go to under-booked high school libraries; others are college texts that will go to university-bound students to give them a head start on advanced course work.

Both groups say Friday's donation is just the beginning.

They expect to rustle up at least another \$15 million or so of books, for a total of more than \$20 million in texts to local schools, in the next 12 to 18 months.

"When you bring organizations together, there are synergies that happen naturally," Trujillo said. "You start to realize you can do so much more than you can do on your own."

Contact reporter Jennifer Robison at jrobison@reviewjournal.com or 702-380-4512.

Bill introduced to convey BLM land to Yerington (AP) — Nevada's U.S. House members have introduced legislation that would convey 10,000 acres of federally owned land to the city of Yerington in Lyon County for development. [Click here to read the full story...](#)

By [Henry Brean](#)

LAS VEGAS REVIEW-JOURNAL

They stop short of asking for it all, but Las Vegas water officials are urging the state to grant them far more rural groundwater than they got the last time around.

In new documents now in the hands of State Engineer Jason King, the Southern Nevada Water Authority lays out its plans to eventually siphon up to 105,000 acre-feet of groundwater a year from four valleys in Lincoln and White Pine counties.

That is roughly 46,000 acre-feet more than the authority received from King's predecessor in separate rulings in 2007 and 2008.

Those decisions were later struck down by the Nevada Supreme Court, prompting last year's marathon water hearing in Carson City.

Authority officials think their case for more water is bolstered by research they have done in the target basins in recent years.

"During the hearing, we introduced a lot of new data," water authority Deputy General Manager John Entsminger said. "We submitted the only new data collected in the period between the last ruling and this one."

King has until late March to rule on the bulk of the water the authority hopes to pipe to Las Vegas through a multibillion-dollar pipeline network stretching more than 300 miles. Most of the water would come from Spring Valley, a vast basin just west of Great Basin National Park.

In an unusual move, King asked the authority and other official participants in last year's six-week hearing to write their own versions of how his final ruling should read.

The authority would get no water at all under most of the draft rulings penned by opponents of the pipeline project.

Opposition groups argue that the water applications should be denied altogether because they would drain the basins, damage the environment and effectively shut out current and future water users across rural Nevada.

New Mexico-based environmental attorney Simeon Herskovits served as the chief voice of the opposition during last year's hearing. He said the authority's critics aren't arguing against all groundwater pumping everywhere or against any activity that impacts the environment in any way.

"But in Spring Valley, the situation is much more stark and simple. Their proposal there is just totally unsustainable and unsound," he said.

Herskovits also contends that the authority failed to prove it can afford to build the pipeline and failed to demonstrate that the water is needed in Southern Nevada and would be put to beneficial use as required by law.

By contrast, the authority submitted four separate draft rulings that allow for the eventual withdrawal of up to 104,854 acre-feet a year, almost 77,000 of it from Spring Valley.

The groundwater would be developed in four stages, starting with an annual withdrawal of up to 38,500 acre-feet in Spring Valley and ramping up every five years if the pumping is deemed "environmentally sound" and does not conflict with existing water rights or domestic wells.

Even if the state engineer decides the authority cannot take any additional water beyond what it withdraws in the first stage of development, Entsminger said the pipeline project still makes financial sense for a community that gets almost all of its supply from a single source.

"Southern Nevada needs to diversify away from its 90 percent dependence on the Colorado River," he said.

He went on to note that the roughly 105,000 acre-feet the authority proposes to develop is about 20,000 acre-feet less than what it originally applied for in the four valleys.

One acre-foot of water is enough to supply two average valley homes for one year. When stretched through reuse, 105,000 acre-feet of water is enough to supply nearly 360,000 average single-family homes.

Entsminger insists the authority's proposed rulings -- all 1,100 pages of them -- were written with "an abundance of caution."

"The state engineer has been saying for the past 10 to 15 years that the proper way to develop groundwater is to do this sort of staged development," he said. "We believe we have provided a conservative plan for development ... that will protect the resource, allow for the collection of new data and provide Southern Nevada with a new water supply."

But to Herskovits, the authority's voluminous proposals are another example of the agency using "massive overkill" to get what it wants.

"I think they are trying to overcompensate with quantity what they lack in quality and integrity in terms of scientific data," he said.

Contact reporter Henry Brean at hbreaan@reviewjournal.com or 702-383-0350.