

Journal #2648

from sdc

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In Case You Missed It, Greenland Just Melted
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94% of Greenland melted in July, the largest ice melt in 30 years of satellite observations

[In Case You Missed It, Greenland Just Melted www.upworthy.com](http://www.upworthy.com)

[How many more countries need to melt before we get serious about climate change?](#)

[Pass a Violence Against Women Act that protects American Indian women](http://www.csmonitor.com)

www.csmonitor.com

[Eighty-six percent of the perpetrators of sexual offenses against American Indian women are non-Indian, but tribal police have no authority to detain them. The House must pass a reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act that includes key protections for American Indian women.](#)

Who out there is going to setp up to the plate? sdc

Attorney general seeks five new members for domestic violence council

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS Aug. 2, 2012 |

Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto is seeking five new members for her Nevada Council for the Prevention of Domestic Violence. The application deadline is Friday.

Masto chairs the panel. It can have up to 30 members, but now has just 25.

She said the goal is to have a culturally diverse and representative group involved with the issue in various ways. Meetings are held quarterly in Reno or Las Vegas.

Members include educators, business and health professionals, service providers, law enforcers, judges, advocates and domestic violence victims or survivors.

The panel's goal is to increase awareness and advocacy for legal and medical services for survivors, and to advise the governor and Legislature on statewide domestic violence policy.

Speaking of Native American Art.....

SWAIA - Indian Market in Santa Fe NM is coming up very soon, August 18-19, 2012! Lots of events, lots of people to meet and talk to, lots of good food and of course, alot of great artwork. the website is www.swaia.org

Also the Navajo Nation Fair is creeping up....

The dates for that event is September 02- 09, 2012. The website for more information is www.navajonationfair.com The artwork there is great also, not as many artists showing their work as the Santa Fe event, but good to view the art and support them.

Native American 'Inspired' Carvings - a controversy

What are your thoughts on this website of Native American carvings. They are made by highly talented artists but are not made by Native Americans. Is this detrimental to Native American carvers with unfair competition or is it a good thing that the style is so well represented getting more interest in the Native American style?

Welcome to the North West Coast Gallery. We have brought together this collection with great passion and enthusiasm for the Northwest coast culture, art and way of life. We hope to have captured the spirit and ethos of the Native American way of life, and very much hope you enjoy browsing these extraordinary carvings.

We also hope to bring together a wealth of knowledge and stories from the Northwest coast. We will add this information to the relevant carvings where applicable or you can browse on the 'info' page.

I (NWCG) hope to continue to bring more high quality Native American carvings to the site but they are difficult to make at this level of skill and take a long time, so please be aware there is a very limited amount of stock available.

AmeriCorps Planning Grant requirement

Hello- It has been quite a few years since the Nevada Commission has funded planning grants, which we are funding for 2012-13 and we would like to review other commission planning grant requirements and sample documents (i.e. progress report templates, etc.) that you might be interested in sharing. If you are willing to share and they are posted on your website, please let me know. Otherwise, would appreciate any information and attachments that can be sent directly to me (not as a reply to this list serve question since that is not allowed).

Thank you in advance,
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Agriculture Secretary Vilsack Announces New Drought Assistance, Designates an Additional 218 Counties as Primary Natural Disaster Areas

Nearly 4 Million Acres of Land Open to Haying and Grazing; Obama Administration-wide drought response continues

WASHINGTON, Aug. 1, 2012—Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced two new pieces of disaster assistance for farmers and ranchers impacted by the nation's worsening drought. First, Vilsack is expanding emergency haying and grazing on approximately 3.8 million acres of conservation land to bring greater relief to livestock producers dealing with shortages of hay and pastureland. Second, the Secretary announced that crop insurance companies have agreed to provide a short grace period for farmers on insurance premiums in 2012. As a result, farming families now have an extra 30 days to make payments without incurring interest penalties on unpaid premiums.

Earlier in the day, Vilsack signed disaster designations for an additional 218 counties in 12 states as primary natural disaster areas due to damage and losses caused by drought and excessive heat. Counties designated today are in the states of Arkansas, Georgia, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Mississippi, Nebraska, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee, and Wyoming. More than half (50.3 percent) of all counties in the United States have been designated disaster areas by USDA in 2012, mainly due to drought.

"President Obama and I will continue to take swift action to get help to America's farmers and ranchers through this difficult time," said Vilsack. "The assistance announced today will help U.S. livestock producers dealing with climbing feed prices, critical shortages of hay and deteriorating pasturelands. Responding to my request, crop insurance companies indicated that producers can forgo interest penalties to help our nation's farm families struggling with cash flow challenges. The Obama Administration intends to continue helping those who farm or ranch and live and work in rural America through this period of hardship."

Emergency Haying and Grazing

In response to the expanding drought, Secretary Vilsack today announced that livestock producers and other participants in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) will now be able to hay and graze acres that have been ineligible in the past. Many of these additional acres have wetland-related characteristics and are likely to contain better quality hay and forage than on other CRP acres. There are approximately 3.8 million acres that will now be eligible for emergency haying and grazing, subject to certain conditions. Haying and grazing may only occur under strict compliance rules to help minimize impacts on these sensitive specialty practices. In addition, USDA will conduct follow-up monitoring and evaluation of these opened CRP areas to study the effects of the drought and USDA's emergency haying and grazing actions. Producers should contact their [local Farm Service Agency offices](#) for additional information.

Federal Crop Insurance

Secretary Vilsack announced today that crop insurance companies have agreed to provide a short grace period for farmers on insurance premiums in 2012. To help producers who may have cash flow problems due to natural disasters, Secretary Vilsack sent a letter to crop insurance companies asking them to voluntarily defer the accrual of any interest on unpaid spring crop premiums by producers until November 1, 2012. In turn, to assist the crop insurance companies, USDA will not require crop insurance companies to pay uncollected producer premiums until one month later.

During the 2012 crop year, USDA has designated 1,584 unduplicated counties across 32 states as disaster areas—1,452 due to drought—making all qualified farm operators in the areas eligible for low-interest emergency loans. The [U.S. Drought Monitor](#) indicates that 66 percent of the nation's hay acreage is in an area experiencing drought, while approximately 73 percent of the nation's cattle acreage is in an area experiencing drought. During the week ending July 29, [USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service](#) reported that U.S. soybeans rated 37 percent very poor to poor, matching the lowest conditions observed during the drought of 1988. NASS also reported that 48 percent of the U.S. corn crop was rated very poor to poor, while 57 percent of the nation's pastures and rangeland are rated very poor or poor condition.

Last week, [President Obama met with Secretary Vilsack and members of his Cabinet](#) to discuss additional steps the Administration could take to help farmers, ranchers and business owners manage and recover from the current drought. Later in the week, President Obama directed Secretary Vilsack to convene a meeting of the White House Rural Council to update members and stakeholders on the Administration response to the drought. Vilsack will update Rural Council members and stakeholders again next week on new steps taken by the Administration to combat the drought.

Under Secretary Vilsack's leadership, USDA has announced a variety of steps to get assistance to producers impacted by the worsening drought, including:

- Allowing additional acres under CRP to be used for emergency haying or grazing. The action allows lands that are not yet classified as "under severe drought" but that are "abnormally dry" to be used for haying and grazing.
- Allowing producers to modify current Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) contracts to allow for grazing, livestock watering, and other conservation activities to address drought conditions.
- Authorizing haying and grazing of Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) easement areas in drought-affected areas where haying and grazing is consistent with conservation of wildlife habitat and wetlands. USDA has expedited its authorization process for this haying and grazing.
- Encouraging crop insurance companies to provide a short grace period for farmers on unpaid insurance premiums, as some farming families can be expected to struggle to make ends meet at the close of the crop year.
- Reducing the emergency loan interest rate from 3.75 percent to 2.25 percent.
- Lowering the reduction in the annual rental payment to producers on CRP acres used for emergency haying or grazing from 25 percent to 10 percent in 2012.

- Simplifying the Secretarial disaster designation process and reduced the time it takes to designate counties affected by disasters by 40 percent.

USDA agencies have been working for weeks with state and local officials, as well as individuals, businesses, farmers and ranchers, as they begin the process of helping to get people back on their feet. The U.S. Small Business Administration has also made 63 agency declarations in 33 states covering 1,675 counties, providing a pathway for those affected to apply for an [Economic Injury Disaster Loan \(EIDL\)](#). SBA's EIDLs are available to small, non-farm businesses and small agricultural cooperatives that are economically affected by the drought in their community.

Also today, U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood will convene a call with states to listen and discuss the ways in which U.S. DOT can work with Governors and State Departments of Transportation to help communities impacted by the drought. Secretary LaHood will be joined by both Anne Ferro, Administrator of the Federal Motor Carriers Safety Administration and Greg Nadeau, Deputy Administrator for the Federal Highways Administration.

The Obama Administration, with Agriculture Secretary Vilsack's leadership, has worked tirelessly to strengthen rural America, maintain a strong farm safety net, and create opportunities for America's farmers and ranchers. U.S. agriculture is currently experiencing one of its most productive periods in American history thanks to the productivity, resiliency, and resourcefulness of our producers. A strong farm safety net is important to sustain the success of American agriculture. USDA's crop insurance program currently insures 264 million acres, 1.14 million policies, and \$110 billion worth of liability on about 500,000 farms. In response to tighter financial markets, USDA has expanded the availability of farm credit, helping struggling farmers refinance loans. In the past 3 years, USDA provided 103,000 loans to family farmers totaling \$14.6 billion. Over 50 percent of the loans went to beginning and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers.

Primary counties and corresponding states designated as disaster areas today:

Arkansas

Benton/Washington

Georgia

Bartow/Cherokee/Cobb/Haralson/Paulding/Polk

Illinois

Adams/Bond/Boone/Brown/Calhoun/Carroll/Cass/Champaign/Christian/Clark/Clay/Clinton/Coles/Cumberland/De Witt/Douglas/Edgar/Effingham/Fayette/Ford/Fulton/Greene/Hancock/Henderson/Iroquois/Jasper/Jefferson/Jersey/Jo Daviess/La Salle/Lee/Livingston/Logan/Macon/Macoupin/Madison/Marion/Marshall/Mason/McDonough/McLean/Menard/Monroe/Montgomery/Morgan/Moultrie/Ogle/Peoria/Perry/Piatt/Randolph/Rock Island/Sangamon/

Schuyler/Scott/Shelby/St. Clair/Stephenson/Tazewell/Vermilion/Warren/Washington/Wayne//
Whiteside/WinnebagoWoodford

Indiana

Jackson/Warren

Iowa

Appanoose/Benton/Black Hawk/Boone/Bremer/Buchanan/Butler/Cedar/Clayton/Clinton/Davis/
Delaware/Des Moines/Dubuque/Fayette/Grundy/Hamilton/Hardin/Henry/Iowa/Jackson/Jasper/
Jefferson/Johnson/Jones/Keokuk/Lee/Linn/Lucas/Mahaska/Marion/Marshall/Monroe/Muscatine/
Polk/Poweshiek/Scott/Story/Tama/Van Buren/Wapello/Wayne

Kansas

Atchison/Brown/Doniphan/Jackson

Mississippi

Marshall

Nebraska

Antelope/Arthur/Banner/Blaine/Brown/Buffalo/Box Butte/Cedar/Chase/Cherry/Cheyenne/
Dawes/Dawson/Deuel/Dixon/Franklin/Garden/Garfield/Gosper/Grant/Hall/Harlan/Holt/Hooker//
Kearney/Keith/Keya Paha/Kimball/Knox/Lincoln/Logan/Loup/Madison/McPherson//Morrill/
Perkins//Phelps/Pierce/Platte/Rock/Scotts Bluff/Sheridan/Sioux/Stanton/Thomas/Wayne/Wheeler

Oklahoma

Adair/Cherokee/Delaware/Haskell/Mayes/McIntosh/Muskogee/Okmulgee/Rogers/Sequoyah/
Tulsa/Wagoner

South Dakota

Bennett/Bon Homme/Butte/Charles Mix/Clay/Custer/Davison/Douglas/Fall River/Gregory/
Haakon/Hanson/Hutchinson/Jackson/Lawrence/Lincoln/McCook/Meade/Pennington/Shannon/
Todd/Tripp/Turner/Union/Yankton

Tennessee

Fayette/Haywood/Lauderdale/

Wyoming

Albany/Campbell/Converse/Crook/Goshen/Niobrara/Platte/Weston

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[Water reuse legislation flows ahead](#)

[Joshua Sabatini](#), San Francisco Examiner

San Francisco developers are being encouraged to start putting shower water or rainwater to better use in their new large developments.

[Effort succeeds using drain water to grow forage](#)

[Kate Campbell](#), Ag Alert

Innovative farm management practices, an integrated water resources plan and new kinds of crops have transformed a farming region in the western San Joaquin Valley once plagued by mineral-heavy drain water flowing into Kesterson Reservoir.

[The Salt Pond Test at Eden Landing Ecological Reserve](#)

New experiment in Hayward could aid the restoration of thousands of acres of wetlands in the Bay Area — and beyond.

[Nate Seltenrich](#), East Bay Express

Talk of restoring the Bay Area's tens of thousands of acres of former salt ponds to tidal marshes tends to conjure a rather irresistible image: A bright yellow earthmover tears a massive rift in a century-old levee and returns the tides to coastal areas from which they've long been estranged. Soon native vegetation appears, then birds, and eventually the once-desolate flats become a thriving tidal wetland. The recovery is natural, wild, and absolutely inevitable. Except that it's not.

[Proposed Tahoe Area Regs Raise Environmental Concerns](#)

[Kathleen Masterson](#), Capital Public Radio

The agency that oversees Lake Tahoe is reworking its regional plan. It's the first big overhaul since 1987, and the initial draft has raised concerns about how much and where commercial development will be allowed.

[QVIR enjoys Scott River float The Quartz Valley Indian Reservation \(QVIR\) recently held a recreational float on the Scott River through Scott](#)

Siskiyou Daily News

The Quartz Valley Indian Reservation (QVIR) recently held a recreational float on the Scott River through Scott Valley. The float on Tuesday July 3, consisted of a small group of QVIR tribal members and staff using canoes and kayaks.

Nevada superintendent outlines goals for public schools

By [Trevon Milliard](#) LAS VEGAS REVIEW-JOURNAL Jul. 31, 2012

Taking a highly political job at age 75 has an advantage - freedom, said Nevada's new Superintendent of Public Schools James Guthrie, who revealed five changes in store for the nation's bottom-ranked educational system in a speech Tuesday.

"When you get there, 75, you don't care. You say what you want," he said, explaining that the job is not a steppingstone for him. He doesn't have to worry that making waves will hurt his career. It's a chance to do the job right, no ulterior motives.

But Guthrie, speaking at a luncheon hosted by conservative think tank Nevada Policy Research Institute at the Las Vegas Country Club, has come to realize in his three months on the job that change will be gradual and slowed by red tape, he said.

"I'm much more humble than three months ago," he said, speaking six days after the national Kids Count report ranked Nevada dead last in public education.

Carolyn Edwards, a veteran board member for the Clark County School District, was glad to hear Guthrie is cognizant of the learning curve despite his accomplished career in education.

"He has a lot to learn about how the state works," she said, mentioning that she is "happy to hear" his five goals.

And Guthrie will be accountable to Gov. Brian Sandoval, who - for the first time - appointed the superintendent and can replace him at any time. But the governor is on board with Guthrie's five goals and will push legislation in the next session to support them, Guthrie said.

Guthrie's five goals are the following:

Goal One - Construct a system to track each individual student through 12th grade, college and career. Guthrie said some have doubted the feasibility of this, but it has been done in Florida.

Edwards supported the idea but noted it would take money in a state that has been cutting education funding.

Goal Two - Students shouldn't advance to the next grade just because they put in the time but because they showed enough progress, he said, mentioning third-graders who can't read but go on to fourth grade.

"They ought to stop there until they can read," which isn't the case now, Guthrie said, earning a round of applause.

Fifty-eight percent of third-graders were reading at grade level in 2011, according to the state's most recent standardized test results.

Changing the system would take legislative approval, he said.

Guthrie also advocated a new choice for 11th-graders with enough credits to graduate. Let them go to college and give them the per-pupil funding that would have gone to their schools for their 12th grade year to help pay their college tuition.

Per-pupil expenses average \$8,515 in Nevada, according to the Nevada Department of Education's Report Card.

Goal Three - Make the teaching profession more attractive in Nevada by paying the top 10 percent of teachers a lucrative salary. He hesitated to pin a dollar amount on that salary, having received flak for a statement in June that "in tomorrow's world, the best teachers earn \$200,000."

Goal Four - Blend computer courses with traditional teaching, which can boost student performance while increasing class sizes. He referenced Alliance Technology and Math Science High School in Los Angeles, where classes of 48 students work on computers most of the day.

Goal Five - Don't put charter schools at a disadvantage but even the playing field, giving students options. In Nevada, critics have said charter schools are funded to fail because the state provides the same per-pupil funding as it does to school districts though charters aren't provided facilities.

"It will be interesting to see what turns into reality," Clark County School Board member Lorraine Alderman said.

Contact reporter Trevon Milliard at tmilliard@reviewjournal.com or 702-383-0279.

Bill Gates recently gave a speech at a High School about eleven (11) things they did not and will not learn in school.

He talks about how feel-good, politically correct teachings created a generation of kids with no concept of reality and how this concept set them up for failure in the real world.

Rule 1 : Life is not fair - get used to it!

Rule 2 : The world doesn't care about your self-esteem.

The world will expect you to accomplish something BEFORE you feel good about yourself.

Rule 3 : You will NOT make \$60,000 a year right out of high school.

You won't be a vice-president with a car phone until you earn both.

Rule 4 : If you think your teacher is tough, wait till you get a boss

Rule 5 : Flipping burgers is not beneath your dignity.

Your Grandparents had a different word for burger flipping: They called it opportunity.

Rule 6 : If you mess up, it's not your parents' fault, so don't whine about your mistakes, learn from them.

Rule 7 : Before you were born, your parents weren't as boring as they are now. They got that way from paying your bills, cleaning your clothes and listening to you talk about how cool you thought you were:

So before you save the rain forest from the parasites of your parent's generation, try delousing the closet in your own room..

Rule 8 : Your school may have done away with winners and losers, but life HAS NOT. In some schools, they have abolished failing grades and they'll give you as MANY TIMES as you want to get the right answer.

*This doesn't bear the slightest resemblance to ANYTHING in real life.

Rule 9 : Life is not divided into semesters.

You don't get summers off and very few employers are interested in helping you FIND YOURSELF.

*Do that on your own time.

Rule 10 : Television is NOT real life.

In real life people actually have to leave the coffee shop and go to jobs.

Rule 11 : Be nice to nerds.

Chances are you'll end up working for one..

Does your tribe have an email policy? sdc

Four-year fight over Gibbons emails makes important point

Jane Ann Morrison LVRJ Aug. 2, 2012

Is that all there is? Well a big so what, who cares.

The Reno Gazette-Journal's four-year legal battle to obtain former Gov. Jim Gibbon's emails didn't uncover any smoking gun as the newspaper surely hoped, since Gibbons fought so ferociously to keep 104 emails closed to the public.

The emails showed that there was infighting among his top administrators, particularly Chief of Staff Mike Dayton and Chief Operating Officer Dianne Cornwall. Well, we already knew that.

One suggested he liked gin. Well, we knew the Republican was a tippler before voters elected him in 2006, because of the Chrissy Mazzeo incident at the McCormick & Schmick bar, not to mention that absurd picture of him in the Wall Street Journal where his head scarf surely was motivated by liquor.

We figured he had friends who supported him and sent him supportive emails. Northern Nevadans seem somewhat intrigued by the relationship the emails showed with developer Perry Di Loreto.

The emails resulted in some news coverage over a short time period but left people scratching their heads about why the governor didn't release the rather innocuous missives.

Forgotten by many nonjournalists: Both sides were battling over principle and precedent.

The Gazette-Journal proved its point that a governor's emails using state-paid equipment are open records and he needed a good reason to keep them private. That applies not just to this governor, but future Nevada governors and other state officials, setting a valuable precedent for news gatherers.

The governor's office lost its argument that it could merely say, "No, that's private." Governors will have to provide lists of why each email is not subject to the open records law and provide some basic information such as a description of each record withheld.

It's that precedent that Gibbons failed to prevent.

Over the years, the Nevada Supreme Court has favored more openness and fewer barriers. This opinion authored by Justice Nancy Saitta kept to that philosophy, upholding a ruling by Carson City District Judge James Russell, who already had found in the newspaper's favor.

For that, I bow humbly to the justices and the judge.

Barry Smith, executive director of the Nevada Press Association, said, "Newspapers do this and they do it on behalf of the public. Nobody else really does this."

Newspapers commit big bucks to doing this. Stephens Media LLC, the parent company of the Review-Journal, files open records requests regularly. A handful end up in litigation each year.

Yet many times, when the records are finally obtained, it's not worth reporting or doesn't make a real riveting story.

Case in point: The Review-Journal filed a request seeking cellphone records for 1996 and 1997 for county commissioners, former County Manager Dale Askew and Aviation Director Randy Walker. It was part of an investigation into the influence lobbyists had over county commissioners.

Askew released the records - with the numbers blacked out. The Nevada Supreme Court ruled in 2000 the cellphone records were public.

No big conspiracy was revealed, even though the county commissioners at that time included Erin Kenny, Lance Malone and Dario Herrera, who all went to prison for acts of corruption. Obviously, the newspaper's instincts were right.

The result: County commissioners who had used the county phones for their personal calls ended up reimbursing the county.

The more important result: The open records law was made stronger for the next time a similar request is made.

Newspapers don't know ahead of time what they're going to find when they start the process and commit to paying for it. The taxpayers paid for the governments' resistance.

Praise be to the Reno-Gazette Journal for having the grit and spending the money to pursue the Gibbons' emails.

Even if the final stories were pretty ho hum, much like the former governor.

Jane Ann Morrison's column appears Monday, Thursday and Saturday. Email her at Jane@reviewjournal.com or call 702-383-0275. She also blogs at lvrj.com/blogs/morrison.