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The Journey of Nishiyuu. The walkers at the opening ceremonies of the Chisasibi hockey tournament



[http://sphotos-b.xx.fbcdn.net/hphotos-ash3/68902\\_148123285346496\\_64242486\\_n.jpg#IDL](http://sphotos-b.xx.fbcdn.net/hphotos-ash3/68902_148123285346496_64242486_n.jpg#IDL)  
ENOMORE RALLY IN ST. PAUL, AB. - JAN. 28th/2013 - "#J28 INM Peace March.

Borrowed many pics from other posts, just passing along proudly — with Felicia Badger and Benny Badger." - by Shannon M Houle.

### **Strong Women's Song**

[www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)

[Strong Women's Song to greet the sunrise in honour of One Billion Rising and V-Day. Thank you to Chelsea Pratchett and Kathryn McKernan for being our fabulou..](#)

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### **ROBERT KENNEDY JR. AND DARYL HANNAH ARRESTED**

[http://sphotos-b.xx.fbcdn.net/hphotos-ash3/68902\\_148123285346496\\_64242486\\_n.jpg](http://sphotos-b.xx.fbcdn.net/hphotos-ash3/68902_148123285346496_64242486_n.jpg)

By Police arrest actress Daryl Hannah and other environmental activists opposed to the Keystone XL tar sands pipeline project during a protest outside White House in Washington today. (2.13)

### **Oil Sands Truth | Oil Sands Truth: Shut down the Tar Sands**

[oilsandstruth.org](http://oilsandstruth.org)

[The Tar Sands "Gigaproject" is the largest industrial project in human history and likely also](#)

[the most destructive. The tar sands mining procedure releases at least three times the CO2 emissions as regular oil production and is slated to become the single largest industrial contributor in North Ame...](#)

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<http://www.torontosun.com/2013/01/24/reserve-despair-hits-home-for-outspoken-mohawk-shawn-brant>

**Reserve despair hits home for outspoken Mohawk, Shawn Brant**

By Mark Bonokoski ,QMI Agency **Friday, January 25, 2013 Shawn Brant**

TYENDINAGA MOHAWK TERRITORY, ONT. - When the barricades went up, and the Idle No More movement decided to start blocking railway lines, highways and border crossings, one of Canada's more notorious Native dissidents was nowhere near any of the protests.

Nor did he go to Ottawa to pay symbolic homage to Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence at her teepee on Victoria Island, his mind fully convinced that her alleged hunger strike was nothing more than a smoke screen to draw attention away from the incompetence an audit found in the handling of her reserve's financials.

Shawn Brant says Spence has a lot of explaining to do. "Her people are living in unheated shacks, impoverished and in desperate need, and she is largely responsible because she had the control over the money.

"She is no hero in my book."

The last time we met, some three years ago, the Mohawk activist was in the Ontario superjail in Lindsay, his customary camouflage fatigues replaced by an orange prison jumpsuit.

He has been arrested more than 200 times for civil disobedience and the resulting breaches of both bail and probation, some of them under criminal indictment.

In all, Brant has served almost three years for his "cause" -- primarily the lack of potable water on reserves, and particularly his own reserve near the eastern Ontario town of Belleville -- in segments that have ranged from three days to seven months.

Brant had then been behind bars since June 10, 2009, when approximately 100 OPP and First Nations police stormed in at dawn to end the Mohawk blockage of the Skyway Bridge near Deseronto, perched at the end of this reserve.

When we spoke, it was nearing October and the end of his sentence.

"I can't say it is entirely over for me when it comes to my involvement in the cause," said the father of four. "All I can say is that I will give the next one, the next protest, a lot of thought."

Today, Shawn Brant, now 48, can be found behind the counter of the Two Hawks smoke

shack.

He may not be manning any barricades for Idle No More, but this does not mean Shawn Brant has let up on his campaign to get to the bottom of why the water on his reserve, primarily accessed by drilled wells, is both undrinkable and, as he alleges, potentially lethal.

On the band's website -- the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte -- a boil water advisory has existed for years, leaving the impression the water is safe if procedures are followed.

But Shawn Brant believes differently and, instead of blocking rail lines to get the action from the Ministry of Aboriginal and Northern Affairs, he is shifting the blame and going after Chief R. Donald Maracle and the rest of the band council for allegedly burying the truth and putting lives at risk.

This time, however, he is doing it through the courts.

Since July of last year, Brant's only daughter, 13-year-old Teyohate, has been in Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children, fighting acute lymphoblastic leukemia, a fast-moving cancer that Brant believes was triggered by the water on the reserve.

Three other children on the reserve, all around the same age, have also been diagnosed with cancer. One of them, 13-year-old Paula Sero-Loft, Teyohate's best friend and classmate at Quinte Mohawk School, located no more than 600 metres from the controversial landfill, was buried last September.

"Yes, it's personal this time," said Brant. "Why the rash of cancer? Why the rash of unexplained body sores on other children?"

"The odds of such a cluster being coincidence are off the charts."

Earlier this month, Brant, through Ottawa lawyer and First Nations issues expert Stephen Reynolds, filed a statement of claim in the Ontario Superior Court of Justice, and later tabled application documentation that runs more than 1,000 pages.

QMI Agency has a copy of all the documents.

An environmental engineering firm, XCG Consultants, plus the federal and provincial governments, are also named in the suit.

Its total focus is on that now-closed landfill on the 7,300-hectare reserve that had been built in 1968 on fractured bedrock, without a liner and against the recommendations of various engineering firms, and continued until it was boarded up in 2004.

Then, three years later, it was capped with allegedly toxic dirt excavated from an ancient coal and gasification plant in nearby Kingston and purportedly never monitored for the migration of scores of possible pollutants.

Brant is not seeking monetary damages, at least not yet. Instead he is demanding the band

council provide a full accounting of all money spent during the closing of the Tyendinaga Landfill, as well as all funds budgeted specifically for the implementation of the Health Canada-required closure report, and that includes the monitoring that was purportedly contracted when the site closed in 2007.

"All that documentation, which should be readily available, has never been found," said Brant. "It's either been hidden or destroyed."

After Brant's daughter was diagnosed with cancer, a sympathetic administrator at the band's office slipped Brant the "brown envelope," two bankers' boxes filled the documents from the band's archives that, according to lawyer Stephen Reynolds, lay waste to the band's claims of transparency and due diligence over the state of the water on what is the third-largest reserve in Ontario, with 2,145 current residents and a membership of 8,895.

Those bankers' boxes, in fact, represented the "smoking gun" that Brant needed as hard evidence to launch his lawsuit.

It is expected to go to court late next month.

The band council has yet to respond with its statement of defense.

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<http://aptn.ca/pages/news/2013/01/15/lack-of-water-tests-after-toxic-dump-shutdown-put-tyendinaga-at-risk-court-documents/>

National News | 15. Jan, 2013 by APTN National News | 0 Comments

### **Lack of water tests after toxic dump shutdown put Tyendinaga at risk: court documents**

By Kenneth Jackson APTN National News

Tyendinaga – When the Tyendinaga Mohawks closed their landfill in 2007 they were required to complete a closure report and conduct water monitoring tests to ensure toxic chemicals didn't leachate into the ground water directly below.

According to documents filed in provincial court, no such tests were ever done.

In fact, the closure report was never completed according to a notice of application filed in a Belleville court by resident Shawn Brant who is seeking to force the band council to fulfill the requirements laid out by Aboriginal Affairs.

The landfill, which opened in 1968, sits atop fractured bed rock and below that is an aquifer many residents use as drinking water. The dump is also about 100 metres from a creek that drains into the Bay of Quinte.

"The filing is to bring it before a judge so essentially the community can stop the bleeding, deal with the issue, be aware of the risk they are in and be able to take their precautions in order to ensure their personal safety and safety of their children," said Brant Tuesday.

No retaining liner was placed over the bed rock, instead the earth was dug out and the garbage, that included paints, tires, hydro carbons and construction waste, was placed on the broken stone the documents allege.

The battle over the dump began about 20 years ago when residents started to realize the

effects it may be having on them. Most recently three children have been diagnosed with leukemia, developed skin sores and other forms of cancer but doctors have said they don't believe it was caused by the water. But they can't say with certainty it hasn't. The medical science isn't there to prove one way or the other as previously reported by APTN National News.

Brant's daughter is one of the girls with leukemia and is in a Toronto hospital fighting the disease. Her friend Paula Sero died last September of the same leukemia. That day she gave her dad a message.

"She asked me to fix this so it doesn't happen to anybody else," said Brant who has also been given a mandate by the Mohawk community to fix the problem "by any means necessary."

Brant said he was able to obtain thousands of documents from the band council to draw up his court application.

Named in the court application is Chief Donald Maracle, the band council, a consulting firm and both the federal and provincial governments.

"Both the respondent chief and council and respondent XCG Consultants Ltd., failed to undertake and implement post closure monitoring, failed to undertake trace studies to determine the extent of leachate and failed to obtain a closure certificate regarding the landfill," the court document states. "The ground water has not been tested since 2005 and recent claims that it is safe are based upon tests that are seven years old."

The allegations have not been proven in court. The first court date is Feb. 5.

As part of his application, Brant is also seeking to force proper water testing, a tracer study on the dump to see if toxic chemicals have made their way into ground water, for the band to receive proper certificates required to close the dump and provide a full account of monies received from the federal government for closing the dump.

It's the money that is also a sticking point. Estimated costs to close the dump jumped from a little over \$1.4 million to more than \$2 million after it was closed by covering it with dirt and clay.

Aboriginal Affairs required, as part of the closure, that the band would undertake proper monitoring of the dump, as well as receive a closure certificate from the province's ministry of environment according to the court documents.

But the band council in 2010 wrote Aboriginal Affairs asking for more money to conduct tests some three years after closing the dump. XCG was retained to complete the closure. They estimated \$13,100 be allotted for a detailed closure report as part of the original proposal accepted by Aboriginal Affairs. The budget and contract proposal also stipulated it were to follow MOE guidelines.

On June 17, 2010, Maracle wrote Aboriginal Affairs requesting nearly an additional \$40,000

to do post closure monitoring.

Emails obtained by Brant show the band council were denied the additional money by the feds. They were reminded of the money they got in 2007 included monitoring and also that they needed the MOE to sign off on the closure. There doesn't appear to be any follow up from Aboriginal Affairs, nor any further communication from the band according to the court documents.

Maracle wasn't available for comment but in previous unpublished interviews leading up to the filing of the court application he was asked about specific details of the closure by APTN who had knowledge of the main points of the court documents.

He said the band was never required to obtain a closure certificate from the MOE.

"They wouldn't give one. They can't give you one because it's on the reserve," said Maracle Nov. 29. "Because it is on the reserve (the MOE) act in an advisory capacity to the council but they don't apply their legislation on the reserve because they said it is outside their jurisdiction."

However, he did say they followed MOE legislation as a guideline.

"XCG overlooked the closing of the dump to ensure it did meet the closing standards of the Ministry of Environment," said Maracle, adding he believed there were cases of illegal dumping at the landfill over the years.

The problems with the dump were known by the band for years according to internal emails obtained by APTN and referenced in the court application.

Capital projects officer, Todd King wrote the council April 14, 2004 saying they needed to close the dump immediately and said he would declare this as an "emergency situation."

He said Maracle and the council could no longer turn a "blind eye" to the problem.

Testing was done in June 2004 by XCG, as they had in 2001. High levels of various metals were found, including benzene, in and around the landfill.

XCG concluded the chemicals were not from the dump and were naturally occurring.

The dump was then inspected by John Tooley, a district supervisor of the MOE, and he recommended it be shut down. In his report, also obtained by Brant, Tooley outlined the necessary post-closure monitoring required.

Tooley said immediate monitoring needed to be put in place and last for up to a 100 years.

When asked why the band didn't just dig up the dump and remove it, Maracle said it would have cost too much money.

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## **The Gradual Selling of America the Beautiful**

By [VERLYN KLINKENBORG](#) NYT February 9, 2013

Of the 2.27 billion acres that constitute the land area of the United States, a little less than 30 percent — about 640 million acres — belongs to you, the American citizen. It is land acquired over the years by treaty, conquest or purchase by the federal government acting on behalf of the people, and indisputably belongs to neither the states nor individuals. But in the last few decades no part of the American land mass has stirred greater controversy.

Almost four decades ago, a movement known as the Sagebrush Rebellion tried to force the federal government to give up ownership of hundreds of millions of acres, mostly in the West. A similar fever gripped Western legislatures in the mid-1990s. George W. Bush's Interior Department basically said no to the idea that the federal government should set aside large areas of federal land for permanent wilderness protection.

Those attitudes persist. Two years ago, the Republican House basically told Interior Secretary Ken Salazar that he could not spend a penny on a program that would merely study existing federal lands for possible wilderness protection at some point in the future. Mitt Romney said he did not fully grasp the “purpose” of the public lands in the course of suggesting that more of them be taken over by the states for oil and gas development. And in the last year, four states — Utah, Idaho, New Mexico and Arizona — have passed or have pending bills that would transfer millions of acres of federal land to state control. It is no surprise that the most vociferous opposition to the notion of public ownership is in the West, where there is a disproportionate amount of federal land — just as there is a disproportionate amount of natural resources, like oil, gas and timber, and a disproportionate amount of mountains, canyons and other grand scenery.

But the real threat to the public lands is not from Congress, or the state legislatures, whose laws would almost certainly be struck down as unconstitutional. The real and constant threat is more subtle, and more piecemeal. Only about a third of the 640 million acres of public land — national parks, permanently protected wilderness where only backpackers are allowed, national wildlife refuges — enjoy complete or high levels of protection against commercial development. Nearly all the rest is multiuse land, for logging, grazing, hard-rock mining, oil and gas development. Especially vulnerable are the 248 million acres overseen by the Bureau of Land Management.

It is to this threat that President Obama must pay more attention than he has. Every president has adjusted the rate at which land is leased for exploitation and the rate at which it is protected, usually by speeding or slowing the rate at which the bureau grants oil and gas leases, but often by pushing Congress to designate new wilderness or using the powers granted under the American Antiquities Act of 1906 to unilaterally protect land when Congress will not act. Some presidents — like George H. W. Bush and Bill Clinton — have done a good job protecting public lands; in contrast, President George W. Bush did his best to get the bureau into the speed-leasing business, vending leases, with virtually no profit to the government, for gas and oil drilling.

In a speech last week, President Clinton's interior secretary, Bruce Babbitt, presented a telling chart that showed [how much land has been protected](#) — by Congress and by the president — from the Reagan to the Obama presidency. So far, the current administration is dead last, and by several lengths. Mr. Clinton, for instance, protected 26.9 million acres, 9.3 million through

executive action, over his two terms; a total of only 2.6 million acres has been protected so far under President Obama.

One reason is simply politics. Mr. Obama has tried to balance — too carefully, as he nearly always does — the interests of conservationists and Big Oil. As Mr. Babbitt pointed out, some six million acres were leased to the oil and gas industry during Mr. Obama’s first term — more than twice as much land as was set aside for protection. Mr. Obama has four years left, and judging by the tone he has taken since his new term began, we think he may well do a better job when it comes to conservation and land protection. Nominating Sally Jewell as his new interior secretary is a good first step. The toughest part of her Senate confirmation hearings will have to do with her attitude toward protecting and exploiting public lands. Congress has extraction fever of a rare severity, and it will be on full display.

Finding the right balance is always the hard part, especially in the West, where the urge to return to the exploitative ways of the past is strong. But the public lands belong now, as they always have, to the future. There are dozens of wrong ways to use them. But there is no such thing as a wrong way to protect them.

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Energy & Telecommunications

**The Affiliated Tribes of the Northwest Telecommunications Technology Committee** will work to promote the acquisition and utilization of appropriate telecommunications technology among Northwest Indian communities to enhance the economic, educational, political, social, and cultural goals of Tribal governments and organizations.

Committee Chairs:

Susie Mason, Co-Chair, [susie.mason@colvilletribes.com](mailto:susie.mason@colvilletribes.com)

Sonya Tetnowski, Co-Chair, [sonya.tetnowski@elwha.nsn.us](mailto:sonya.tetnowski@elwha.nsn.us)

Committee Resolutions:

[Support for NPAIHB 2012 Legislative Plan for the 112 th Congress](#)

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*A fascinating read:*

[http://booksnow1.scholarsportal.info/ebooks/oca10/12/socialstudiesg00albe/socialstudiesg00albe\\_djvu.txt](http://booksnow1.scholarsportal.info/ebooks/oca10/12/socialstudiesg00albe/socialstudiesg00albe_djvu.txt)

GRADE IX Study Guide

SCHOOL-BOOK BRANCH Department of Education Edmonton 1953

*Can you answer the questions?*

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*Extracts from President’s Plan.....hope all tribal planners have their “shovel ready” plans ready to pull out of their desk drawer (or being current, their efiles!) Tribes/tribal institutions who are ready should find vigorous opportunities for the next three years. Dust off those OEDPs/CEPs/TSHPs.....Just a reminder to do it on your own terms.....sdc*

**Rebuild and upgrade our infrastructure so our businesses have the tools they need to compete:**

Since the President took office we have improved over 300,000 miles of U.S. roads, repaired or replaced over 22,000 bridges, and built or improved more than 6,000 miles of rail. But there’s more to be done, which is why the President is calling for:



○ A “Fix it First” program to focus on our most urgent infrastructure repairs: Under this approach the President’s proposal for \$50 billion in frontloaded infrastructure investment includes \$40 billion that would be targeted to the most urgent upgrades, like the 70,000 structurally deficient bridges across the country. In addition, the President is continuing to call for a long-term increase in surface transportation and rail funding financed by reductions in spending due to ending the wars, marking a major commitment to nation building here at home.

☒ **Investing in the best ideas to lead the world in innovation:** The President is committed to investing in science and technology so that America produces the best and most innovative products in the world. Investing in innovation will let us do things like map the human brain, help find new answers in the fight against Alzheimer’s and other diseases, devise new clean energy technologies, and promote new advanced manufacturing initiatives.

#### **EQUIPPING AMERICANS WITH THE SKILLS THEY NEED**

☒ **Providing high-quality preschool for every child:** For this country to succeed in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, America must have the most dynamic, educated workforce in the world, and that education has to start early in life. Every dollar invested in early learning and development programs saves about \$7 down the road in higher earnings that yield more revenue, and lower government spending on social services and crime prevention. But today, most four-year-olds aren’t in a high-quality public preschool program, and only ten states and the District of Columbia require school districts to provide free, full- day kindergarten.

○ Supporting all 50 states to provide access to preschool for all low- and moderate-income children:

The President is proposing to work with Congress to provide all low- and moderate-income 4- year-old children with high-quality preschool, while also expanding these programs to reach hundreds of thousands of additional middle class children, and incentivizing full-day kindergarten policies, so that all children enter kindergarten prepared for academic success.

☒ **Building the skills that lead to high-quality, high-wage jobs:** The President is committed to giving our students the opportunity to build the skills they need for the high-growth, high-wage jobs of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Equipping all our citizens with the cutting-edge skills that lead to a good job means:

○ Creating a Master Teacher Corps of exemplary educators in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM): President Obama is calling on Congress to commit new resources to create a STEM Master Teacher Corps, enlisting 10,000 of America’s best and brightest science and math teachers to improve STEM education across America’s schools.

○ Modernizing America’s high schools for real-world learning: The President is announcing a

new competition to kick-start a redesign of high schools to emphasize real-world learning. The President's plan will invest in redesigning high school to focus on providing challenging, relevant experiences, and reward schools that develop new partnerships with colleges and employers, and that create classes that focus on technology, science, engineering, and other skills today's employers are demanding to fill jobs open now and in the future. In addition, the President is proposing to strengthen and reform our federal investment in career and technical education to better align programs with the needs of employers and with the demands of higher education.

○ Building on a strong commitment to a skilled workforce: The President is committed to a skilled workforce and college completion, and continues to support the \$8 billion Community College to Career Fund he put forward in his Budget last year, greater simplicity for workers, and accountability that training programs are effective in teaching workers the skills they need to find good-paying jobs and new careers.

☒ **Holding colleges accountable for cost, value and quality:** Today, the federal government provides more than \$150 billion each year in direct loan and grant aid for America's students. In an era of limited resources, we must allocate the federal investment in student aid wisely, in order to promote opportunity in higher education and ensure the best return on investment. The President will call on Congress to consider value, affordability, and student outcomes in making determinations about which colleges and universities receive access to federal student aid, either by incorporating measures of value and affordability into the existing accreditation system; or by establishing a new, alternative system of accreditation that would provide pathways for higher education models and colleges to receive federal student aid based on performance and results.

☒ A new *College Scorecard* to provide clear information about college: Last year, President Obama called for the development of a new *College Scorecard* to give students and families clear information about college costs and quality as they make decisions about higher education. The Administration is unveiling this interactive tool so that every student and family can gain information on individual colleges and universities – and compare them to similar institutions – as they conduct their college search.

**Rebecca Charlie**

**Geez my momma never ceases to amaze me! We just watched the State of the Union Address! She told me that she has always been a poor Indian woman and finally a President is for me! (She has. NEVER. commented like that before) While I have never been political before just seeing my mom actually have an option for her have an opinion makes me happy! She didn't vote cause she never felt her vote counted! I came out of my room to hearing her say "Yay" Hahaha yay for my mom finally having a voice:) Just saying :)**

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**PL Lakers continue to ignite.** Congrats to their #1 fan and publicist, Carolyn Harry\*  
**[Three Barlese brothers — a coach and two players — have brought winning basketball back to Pyramid L](#)**

[blogs.rgj.com](#)

[Print date: Feb. 13, 2013 Little brothers everywhere would unite in agreement: This is reason for anarchy. Having to be a big brother's punching bag your entire life is bad enough. For Richard Barlese, a senior basketball player at Pyramid Lake High, and his brother John, a junior, learning that big...](#)

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### **Tahoe torn**

[Ashley Hennefer](#) [ashleyh@newsreview.com](mailto:ashleyh@newsreview.com) [This article was published on 02.14.13.](#)

The Nevada Conservation League has started a petition to repeal SB271, a measure which would remove Nevada from the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency if the state does not meet conservation efforts for the lake by 2015.

“SB271 passed with almost no analysis of its impact on the Tahoe Basin,” wrote board of directors Jennifer Taylor in an email. “This bill passed the Legislature in the last 15 minutes of the 2011 session, putting in motion a timetable to strip all environmental protections from one of our nation’s treasures, one of the special places of the world, as Governor Sandoval has called it. The very features that make Lake Tahoe so unique are those that are most threatened by this bill, but these impacts have not been fully analyzed. The bill was an irresponsible developer’s dream, stripping away regulatory authority and taking a hard-line approach on future negotiations.”

The NCL argues that of four conditions Nevada must meet by 2015, only one is attainable, according to TRPA community liaison Jeff Cowell—the water quality restoration plan of the Lake Tahoe Regional Plan (“Lakeside view,” Jan. 3). The regional plan—along with Mobile 2035, which seeks to improve sustainable transportation at the lake—aims to improve existing structures to reduce pollution of the lake’s water. The regional plan went into effect on Feb. 10.

View the petition at [www.tinyurl.com/SB271Petition](http://www.tinyurl.com/SB271Petition).

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### **NEW LIFE FOR NEVADA LAND INITIATIVES IN CONGRESS**

Efforts to clean up an old Henderson mine and boost economic development in Yerington were given new life through bills revived in Congress on Thursday.

<http://erj.reviewjournal.com/ct/uz3688753Biz16010459>

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### **Governor's Cup Intents to Compete Due Feb 21**

The 2013 Donald W. Reynolds Governor's Cup Collegiate Plan Competition is underway, and offers total cash prizes of nearly \$150,000. Open to all Nevada college and university students, the Governor's Cup features separate undergraduate and graduates tracks and is open to all academic major and minors. And, the Lt. Governor's Award is presented to the best energy related plan. More details [here](#).