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from sdc

10.10.13

Oct 7 Retrospect

Predatory Lending and Indian Country

Mine workers see rare Nevada sight: bull moose

Help Native Community Action Council Oppose Yucca Mtn

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The Hottest Day on Earth, 100 Years Ag

"Keepers of the Mother Tongue" Equine Program

Hardest Working People Never Thanked

250 years ago, there was a document signed that was called The British Royal Proclamation.

It basically stated that Canada was legally obligated to recognize Indigenous land rights. It was signed by then regent George III.

Before that time, everyone who came to Canada said, "Hey lookitthat! Mine!" and then they went and wrote it on a map. Logical, right?

Don't you wish you could get some property by doing that?

I would imagine if you tried that the folks who already live on the newly claimed land might take exception to your presumption, unless they were really nice and said, "Well, let's try it out. I have plenty and you're weak and hungry, so let's share."
(That's sort of the story of Thanksgiving.)

Sadly, we know how that played out.

So anyway, millions of deaths and rapes and betrayals and attempted genocides and so forth later, we find ourselves today still trying to deal with this predicament. Only now, it's not just an Indigenous concern.

With our oceans and waters being poisoned, the air polluted, cancers and illnesses abounding, your children and theirs are inheriting a pretty messed up planet. And it's not the old, throw your hands up and sigh kind of reality anymore.

You will not be here for the future. You will die. But what are you sending forward? What world are you preparing for those to come?

The oceans are rising, the Pacific Ocean is irradiated, the Gulf of Mexico is toxified with raw crude oil, twisting the life that survives. And in Canada, where just a year ago we had 2.5 million protected waterways, thanks to Conservative legislation we now have 62 rivers and 97 lakes.

And all for the profit of someone not named you.

And they will sell you till the day is done on the claim that Everything is Okay. That they are being Responsible Stewards of the Land. That it's in the National Interest to deplete our land of petrochemicals as fast as humanly possible instead of developing alternate sources of energy.

But we know that's not true. We can smell the sulphurous stench of the hellish lie.

Now, all that is sad news and sounds negative. But really, it's just laying the cards on the table.

We've driven ourselves into a bit of a mess by allowing others to take the wheel.

They are people who dream of gold and who have no vision.

But we have a vision.

We dream of Life.

We dream of protecting this holy Creation.

We dream of giving our children a future where they can live without constant fear of sickness for their babies.



The Indigenous people of this world are standing. They are extending a hand in sisterhood and brotherhood. They are asking you to join with them, to take your place in the web of life.

They are asking you to stand.

If you love God, if you love your neighbour, if you praise the work of the Creator, then stand up at last and say so.

If you don't believe in all that stuff, then stand, too. The logic of observation compels you.

We need to join together and proclaim our hopes and dreams for this planet, for humanity, and for the species that we are destroying at an unimaginable rate.

We are made of water. It's the magic substance of life. And we are desecrating it, more and more every day.

What will we do when there is no more clean water and your adult child's baby is growing in a poisoned womb?

My children will never know what it's like to drink freely from the local river. That makes me cry.

But it's time to laugh.

It's time to turn the tide, to wash the old, insane and destructive ideas out.

Our political leaders will do what we tell them. That's their job. But we have to talk very loudly, very slowly and very clearly. Again and again.

We have to start making responsible choices.

In Canada and the US, the only thing standing between wanton rape of the land (euphemistically called "development") are some very thin laws and the will of the American Indians, the First Nations, the Inuk, the Metis, the Hawaiians and all our amazing, wonderful allies.

This is why we stand for land claims. This is why we round dance in your malls. This is why we march in the streets. This is why we ask you to care for the land and the waters, too.

We need you.

We can't save everything by ourselves.

We need you to help us save it for Seven Generations ahead.



How we treat the women in this world seems to be reflected in how we treat this Mother Earth.

That is why the women are leading us. That is why they are taking their place. That is why we support them.

Hope is not lost until the hearts of the women are in the ground. And they are still beating.

Beating like the drum.

Like the blood that flows through all our veins, connecting us as one people, one family, one Humanity and All Our Relations.

Around the world these October 7, 2013 events are happening. If there isn't an event in your area, make one happen!

You have two options on October 7th.

1. Do nothing and watch the planet burn
2. Change the world

hmmm...it's so hard to decide...

Here's a link to find out more info: <http://www.idlenomore.ca/events>

I hope to see you. I hope to stand with you.

I hope.

hiy hiy

("#Elsipogtog #Oct7Proclaim. Before the procession into the encampment today at Rexton, NB Canada." (Photo: Chris Sabas Shirazi) #idlenomore)

[Predatory Lending and Indian Country](#) Arvind Ganesan [The Hill](#) September 24, 2013
Storefront and online lenders exploit the harsh reality that people on reservations and throughout the country are hurting, have basic expenses they can't meet, and don't necessarily have access to credit.

[Western Sky](#), a private online payday lender based on the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation in South Dakota, suspended its operations in early September after New York's [attorney general](#) filed suit against it for violating state usury laws. This was the latest blow to a company already facing a number of state and federal suits for its allegedly illegal and abusive practices. Finally, the company said it stopped operating to deal with its legal problems. It would be easy to simply say good riddance to Western Sky. But the situation is more complex.

I spent the day with Butch Webb, Western Sky's owner, and some employees last December. Webb told me Western Sky was the largest private employer on the reservation. In a place where about 50 percent of adult workers are either unemployed or out of the workforce, that means a lot.

Webb offered the promise of hundreds of jobs to tribal members in exchange for peddling online predatory loans to people off the reservation. Western Sky said it never lent money to people at Cheyenne River or in South Dakota. One employee told me it would create too big a backlash if they had to collect these loans from members of the tribe. Webb told me he had "enough

problems to deal with.”

Many people on the reservation are very uncomfortable with how this business reflects on them. But when the Tribal Council scrutinized the company, Webb would remind the council how costly it would be to shut him down.

Even though Western Sky did not lend at Cheyenne River, predatory lending plagues people there and on other reservations. Such loans are the only source of credit for many Native Americans and almost all of those lenders are off reservations and not Native-owned. At Cheyenne River, people regularly drive hours to Pierre or Rapid City to take out predatory loans and growing Internet access is making it easier to borrow this way, even on remote reservations.

Even if some of those borrowers could qualify for bank loans, though, there are few banks on reservations and others are not always welcoming to Native Americans.

Storefront and online lenders exploit the harsh reality that people on reservations and throughout the country are hurting, have basic expenses they can't meet, and don't necessarily have access to credit. The [Pew Center](#) has done some remarkable work on payday lending throughout the country that shows why people borrow and its impact on them.

With the help of local groups, we surveyed almost 400 people on reservations around the country about predatory borrowing, including more than 100 at Cheyenne River. The survey is not a representative sample of reservation populations, but the results point to worrying trends that are consistent with other research.

Most of the people surveyed were the working poor. Almost half had taken out predatory loans—mostly for basic needs, food, or for emergencies, like medical care. Federal sequestration is probably making things worse because of cuts to essential services.

But these loans carry triple- or quadruple-digit interest rates and can easily turn into nightmares. Of those that borrowed, nearly half said they had “some” or a “great deal” of trouble repaying what they owe. More than 70 percent said repayments made it more difficult to meet basic expenses. I have interviewed people who could not meet their basic needs, such as food for their family or medical care for their children because these loans had overwhelmed them.

The major reason these loans exist is inadequate—or nonexistent—regulation by states and the federal government.

Regulating online lenders is crucial, but alone isn't a panacea, and would not ultimately resolve the complex issues facing Indian country. Furthermore, tribal governments that operate their own online lenders are hostile to regulation, seeing it as a challenge to their sovereignty and an attempt to stifle economic development. They are [suing](#) New York to prevent it from regulating.

There is an alternative. [Native Community Development Financial Institutions \(CDFIs\)](#), chartered by the [US Treasury Department](#), have a mandate to provide financial services on reservations. [At Cheyenne River](#) and elsewhere, some are trying to offer cheaper and fairer

alternatives to predatory loans. They also teach financial literacy because often people don't know how onerous the terms of their loans are until after they desperately secure the money. Entrepreneurship programs offered by Native CDFIs help people create jobs and businesses that truly serve the community. But Native CDFI's or others throughout the country have nowhere near the resources to compete with predatory lenders.

A three-pronged policy response is needed to start addressing the problem of predatory lending: one that regulates high-cost lending, improves financial literacy skills, and provides the vulnerable poor with better access to fair, non-exploitative, credit facilities.

Broken Promises By BYRON L. DORGAN Op-Ed Contributor July 10, 2013
WASHINGTON — WHEN I retired in 2011 after serving 30 years in Congress, there was one set of issues I knew I could not leave behind. I donated \$1 million of unused campaign funds to create the [Center for Native American Youth](#) at the Aspen Institute, because our country has left a trail of broken promises to American Indians.

As chairman of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, I once toured a school near an Indian reservation where I encountered a teacher who told me that when she asked a young Indian student what she wanted for Christmas, she said she wanted the electricity turned on in her house so she could study at night.

That type of story is all too familiar. I believe that American Indian children are the country's most at-risk population. Too many live in third-world conditions. A few weeks ago, I traveled to the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. It's hard just to get there. A two-hour drive from Rapid City brings you to Shannon County, the second poorest county in the United States.

The proud nation of Sioux Indians who live there — like many of the 566 federally recognized tribes — have a treaty with the United States, the 1868 Treaty of Fort Laramie, which promised that their health care, education and housing needs would be provided for by the federal government.

Tribal leaders, parents and some inspiring children I've met make valiant efforts every day to overcome unemployment, endemic poverty, historical trauma and a lack of housing, educational opportunity and health care.

But these leaders and communities are once again being mistreated by a failed American policy, this time going under the ugly name "sequestration." This ignorant budget maneuvering requires across-the-board spending cuts to the most important programs along with the least important. American Indian kids living in poverty are paying a very high price for this misguided abandonment of Congressional decision-making.

When we pushed American Indians off their tribal lands, we signed treaties making promises to provide services in exchange for that land. On my visit to Pine Ridge, I saw how we continue to cheat them. Sequestration, which should never have applied to sovereign Indian reservations in the first place, only compounds the problem.

It's easy for many to believe those who say that automatic budget cuts aren't hurting anybody much. But that's wrong. And I can introduce you to the kids who will tell you why.

At a round-table discussion I had with students of Pine Ridge High School, I met a young man who qualified for the state wrestling tournament this year. The school and tribe had no money to send him. So the wrestling coach spent \$500 out of his own pocket to pay for travel and food. The student slept on the floor of the gymnasium because there was no money for a motel room.

When I asked a group of eight high school students who among them had had someone close to them take their own life, they all raised their hands. More than 100 suicide threats or attempts, most by young people, have been reported at Pine Ridge so far this year.

The rate of suicide among American Indian youth is nearly four times the national average, and is as high as 10 times the average in many tribal communities across the Great Plains. At the same time, mental health services are being cut as a result of sequestration, with Pine Ridge losing at least one provider this year.

The youth center on the reservation is closed because of lack of funding. Money for the summer youth program, which pays high school students to work during their break, has also been eliminated.

I met a 12-year-old homeless girl at the emergency youth shelter. Her mother is dead. She doesn't know the identity of her father. She's been in multiple foster homes and been repeatedly sexually abused. She found safety in the shelter, but its funding is being cut because of sequestration — an indiscriminate budget ax, I might add, that was thought of as so unconscionable when I was in the Senate that it would never have been seriously considered.

The very programs that we set up to provide those basic life necessities on reservations are the same ones feeling the indiscriminate, blunt cuts of sequestration. How can we justify such a thoughtless policy?

While I was at Pine Ridge I also met with the Tribal Council, whose members described a severe housing crisis. In one district more than 200 homes are without electricity. Throughout the reservation, I saw many dilapidated homes missing windows and doors.

Pine Ridge students told me that many of their friends and families were homeless. "Our friends sleep in tents," one student said.

Even in normal times, the Indian Health Service operates with about half the money it needs. Tribal Council members told me that some of their health funds last only until May. If you get sick after May, too bad. Now these health care programs, already rationing care, are subject to the sequester. The Indian Health Service estimates that as a result it will have 804,000 fewer patient visits this year.

Congress should hold a series of investigative hearings on our unfulfilled treaties with American Indians. Add up the broken promises, make an accounting of the underfunding, all of it, and then

work with tribes to develop a plan to make it right. In the meantime, we must exempt Indian country from sequestration — right now.

Byron L. Dorgan, Democrat of North Dakota, served in the House from 1981 to 1992 and in the Senate from 1992 to 2011. He is a senior fellow at the Bipartisan Policy Center. [Read All Comments \(79\)](#) »

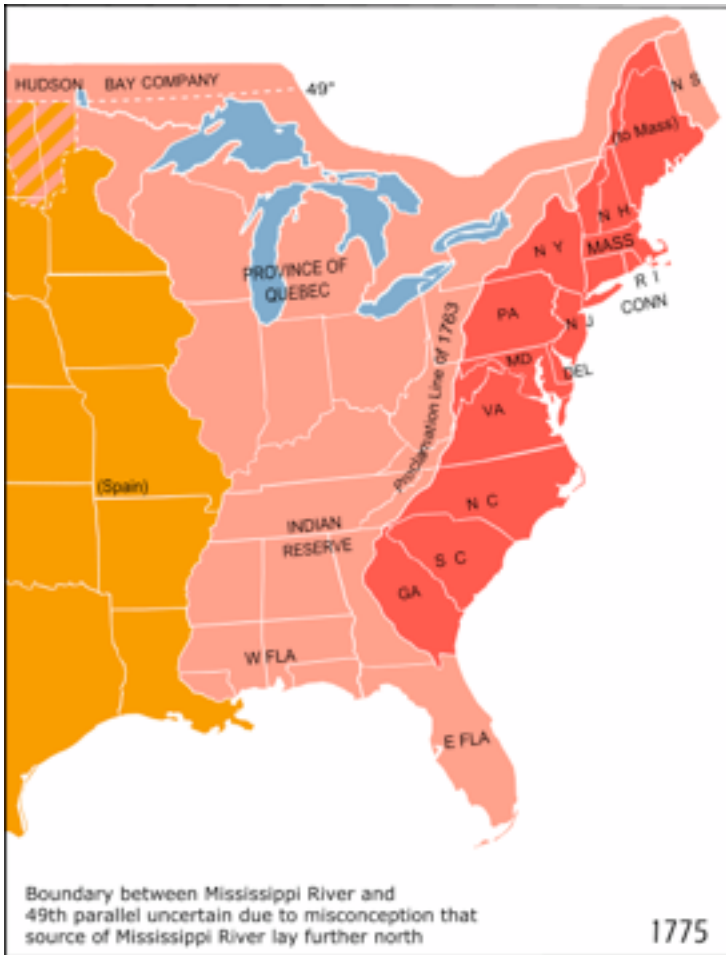
Tough day in the life? http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=aw-nt0eTb2w

Mine workers see rare Nevada sight: bull moose www.rgj.com

A critter rarely seen in Nevada's high desert is drawing looks of disbelief from mine workers in Elko County.

Help Native Community Action Council Oppose Yucca Mtn

Yucca Mountain Nuclear Waste Repository, stopped a couple of years ago by order of President Obama, has been rescued by a federal appeals court decision ordering the licensing process to be resumed.



Native Community Action Council, the only grassroots (not receiving federal funding) organization that has standing in the proceedings, needs funding to maintain their advocacy. They are also the only ones looking out for Native American concerns with this dangerous project. If they are not able to stop Yucca Mtn, the nuclear industry in the U.S. will get a substantial boost and one of our prime arguments against it will be weakened.

NCAC is headed by two Native Americans - Ian Zabarte and Margene Bullcreek - whom I have personally worked with in the past and have confidence in. Please send a donation to:

Native Community Action Council, P.O. Box 140, Baker, NV89311.

Peter Bergel, Shundahai Network <http://www.shundahai.org>
A Project of The Center for Energy Research
104 Commercial St. NE Salem, OR 97301 shundahai@shundahai.org

Over a Decade of Resistance - Dedicated to Breaking the Nuclear Chain
Shundahai is a Newe (Western Shoshone) word meaning
"Peace and Harmony with all Creation"

Indigenous Peoples Issues and Resources

On This Day: In 1763 the Royal Proclamation of 1763 was issued by King George III following Great Britain's acquisition of French territory in North America after the end of the French and Indian War/Seven Years' War. The purpose of the proclamation was to organize Great Britain's new North American empire and to stabilize relations with Native North Americans through regulation of trade, settlement, and land purchases on the western frontier. The proclamation created a boundary line (often called the proclamation line) between the British colonies on the Atlantic coast and Native indigenous lands (called the Indian Reserve) west of the Appalachian Mountains. The proclamation line was not intended to be a permanent boundary between white and indigenous lands, but rather a temporary boundary which could be extended further west in an orderly, lawful manner. The Royal Proclamation continues to be of legal importance to First Nations in Canada. The Royal Proclamation of 1763 is thus mentioned in section 25 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and the language of the proclamation made it clear that the British still believed that all native lands ultimately belonged to the Crown. However, the proclamation established the important precedent that the indigenous population had certain rights to the lands they occupied—in the past, by contrast, the Crown had granted lands without regard to native claims.

The Hottest Day on Earth, 100 Years Ago By [Barbara Maranzani](#)

In July 1913, Death Valley was in the grips of an extreme heat wave, with temperatures of 125 degrees or higher for more than a week. On July 10, the area entered the history books when the mercury climbed to a blistering 134 degrees Fahrenheit (57 degrees Celsius) at Furnace Creek, California, breaking the record for the highest temperature ever recorded. As a sweltering summer continues, with near-record temperatures across much of the nation, here's a look back at the hottest day on Earth.

Situated between a series of high, steep mountain ranges in California's Mojave Desert, Death Valley's extremely low elevation (282 feet below sea level in some places) and long, narrow configuration keep the region's temperatures consistently high throughout much of the year. Triple-digit temperatures there are not unusual, with the mercury consistently topping 100 degrees for more than half the year; the summer of 2001, for example, had 154 consecutive days of 100 degrees or higher. As 1913 began, however, the valley was experiencing a rare cold snap, entering the record books on January 8 with its lowest recorded temperature, 5 degrees Fahrenheit. Just six months later, the weather pendulum had swung the other way as temperatures in the area topped first 125 degrees and then entered a stretch of five straight days of 129 degrees or higher.

Furnace Creek, California, the ancestral home of the Native American Timbisha tribe and once the center of operations for Death Valley's lucrative mining industry, often experienced some of the most extreme of the region's weather, as was the case on July 10, 1913, when a weather observation post at the town's Greenland Ranch (now Furnace Creek Ranch) recorded a peak temperature of 134 degrees—just one degree less than its thermometer was capable of measuring.

Death Valley may be celebrating the centennial of its temperature triumph, but it's actually only officially held the record for 10 of those 100 years. On September 13, 1922, less than a decade after Death Valley's record-breaking day, it seemingly lost its crown to a new entrant in the sweltering heat sweepstakes when a weather observer in El Aziza, Libya, reported a high of 136.4 degrees. Almost immediately, members of the meteorological community expressed doubts about the reports, but the Libyan "record" stood for 90 years until it was officially invalidated after an international investigation by a panel of atmospheric scientists found several errors with the original measurement, including the use of antiquated instrumentation and the inexperience of the weather observer. The panel, chaired by the World Meteorological Organization, had its work disrupted for more than nine months after one of its lead investigators, a director of the Libyan National Weather Service, disappeared in the chaos of the country's 2011 revolution. When both he (and the original 1922 records) resurfaced, the WMO panel officially stripped El Aziza of the world record and restored it to Death Valley's Furnace Creek.

Today, Furnace Creek is home to park campgrounds, museums and a popular ranch, much of which is closed to visitors during the hottest parts of the summer. One attraction that remains open, however, is the nearby golf course, which hosts an annual tournament, known as the Heatstroke Open. And while the world's meteorologists debated the merits of the Libyan claim, Death Valley went on breaking weather records. When the temperature dropped to a relatively cool 107 degrees on July 12, 2012, Death Valley tied the desert nation of Oman, on the Arabian Peninsula, for the hottest low temperature ever recorded. And in June of this year, Death Valley came within 5 degrees of the 1913 record when saw temperatures reach 129 degrees.

Furnace Creek, Death Valley may hold the North American and world record, but Libya's far from its only challenger for "hottest place on Earth." Seven years after Death Valley's record-breaking day, South America experienced its hottest day when the mercury reached 120.4 degrees Fahrenheit in Villa de María, Argentina. In 1931, the south Tunisian town of Kebii saw temperatures reach 131 degrees Fahrenheit, making it the hottest day on the African continent. Ownership of Europe's hottest day is under debate, with most scientists rejecting Catenanuova, Italy's 1999 claim of 119.3 degrees in favor of the 118.4-degree day residents of Athens, Greece endured in July 1977. But if you're looking to beat the heat entirely, Antarctica is probably your best bet. It hasn't made it above 59 degrees Fahrenheit since 1974, and in 2011 the South Pole made history when temperatures reached a balmy 10 degrees Fahrenheit on Christmas Day.

We are looking forward to offering "**Keepers of the Mother Tongue**" Equine Program to our Youth. Thank you those who came out to meet some of the horses we will be working with.

If your youth is interested in signing up, please contact the language office.

Just wanted to remind you to attend Shoshone Language Classes taught by Florence Millett. Florence comes with many years of teaching experience and is a fluent speaker. She is really excited to be teaching and wants as many students who are interested in learning. If you can't make, but know of any other who are interested in learning the Shoshone language, please encourage them to come to class.

Classes are held every Thursday evening from 5:30- 7:30 at 34 Reservation Road in the Resource Room. Come for an educational experience that will help sustain our language! If you have any questions, please feel free to call me.

Paiute classes postponed indefinitely.

Kellie R. Harry, M.A.T., RSIC Language Coordinator, (775) 329-8396

These Are The Hardest-Working People We Never Thank Enough. Some Celebrities Show Us How It's Done.

Sierra Club: Renewable Energy Gaining Ground Troy Wilde, Public News Service-NV (10/09/13) LAS VEGAS - The Sierra Club Toiyabe Chapter of Nevada continues to encourage corporations and individuals to use renewable energy sources. The group is promoting its ["Beyond Oil" campaign](#), which advocates solar, wind and other forms of clean, renewable energy to replace fossil fuels.

Toiyabe Chapter chairman David Von Seggern said the Sierra Club is asking transportation companies to convert their fleets to more fuel-efficient vehicles and electric vehicles. He said it has taken many years to happen, but renewable energy is gaining ground in America.

"Fossil fuel plants, coal plants especially, are being taken off the table by boards around the country who see that renewable energy is actually competitive," he said. "We are trying to push that trend as much as we can."

The "Beyond Oil" campaign calls for more focus on - and development of - renewable energy, by such means as increasing fuel efficiency and pollution standards. The organization also is backing similar campaigns called "Beyond Natural Gas" and "Beyond Coal."

Von Seggern said the era of debating the benefits of using clean energy versus fossil fuels is over.

"The science is clear and settled on this," he said. "CO2 pollution is a grave threat to the planet and the people living on it. We don't have any more room, I think, to develop fossil-fuel resources."

At least two home builders in Las Vegas only construct homes equipped with solar energy systems.

More information about the Sierra Club in Nevada is online at nevada.sierraclub.org. The Beyond Oil Campaign website is content.sierraclub.org/beyondoil.



Victorian Ave Sparks, NV

www.pumpkinpalooza.org

Saturday, October 19
7:00 – 10:00 p.m.



ZOMBIE PROM
Fall High School Zombie Prom
Featuring **DJ Fierce & Lombo**
the "Eternal" Zombie Prom King
Saturday, October 19, 7-10 PM
B Street Café, 920 Victorian Avenue
\$10 per person • \$15 at the door if available
Space is limited, advance purchase is advised. High School ID Required.
FOR TICKETS, GO TO www.pumpkinpalooza.org/zombie-prom

- Thrill to Zombie Cheerleaders
- Rock Your Best Zombie Elegant Attire
- Dancing, Door Prizes, Zombie Style Entertainment
- Food & Beverages (available for purchase)
- Leave Parents at the Parent Drop-Off Center at Cantina Los Tres Hombres



Free Contests

Sunday, October 20
11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.



- Race a Pumpkin in the Pumpkin Derby
- March in the Children's Costume Parade
- Enjoy Haunted Storytelling
- Visit with Fortune Tellers
- Play Carnival Games from Circus Circus
- Compete in Pie Eating, Pumpkin Seed Spitting, Marshmallow Shooting and Mummy Wrapping Contests
- Enjoy Live Music



Free Activities



All proceeds benefit the Northern Nevada Center for Independent Living. For more information, visit us at www.pumpkinpalooza.org