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RIP Monsanto. Our Hates Will Go On



Top 5 Instagram Photos of the week!

Posted By [Corinne Oestreich](#) June 3rd, 2018 Blog

Each week I will be choosing my top 5 favorite photos on Instagram!

If you want me to see your photos, follow me @misscorinne86 and tag me in the picture! Make sure your profile is set to public though, otherwise I won't be able to share your photo.

New from NCAI! Partnership for Tribal Governance Launches Tribal Workforce Development Toolkit

NCAI's [Partnership for Tribal Governance](#) (PTG) formally launched its new [tribal workforce development toolkit](#) during a breakout session yesterday at NCAI's 2018 Mid Year Conference in Kansas City, MO.

Yesterday's session provided a detailed overview of the new decision-framing toolkit and the different ways that tribal leaders and workforce development practitioners can use it to inform and drive strategic action in the crafting of effective, self-governed approaches to developing their nations' human capacity.

The toolkit shares the main findings of PTG's multi-year research project examining the innovative workforce development approaches that tribal nations, Native organizations, and tribal colleges and universities are forging; how they are achieving success (as they define it); and why.

To view the "Tribal Workforce Development" toolkit, please click [here](#) .

To access PTG's new workforce development online resource center, click [here](#) .

For questions or more information about PTG's new toolkit and its [workforce development project](#) , please email workforcedev@ncai.org .



NCAI PARTNERSHIP FOR TRIBAL GOVERNANCE

PTG NEWS & RESOURCES

OFF-SITE SOLAR ARRAY BEGINS POWERING WYNN CASINOS ON LAS VEGAS STRIP

Wynn Resorts <http://erj.reviewjournal.com/ct/uz3688753Biz37221159> began drawing power Saturday from its new dedicated solar array outside Fallon, about 375 miles away from the Strip. <http://erj.reviewjournal.com/ct/uz3688753Biz37221158>

Around the World, Farmland Birds Are in Steep Decline

National Geographic

Modern agriculture has transformed the world—and as a result, some bird species are hurting.

[Read the full story](#)



[Bird Vet Melbourne](#) [Fun Fact: A woodpecker's tongue is so long that it wraps around its skull to protect its brain while it is hammering away at a tree or other hard surfaces.](#)

[This...](#) [See More](#)

Donna Cossette

I'm not sure if I mentioned that the Bizarre Foods on the Travel Channel will be kicking off their new season with the **Pony Express**, the episode was filmed in South Lake Tahoe, Buckland Station and Fort Churchill. Featuring Ron Bell, Pony Express enthusiast, Jill Carr Pioneer Wagon Train Cook, cooking a traditional pot of "Son-of-a-gun" stew (yummy, your going to want to see what's in it) and **Carol Sanders** (mom) Ryan and myself. **It's going to premier on July 3.** We're going to try and set up a viewing night at my house to share our behind the scenes stories. Dang, I was a hot mess that day, cause we were filming when one of the worse 2017 snow storms hit, and honestly I can't even remember what I even said. But we did serve some awesome traditional Northern Paiute foods, that came from all around Indian Country in Northern Nevada. Special thanks to **Tony Bill, Dean Barlese, Norm Delorme and Romaine Smokey** for their help. Couldn't have done it without you. And we gave Andrew a miniature duck decoy made be **Joey Allen.**

Three bills to benefit scenic beauty introduced by new America the Beautiful Caucus

A coalition of scenic beauty advocates in Congress has formed the bipartisan America the Beautiful Caucus, co-chaired by Rep. David Cicilline (D-RI) and Rep. Ted Poe (R-TX).

Already, three bills have been introduced by Caucus Members which would improve the country's scenic environment and benefit economies in small towns and rural areas:

H.R. 5156, the "Protect Public Trees Act of 2018," would prohibit the cutting, destruction and removal of trees for purposes of increasing billboard visibility on federally funded roads.

H.R. 5158 would reopen nominations to the National Scenic Byways Program, a special designation thus far bestowed on 150 roads around the country but which has been dormant since 2012.

H.R. 5471, the "American Gateway Communities Economic Development and Conservation Act," would fund improvements to scenic resources and visitor experiences in municipalities located within 5 miles of a public entrance to any of the 417 units of the National Park Service.

[Click here](#) to learn more about these bills and to ask your Representative to support them!

*For serious activists/protestors: The Equator Principles is a risk **management** framework, adopted by financial institutions, for determining, assessing and managing environmental and social risk in project finance. It is primarily intended to provide a minimum standard for due diligence to support responsible risk **decision**-making. Go to www.equator-principles.com Many banks and other financial institutions that invest in pipelines are subscribed to this group and they report every year. Please see the following for another road to travel.*

The EP Association appreciates its valuable interactions with you on the Equator Principles over recent years.

As a review of the Equator Principles is currently underway(details at equator-principles.com/ep4), the EP Association Steering Committee would like to invite you to provide feedback via a brief online survey.

An independent third party will compile feedback from a select group of stakeholders, combined with public submissions, and make a set of recommendations for consideration by the members of the Association within the review process.

If you are willing to contribute, please complete the survey at (<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/EPstakeholdersurvey>) at your earliest convenience. This invitation is only going to a select group of individuals who represent a broad spectrum of the stakeholders around the EPs; therefore, we would appreciate if you wouldn't share it. (There is an online form on equator-principles.com/ep4 for other stakeholders to use to participate.) If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch with the Secretariat via email at secretariat@equator-principles.com

With thanks, The EP Association Steering Committee
<https://www.apnews.com/961b1752540d46d4828b85b04eca689f>

Justices to review Oklahoma's Indian territory murder appeal

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court will hear Oklahoma's plea to reinstate the murder conviction and death sentence of an American Indian.

The justices on Monday said they will review an appellate ruling that overturned the conviction and sentence of Patrick Dwayne Murphy. He claimed he should have been tried in federal, not state, court because he is a member of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and the crime occurred in Indian territory.

The federal appeals court in Denver determined that the victim's body was found within the tribe's historical boundaries that take in several Oklahoma counties, and include much of the city of Tulsa. The court said the Creek Nation reservation existed before Oklahoma achieved statehood and was never formally deprived of its official status, or disestablished, by Congress.

The Trump administration, in a rare uninvited Supreme Court filing, said in support of Oklahoma's appeal that the issue has "wide-ranging and serious implications for law enforcement." In Tulsa, with a population of 950,000 people, and eight counties in eastern Oklahoma, most crimes by or against Indians would have to be prosecuted in federal courts if the appellate ruling is upheld, the administration said.

The vast majority of crimes are handled by local and state authorities.

In 2017, federal prosecutors in the region brought just three indictments for serious crimes because they involved Indian country, the administration said. That number could increase to more than 500 indictments a year, the administration estimated.

A jury in McIntosh County, about 80 miles southeast of Tulsa, found Murphy guilty of the 1999 murder of George Jacobs and a judge sentenced him to death. Prosecutors said he had confessed to killing Jacobs when he was arrested.

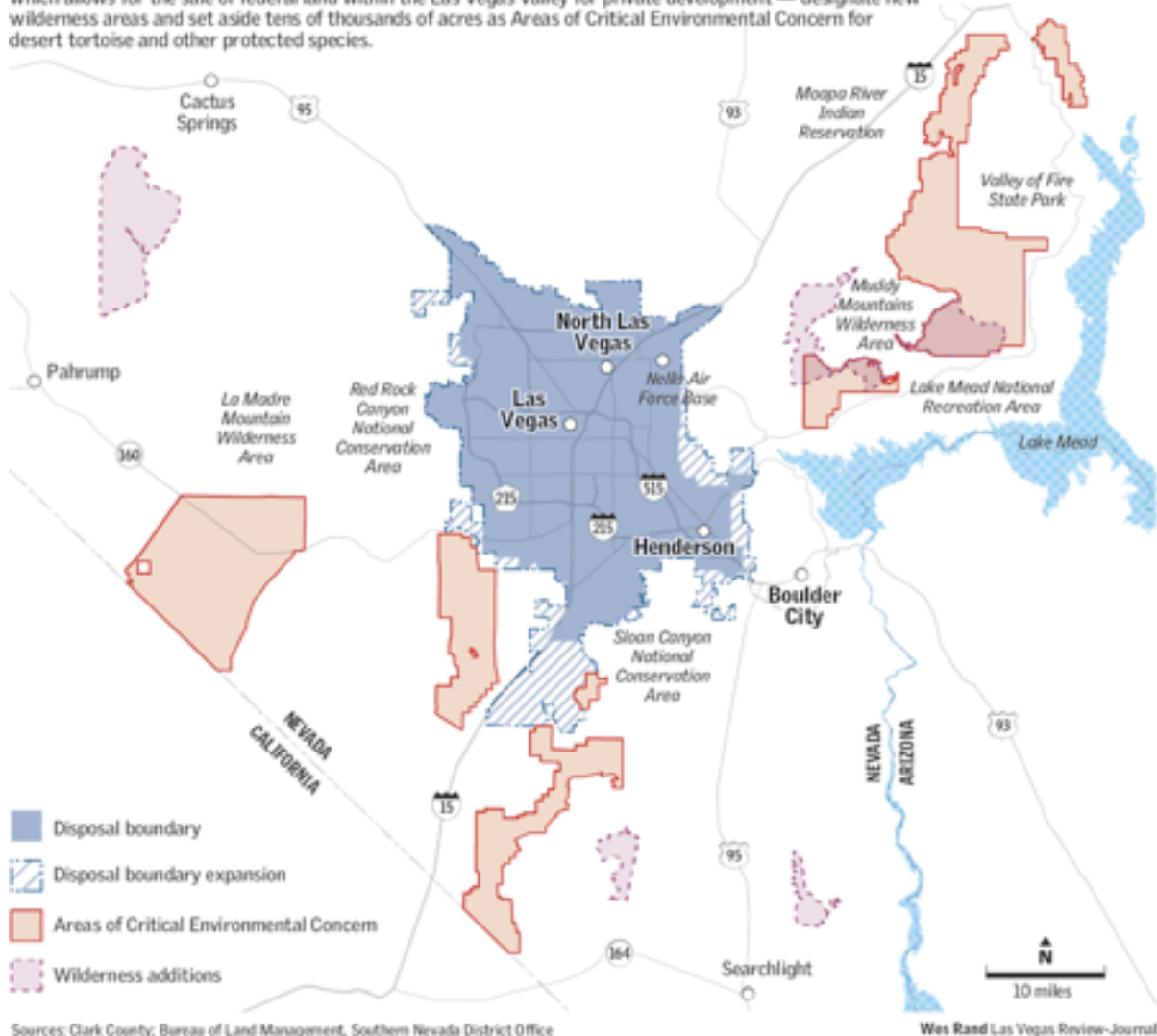
Lawyers for Murphy had urged the justices to leave the appellate ruling undisturbed. They argued that the appeals court correctly applied Supreme Court precedents dealing with the disestablishment of Indian reservations. They also said the claims of mass disruption of the criminal justice system were overstated.

The case, *Royal v. Murphy*, 17-1107, will be argued in the fall. Justice Neil Gorsuch is not taking part in the court's review because he dealt with the case while a member of the appeals court.

<https://www.reviewjournal.com/news/politics-and-government/clark-county/Clark-County-unveils-land-proposal-draws-ire-from-groups/>

Looking to grow

Clark County officials are gathering public comment on a proposal to expand the current "disposal boundary" — which allows for the sale of federal land within the Las Vegas Valley for private development — designate new wilderness areas and set aside tens of thousands of acres as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern for desert tortoise and other protected species.



Why Grandmothers May Hold The Key To Human Evolution

NPR

What made us human might have had less to do with men out hunting, and a lot more to do with what was going on at home — with grandmas and babies. [Read the full story](#)

Greenpeace researchers have detected traces of microplastics and hazardous chemicals in snow and ice samples taken from Antarctica. The researchers say that the samples, which were gathered during an expedition earlier this year, are further proof of the world's pervasive plastic pollution. [The Guardian](#)

Billions in US Solar Projects Shelved After Trump Panel Tariff

Nichola Groom, Reuters

Groom writes: "President Donald Trump's tariff on imported solar panels has led U.S. renewable energy companies to cancel or freeze investments of more than \$2.5 billion in large installation projects, along with thousands of jobs." [READ MORE](#)

TransCanada Pipeline Explodes in West Virginia

A newly installed [TransCanada](#) natural gas [pipeline](#) exploded early Thursday in the remote Nixon Ridge area of Marshall County in West Virginia.

No injuries were reported but flames and smoke from the blast could be seen as far as [20 miles away](#), residents told local media. Area police told [CBS News](#) the fire was "very large—if you can see it from your house, evacuate."

"It sounded like a freight train coming through, or a tornado, and the sky lit up bright orange, and then I got up and looked out the window and flames were shooting I don't know how far into the sky," Tina Heath-Chaplin, of Moundsville, told [WPXI](#).

TransCanada—the same company behind the [Keystone](#) pipeline—said the explosion has been contained and an investigation is underway.

"As soon as the issue was identified, emergency response procedures were enacted and the segment of impacted pipeline was isolated. The fire was fully extinguished by approximately 8:30 a.m.," the company [commented](#) Thursday.

"The cause of this issue is not yet known," TransCanada continued. "The site of the incident has been secured and we are beginning the process of working with applicable regulators to investigate, including the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration."

Robert Burrough, the director with the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration's Eastern Regional Office, told the [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#) the affected line is likely TransCanada's \$1.6 billion, 160-mile [Leach XPress pipeline](#), which started service in January.

Russ Girling, TransCanada president and CEO [said](#) at the line opening, "This is truly a best-in-class pipeline and we look forward to many years of safe, reliable, and efficient operation on behalf of our customers."

Ian Zabarte - Western Shoshone, secretary of Native Community Action Council
BY Nadia Eldemerdash APRIL 2018 . DESERT COMPANION | 17

Last year, President Trump announced he would seek to restart the licensing process for the Yucca Mountain nuclear-waste repository. In the aftermath of the vicious battle over the Dakota Access Pipeline, the project took on new significance as opponents, including Democratic Representative Reuben Kihuen and Republican Senator Dean Heller, emphasized the environmental hazards to Nevada. But one voice was noticeably absent: that of the Native Americans for whom Yucca Mountain is home.

Yucca Mountain is part of the lands claimed by the Western Shoshone, which extend from northern Utah through Nevada and into Southern California. In 1993, members of the Western Shoshone and Paiute peoples founded the Native Community Action Council to commission Native-focused research on the adverse effects of nuclear fallout and to address those effects. Today, the NCAC is drawing on its communities' experiences in the crosshairs of nuclear testing to fight Yucca Mountain. In 2014, it intervened in the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's licensing of Yucca Mountain, using the 1863 Treaty of Ruby Valley, which recognized the Western Shoshone as an independent nation, to contest the Department of Energy's claim over the land. Sure enough, that year the NRC found that the DOE did not have land or water rights in Yucca Mountain.

Still, the fight is far from over for Ian Zabarte, spokesman for the Western Shoshone and secretary of the NCAC. Zabarte has conducted ethnographic and historical research in the area for years, and in 2015 contributed to a report developed by the governor's office to the NRC. The report argued that the NRC and DOE's impact assessment for Yucca Mountain was too narrow and failed to take into account the climate conditions and potential climate change in the area, and that, along with erosion and other factors, put the area's groundwater at risk. Zabarte's report represented an ethnographic study of the lifestyles, beliefs, and traditions of the Shoshone people of the area, arguing that even the slightest possibility of ground- water contamination poses an attack on their religious beliefs.

Zabarte has long sought to expand the education of Native Americans on the impact of nuclear radiation on themselves and their way of life. He spoke to Desert Companion about this struggle.

You argue that the impact of a nuclear waste repository will be much higher for Native Americans because of lifestyle differences the government has not researched. What are those differences, and how do they affect the Shoshone?

We brought researchers to study Shoshone exposure to radiation from nuclear weapons testing, in one of the first collaborative research projects assessing impacts based on Shoshone lifestyle. Researchers came hunting, and gathered pine nuts and medicine, as we demonstrated how each was prepared and used. ... We identified the uses and practices that increased our risk of

exposure, including consumption of foods that absorbed radiation during the time of full-scale nuclear weapons testing(1951-1994). Traditional foods, such as rabbit, antelope, deer, and ram, absorbed radiation, concentrated in the thyroid, that the Shoshone people then ate, resulting in a significantly higher exposure. Shoshone communities downwind, including my own, had no other food to eat after the fallout poisoned every garden.

We know radiation exposure is cumulative, and because of our past exposure to radioactive fallout, the Shoshone cannot endure any increased burden of risk from any source, including a transportation accident or mishandling of high-level nuclear waste at Yucca Mountain.

Your work discusses the effects of nuclear radiation on water in detail. How will radiation impact water supplies in the region?

Radiation released from Yucca Mountain will flow down into the groundwater, polluting the Death Valley regional groundwater along the 180-mile-long Amargosa River, increasing risk of exposure to the Shoshone people and making Shoshone country uninhabitable.

What are the broader implications of this on Native American customs and religious practices?

Pooaha-Bah is a Shoshone word that means a place of pristine water and a vision or faith in its healing power along the Amargosa River. Our places of worship have diminished and are increasingly threatened by contamination. We need clean water to take care of the Shoshone people. Our spiritual belief is harmed when our land and water are tainted or contaminated by pollution, because the people must believe that the water is clean if it is to help them. Protecting water is who we are as a people.

The Creator put Shoshone here in the Great Basin with conservation lifeways, instructions of how to live in harmony with Mother Earth. When the government destroys our land, it is like tearing a page out of our bible — we don't know what we were to learn from the land, or how it may touch, heal, or enlighten us.

This has been an ongoing issue between native peoples of the Yucca Mountain region and the government.

What do you think is at the crux of the issue, and why has it been so difficult to resolve it?

Shoshone history at Yucca Mountain is 10,000 years old. The Shoshone were never conquered, and in 1863 won peace by treaty with the government. After spending \$15 billion in taxpayer dollars, the government cannot prove ownership to Yucca Mountain because of ongoing treaty-reserved rights, title, and interests of the Shoshone people in the Yucca Mountain region.

Legislation by Congress to designate Yucca Mountain as a nuclear waste repository is legislative malpractice and a treaty violation. ...

The Shoshone are vulnerable because we rely upon the strength of America's promise to protect us. We prepared contentions and made our case without government funding. We are the only party asserting ownership of Yucca Mountain, a disqualifying condition. Supporting human

dignity and protecting basic human rights is the right thing to do when confronting government oppression. ♦



Pope Tells Oil Executives to Act on Climate: ‘There Is No Time to Lose’

By ELISABETTA POVOLEDO

Francis, a vocal supporter of the Paris climate accord, summoned leaders from the world’s biggest oil companies to urge a transition from fossil fuels.

RIP Monsanto. Our Hates Will Go On.

Nathanael Johnson, Grist

Johnson writes: "Welp, this is the end of Monsanto. Not the end of the seed company, mind you, but the end of its name." [READ MORE](#)
