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usatoday.com

[Xochitl Torres Small wins New Mexico's Congressional District 2 race](#)

VICE News Tonight

## **Native Americans just made history in this Utah county**

By [Mark Betancourt](#) Nov 7, 2018

OLJATO, Utah — Navajo Democrats in San Juan County spent the last eight months mobilizing to take advantage of a historic shift in their county's politics. It paid off.

After Tuesday's election, Native Americans will now hold the majority of the seats on the county commission — for the first time ever.

The county of only 15,000 residents has always been run by white Republicans. According to a federal judge, that's because its district lines were drawn to make sure Native Americans, who outnumber whites here, never got control. Last year, the judge ordered the county to redraw the districts and put all of their seats up for grabs this November.

But shifting power isn't as simple as just redrawing the map. The Democratic Party here barely existed two years ago, and they didn't have much money or experience with which to win this election. So they had to get out the vote on the Navajo reservation to have any chance of taking advantage of the new district boundaries.

That wasn't easy.

For one thing, there are a lot of barriers to voting on the reservation, among them, long drives to the polls, limited translation services for Navajo-speaking voters, and terrible mail service for those choosing to vote by absentee ballot. And after redistricting, the county has struggled to place the reservation's isolated homes, which often don't have formal addresses, in the right districts.

Voting rights advocate Tara Bennally started knocking on doors in February, registering Navajo voters and making sure they knew how and when to vote. She says that, given the long history of disenfranchisement, it was hard to convince people here that their votes mattered.

“Having to break down that barrier has been a challenge for me, especially going door to door and saying, Hey, there's a change going on here and we need to be a part of that change,” Bennally told VICE News.

Votes are still being counted, but the latest results indicate a victory for the Navajo candidates.

VICE News went to San Juan County to follow the Democrats' ground game in the last weeks before the election.

This segment originally aired October 31, 2018 on VICE News Tonight on HBO.

[Elveda Martinez](#)

I'm very thankful. I can't say enough about the people that came forward to help with the General Election. We did our best to Get Out The Native Vote (GOTNV) here on our Walker River Paiute Reservation in Schurz, Nevada. MY team of volunteers included:

Bea Conway - [Rita McMinn](#)

Alex Conway

Vinny Austin

Marlene Begay

[Jordan Begay](#)

Damon Martinez

Wayne Powell

Herbert "Tule" Dini Sr.

Lois Jim

[Keith Picotte](#)

[Sivila Smith](#)

[Kelley Carter](#)

[Chelsea Thomas](#)

Elk Bearcloud

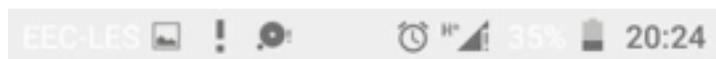
Elena Bearcloud

Jade Kizer

Cory Mullins

Sarah Lampkin

Katie Brown



← Tweet



**Tallie Dar**   
[@talliedar](#)

imagine if schools actually helped kids identify their strengths by exploring their talents from a young age and growing their skills over the 12 years instead of letting them all follow the same routine like sheep and leaving them confused in life after graduation

These tribal people went door-to-door, made fliers, made signs, cooked, set up tables and chairs, cleaned after events, posted signs, drove people to the polls, sat at the polls and identified voters, served food, facebooked, texted voters, handed out fliers, shopped, baked, organized and planned.

I shed a few tears early this morning, just happy that our Native people here, in Nixon and across Indian Country are working hard to get our people involved in the political and voting process. We can definitely make a difference. Thank you all for Voting in this historical election.

## Paulette Jordan Loses Idaho's Gubernatorial Race

[Andrea González-Ramírez](#)

Paulette Jordan lost the Idaho gubernatorial race to Lt. Gov. Brad Little. The two-term representative and single mother of two ran an insurgent campaign hoping to become the first Indigenous governor in the history of the United States, the first woman to become governor of Idaho, and the first Democrat to be elected to the seat in nearly 30 years. But Little, a popular Republican, won the race.

Jordan has a long track record as a lawmaker: At the age of 29, she became the youngest person to ever be elected to the Coeur d'Alene Tribal Council, her tribe's sovereign government. In 2014, she ran for the Idaho House of Representatives and won. When she was re-elected in 2016, she was the only Democrat in Northern Idaho to win a district that also went for President Donald Trump.

Jordan ran on a promise to deliver for forgotten rural communities, like the impoverished community she grew up in. Her progressive platform, combined with an understanding of Idahoans' thirst for local autonomy and certain conservative-leaning policies, helped her create a coalition she was hoping would be strong enough to deliver her the governor's seat.

“Coming from a very impoverished, very rural community, I sought out those voices to be represented in the state House because they were the ones who were not represented as often as I felt they should be,” she [told Refinery29](#) in an interview earlier this year. “These are the voices that I fight for and want to ensure that they maintain a seat at the table.”

But in deep-red Idaho, where registered Republicans outnumber Democrats four-to-one, it was always going to be a long shot. Nevertheless, Jordan knows that she's challenged the status quo just by running. If an Indigenous single mother of two who grew up poor can run for office, anyone can do it.

“It was important for me to provide an image for younger people to see that they can do anything,” she said. “They can go off and run for governor. Ultimately they can run for president.”

### Related Stories

[Idaho's Paulette Jordan Is The Underdog To Watch](#)

[It's Her Turn: The R29 Candidate Tracker](#)

[New Poll Reveals What Women Think About Midterms](#)

Candidate	%	Votes
<a href="#">Brad Little</a> (R)	59.7	361,105
<a href="#">Paulette E. Jordan</a> (D)	38.2	230,861

## **More entries from OnlineNevada:**

### **[Washoe Basket Weavers](#)**

The people of the Washoe tribe of Nevada and California have long practiced the art of weaving. Both men and women created the tools and products necessary to make a living in a land that required seasonal movements. Heavy pottery or bulky wooden items were not suited to this environment nor to the mobile lifestyle of the indigenous people. [Read more](#)

### **[Washoe Winter Village Archaeology](#)**

Washoe Indian people regard Western Nevada along the central Sierra Nevada as an important part of their original homeland. Today many Washoe tribal members still live in Western Nevada's valleys adjacent to the Sierra in cities and towns, and on reserved lands—at places such as Coleville, Markleeville, Woodfords, Dresslerville, Carson City, Reno, Doyle, and Susanville.

### **[Read more about Washoe Winter Village Archaeology](#)**

### **[Lambert Molinelli](#)**

Lambert Molinelli is the author of the only early published book on Eureka, Nevada. He was born in Italy in 1853. In the early 1870s, his family immigrated to Eureka, where he met his wife, Mary, a woman from Iowa. [Read more about Lambert Molinelli](#)

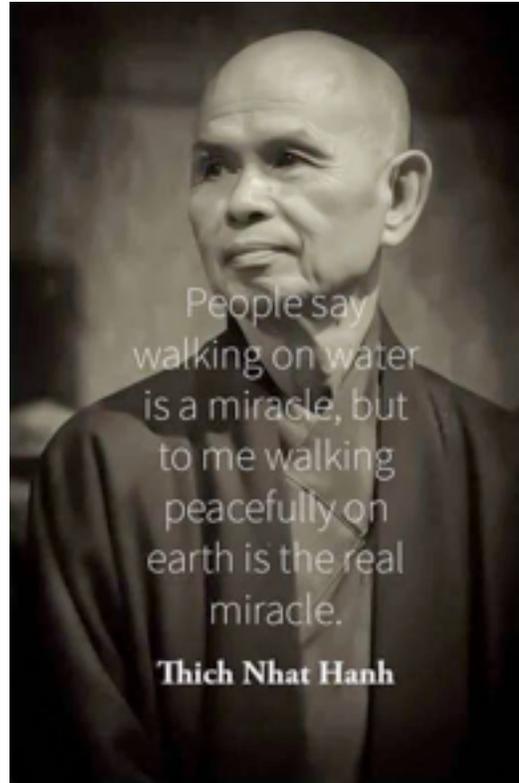
### **[L.L. Loud and the Beginning of Nevada Archaeology](#)**

Llewellyn Lemont Loud, known professionally as L. L. Loud, was born in Maine in 1879. After graduating from high school in 1901, Loud traveled around Alaska and Washington before settling in San Francisco in 1905. He spent the next five years as a non-degree student at the University of California. He worked for the university full time as a guard, janitor, field archaeologist and, finally, senior preparator, from 1911 to 1926, and from 1931 until his death in 1946. [Read more about L.L. Loud and the Beginning of Nevada Archaeology](#)

### **[Keyhole Canyon Petroglyphs and Creation Mythology](#)**

Keyhole Canyon is located about halfway between Las Vegas and Searchlight, outside the town of Nelson in the Eldorado Mountains. While it is unknown who carved the petroglyphs at Keyhole Canyon, scholars do agree that the Mohave, the Paiute, and the Anasazi/Pueblo were the main groups in the region thousands of years ago.

- [Read more](#)
- [about John Piper](#)





[JoAnn Smokey Martinez](#)

JoAnn Smokey Martinez and her sister Theresa Jackson were among the last members of the Washoe Tribe to be raised in their traditional Native American culture. They spoke only Washoe until they started school, and as children both helped their mother and grandmother gather willows for baskets. [Read more](#)

### [Gypsum Cave](#)

Gypsum Cave is a five-room limestone cave in Sunrise Mountain, approximately 12 miles east of Las Vegas. For a twelve-month period, between January 1930 and 1931, noted early archaeologist Mark R. Harrington (1882-1971) and a small crew of Native Americans dug through most of the cave's deposit. Harrington was interested in the cave for its potential to provide evidence of a period in the distant past when it was occupied by both humans and now-extinct mammals, especially the ground sloth (*Nothrotheriops shastense*).

[Read more about Gypsum Cave](#)

### [Grimes Point](#)

The Grimes Point site is a part of a much larger archaeological complex, which includes a wide variety of materials, caves, shelters, and other archaeological sites. The site is located on what was once a shoreline of Pleistocene Lake Lahontan and is best known for the cupules, which are small pits dug out of the rock surface and found on hundreds of boulders in the area.

[Read more about Grimes Point](#)

## [Great Basin Prehistoric Footwear](#)

In Nevada, people have been making woven sandals and leather moccasins for the last 10,000 years. Prehistoric footwear, however, is relatively rare. Among the historic tribes in Nevada (Washoe, Western Shoshone, Northern Paiute, Southern Paiute), people preferred to go barefoot as much as possible. Yet each group used footwear, when needed, for protection from cold, wet, hot, muddy, or rocky conditions. [Read more](#)

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UNR School of Medicine - Nov 14  
Networking: 5:30 - 6:00 pm / Presentations: 6:00 - 7:30 pm  
**Fast easy parking in front of School of Medicine!**

Get a back-stage tour of the University of Nevada, Reno School of Medicine as it celebrates 50 years of serving the state of Nevada as its first public medical school.

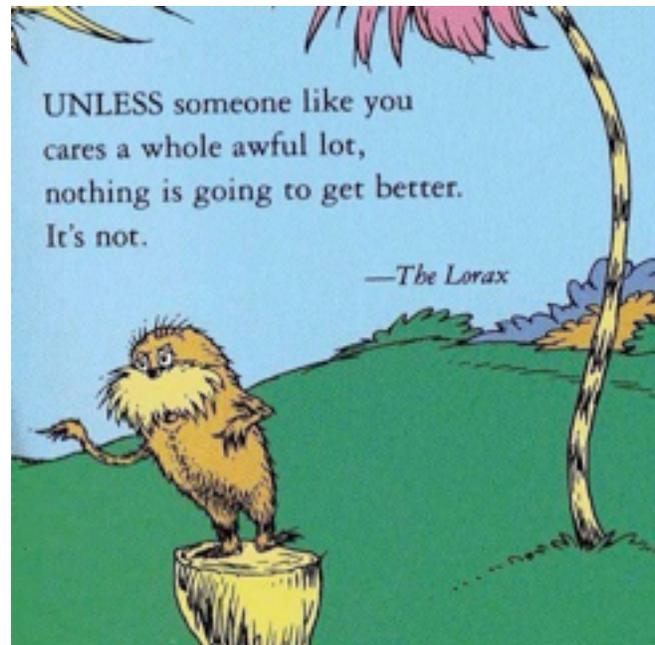
Learn what UNR Med is doing to increase the number of physicians and health care providers in northern Nevada and our state. Discover how the school collaborates with community partners to create dynamic learning experiences.

See the biomedical research that's happening in your own backyard, and how it's impacting the worldwide community. Have face-to-face conversations with researchers and faculty.

This might also be your only chance to go inside the state of Nevada's most high-tech gross anatomy lab. To protect privacy, cameras aren't allowed in the anatomy lab, so this is a rare chance to see this innovative space up close.

Get the full UNR Med experience at Tech Wednesday on Nov. 14.

**Parents are welcome to bring middle-school and high-school students.**



**Visiting the human anatomy lab is at parental discretion.**

**University of Nevada, Reno School of Medicine**  
William N. Pennington Health Science Building  
1664 N. Virginia St.  
Reno, NV 89557  
( [map](#) )

Please park in the Silver 10 parking lot  
**REGISTER NOW**

Nov. 14, 2018, 5:30–7:30 p.m.

- \$15 – NCET members
- \$25 – General Admission
- \$10 – Children under 18 accompanied by a parent or adult guardian

NCET events have been selling out! RSVP early so you don't miss this great event.

NCET members receive substantial discounts on NCET events, and your membership pays for itself quickly. Join NCET now and save!

**The fine print:**

- You must pay for your ticket at the time of registration.
- No-shows will be charged the full amount of the reservation unless canceled at least 48 hours before the event.

For more information, contact NCET at 775-453-0130 or info@NCET.org.

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Attachments: [2018 Albuquerque, Phoenix & Sacramento ICDBG NOFA Training Notice TV 11-5-2018.pdf](#)

Greetings from HUD's Southwest Office of Native American Programs,

Please see the attached notice with details regarding upcoming **FREE training for the FY2018 Indian Community Development Block Grant Notice of Funding Availability.**

If you have questions or require further assistance, please contact: Teresa Vogel at (602)379-7203 or [Teresa.A.Vogel@hud.gov](mailto:Teresa.A.Vogel@hud.gov) ; Catherine Weekooty at (505)346-6923 or [Catherine.S.Weekooty@hud.gov](mailto:Catherine.S.Weekooty@hud.gov).

There is no charge to attend these training workshops. Travel and per diem costs are eligible ICDBG and IHBG expenses.

Regards, HUD/SWONAP

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**Public school named after Native Olympian Billy Mills**

It's the only public school to bear the name of a Native public figure. Kids say: 'I go to Billy Mills Middle School!'

[Read more](#) [newsmaven.io](http://newsmaven.io)

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[These nuns built a lovely little chapel. Right in the way of a pipeline. On purpose.](#)

**Social Justice Sewing Academy partners with Lakota Youth Speak**  
Posted By [Corinne Oestreich](#)

### **Enter to Win Pendleton Blanket - Explore Native Challenge**

The International Quilt show toured through the US and made a stop in Santa Clara, California.



I was introduced to a special section of the show dedicated to Social Justice where one of the ambassadors showed me a beautiful quilt made by Lakota youth from Cheyenne River.

[www.sjsacademy.com/lakota-youth-speak](http://www.sjsacademy.com/lakota-youth-speak)

The Quilt showcases squares all designed and sewn by the youth, focusing on various issues ranging from alcoholism, texting while driving, MMIW and water protector.

[Read More](#)



*In Loving Memory*



*Lucille Hooper-George*



*Born on June 2nd, 1937—Called home November 4th, 2018*

*Visitation ~ Friday, November 9th, 2018 5:00-7:00 p.m.*

*Gardens Funeral Home ~ 2949 Austin Highway, Fallon, NV*

*Funeral Service ~ Saturday, November 10th, 2018 10:00 a.m.*

*Gardens Funeral Home ~ 2949 Austin Highway, Fallon, NV*

*Burial ~ Reese River, NV*

*Dinner to follow burial ~ Food donations appreciated. .*