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Nevada officials brace for new attempt to revive Yucca Mountain

WASHINGTON -- Despite the president's election-eve comments suggesting a change in his stance on nuclear waste storage in Nevada, the state and political opponents are preparing for another push to revive the Yucca Mountain licensing process.

[The Indians were right, the English were wrong: A Virginia tribe — overlooked by early settlers — reclaims its place in history](#)

Popular understanding of Virginia's native people comes from early English accounts, and Jamestown settlers were all about Powhatan, Pocahontas and the Indians along the James and York rivers. The native people living on the Rappahannock River lived just beyond the range of the first colonists and kept to themselves.

Recent archaeological work suggests the Rappahannocks were a powerful tribe with equal standing to others that got more attention from European settlers. The emerging story undercuts what Western historians have asserted for 400 years about the shape of native culture when the Europeans arrived in America, and it restores the place of the Rappahannocks, who had nearly been erased from the record. [Read more »](#)

This viral tweet about Thanksgiving and Native Americans deserves our attention.

by [Robbie Couch](#)

A tweet that's gone viral days before Thanksgiving shows exactly why the indigenous communities of South Dakota didn't want oil pipelines on their lands.

"Just a reminder last year on Thanksgiving that Natives were being tortured with dogs, illegal scare tactics, being run over by angry white [people] all to protect our water," the tweet reads. "And this year on Thanksgiving they are now cleaning up 200,000 gallon oil spill on a South Dakota reservation."

The tweet, published on Nov. 16 by user @lilnativeboy, has amassed over 100,000 likes and tens of thousands of retweets because of its powerful — and entirely sobering — message.

The tweet is referencing 2016 protests on the Standing Rock Sioux reservation that turned violent.

Last fall, indigenous demonstrators — or self-identified "water protectors" — rallied to protect the local land and water from construction on the 1,172-mile-long Dakota Access Pipeline. In November that year, when officials became agitated with their ongoing presence, the demonstrators were [sprayed with water and tear gas](#) in freezing cold weather. That same fall, security dogs reportedly [bit protesters](#) on multiple occasions.

Between then and now, a lot has changed; most notably, an oil-friendly Trump administration took the reins in Washington, [approving](#) the final pipeline construction permit needed in February 2017.

Trump has opened the floodgates (so to speak) on a number of oil infrastructure projects; among them is the also controversial Keystone Pipeline, which is disrupting much of the same upper Midwest region as the Dakota Access.



Just that illegal white year up 2 rese 8:04 PM

One year later and with Thanksgiving upon us, demonstrators' fears and predictions have come true as the viral tweet alludes to.

Over [200,000 gallons](#) of oil has leaked in South Dakota, Keystone pipeline creator TransCanada confirmed on Nov. 17. The leak, the largest in the state to date, follows [another leak in April](#) from the Dakota Access Pipeline that tainted the land with nearly 17,000 gallons.

"It is a below-ground pipeline, but some oil has surfaced above ground to the grass," Walsh said of the most recent environmental setback. "It will be a few days until they can excavate and get in borings to see if there is groundwater contamination."

Share

A demonstrator protests Trump's executive order fast-tracking the Keystone XL and Dakota Access oil pipelines in Los Angeles. Photo by Mark Ralston/AFP/Getty Images.

David Flute, Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate tribal chairman, said his community is "keeping a watchful eye and an open ear" in the wake of the leak, [according to the CBC](#). There's a real possibility the spill could pollute the area's aquifer and waterways. "The concern is at a high level, but there is really nothing we can do," Flute said.

But there is something *you* can do now.

TransCanada has [proposed an extension](#) of its Keystone pipeline system into neighboring Nebraska — a decision being weighed now by the Nebraska Public Service Commission. A vote to accept or deny TransCanada's proposal is set for Monday, Nov. 20.

Many environmental and activist groups are rallying support in hopes of keeping the pipeline out of the Cornhusker State. MoveOn, for instance, is encouraging supporters to sign a [petition](#) to say "no" to the project.

"If this spill had happened along the proposed route in Nebraska, it would be absolutely devastating," Brian Jorde, a lawyer representing Nebraska landowners opposed to Keystone XL, told Reuters. "Their proposed route is within a mile of thousands of water wells."

Native Americans are recasting views of indigenous life National Geographic

By countering the racist fixations that have plagued stories of Indian culture, they hope to reverse the "invisibility" that many feel. [Read the full story](#)

A Native American tribe once called D.C. home. It's had no living members for centuries. The Washington Post

As the number of Anacostans dwindled, they merged with larger tribes in the region. [Read the full story](#)

"4,000 Square Miles. One Post Office. Why It's So Hard to Vote in Arizona's Indian Country," by Timothy Murphy

Mother Jones goes long on the unique voting issues in Native American counties — with electorates that may play a large role in the Arizona, North Dakota and Montana races.

Some wise words from Eric Hoffer - insert "Computer" for "machine"

*To know the central problem of an age is to have our fingers on a thread of continuity through the welter of willful events and unforeseen crises. It is my assumption that the main difficulty and challenge of our age is drastic change – from backwardness to modernity, from subjection to equality, from poverty to affluence, from work to leisure. These are all highly desirable changes, changes that mankind has hoped and prayed for through the millennia., Yet it is becoming evident that, no matter how desirable, drastic change is the most difficult and dangerous experience mankind has undergone. We are discovering that broken habits can be more painful and crippling than broken bones, and that disintegrating values may have as deadly fallout as disintegrating atoms.
Eric Hoffer, *the Temper Our Time*, (1965)*

We are up against the great paradox of the twentieth century: namely, that a break neck technological advance has gone hand in hand with a return to tribalism, charismatic leaders, medicine men, credulity, and tribal wars. The tendency has been to blame the machine. It is true that in the early decades of the Industrial Revolution, when men, women and children had to be dovetailed with iron and steam, the factories were agencies of dehumanization, But we of the present know that communion with machines does no blunt our sensibilities or stifle individuality.

The banishing of workers by automation from factories, warehouses, docks, etc. will fill the cities with millions of unemployed workers waiting for something to happen. Condemned to inaction and deprived of a sense of usefulness and worth, they will become receptive to extremism, and to political and racial intolerance.

What is it that society needs above all when it has to adjust itself to wholly new conditions? It needs utmost flexibility, a high degree of human plasticity. -- Ibid

National Environmental Justice Public Teleconference Meeting

November 28, 2018 from 3pm to 5pm EST

[Register here today!](#)

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC) will convene a public teleconference beginning on Wednesday, November 28, 2018, starting at 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m., Eastern Time.

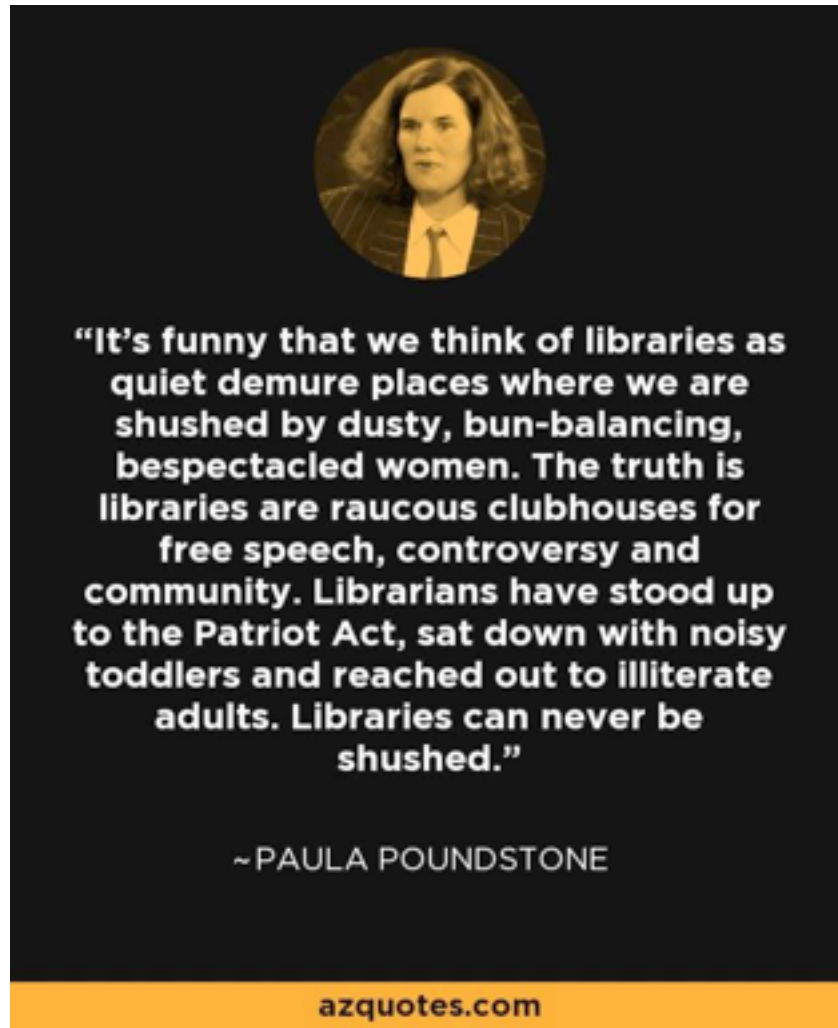
The meeting discussion will focus on several topics including, but not limited to, the following:

- to introduce a new charge for the NEJAC from the Office of Land and Emergency Management (OLEM). This new charge will focus on the reuse and revitalization of Superfund and other contaminated sites; and
- the discussion and deliberation of the final letters that will address the environmental justice concerns that were raised during the NEJAC public meeting in Boston, MA on August 14 – 16, 2018.

Event Details:

- **Date:** 28 November 2018

- **Time:** 3:00pm – 5:00pm Eastern
- **Who Should Attend:** This meeting is open to the public. Members of the public are encouraged to provide comments relevant to the specific issues being considered by NEJAC.
- **Cost:** Free
- **Registration Public Teleconference Option:** Pre-registration is required to attend the meeting by teleconference.
- **Register here:** <https://nejac-november-2018-public-teleconference.eventbrite.com>
- **Online Registration Closes:** November 26, 2018, at 11:59 p.m., Eastern Time



Host a Brazilian Youth Ambassador

NNIC will welcome ten program participants, 16-18 years old, to engage in a civic activism and volunteerism program from January 17 through 29, 2019, and we are looking for families interested in hosting them.

Learn Brazilian recipes and practice your Portuguese while showing a visitor the beauty and hospitality of Northern Nevada.

Families or individuals can host one or two students. Hosts provide students with a bed, transportation to and from UNR, breakfasts, and some dinners. Students will participate in a rigorous leadership program that includes various activities, transportation and lunches during working hours. Contact Stacy Kinion at 775.784.7515 ext. 226 or skinion@nnic.org with questions or to take part in this unforgettable cultural experience.

Short-term home hosting through the Northern Nevada International Center is a wonderful way to explore another culture without ever leaving home! Enrich your January by taking advantage of the opportunity to host a Brazilian student through our Brazilian Youth Ambassadors Program.

Water Information Advisory Committee Openings

The Interior Department is [seeking nominations](#) for a federal water data advisory group.

Energy Regulators Seek To Establish Hydropower Task Force

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission is [seeking state and federal agencies and Indian tribes](#) to participate in a task force on speeding up hydropower permitting at dams that do not currently generate power.

Legislation signed by President Trump last month orders the formation of the task force. America's Water Infrastructure Act requires FERC to issue a rule by mid-April that ensures a final permitting decision within two years on hydropower licenses at dams without turbines.

Agencies wanting to participate in the task force should submit a letter of interest by November 29 via <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/efiling.asp> using docket number RM19-6-000.

In context: [U.S. Hydropower Grows by Going Small](#)

[Working with California Tribes on Upper Watershed Restoration](#)

[By Lori Pottinger, PPIC, 11/20/18](#)

As part of this effort, the state is participating in a series of "forest gatherings," which bring people working on natural resource issues to local watersheds in events hosted by a tribe from that place. "Place matters," said Debbie Franco, community and rural affairs advisor in the Governor's Office of Planning and Research.

"You think your pain and your heartbreak are unprecedented in the history of the world, but then you read. It was books that taught me that the things that tormented me most were the very things that connected me with all the people who were alive, who had ever been alive."

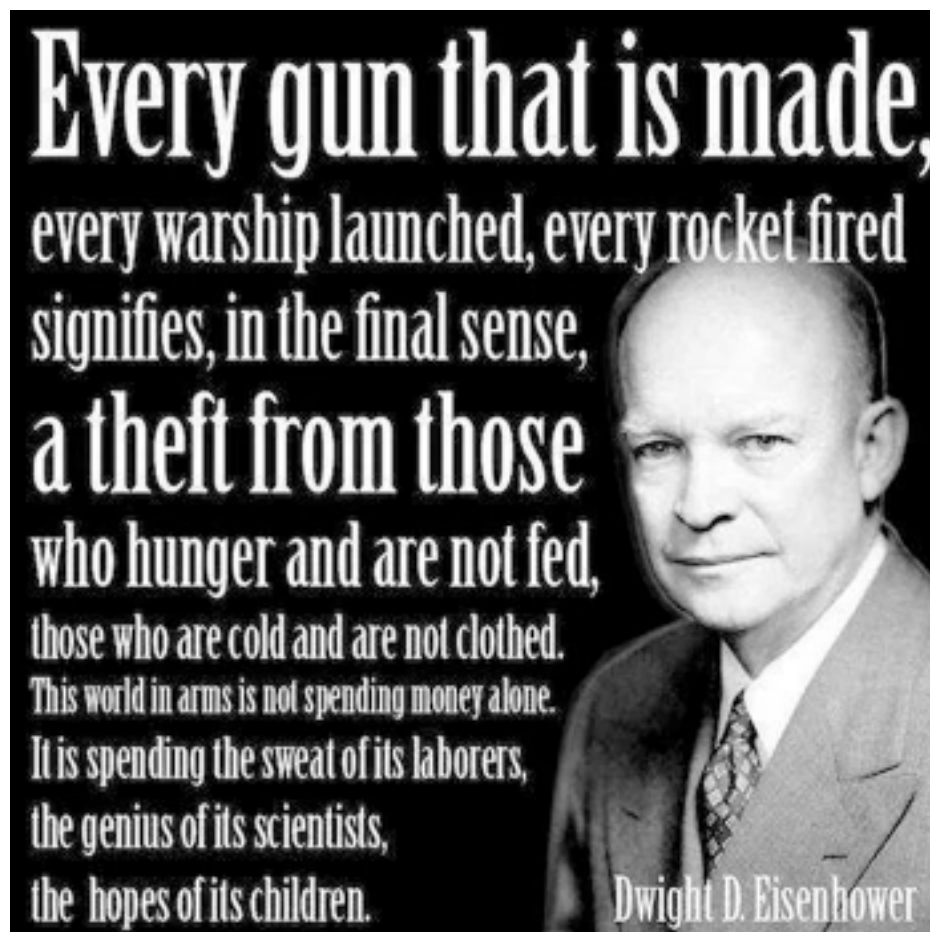
"It is certain, in any case, that ignorance, allied with power, is the most ferocious enemy justice can have." – James Baldwin

"People pay for what they do, and still more for what they have allowed themselves to become. And they pay for it very simply; by the lives they lead."

*“Anyone who has ever struggled with poverty knows how extremely expensive it is to be poor.”
– James Baldwin*

Sigrid Johnson Was Black. A DNA Test Said She Wasn’t. The surge in popularity of services like 23andMe and Ancestry means that more and more people are unearthing long-buried connections and surprises in their ancestry.” (NYT)

Startup Offers To Sequence Your Genome Free Of Charge, Then Let You Profit From It (NPR)



Water Shorts–

Dead sperm whale found in Indonesia had ingested ‘6kg of plastic’: A dead sperm whale that washed ashore in a national park in Indonesia had nearly 6kg (13 lbs) of plastic waste in its stomach, park officials say.” (BBC)

Penguin filmed caring for snowball: In what might be a filming-first, emperor penguins were captured caring for a snowball ‘egg’”

100 percent Proportion of California that is experiencing some degree of drought, versus 26 percent at this time last year, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor. The dry conditions are exacerbating wildfires across the state, which have killed a record 77 people. [Bloomberg](#)

1,572 Barrels of oil that leaked into waters off the coast Newfoundland & Labrador, Canada. The leak originated in a storage vessel owned by Husky Energy Inc, and led to an area-wide shutdown of production. The company says they are carefully monitoring possible damage to water and wildlife. [Reuters](#)

52.8 trillion gallons: Water withdrawn by thermoelectric power plants in 2017 for cooling, down more than 12 percent since 2014. The closure of coal plants, which require more water for cooling than natural gas units, has been a major factor in the decline. ([Energy Information Administration](#))

In context: [U.S. Water Withdrawals Continue Marked Decline](#)

New Cybersecurity Agency

President Trump [signed a bill](#) that establishes an agency within the Department of Homeland Security for coordinating the defense of the nation's critical infrastructure from cyberattack.

Critical infrastructure includes water systems, dams, power plants, the electric grid, and other pieces of the country's connective hardware.

In context: [Water Sector Prepares for Cyberattacks](#)

Montana Rural Water Systems Bill

A [bill](#) to authorize construction of two rural water supply systems in Montana moved out of Senate committee. The systems would serve one county in North Dakota as well. [nd Reports](#)

USGS Groundwater Studies

The U.S. Geological Survey published two groundwater studies last week: on [deep aquifer recharge in Oregon's Umatilla River watershed](#) and on [methane in Ohio groundwater](#).

In the Umatilla watershed, researchers found that the Blue Mountains play a principal role in recharging groundwater that then moves into the lowlands.

In Ohio, 12 of 15 wells sampled had methane concentrations above a level that poses a risk of explosion. The wells were in a dozen counties with varying geological characteristics.

Though the goal was not to select wells influenced by fossil fuel extraction or other human activities, based on the chemical data collected, the researchers said it was not possible to link the methane to human or natural sources.

Limitations of the study include a small sample size and taking a single sample from each well. [the Radar](#)

National Drinking Water Advisory Council Meeting

The EPA's [drinking water advisory group will meet](#) in Washington, D.C., on December 6 and 7.

The meeting is open to the public. To reserve a spot, send an email to ward.tracey@epa.gov with the subject line NDWAC 2018 Attendee. Include your name, address, and phone number.

There will be time for public comments at the meeting. Indicate your interest in the reservation email.

Snowpack

Bookmark this page for reference this winter. The federal drought response system compiled a list of [snowpack data resources](#).

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In context: [U.S. Hydropower Grows by Going Small](#)

“We are close. We are very close, I believe, to a path forward for DCP that represents and respects all of the big tent of stakeholders in Arizona that we are trying to include.” –Stephen Ray Lewis, Tribal Governor of the Gila River community, in reference to a newly-drafted Drought Contingency Plan (DCP). The plan, put together by the Central Arizona Project (CAP) board, is an effort to keep Lake Mead reservoir levels from dipping dangerously low. Negotiations on the DCP have stalled for several weeks, but are underway again. [Arizona Daily Star](#)

In context: [Lake Mead Record Low Reflects Changing American West](#).

Supposedly drought-resistant juniper trees are dying in Utah, and scientists are unsure why. Last year was the driest on record in Utah, as well as the second-warmest. Researchers are theorizing that the parched conditions, combined with insect attacks, may be responsible for the trees’ surprising mortality. [The Salt Lake Tribune](#)

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http://nvculture.org/historicalsociety/wp-content/uploads/sites/7/2018/07/NHS_MS-Collection-Master-List-2018.pdf



[Soul Alchemy](#)

When you're from a small town, and you drive by anyone...

Yep.. It is Friday!