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Future Champs – Our Future Is Bright With The Next Generation

Posted By [Paul G](#) December 8th, 2018 Blog

The current generation always worries about future generations. How often do you hear (or do you say) the next generation is lazy, they don't do it the right way, no respect for tradition. And in the case of millennials, that is all true – just kidding!

Thanks to social media, we can get a glimpse of great things to come.

Below are some of my favorite videos of our future champion dancers and singers.



Our future is in good hands! Can't wait to see these young people grow into champions [Read More](#)

[Aviva Chomsky | The DNA Industry and the Disappearing Indian, DNA, Race, and Native Rights](#)

Aviva Chomsky, TomDispatch

Chomsky writes: "Amid the barrage of racist, anti-immigrant, and other attacks launched by President Trump and his administration in recent months, a series of little noted steps have threatened Native American land rights and sovereignty." [READ MORE](#)

[Nevada's Folk Culture Captured in Historic Radio and Video Project](#)

Program 2: Martha Dick, Shoshone Cradleboards. Martha Dick and her son Richard, from the Duck Valley Reservation, talk about how Shoshone cradleboards are made and how they symbolize traditional Shoshone culture. <https://vimeo.com/132980075>

Program 10: Katie Frazier, Paiute Songs. At the time of this recording Katie Frazier, of Nixon, was 94 years old. Here she performs and discusses "The Bear Dance," "Rabbit Dance," and a hand-game song. <https://vimeo.com/143038719>

The original radio series was produced by the Folk Arts Program of the Nevada Arts Council (then Nevada State Council on the Arts), in partnership with KUNR (Reno), KNPR (Las Vegas) and KOLO (Reno), and with funding from the National Endowment for the Arts and the State of Nevada. Scripting, editing, photography, and production were by folklorist Blanton Owen. Narration was by Deb Spring, KOLO Radio (Reno). This new online version is produced by the Folklife Program of the Nevada Arts Council in 2015 with funding from the National Endowment for the Arts and video production by DP Video LLC, of Henderson, Nevada. Additional images are from a variety of sources including the Nevada Folklife Archives, the Nevada Historical Society, Mackay School of Earth Sciences and Engineering at the University of Nevada-Reno, Special Collections at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas, and the Western Folklife Center.

Mille Lacs Indian Trading Post became a lot more than just a trading post

<https://www.minnpost.com/mnopedia/2018/12/mille-lacs-indian-trading-post-became-a-lot-more-than-just-a-trading-post/>

Unprecedented New Map Unveils Illegal Mining Destroying Amazon

<https://www.ecowatch.com/map-of-mining-amazon-2623200925.html>

[Water shortages ahead? Sierra Nevada snow pack on track to shrink 79 percent, new study finds](#) [By Paul Rogers, Mercury News, 12/15/18](#)

Every year, like a giant frozen reservoir, snow that falls across the Sierra Nevada mountain range slowly melts in spring and summer months, providing roughly one-third of the water supply for California's cities and farms, from the Bay Area to Los Angeles.

FY 2019 Request for Applications from Indian Tribes and Intertribal Consortia for Nonpoint Source Management Grants Under Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 319, Environmental Protection Agency

Applications due January 24, 2019

[For more information, click here!](#)

EPA is soliciting applications pursuant to Section 319 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) from eligible tribes and intertribal consortia to develop and/or implement watershed-based plans and implement watershed projects that will result in significant steps towards solving Nonpoint Source (NPS) impairments on a watershed-wide basis. Eligible entities are strongly encouraged to submit applications that develop and/or implement watershed-based plans designed to restore NPS-impaired waters and protect waters from NPS pollution. Eligible tribes and intertribal consortia may apply for competitive funding by submitting an application for up to a maximum budget of \$100,000 of federal CWA section 319 funding (plus the additional required non-federal cost share/match of the total project cost).

EPA anticipates awarding an estimated \$2.5 million in federal funds, depending on Agency funding levels, the number of tribes requesting section 319 funding, the evaluation of applications, and other applicable considerations, to eligible tribes and intertribal consortia with approved NPS assessment and management programs and Treatment-in-a-manner-similar-to-a-State (TAS) status as of October 12, 2018.

Full details can be found at <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=310800>

[Merriam-Webster picks 'justice' as its 2018 word of the year](#)

NEW YORK -- Racial justice. Obstruction of justice. Social justice. The Justice Department. Merriam-Webster has chosen "justice" as its 2018 word of the year, driven by the churning news cycle over months and months.

[Quoting 'The Lorax,' Court Pulls Permit for Pipeline Crossing Appalachian Trail](#)

Laura Wamsley, NPR

Wamsley writes: "A federal appeals court has thrown out a power company's permit to build a natural gas pipeline across two national forests and the Appalachian Trail - and slammed the U.S. Forest Service for granting the approvals in the first place." [READ MORE](#)

[Could pipeline politics affect Walz's choice for next public utilities commissioner?](#)

<https://www.minnpost.com/environment/2018/12/could-pipeline-politics-affect-walzs-choice-for-next-public-utilities-commissioner/>

Former Fossil Fuels Lobbyist to Head Interior Department as Zinke Exits

Emily Holden, Guardian UK

Holden writes: "Ryan Zinke's exit as interior secretary elevates a former lobbyist to the job, meaning the top two US environmental agencies will now be run by people previously paid by industry."

[READ MORE](#) (*Dean Heller was being touted*)

Groups Hope Zinke Replacement Champions Public Lands

December 17, 2018 - Suzanne Potter, Public News Service (NV) Play Audio in Browser Window

CARSON CITY, Nev. — Conservation groups welcome the departure of Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, saying it could take years to reverse the damage to America's public lands done during his time in office.

President Donald Trump announced Saturday that the former Navy SEAL and Montana congressman will leave his post by the end of the year, amid ethics charges involving business deals, policy decisions and travel arrangements. Despite high hopes that, as a Westerner, Zinke would be sensitive to public-lands protections, Aaron Weiss with the Center for Western Priorities said he thinks he'll be remembered as the most harmful interior secretary for public lands in the nation's history.

"Secretary Zinke focused on slashing Bear's Ears by three-quarters and Grand Staircase-Escalante by half," Weiss said. "And that's going to be the legacy that he leaves behind, is this attempt not to stand up and protect public lands, but to open them up to oil and gas drilling."

White House sources said the interior secretary was forced out of the job. Zinke is the fourth Trump Cabinet member to resign under a cloud of suspicion. The most serious of more than a dozen accusations against him involves a land deal with the chairman of oil services megafirm Halliburton in Zinke's hometown of Whitefish, Mont., now under investigation by the Justice Department.

Weiss said it isn't likely Zinke's successor will oppose more oil and gas leases, but he hopes that person will be a better advocate for national parks and monuments.

"You do need someone who's dedicated to protecting wildlife corridors; to acknowledging there are some places that are too precious to drill; and that your job as a steward of America's public lands is to ensure the best possible return for taxpayers, rather than leasing all of these acres," he said.

Weiss said he doesn't think there will be much improvement in the short-term, as former oil and gas lobbyist David Bernhardt - Interior's deputy secretary - will likely be named interim director.

"For as cartoonishly awful as Ryan Zinke was, David Bernhardt is smarter and much more low profile," Weiss said. "So, we fully expect him to continue these policies, but without the laughable public face that Secretary Zinke brought with him to the job."

The Denver-based [Center for Western Priorities](#) is a nonprofit group that advocates for balanced conservation and energy practices in the West.



Figure 8. Paiute women handgame team in action at Bear Dance at Kidudawaka, ca. 1965. Photo by F.A. Riddell.

[Heidi Barlese](#) added a [new photo](#).

Wish I could hear their song.

Federal Water Tap and other Water Shorts

The EPA proposes to diminish the scope of the **Clean Water Act**. The Bureau of Reclamation sets a deadline for a **Colorado River drought plan**. Ryan Zinke **resigns** as Interior secretary. Congress agrees to a farm bill. The Bureau of Reclamation reports on **tribal water use** in the Colorado River basin. The Energy Department announces funds for a \$100 million **desalination research center**. A New York senator calls for a quicker phase-out of **PFAS foams** at commercial airports. The **Arctic** is changing rapidly, says NOAA report. The Army Corps looks to invite **private sector financing** for water infrastructure projects. The CDC traces **E. coli-tainted lettuce** to a California farm pond. A U.S.-Canada commission reports on the ecological consequences of a **Great Lakes oil spill**. The EPA plans to release a **lead strategy** this week. And lastly, the CDC wants to study the health implications of **water main breaks**.

“While we can’t stand here together to celebrate the completion of the DCPs this year, I can report that we are closer than we’ve ever been to completing the job. If I have one message for you all to take away from my remarks today, it is this. Close isn’t done. Only done will protect this basin.” — Brenda Burman, head of the Bureau of Reclamation, [speaking at the Colorado River Water Users Association meeting](#) in Las Vegas. DCP stands for drought contingency plan: the blueprints for how each state will reduce reliance on the river. Burman gave the states a January 31 deadline to complete their plans.

2.8 million acre-feet: Settled and unresolved water rights claims by 10 Indian tribes in the Colorado River basin. Those rights are some of the most protected from shortages. The report, which looked at current and future use of tribal water rights,

found that water supply variability and increasing water use in the Upper Basin states will have a more significant effect on basin shortages than tribal use. ([Bureau of Reclamation](#))

In context: [In Drying Colorado River Basin, Indian Tribes Are Dealmakers](#)

10: Pilot projects to be selected to test private-sector partnerships in financing and building federal water infrastructure. ([Army Corps of Engineers](#))

\$100 million: Funding for a desalination research center. The center will study low-cost, energy-efficient ways of removing salts from seawater, oil and gas produced water, and brackish groundwater for use by agriculture, utilities, and the energy industry. An informational webinar will be held January 7 and submission deadlines for entities wanting to host the center begin February 7. ([Department of Energy](#))

Redefining Waters of the United States

Arguing that landowners can best manage their land and offering a larger role for the states, the Trump administration [proposed](#) shrinking the scope of the Clean Water Act, the country's foremost water pollution protection statute.

Hardest hit will be wetlands and ephemeral streams, which are those that flow only after a rain storm and are particularly prevalent in the western states. The rule exempts groundwater, farm ditches, and stormwater infrastructure.

In justifying the rule, the EPA [included an economic analysis](#), but unlike the Obama administration, the agency did not complete a scientific assessment of which water features deserve protection from pollution and destruction.

The proposal is a milestone, but not an endpoint. When published in the Federal Register, public comments will be accepted for 60 days. Legal observers then [expect lawsuits](#) challenging the rule.

In context: [Clean Water Rule Repeal Cannot Come at a Pen Stroke](#)

Congress Seals Farm Bill Deal

Farm and utility groups praised a deal struck by congressional negotiators for [a farm bill](#) that preserves conservation programs and adds billions of dollars for water protections.

The National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition says that the bill “protects against cuts to total conservation funding and retains the full farm bill suite of conservation programs.” The coalition lists the key [conservation provisions](#).

The American Water Works Association, which represents the water utility industry, praised allocations to protect land and water from contamination. Ten percent of Natural Resources Conservation Service funding goes toward source water protection — \$4 billion over 10 years.

Reclamation Sets Colorado River Basin Deadline

The head of the Bureau of Reclamation told Colorado River basin officials that the seven states in the watershed need to come up with final plans by the end of January for voluntarily reducing their use of the river — or the federal government will do it for them.

No one in the basin wants that. The deadline adds an incentive for states to complete a process for addressing declining Lake Mead levels that has extended several years. The big reservoir — a keystone for water supplies in the Southwest — is 38 percent full. Lake Powell, a sister reservoir upstream, is 42 percent full.

“To date, Interior is very supportive and extremely patient with the pace of progress of the [drought contingency plan, or DCP],” Brenda Burman [told attendees](#) of the Colorado River Water Users Association meeting in Las Vegas. “The delay increases the risk for us all. We need to ensure that the risks of lake level declines to critically low elevations are addressed with or without the DCP.”

Patience has limits, and Burman said Reclamation’s will run out on January 31. After that date, the bureau will give states 30 days to recommend ways to reduce demands on Lake Mead, and then it will decide which changes to implement for next year. Reclamation’s parent agency, the Interior Department, controls water deliveries in the Lower Basin.

“If we go down this path, and I want to emphasize that it is absolutely not our preferred course of action, but if we do, we will give the states 30 days for those submissions,” Burman said. “The Department will take those submissions and decide on a course of action before the August determination on 2020 operations.”

Arizona and California are the two states yet to reach an agreement about how cuts will be handled within their borders.

Arctic Report Card

Warning Signals for A Rapidly Changing Region: The Arctic region is experiencing rapid environmental change, according to NOAA’s [annual assessment](#) of the northernmost latitudes.

The Arctic is undergoing its “[most unprecedented transition in human history](#),” said Emily Osborne with NOAA’s Arctic research program.

Warming in the region coincides with decreasing sea ice, decreasing snow on the land surface, increasing summertime river flows, and an increase in toxic algal blooms in coastal waters.

The Southwest U.S. is teetering on the edge of a “mega-drought,” according to some experts. Only three mega-droughts—defined as dry spells lasting 20 years or more—have occurred in the region in the last 1,000 years. The Southwest has experienced 19 years of drought, and the impacts of global warming make it likely that the dry conditions will continue, scientists say. [The Atlantic](#)

[Overlooked No More: Charley Parkhurst, Gold Rush Legend With a Hidden Identity](#)

A swashbuckling, one-eyed stagecoach driver lived her life disguised as a man. After her death, the revelation that she was a woman provoked widespread astonishment.



Lake Mead, which forms the border between Nevada and Arizona, thirty miles from Las Vegas. The lake is fed by the Colorado and was last full in 1998. Since then, its volume has fallen by some sixty per cent, and the water level has dropped more than a hundred feet.
Photograph by Brian L. Frank

A great primer re Water in the West even though published a few years ago. sdc

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2015/05/25/the-disappearing-river> [A Reporter at Large](#)

[May 25, 2015 Issue](#)

Where the River Runs Dry - The Colorado and America's water crisis. By David Owen

Minnesota election saw surge in American Indian voters, candidates

<http://srib.mn/2rBG9eT>

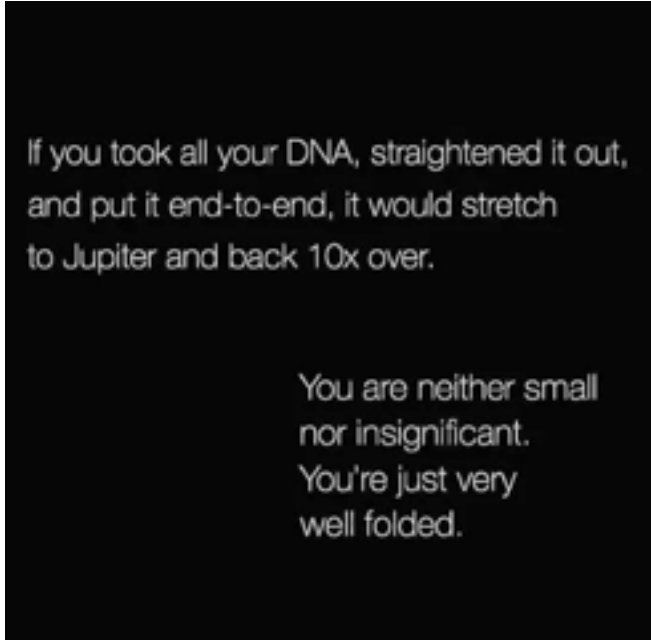
[Would Human Extinction Be a Tragedy?](#)

By TODD MAY

Our species possesses inherent value, but we are devastating the earth and causing unimaginable animal suffering.

[Trump creates new federal body to oversee 'opportunity zones'](#)

The move to promote the specially designated areas designed to "incentivize" private sector investment in distressed communities is not expected to have much impact on the 61 zones in Nevada.



[Trump Officials Plan to Rescind Obama-Era School Discipline Policies](#)

By ERICA L. GREEN and KATIE BENNER

A school safety commission created after the Parkland school massacre contends that the policies, intended to protect minority children, eased up too much on discipline.

[Harvard has quietly bought \\$305 million worth of California vineyards. The water rights could be even more valuable. By Aria Bendix, Business Insider, 12/17/18](#)

Harvard University has purchased thousands of acres of vineyards in the last six years, but it may not be solely interested in producing wine. The institution is scooping up land with prime access to groundwater, a resource that's become increasingly scarce along California's Central Coast.

[Why We Sleep: Unlocking the Power of Sleep and Dreams](#)

“The best bridge between despair and hope is a good night’s sleep.”

“We estimate that more than 50 percent of all children with an ADHD diagnosis actually have a sleep disorder, yet a small fraction know of their sleep condition and its ramifications. A major public health awareness campaign by governments—perhaps without influence from pharmaceutical lobbying groups—is needed on this issue.” – Matthew Walker,

More Pyramid Lake area history: If you are in a hurry, start at page 47.

http://www.onlinenevada.org/sites/default/files/Phyllis_J_Walsh_Complete_Document.pdf



[Where Reindeer Are a Way of Life](#)

By NADIA SHIRA COHEN

The indigenous Sami people have fought for generations to preserve their identity. The latest battles are against Norway's limits on reindeer herds.