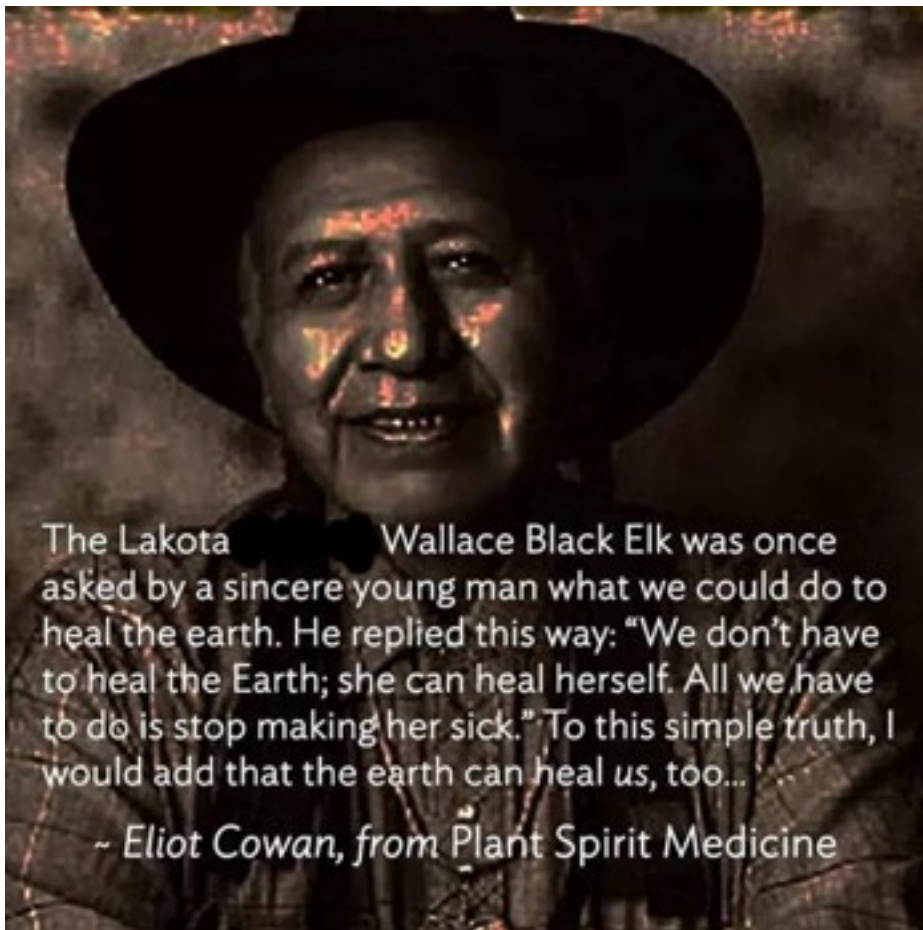


Journal #4531 from sdc 10.22.19

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You've heard of Deb Haaland and Sharice Davids; who are the other Native leaders you should know?
Iowa's farmers – and American eaters – need a national discussion on transforming US agriculture



And thanks to Winona La Duke for perceptive, concise, and challenging talk at UNR last night. It was being videotaped so perhaps will soon be available; if not, go to Honor the Earth or stoppipeline3.org

AND BECOME PART OF THE 8TH FIRE.



Greetings from Sierra Club Borderlands

I'm happy to share a little good news. Earlier this month a Texas court ruled that the fake "emergency" declaration on the border violated federal law! As a result, some or all of the border walls currently being planned or built using taxpayer funds intended for military construction will likely be halted, at least temporarily. However, the ruling only affects one of the three multi-billion dollar pots of money being used to militarize and destroy borderlands and border communities. We'll keep fighting, in the courts, in the streets, and in the arts.

Dan Millis, Borderlands Program Manager (520) 620-6401

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<http://www.sierraclub.org/borderlands>

Good News: Texas Court Rules Border 'Emergency' Illegal

October 11, the federal district court for the Western District of Texas ruled in favor of El Paso County and the Border Network for Human Rights and found the so-called 'emergency' declaration on the border to be illegal. The ruling says that a President can't declare an emergency and steal money from the American people that wasn't authorized by Congress. In the coming weeks, terms for an injunction against border walls being illegally funded in this way will be decided, putting a stop to their



construction while the case makes its way to higher courts. We are hopeful this will end construction of walls planned in San Diego, Tecate, and Calexico, California; and Yuma, the Barry M. Goldwater Range, and Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge in Arizona; the bootheel and Hachita areas of New Mexico; and a 52-mile stretch of the Rio Grande northwest of Laredo, Texas. More about the ruling on the case can be found [here](#)

Photo courtesy of [Border Network for Human Rights](#)

Performance artists wearing animal masks recently scurried and moped along the huge, rusted wall being illegally rammed through Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument in Arizona. Unable to cross, the animal-humans filmed a 90-second art film titled 'Obstruction,' drawing attention to the Sonoran Desert animal species being cut off from their migration patterns and water sources. Watch 'Obstruction' and read more about it [here](#).

Alpine dedicates highway to Vietnam veterans

“We had to run like hell to our bunkers

every evening to avoid mortar rounds going off,” reported Vietnam Veteran Arnold Rakow. “Just outside where we slept the Army fired back with a set of twin forties: two forty-caliber cannons on a track.” This was in the Mekong Delta, just one mile from the elaborate system of jungle pathways known as the Ho Chi Minh Trail. The Trail was a military supply route used to infiltrate weapons, manpower, ammunition, and other necessities from communist-led North Vietnam to their supporters in South Vietnam.

Residing in Alpine County, Rakow served in the United States Army from 1968-1971 with the 46th and 103rd Corps of Engineers. His first twelve months were spent in Long Binh where he worked as a mechanic. He arrived there about a year after one of surprise attacks known collectively as The Tet Offensive: when North Vietnam and Viet Cong assault forces were repelled by South Vietnamese and American troops.

For the next six months he was stationed in Bien Hoa to work on generators and loaders at the rock quarry. Arnold was then relocated to Fort Knox, Kentucky to work on heavy tanks.

“Today, I’m no longer as agile as I once was due to poor health,” he said. “I went into the Army a young and innocent kid, not knowing what to expect. All of us were still wet behind the ears but later came out as men. We did what we were told and served our country. I have my good and bad memories.”

Lisa Gavon
R-C Alpine Bureau

The Alpine County Board of Supervisors unanimously adopted a resolution to honor Alpine Vietnam Veterans like Arnold Rakow. California State Highway 88 from the California State line to five miles east will be recognized as the Vietnam Veterans’ Memorial Highway.

This resolution states that many of our community members served in the US Military during the Vietnam War with the support of friends, family, and loved ones. Acknowledging these important contributions will help us to remember their intense personal sacrifices, courage, and steadfast sense of patriotic duty.

In addition to Rakow, these are the other Alpine County individuals that were in the military during the Vietnam years: Larry Barr, Jim Dunn, Donovan “Dale” Dutchy, Robert Harris, Don Jardine, Richard Lindsay Jones, Jim Long, John Padilla, Raymond Payne, Sr., Maynard Rakow, Tom Sweeney, and Jimmy Vann. Members of our community are actively looking for any others that are not yet on the list so they can be included and honored. Please leave a message for Nani Ellis at (530) 694-1816.

The Vietnam Veterans’ Memorial Highway Dedication Ceremony is scheduled for 11 a.m. Tuesday.

Everyone is invited to gather to watch the unveiling just past the Douglas County, Nevada and Alpine County, California State line on the right hand side of the road. Speakers include CalTrans Director Dan McKinley, Supervisor and Veteran Don Jardine, Commander Frank Greenwood



LISA GAVON/SPECIAL TO THE R-C

Vietnam Veteran Arnold Rakow with a photo of himself when he joined the U.S. Army.

of the Disabled American Vets, and Chairman of the Woodfords Community Council Irvin Jim. A bagpiper will play, and all are welcome to come and show their respect. These

highway signs signify our gratitude and remind the many thousands of visitors to Alpine County of our Vietnam Veterans who bravely offered their service to our country.

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Are you ready for a fast-paced career?

North Dakota's Ruth Buffalo made history in 2018. Here's why her electoral win was poetic justice

<https://www.dailykos.com/story/2019/10/15/1892423/-North-Dakota-s-Ruth-Buffalo-made-history-in-2018-Here-s-why-her-electoral-win-was-poetic-justice>

Yurok Tribe's Connection to Klamath River Weakens as Ecosystem Declines

By The Lumberjack, 10/19/19

Last Thursday Yurok Tribe member Keith Parker, a Humboldt State alumnus and fisheries and molecular biologist, gave a presentation on campus about the Klamath River, his work on Lamprey eels and the local ecosystem. As a tribal scientist, Parker gets to use his traditional knowledge from his Yurok heritage combined with his master's degree from HSU to conduct field and lab work. The Klamath River is significant to the Yurok Tribe, as Yurok translates to "downriver people." "I have a spiritual and innate connection to the land," Parker said. "It's not just a study subject for me, it's not just empirical data. I have skin in the game, literally."

Some damage to American Indians from the allotment acts is being remedied, but scars will remain

<https://www.dailykos.com/story/2019/10/14/1892289/-Some-damage-to-American-Indians-from-the-allotment-acts-is-being-remedied-but-scars-will-remain>

Tribal Sovereignty Is Key to the Struggle for Democracy in 2020

JACOB SWENSON-LENGYEL, CAMPAIGN FOR AMERICA'S FUTURE

In order to address the system of voter repression that targets Indigenous people and other voters of color, we need funding to build the bridges between the affected groups and our allies, and not simply on Election Day, says Judith LeBlanc, director of the Native Organizers Alliance. We have to create ecosystems that function all year round.

[Read the Interview →](#)

Congressional Hearings

On October 22, the House Agriculture Committee holds a hearing on the conservation benefits of precision agriculture.

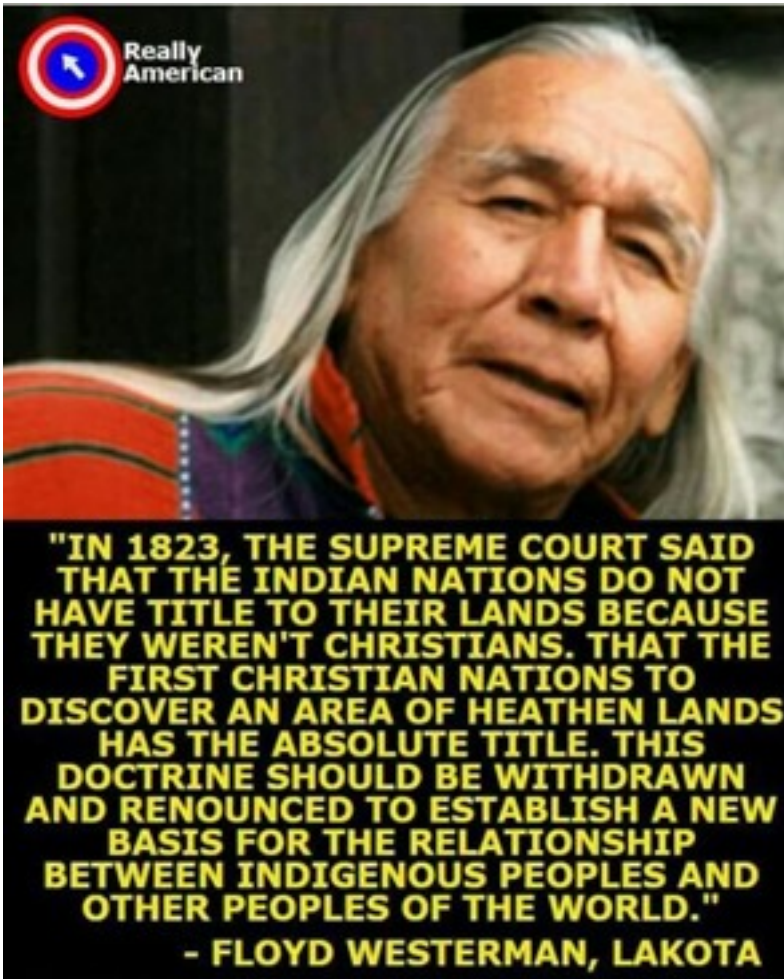
On October 23, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee discusses the Pebble Mine project, a proposed copper, gold, and molybdenum development in Alaska that the Trump administration revived.
revived.

Watchdog To Review Defense Department PFAS Use

The Defense Department's internal watchdog will review the use of toxic PFAS compounds at military sites. The scope of the review has not been defined.

A bipartisan congressional task force requested the review in July. One of the first actions of Mark Esper, the Defense secretary, after he was confirmed this summer was to launch his own PFAS task force.

Pope Affirms Catholic Church's Duty to Indigenous Amazonians Hurt by Climate Change - EcoWatch



<https://www.ecowatch.com/pope-francis-synod-of-amazon-2641015876.html>

Environmental Justice Progress Hard to

Measure

Federal agencies have supported the idea of reducing the disproportionate burden of pollution on poor and minority communities. But measuring improvements is difficult because of inadequate reporting and tracking, according to a [Government Accountability Office report](#).

An executive order in 1994 ordered 11 federal agencies to commit to addressing unequal pollution, a concept known as environmental

justice. In 2011, an additional five agencies joined with the original group to expand reporting and monitoring.

However, the number of agencies filing annual progress reports fell from 14 in 2012 to four in 2017.

The GAO recommended that agencies update their environmental justice strategic plans and file annual reports. It also asked the EPA, as chair of a working group on the topic, publish guidelines for the other agencies to follow.

Even though "Nevada Is Not a Radioactive Wasteland!" (see photo, above, showing Beyond Nuclear's Kevin Kamps, and [Native Community Action Council](#)'s Ian Zabarte, on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. in 2018 at the "Zero Hour" youth climate rally), [U.S. House bill H.R. 2699, the Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act of 2019](#), was nonetheless recently rammed through the [Environment and Climate Subcommittee](#) on a voice vote, without so much as a peep of opposition. (See Oct. 1st Western Shoshone letter to U.S. House, opposing H.R. 2699, [here](#).) Democrats hold the majority in the U.S. House, and thus are in charge of this subcommittee. Subcommittee Democrats include several members of the [Congressional Progressive Caucus](#). But [H.R. 2699](#) would rush the opening of the Yucca Mountain dump in Nevada, targeting Western Shoshone Indian land, where decades of nuclear weapons testing already caused fallout of hazardous radioactivity over a very large region. It would even

significantly increase the amount of high-level radioactive waste that could be buried there, thus increasing the number of Mobile Chernobyl and Floating Fukushima shipments, by truck, train, and/or [barge](#), through most states, scores of major urban centers, and the vast majority of U.S. congressional districts, bound for the dump ([see 2017 documents here for road and rail route maps](#)). [The Timbisha Band of Western Shoshone in Death Valley are directly downstream of Yucca, and would suffer the very worst contamination consequences from the leaking dump.](#) [H.R. 2699](#) would also authorize the U.S. Department of Energy to take ownership of commercial irradiated nuclear fuel at private, consolidated interim storage facilities (CISF). This radical change to the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982, as Amended, would risk "interim" becoming de facto permanent surface storage, meaning loss of institutional control over time would guarantee large-scale releases of hazardous radioactivity directly into the environment.

The current targets for CISFs are two sites in the Permian Basin, just 39 miles apart across the New Mexico/Texas border, in a Hispanic region not far from the Mescalero Apache Indian Reservation (itself previously targeted for a CISF). New Mexico ranks towards the bottom of states on numerous major socio-economic indicators ([even though some 40% of gargantuan U.S. nuclear weapons complex spending takes place within its borders!](#)), and already suffers from intense fossil fuel and nuclear industry pollution. Just this week, [a report](#) found that shockingly high percentages of Navajo/Diné women and infants tested positive for uranium exposure; even though mining in the Four Corners (including on Pueblo Indian land) largely ended decades ago, cleanup of contamination at countless sites has gone largely to entirely undone. [A U.S. Senate field hearing in Albuquerque](#) just addressed this environmental injustice, and also the unacknowledged and uncompensated suffering of the [Tularosa Basin Downwinders](#), victims and survivors of the "Trinity" open air plutonium bomb detonation on July 16, 1945 in New Mexico, the world's first atomic test blast. To now target New Mexico with high-level radioactive waste de facto permanent surface storage dumps adds insult to injury. The two CISFs would hold 213,600 metric tons of nuclear power waste, more than three times the amount currently targeted at Yucca (70,000 MT). [As the former head of Environmental Justice at the U.S. EPA, Mustafa Ali, said on Democracy Now! on September 5](#), the countless high risk shipments themselves, bound for such dumps, would burden low income, people of color communities, along transport routes across the country, with yet another major environmental injustice.

Despite all this inherent environmental racism, [H.R. 2699's](#) identical predecessor bill last year, [H.R. 3053, passed the U.S. House floor by a whopping 340 to 72 vote on May 10, 2018](#). (Luckily, the U.S. Senate did not take up H.R. 3053 last year, so the bill died. However, [the Republican majority U.S. Senate has already taken up a discussion draft of legislation very similar or even identical to H.R. 2699 this year](#), in the Environment and Public Works Committee. This makes our action to stop it dead in its tracks all the more vital, because another blowout vote in favor of H.R. 2699 on the House floor this year or next, could tee up consideration of identical legislation in the U.S. Senate, bringing it that much closer to President Donald J. Trump's desk, and enactment!) Inexplicably, nearly half the members of the [Congressional Progressive Caucus](#) (CPC) voted in favor of this radioactively racist bill! But it goes without saying that environmental injustice is not a progressive value! Of course, such a bad vote is unacceptable, even if Congress Members do not belong to the CPC.

Please contact [your U.S. Representative](#), and [both your U.S. Senators](#). You can be patched through to your Congress Members' D.C. offices via the U.S. Capitol Switchboard at (202) 224-3121. Urge your Congress Members to oppose [H.R. 2699](#), now headed to the full U.S. House Energy & Commerce Committee. Also urge them to oppose any funding in Fiscal Year 2020 for either the Yucca dump, or for CISFs. And urge them to oppose [S. 1234, the Nuclear Waste Administration Act of 2019](#), which also advocates for non-consent based siting of the dump in Nevada, and greases the skids for CISFs in New Mexico and Texas. Urge your Congress Members to support the Nevada congressional

delegation's [Nuclear Waste Informed Consent Act of 2019 \(S. 649\)](#), as well as to advocate for the very long overdue, common sense interim alternative of [Hardened On-Site Storage \(HOSS\)](#).

[As posted online here: <http://www.beyondnuclear.org/yucca-mountain/2019/10/10/radioactive-racism-is-not-progressive-urge-your-congress-mem.html>]

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Kevin Kamps, Radioactive Waste Specialist, Beyond Nuclear
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Beyond Nuclear aims to educate and activate the public about the connections between nuclear power and nuclear weapons and the need to abolish both to safeguard our future. Beyond Nuclear advocates for an energy future that is sustainable, benign and democratic.

State of Nevada Boards/Commissions Vacancies

As of October 1, 2019, there are approx. 200 State Boards/Commissions vacancies. The Nevada Commission for Women would like to encourage qualified women to apply for one of the vacancies. Volunteers who serve on boards get a chance to make a difference. In addition, you have the opportunity to gain management skills, develop a stronger network in your industry, and grow as a leader.

Organizations benefit with a diverse board, so [apply now](#).



tipurdy.org

[Another Bear Dance Story | Exploring Lassen County's Past](#)

[Drawn From Poverty: Art Was Supposed to Save Canada’s Inuit. It Hasn’t.](#) By CATHERINE PORTER and SERGEY PONOMAREV

Indigenous work is all the rage in the Canadian art world. But life in the North is as much a struggle as ever.

[DNA Analysis Shows That Native American Genealogy Is One of the Most Unique in the World](#)

Native Americans Descended From A Single Ancestral Group, DNA Study Con... [See More](#)



[Dakota State student creates computer game to help preserve Lakota language | The Daily Republic](#) mitchellrepublic.com

[US should return stolen land to Indian tribes, says United Nations](#) whitewolfpack.com

[You've heard of Deb Haaland and Sharice Davids—but who are the other Native leaders you should know? Kevin Killer for Our Prism](#)

The historic elections of Rep. Deb Haaland and Rep. Sharice Davids as the first Native women elected to Congress has greatly improved the political landscape at the federal level. Many of our tribal leaders and members now have a place to go in DC where elected officials will be responsive to our issues. This was always the case when I served in the South Dakota Legislature, meeting with tribal members, tribal leadership, and tribal organizations from not just my own legislative district, but from all over the state—I was always available to leaders and members from our state’s nine tribes.



Haaland and Davids made history and became household names in 2018, but they are only two of dozens of Native candidates who won seats that year. Do you know the names of any other Native leaders who won elections?

In Minnesota, longtime friend and recently elected [Lt. Gov. Peggy Flanagan \(White Earth Ojibwe\)](#) has been an amazing leader since we first met in 2006. At the time she was the youngest member of the Minneapolis School Board, just 25 years old. After serving on the school board, she served as the executive director of the Children's Defense Fund, where she helped lead a coalition to raise the minimum wage in the state.

Flanagan stepped back into public service in the Minnesota state House of Representatives for four years. In 2018, Congressman Tim Walz ran for governor and asked Flanagan to serve as his running mate.

The victorious ticket made Flanagan the highest-ranking Native American government official in the country and the only Native American woman to hold the office of lieutenant governor. This past legislative session under her leadership, Flanagan helped direct over \$25 million dollars to Native Nations in Minnesota—a rarity for any state to allocate new resources to Native Nations outside of New Mexico and Washington. (I'm working on a Prism podcast that will further follow up on her first year as Lt. Governor, so stay tuned for a treat—not only is she effective, but has a delightful sense of humor.)

South Dakota Senate Minority Leader Troy Heinert

The [re-election of my good kola \(friend\) Troy Heinert](#) as South Dakota's Senate minority leader makes him the highest-ranking enrolled tribal member (Rosebud) to hold a leadership position within the Democratic Party in the state. Working with community language advocates from across the state, [he was able to pass Senate Bill 126, formally recognizing both Lakota and Dakota as official languages in South Dakota.](#)



North Dakota state Rep. Ruth Buffalo



Up in North Dakota, Fargo Rep. Ruth Buffalo, the first Native woman ever elected in the state, [successfully passed six of her seven bills with bipartisan support](#), despite serving in the minority. Her victories have included increased coordination between law enforcement agencies working cases of missing and murdered indigenous women (#MMIW)—an ongoing issue affecting rural Native communities in epidemic numbers. Legislation was introduced in several states, and even the White House issued a statement in support of the issue.

Willie Grayeyes and Kenneth Maryboy

In San Juan County, Utah, a recent court decision breaking up the gerrymandered district helped local majority Navajos elect two of their own, Willie Grayeyes and Kenneth Maryboy, to the county commission. This race highlights the ongoing tension of minority-majority Native districts in rural America, in which white minorities use undemocratic institutional roadblocks to try and hold on to power.

[Because of their election, Grayeyes and Maryboy were able to move, for the first time in history, meetings to the Navajo reservation from the county seat located 71 miles away.](#)



Willie Grayeyes

Every elected official identifying as Native had to overcome significant hurdles either in running for elected office or while serving. It is still so rare to see Native people in elected office that I often hear Native people outside of South Dakota marvel that someone with my last name would ever have a chance of being elected.

Even with these gains, achieving true equity in proportion of representation with regard to the population size of Native Americans in the U.S. [would mean 2%, or 821](#) elected officials. Having 692 additional Native elected leaders would constitute a 667% increase over the number of current AIAN elected officials and elevate our voices at the local, state, and federal levels. This won't happen overnight, but we have some great community groups leading the fight to make these changes.

Looking forward to 2020, there will be even more opportunities to elect Native Americans to all levels of government. Thanks to the work of our community organizations such as [California Native Vote Project](#), [NM Native Vote](#), [Utah Dine Bikeyah](#), [Native Voices Network](#), [Native Peoples Action](#), [Four Directions](#), 7genleaders, and other groups, we will have the ability to make our story and involvement in the political process even more historic.

[Iowa's farmers – and American eaters – need a national discussion on transforming US agriculture](#)

Lisa Schulte Moore, Iowa State University

Investing in farming methods that improve lands and water, and in rural infrastructure and markets, could bring new prosperity to agricultural communities.