

**Journal #4439      from sdc      6.14.19**

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**And here's to all the  
wonderful uncles  
and godfathers also.**



**Saving speech By Dennis  
Myers**  
[dennism@newsreview.com](mailto:dennism@newsreview.com)

In its long history, the University of Nevada, Reno, has never given instruction in the local language. But that is changing. Northern Paiute is now a listed language in the language department.

“For years I was asking, ‘What do I need to do to get this class started?’ ... Every time enrollment came around, I would ask,” said Christina Thomas, who grew up on the Pyramid Lake Reservation.



She never really encountered objections at UNR and, in fact, found considerable support, but it takes time to mount a new course of study. Now that she has succeeded after four years of effort, Thomas won't be at UNR to take the class herself. She has just graduated and is going away to graduate school.

“I'm proficient, but I'm not fluent,” she said.

The course will be taught by a tribal elder. There has been some interest from people in other states who asked if the instruction can be taken online.

During a special census of the Pyramid Lake Reservation in 1997, within that single community there were found to be 60-plus fluent speakers of Northern Paiute, and, at the time, it was predicted that—given the age of the speakers—in 20 years the language would be extinct. Among all Paiutes, the picture is similar.

“In 2008, there was a study that was conducted, and, in that time, there was estimated less than 700 fluent speakers—and those people were over the age of 65,” Thomas said. “And that was in 2008, so I would estimate that there is probably less than half of that. In our area, we're getting down into the very few numbers of people that can speak fluently. Because they are over the age of 65, a lot of these people are elders and they're passing. And we're still trying to get our language, as best we can, written down because it was orally handed down, so we don't have a ton of materials. So that's why we're kind of in the predicament that we're in, trying to create and record elders as best we can because they're passing away before we can get everything documented.”

For a language that once had no written form, there may now be an embarrassment of riches. Long established Wycliffe Bible Translators, which produced a Northern Paiute New Testament, *Te Naa Besa Unnepu* developed a written Northern Paiute form that is used in a Reno Sparks

Indian Colony language program, a great asset at the time it was created. But the Wycliffe system tends to conflict in its vowels with a system used in the *Northern Paiute–Bannock Dictionary* compiled by three University of Nevada, Reno scholars and published by the University of Utah. Further, Thomas believes the International Phonetic Alphabet would be preferable, because its form makes clear *how* a language is spoken.

“We need to pull away from [other systems] and ... learn to write IPA because that will always make the same sound no matter,” she said. “If a linguist read it, he would be able to read it correctly. ... The tribes and people are trying to take one writing system that’s consistent so that, in the future, someone wouldn’t pick it up and not know how to read it.”

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**“The Tribes are taking a stand for  
their people, their culture, their water, and  
their future, but they also  
are taking a stand for YOU,”**  
—NARF Staff Attorney Natalie Landreth

On June 6, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals dismissed a case that sought to revoke the permit for TC Energy’s (TransCanada) Keystone XL (KXL) Pipeline. In that case, brought by a coalition of environmental organizations, the District Court had decided that the federal government did not follow the law when it issued its 2017 permit for the pipeline. The District Court blocked pipeline construction until the government and TC Energy met those legal requirements. All construction was stopped.

**After the District Court’s decision, President Trump took the extraordinary step of revoking the original KXL permit issued by the State Department and issuing a new permit himself. If the President’s goal was to avoid complying with the District Court’s decision in that case, it worked.** With the original permit revoked, the Ninth Circuit yesterday decided to dismiss as moot the case based on that original permit. The injunction blocking KXL construction has now been lifted.

However, for the Tribes, the KXL fight is just beginning. The Fort Belknap Indian Community and the Rosebud Sioux Tribe, represented by the Native American Rights Fund, have separately sued TC Energy and President Trump—[\*Rosebud Sioux Tribe v. Trump\*](#).

**Regardless of the new permit and political maneuvering, the President is required to honor the treaties and the Constitution. And TC Energy still must abide by federal and tribal law.** The case is now up to the Tribes, and they will not allow a foreign company to break American law, take land that does not belong to them, ignore the voices and laws of the tribal citizens, and destroy an aquifer that feeds millions of Americans. [See the related statement from Rosebud Sioux Tribe President Bordeaux.](#)

“People must understand that the Ogallala Aquifer that this pipeline will cross covers 8 states and waters 30 percent of American crops. It is the largest underground water source in the United States. And the President and TC Energy would like to run a pipeline of highly toxic, cancer-causing sludge called ‘tar sands’ right through it. The Tribes are taking a stand for their people, their culture, their water, and their future, but they also are taking a stand for YOU,” said [NARF Staff Attorney Natalie Landreth](#).

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## What if they had an election and nobody came?

Well, almost nobody. **Turnout for Las Vegas elections Tuesday did top 10 percent** – so it's only the third worst ever turnout. Shea Johnson has numbers and the antidote, signed by Gov. Steve Sisolak...

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## **California and Water: Half Environmental Nightmare, Half Remarkable Success Story** **By Gary Krist, New York Times, 6/12/19**

When delegates to the second International Irrigation Congress convened in Los Angeles in October 1893, pessimism about their mission was not supposed to be on the agenda. The gathering, after all, was meant to encourage reclamation of arid lands throughout the American West, using irrigation to transform an immense wasteland into an agriculturally productive cornucopia. Thus the reaction when John Wesley Powell rose and delivered his now-famous caveat about the limits of development in the region. "Gentlemen," he told the delegates in the Grand Opera House, "there is not sufficient water to supply these lands." The gentlemen responded by booing the esteemed explorer off the stage.

### **OPINION: What is sustainable groundwater management?**

By Erin Maker, Coastal View, 6/12/19

Someone recently asked me about the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) and how it will affect our community. I didn't have an immediate answer for that, since I am still learning about it. But it seemed like a good opportunity to dive into the world of groundwater management and review the history that has led us to the SGMA. I would still refer technical questions of sustainable groundwater management to the very knowledgeable folks over at the Carpinteria Valley Water District. Groundwater is the water found below the Earth's surface, stored in geologic formations called aquifers. This water comes from rainfall percolating into the ground. People have been relying upon groundwater for thousands of years for water supply, but in much smaller quantities.

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## **Facing fears - The Courage Project**    By **Mark Earnest**

The Courage Project operates from June 17 to Sept. 15 around Lake Tahoe. Details at [courageproject.org](http://courageproject.org).

Brie Moore, a local doctor of child psychology and the founder of the Courage Project, shared the story of one boy in her program who had a life-changing experience. Living with many worries and fears, as well as struggles to manage reactions with his family at home, he was enrolled in the project's paddle-boarding program, one of several outdoor adventures used by the Courage Project to foster coping skills.

During the session, the boy and his volunteer talked about how fear and doubt gets in the way of life and how the only way to face fears is head-on.

"They talked about the feelings of falling in the cold water, or his fear of looking stupid, really just ticking off his fears one-by-one," Moore said of the paddle-boarding session. "After that, he

was willing to open up more emotionally about the struggles he was having, because he recently moved to the area. So, our great courage coach told him to be more like the water, more flexible, in life.”

This story, and others, speak to the Courage Project’s goals—to take away the stigma of anxiety and depression in children, and to do this through outdoor activities that inspire and encourage emotional growth. The programs are for children who may experience anxiety and depression, difficult transitions in life, social struggles, perfectionism or emotional withdrawal.

In its one-year existence, as The Courage Project has doubled the number of half-days that its summer programs are available. It includes paddle-boarding, outdoor rock climbing and mountain biking for children ages 9-13, and outdoor yoga for children ages 6-13.

It’s also offered for free and is run by volunteer instructors, all experienced in outdoor activities as well as working with children. The equipment used, as well as the venues where the programs take place, have been donated by area businesses.

Seeing the sheer number of children who needed some type of mental health support in the pre-teen years is what drove Moore to start the project.

“What the research has been telling us for decades is that children best learn through play and problem solving,” Moore said. “We want to use the amazing outdoor environment at Lake Tahoe as a vehicle for teaching evidence-based coping skills through these adventures.”

It’s also a way to shed light on fostering more youth mental health programs.

“It’s creating a dialog about mental health with families, and the community, to talk about children who are struggling with anxiety and depression,” Moore said. “People can suffer alone and in silence, and they don’t realize that they have community support behind them.”

That support extends to the group’s 100-plus volunteer base. “We’re always looking for individuals who have expertise and experience with children,” Moore said. “We love people who also have found peace in the outdoors and through challenging adventures—and people who practice mindfulness in their own lives.”

As for the future, Moore is working for more donations and grants to keep the Courage Project afloat, plus there is the planning for winter events such as skiing and snowshoeing. She’s also getting the word out to school counselors, mental health caregivers and pediatricians so they can offer this as an option for children in need.

As Moore points out, the “courage” in the group’s name goes beyond the courage to get on a paddle board or bike up a mountain: “It’s the courage to be your authentic self.

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### **Can’t we all get along – Yucca Mountain version**

Nuclear waste gridlock isn’t exactly a solution. Former acting director of Civilian Radioactive Management Luke Barrett proclaimed, “The federal government has to acknowledge the strengths of Nevada, engage with them and try to work out the issues.” Gary Martin was there...





**Geronimo and the Japanese were imprisoned there. Now Fort Sill will hold migrant children — again.**  
washingtonpost.com

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**Stewart Father's Day Pow Wow** June 14 - 16, 2019 travelnevada.com  
Drum beats of traditional Pow Wow connect hearts, renew spirit through...

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**Woman in Mexico creates plastic from cactus that biodegrades in a month and is safe to ingest.**reddit.com

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*“In the midst of winter, I found there was, within me, an invincible summer.*

*And that makes me happy. For it says that no matter how hard the world pushes against me, within me, there’s something stronger – something better, pushing right back.”*

*– Albert Camus*

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- **How Much Nature Is Enough? 120 Minutes a Week, Doctors Say: Researchers have now quantified the ideal amount of time needed to reap the health benefits of the great outdoors.** (NYT \$)

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**Honoring the Outdoors - Fort McDermitt Paiute Shoshone Tribes**

A glimpse into how climate change is affecting the Fort McDermitt Paiute Shoshone Tribes in southern... youtube.com



reddit.com

## **In Historic First, Nebraska Farmer Returns Land to Ponca Tribe Along “Trail of Tears”**By [Mark Hefflinger](#)

WATCH: Nebraska farmers Helen & [Art Tanderup](#) sign a deed gifting a piece of their land back to the Ponca Tribe, alongside [Ponca Tribe of Nebraska](#) Chairman Larry Wright, Jr., and Ponca Nation of Oklahoma Councilwoman Casey Camp-Horinek. The 1.6 acres lies both on the historic Ponca "Trail of Tears," and the route of the proposed Keystone XL tarsands export pipeline.

The land has for the past five years also nurtured Sacred Ponca Corn, restored to ancestral homeland after 137 years, planted and harvested by hand by the Ponca, farmers and ranchers, and everyday Nebraskans.

MORE DETAILS: <http://boldnebraska.org/in-historic-first-nebraska-farmer-r...>

In a first-of-its-kind ceremony on June 10th near Neligh, a Nebraska farmer signed a deed returning ancestral tribal land back to the Ponca Tribe — sacred land that lies on the historic Ponca “Trail of Tears.” (From left: Ponca Tribe of Nebraska Chairman Larry Wright, Jr., Ponca Nation of Oklahoma Councilwoman Casey Camp-Horinek, Nebraska landowners Helen and Art Tanderup. Photo: Alex Matzke / Bold Nebraska)



**Indonesian president hands over management of forests to indigenous people -**  
CIFOR Forests News                      [forestsnews.cifor.org](http://forestsnews.cifor.org)

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## **A Major Humanitarian Issue: Feeding All the Hungry Brains and Bodies**

Malnutrition-related growth impairment affects almost a quarter of the world's child-population and is listed as one of the key drivers of intergenerational poverty. In addition to physical signs such as lack of proper body development, the major problem lies in impaired brain development linked to stunting.

In a case study of Guatemala, it was found that nearly half the child-population was malnourished, **with some Mayan villages seeing nearly seventy percent of their children suffering from it.** Studies find that malnourished children do less well in school, and the mental impairment is visible in brain scans.

Billions of I.Q. points are lost due to malnutrition, meaning that the greatest untapped resource of the 21st century isn't oil or gold, it's the minds of malnourished, unhealthy children. Malnutrition has been recorded as the underlying cause of forty-five percent of deaths in children under the age of five, and yet less than one percent of global foreign assistance is directed at fighting and addressing undernutrition – a phenomenon coined as the “45 percent-1 percent disconnect.” Nutrition programs are extremely inexpensive and often one of the most cost-effective ways to fight global poverty. (NYT \$)



- **2019 Legislative Wrap-up from the Sierra Club**
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- Because you elected environmental champions in 2018, then encouraged them through the session, they enacted several Sierra Club priorities, including:
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- A renewable energy standard that requires utilities in Nevada to provide 50% renewable energy by 2030, with a goal of 100% by 2050;
- 
- More than \$200 million in conservation funding to lands, parks and restoration across the state;
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- An Office of Outdoor Recreation to develop Nevada's outdoor recreation economy while stewarding our natural resources;
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- Funding for school gardens and electric school buses;
- and so much more [Click here to read more.](#) *(A “must read”.....sdc)*

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The US Air Force continues its push to expand Nevada Test and Training Range (an active bombing range) across 75% of the Desert National Wildlife Refuge. Desert is the Lower 48's largest wildlife refuge, set aside in 1936 to protect desert bighorn sheep and other wildlife.

The fight now goes to Congress.

Bighorn sheep and other wildlife don't have a voice in this decision. They need your help to save them. Please support this today. We'll be developing this campaign over the coming months, and you help make us stronger!

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For more than a year, Reno staff and hundreds of volunteers have worked to draft a Sustainability & Climate Action Plan (CAP) to make Reno more sustainable and climate resilient. Now the CAP is scheduled to come before the Planning Commission and City Council for approval. Your comments and support helped make this happen!

Reno is taking bold steps toward climate action. Please contact your City Council members or the Planning Commission in support of this plan. In-person support at the meetings would also be very helpful.

- June 19, Reno Planning Commission. For more information [click here](#).
- July 24, Reno City Council for adoption. The Plan and staff report will be posted one week prior to the meeting [on this site here](#).

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The Tahoe Keys are infested with Eurasian milfoil, a pernicious and aggressive weed that threatens the entire lake.

If uncontrolled, the weed threatens to spread elsewhere in the lake. The Tahoe Regional Planning Agency is hosting a series of public forums on the issue

**Tues., June 25, 5-7 p.m.**  
Lahontan Regional Water Quality  
Control Board Annex Building  
971 Silver Dollar Ave.  
South Lake Tahoe, CA

**Wed., June 26, 9:30 a.m.**  
TRPA Governing Board Meeting  
Tahoe Regional Planning Agency  
128 Market St.  
Stateline, NV

**Tues., July 16, 5-7 p.m.**  
North Tahoe Events Center  
8318 North Lake Blvd.  
Kings Beach, CA



[CBC Nunavut](#)

This is 6 year old Pituaq Okalik. She graduated from Kindergarten in Rankin Inlet. Asked what inspired her look, she said "because It makes me feel Inuk!" Thank you to her mother Delphine Shouldice for sharing her photo!