

## **Journal #4441      6.18.19**

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*Scientists discovered a mushroom that eats plastic, and believe it could clean our landfills*

*Arctic Permafrost Melting 70 Years Sooner Than Expected, Study Finds*

*Climate Change Is the Symptom. Consumer Culture Is the Disease.*

*The Army is returning more remains of Native American children to their families*

*Indians of All Tribes celebrates 50th anniversary of Alcatraz takeover*

*I Say No to Frac-Sand Mining Near My Home -- for Myself and the Planet*

*Supreme Court Ruling on Census Could Deal Grave Blow to Democracy*

*We Are Witnessing Imperial Decline in an Age of Planetary Decline*

*Unauthorized pumping investigation doesn't stop Nestlé from making billions on national forest water*

*More opportunities to host international students*

***ACTION NEEDED BEFORE 6.20.19 - COMMENT TO STATE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION***

*Deora McCann Carrera*

shayne del cohen Today, 8:17 AM



### **147-year-old 'finders keepers' mining law threatens Tlingit**

Will a 147-year-old mining law cause the destruction of one of the last centers of Tlingit culture in Alaska? The Tlingit President of the Chilkat Indian Village of Klukwan, Kimberly Strong, says not on her watch. Article by Frank Hopper  
[Read more](#) newsmaven.io

**National Congress of American Indians picks Kevin Allis as its first chief executive**  
by [Jourdan Bennett-Begaye](#)

President: ‘We are fortunate to benefit from Kevin’s considerable expertise and look forward to working together to protect and advance tribal sovereignty’

Kevin Allis will be the first ever chief executive officer for the National Congress of American Indians. The organization and its executive committee said they interviewed many candidates for the position, but Allis stood out.



“As we embark on a new chapter with the hiring of our first CEO, we are pleased to welcome Kevin Allis to the National Congress of American Indians. We are fortunate to benefit from Kevin’s considerable expertise and look forward to working together to protect and advance tribal sovereignty,” said Jefferson Keel, president of the organization.

The role is the first for the organization as the previous title was executive director, which was held by Jacqueline Pata for 18 years. The organization’s longest-serving executive director. She resigned in February but remained on the job until May to help the organization with the transition.

(Previous story: [NCAI’s former director continues career by leading Indian housing program](#))

Allis, citizen of the Forest County Potawatomi Community in Wisconsin, brings leadership experience and a legal background to the organization.

He was executive director of the Native American Contractors Association from 2012 to 2015. Allis also served as chairman of Potawatomi Business Development Corporation’s board of directors for more than 10 years.

“I am sincerely humbled by the honor to lead this organization, and appreciate the opportunity and challenge to continue the great work of this historic organization in strengthening tribal sovereignty and safeguarding our traditions and customs for generations to come,” he said.

Leadership seems to run in his family. His mother grew up in the Forest County Potawatomi Community in northern Wisconsin. His grandfather and great-grandfather were the tribal chairman.

He was a police officer at the Baltimore Police Department for 8 years before attending and completing law school at the University of Baltimore. In 2016, Allis obtained a certificate in executive development from the Harvard Business School [Executive Education](#).

The attorney worked at Kollman & Saucier for four years and PillieroMazza for another four. At both law firms, he focused on labor and employment.

He is also the founder and president of Thunderbird Strategic, a “nationally recognized legislative advocacy firm” in Washington, D.C.. The firm has been around since 2015. Allis is simultaneously a member on the board of directors for Commerce State Bank.

Allis will be formally introduced at the organization’s mid-year conference at the end of this month in Sparks, Nevada.

**Previous stories: [Who will be next? ‘One of the hardest jobs in the world,’ leading the National Congress of American Indians](#)**

- [National Congress of American Indians put Exec. Director on administrative leave](#) (October 21, 2018)
- [NCAI Executive Director resigns](#) (February 19, 2019)
- [NCAI ponders next steps after executive director Jacqueline Pata resigns](#) (February 21, 2019)

*Jourdan Bennett-Begaye, Diné, is a reporter/producer for Indian Country Today in Washington, D.C. Follow her on Twitter - [@jourdanbb](#). Email - [jbennett-begaye@indiancountrytoday.com](mailto:jbennett-begaye@indiancountrytoday.com).*

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## **Groundwork Is Laid for Opioids Settlement That Would Touch Every Corner of U.S. By JAN HOFFMAN**

Each locality in the country, from small towns to major cities, would receive a payout in a settlement with the companies who made, distributed and sold opioids.  
*(Where are tribes in this picture? sdc)*

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## **GrantStation**

### **National Opportunities**

#### **Support for Environmental Justice Capacity Building Efforts**

The Center for Health, Environment and Justice (CHEJ) is a leading resource for grassroots environmental activism, with a vision for clean, green neighborhoods nationwide.

#### **Rural Design Workshops and Training Opportunities Offered**

The Citizens’ Institute on Rural Design (CIRD) is intended to empower local citizens to capitalize on unique local and regional assets in order to guide the civic development and future design of their own communities.

### **ATV Safety and Trail Access Programs Funded**

The T.R.A.I.L.S. Grant Program, an initiative of Polaris Industries, provides support to national, state, and local organizations in the United States to ensure the future of ATV riding.

### **Grants Strengthen Grassroots Community Organizing for Social Justice**

Life Comes From It is a grantmaking circle that supports grassroots movement-building work rooted in lived experience and relationships for restorative justice, transformative justice, and indigenous peacemaking

## **Regional Opportunities**

### **Organizations Serving Arizona Youth and Military Members Supported**

The Arizona Coyotes Foundation seeks to enhance the quality of life throughout Arizona communities by supporting nonprofit organizations that provide services to children and service men and women.

### **Funds for Organizations Advancing Racial Justice in Maine**

Maine Initiatives cultivates social, economic, and environmental justice through grants and other support to grassroots nonprofit organizations in Maine communities.

### **Grants Promote Historic Preservation and Wildlife Rehabilitation in Oregon**

The mission of the Kinsman Foundation is to encourage the enjoyment of life through traditional Oregonian and American values.

### **Support for Senior Services in Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, and DC**

Impact1890—A National Lutheran Program provides grants to nonprofit organizations, including congregations and community-based programs, that support seniors aging in place in Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, and Washington, DC.

## **Federal Opportunities**

### **Humanities Projects Funded**

The Public Humanities Projects program supports projects that bring the ideas and insights of the humanities to life for general audiences through in-person programming.

### **Support Available for Downtown Housing Projects**

The HOPE VI Main Street Program provides grants to small communities to assist in the renovation of historic or traditional central business districts, or "Main Street" areas, by replacing unused, obsolete commercial space in buildings with affordable housing units.

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### **Benioff Ocean Initiative: Cutting River Plastic Waste**

The Benioff Ocean Initiative is a center for applied ocean research based at the University of California Santa Barbara which aims to leverage the power of research to solve ocean problems and inspire the replication of these successes. The Cutting River Plastic Waste request for proposals will provide a total of \$3 million to support one interdisciplinary team in the implementation of a river plastic waste intervention pilot project. [Learn more](#) about the funding guidelines and application process.

### Council Advocacy Helps Restore Calbright Funding

Funding for the California Online Community College District (Calbright College) has been restored after a strong advocacy campaign that the Bay Area Council helped push. The 2019-20 state budget included \$20 million in operations funding over the next seven years and \$100 million to build out the program. However, a proposal in the state Assembly would have stripped out all but \$5 million of the operations funding and half of the startup funding. The Council partnered with The Institute for College Access and Success in a campaign to maintain the full funding. The Council was an early advocate for creating Calbright College, which offers a fast, focused and free opportunity for underemployed working adults to upskill and obtain better jobs.

[READ MORE](#)

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### Gabriel Ayala raises awareness for MMIW at Diamondbacks game

June 1st, Gabriel Ayala posted to his [Facebook page](#) photos of him on the Diamondback baseball field at Chase Field in Phoenix AZ.

He was asked to sing the National Anthem and at the end flipped his guitar to raise awareness for MMIW.



"When I was done performing the National Anthem in front of over 40,000 people in attendance and televised across the US I stood in solidarity in support of the MMIW(Murdered Missing Indigenous Women) across turtle island." [Read More](#)

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najanewsroom.com

### [New York Times seeks Indigenous opinion submissions](#)

The New York Times Opinion desk is seeking submissions from NAJA...  
[First Nation's Focus](#)

VIDEO: Check it out! We caught up with [Jack Malotte](#) at the opening celebration of "Sagebrush Heathen: The Art of Jack Malotte" at the [Nevada Museum of Art](#). See Malotte's reaction to the display and learn what influences his work. Read [Kaleb Martin Roedel](#)'s story on Malotte's career as an artist and activist here: <https://bit.ly/2XJaJBH>

Watch together with a group or with friends     [Start Watch Party](#)

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<https://www.powwows.com/defend-sacred-new-documentary-produced-adam-beach-kyle-bell/?fbclid=IwAR2GPRexrezjfe0fnPsPoGVFsmHA8pgHLzMgYyZCiRjGhqJaJ2aezCBDPDM>

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### **[Environmentalists Sue Trump Administration for Failing to Protect Threatened Alaska Seal Habitat](#)**     *Associated Press*

Excerpt: "An environmental group sued the Trump administration Thursday for failing to designate critical habitat for two species of seals that rely on sea ice off Alaska's northwest coast."     [READ MORE](#)

### **[Oh Dear: Photos Show What Humans Have Done To The Planet](#)**

Some scientists say we've entered a new geological epoch — the anthropocene era — defined by the human impact on the global landscape. Three artists traveled to 22 countries to see what we've wrought.

Read in NPR: <https://apple.news/A9FwptaivRreP3YJpQMeeiA>

Federal watchdog opens inquiry into EPA handling of Minnesota PolyMet pollution permit  
<http://strib.mn/2RhZDRI>

**Scientists discovered a mushroom that eats plastic, and believe it could clean our landfills.**

What if this rare mushroom is a solution to the earth's plastic problem?



### **[Arctic Permafrost Melting 70 Years Sooner Than Expected, Study Finds](#)**

*Jan Wesner Childs, The Weather Channel*

Childs writes: "Scientists studying climate change expected layers of permafrost in the Canadian Arctic to melt by the year 2090."     [READ MORE](#)



### [Climate Justice Alliance](#)

To liberate the soil and to liberate our souls we must decolonize our imaginations, remember our way forward and divorce ourselves from the comforts of empire. ...[See More](#)

### [Climate Change Is the Symptom. Consumer Culture Is the Disease.](#)

[newrepublic.com](#)

### [Bixi Nibe](#)

We claim ALL our children in our prayers, from 1492 to today, the over 20 thousand taken at the U.S./Mexico border and the unborn yet to come. All taken for being children of color. From the Amerikkkas, to Africa and the Middle East! From Yemen, to Palestine, from Alaska to Tierra del Fuego, from the Ainu in Japan to India. Light in our path!!!

### [The Army is returning more remains of Native American children to their families a century after they died at...](#)

[taskandpurpose.com](#)

### [Indians of All Tribes celebrates 50th anniversary of Alcatraz takeover](#)

[indianz.com](#)

### [Veterans With PTSD Find Relief in Native American Rituals](#)

[voanews.com](#)

"They say something happens there."



### [I Say No to Frac-Sand Mining Near My Home -- for Myself and the Planet](#)

DEAN BAKER, TRUTHOUT

A start-up mining company, Southern Red Sands LLC, has plans to set up a frac-sand mining operation in the hills just above Kanab, Utah, where it would be cheaper to mine frac sand. Given the damage that fossil fuel burning is doing to the planet, we should all want to raise the cost of fracking as much as possible. [Read the Article](#)

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*Nitrate pollution in U.S. drinking water, which could be linked to more than 12,000 cancer cases annually, according to a new study published in the journal Environmental Research.*

shayne del cohen Today, 8:17 AM

**Our Generation BlackHills-  
He Sapa Wicouncage Okolakiciye  
POW Camp #344**

**text is controversial**

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**Supreme Court Ruling on Census  
Could Deal Grave Blow to  
Democracy**

MARJORIE COHN, TRUTHOUT  
The Supreme Court is poised to decide two cases that could prove devastating to the right to vote -- the very foundation of a democracy. One will review the Trump administration's attempt to add a citizenship question to the 2020 census. The other will determine whether partisan gerrymandering is constitutional.

[Read the Article →](#)

**We Are Witnessing Imperial  
Decline in an Age of Planetary  
Decline**

TOM ENGELHARDT, TOMDISPATCH

Never before in history has the rise and decline of imperial powers taken place in the context of the decline of the planet itself. Call it Trump warming if you want, but grasp one thing: Increasingly, you're in a different land and, whatever happens to Donald Trump, the results down the line are likely to be ever less pretty. [Read the Article →](#)

Native Americans during the Jim Crow era had to obtain a pass from the federal government just to leave the reservation and see the outside world. They couldn't even have visitors unless the government first granted them a pass, too. Nobody was immune, not even the President



**Unauthorized pumping investigation doesn't stop Nestlé from making billions on national forest water**

<https://www.dailykos.com/story/2019/6/13/1864578/-Unauthorized-pumping-investigation-doesn-t-stop-Nestle-from-making-billions-on-national-forest-water>

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**NNIC Hosts New Program for University Students from Colombia, Poland, Bangladesh and Malaysia. Home Hosts Needed for a Weekend**

NNIC is hosting the Study of the U.S. Institutes (SUSI) for Student Leaders on the Rule of Law and Public Service in Reno this Summer, at the University of Nevada, Reno. SUSI on the Rule of Law and Public Service is a program sponsored by the U.S. Department of State with funding provided by the U.S. Government, and in honor of the late Senator John McCain.

It is an intensive academic program for 20 undergraduate students from four countries (Poland-Colombia- Malaysia-Bangladesh). While here, students study leadership, judicial process, and



project-planning and participate in volunteer and service activities, leadership workshops, and cultural excursions.

Would you, or someone you know, like to host an international college student for a weekend this Summer? We seek short term (June 28th -June 30th) home-hosts for our SUSI students. You will have the opportunity to learn about new cultures, share your culture and family tradition, and form lasting friendships and memories.

For more information/sign up, please contact Program Coordinator Nilufer Leuthold at [nleuthold@nnic.org](mailto:nleuthold@nnic.org).

**Dinner Diplomacy: The new name for IVLP delegation dinners formerly called home hospitality.**

- A delegation of five prosecutors and judges from South Africa are looking for a diplomacy dinner July 18, 19 or 20.
- A delegation of three prosecutors protecting victim's rights from Kosovo is looking for a diplomacy dinner July 19, 20 or 21.
- A delegation of 17 intellectual property rights officials from China are looking for a diplomacy dinner on July 21, 22, or 23.
- A delegation of six women politicians and government officials from Indonesia are looking for a diplomacy dinner on August 1, 2, 3 or 4.
- Fulbright Drive By Dinner - August 14, Wednesday. It's that time of year again for the Fulbright Drive by dinner! This year NNIC is hosting 80 Fulbright Scholars earning their Masters or Ph.Ds in the U.S. are looking to be hosted for dinner in an American family's home. Similar to years past, please contact Dr. Carina Black at [cblack@unr.edu](mailto:cblack@unr.edu) if you'd like to host Fulbright scholars on August 14. Please indicate how many scholars you'd like to host and how many can fit in your car, or if you need transportation. We will randomly assign the scholars to each host. Hosts can pick up their scholars at the Reno Renaissance Hotel at One South Lake Street, Reno, NV 89501 at 6:30pm.

**(Repeating)**

**ACTION NEEDED BEFORE JUNE 20, 2019**

**COMMENT TO STATE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

**The Nevada Division of Environmental Protection is attempting to deny our right to fully appeal a mining permit.** If approved by the Commission it will set a dangerous precedent for all future mine and other environmental permitting. Please send a comment letter (*best by email*) to the Commission, Attention: Valerie King.

Regarding: NDEP motion to dismiss GBRW appeal of Mt Hope Moly mine Water Pollution Control Permit

email: [vking@ndep.nv.gov](mailto:vking@ndep.nv.gov) fax: (775) 687-5856

State of Nevada, Division of Natural Resources, State Environmental Commission  
901 South Stewart Street, Suite 4001 Carson City, NV 89701-5249

**You can also come to the hearing.** (The continued prehearing conference will be held on June 20, 2019, beginning at 9:30 a.m. in the Tahoe Conference Room (second floor) of the Richard H. Bryan Building, 901 South Stewart Street, Carson City)  
**link to State Environmental Commission:** [http://www.sec.nv.gov/main/appeal\\_0219.htm](http://www.sec.nv.gov/main/appeal_0219.htm)

**Please let us know if you were able to send a comment to the Commission**

### **Background on the Mine and Actions to Date:**

GBRW has been involved with the federal and state-level permit processes for proposed Mt Hope Molybdenum mine since 2007. We have a number of concerns with the mine plan, its proposed water use, and its effects on the community, many of which will be irreversible. A little background: about the project: [This would be an enormous mine.](#)

- 1.7 billion tons of waste rock would be produced by the end of the 32-year mine life and 1.0 billion tons of tailings will be produced by the end of the 44 years of ore processing. Waste rock would almost encircle the open pit at a total height ranging from 750 feet to 950 feet.
- Mining the open pit would result in an excavation of approximately 2,300 feet below the existing water table, which would be approximately 2,640 feet beneath the natural surface. The pit lake that is anticipated to form is expected to fill slowly and eventually be over 1,100 feet deep. Water quality in the pit lake is predicted to exceed federal and state water quality standards for a number of pollutants.

#### The mine will have a very large effect on the region.

- Pump groundwater at a rate of 11,250 to 12,050 afy (acre-feet per year) would be equivalent to 3.92 billion gallons per year. With the predicted pumping to last roughly 43 years, this means that, in total, up to 168.8 billion gallons of water will be removed from the Mt. Hope area by the project's dewatering.
- As a result of this dewatering, the Final EIS predicts that "22 springs two perennial stream segments (Roberts Creek and Henderson Creek) and portions of four intermittent and ephemeral stream drainages" are within the area where at least a ten-foot drop in the water level will occur (the 10-foot drawdown cone).

#### Given the geochemistry at the site toxic drainage is likely to require treatment for hundreds of years.

- Existing analysis presented in the Final EIS shows that 29% of the samples to be net acid generating and another 16% in the questionable category, so the conservative approach would be to assume that 45% or almost half could be acid forming to various extents.

GBRW concluded its 26-page comment letter to NDEP on the permit renewal with the following statement:

"GBRW considers the proposed Mt. Hope Mine a serious community and environmental risk to the region, and illegal under Nevada law. The amount of acid generating rock at the site is underestimated, which makes the waste rock management plan invalid at the outset. In addition, our analysis indicates considerable acidic discharge even if EML's waste rock characterization is correct. The time frame of the discharge is expected to be long-term with no end date for treatment i.e. perpetuity treatment. It is critical that Nevada does not allow a mine to be permitted where this potential for perpetuity treatment exists.

Groundwater monitoring is also likely to be inadequate to intercept all possible drainage containing elevated levels contaminants.

The pit lake analysis presented in the WPCP application and the FEIS even taken at face value does show that the pit lake will contain elevated constituents. The FEIS found that the initial pit lake water quality is predicted to meet Nevada water quality standards. However, as evaporation from the pit lake concentrates dissolves minerals, some water quality affecting concentrations are predicted to increase relative to baseline conditions and to exceed Nevada water quality standards. Similarly, the Fact Sheet (p 26) states that "concentrations of antimony, cadmium, and manganese are predicted to be above Profile I reference values."

Assumptions contained in the pit lake development model are likely to be in error, resulting in a significant

underestimation of the constituent load in the pit lake. We have also pointed to evidence that supports a possible “flow through” characteristic in the earlier stages of pit lake filling, which would be a violation of state law by degrading groundwater.

GBRW cannot at this time support WPCP NEV2008106. In our view the mine plan is poorly conceived and significant revisions will be needed to address the concerns raised here and avoid violations of Nevada state law. - GBRW, June 23, 2018

We have won an appeal against the mine in the Ninth Circuit Federal Appeals Court, so the company, Eureka Moly LLC (EML, subsidiary of General Moly.) does not have a federal permit. BLM has issued a Supplemental DEIS to correct the errors in the original EIS that we challenged. The state of Nevada also issued a notice to renew the Water Pollution Control Permit for the yet to be developed mine last year. GBRW has submitted comment on the Supplemental DEIS, and is appealing the WPCP on the grounds that the state is allowing an inadequately characterized mine to go forward. Our analysis indicates more acid mine drainage and an ill-prepared management plan for this drainage, and a much more toxic pit lake. The state has accepted the analysis from the contractor paid by EML, and we are challenging the analysis.

#### **Background on the Motion to dismiss.**

GBRW has significant concerns regarding the proposed Mt Hope Molybdenum mine just northwest of Eureka, NV. When the Water Pollution Control Permit (WPCP) was out for review last year GBRW submitted extensive comments. The Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP, the agency) issued a final notice of decision on the permit, and GBRW still had serious unresolved concerns with the permit. Thus, we appealed the permit as allowed under Nevada law; an issue is ripe for appeal once the agency’s final decision is rendered (NRS 233B.130; NAC 445B.890.1). However, the agency has filed a motion stating that our challenge is not “legally ripe” even though the agency has issued a Notice of Decision on the permit. What the agency is essentially asking is that it be allowed to issue its permit, notice its “Decision” and then argue against their own data or findings to assert that the Commission should wait until more data comes in. If granted by the Commission the permitting for the mine will effectively be split with some aspects of the mine only appealable after the mine is allowed to begin construction.

The state is arguing that better data will be available after the mine operation begins and excavates near the water table. At that time the analysis we are challenging will be redone, and then we could appeal the result of the revised analysis and associated mining components, primarily the water quality of the pit lake.

We see the agency’s motion as a dangerous precedent to go before the Commission. If the Commission agrees with NDEP, then any environmental permit could be subject to this bifurcation, and not just for mines. This principle could be applied to any project where environmental consequences could be argued to be better determined when additional data is gathered as the project goes forward. For example, a project could be divided into development stages and argue that data acquired at the earlier stage will inform an updated analysis of the later stages and associated effects on the environment. Whereby, the full extent of the project would not be appealable at the point of project approval, only the initial stage. GBRW has argued that once the project is started it maybe too late to address substantive effects on the environment, and a later appeal is unlikely to achieve any significant changes to the project let alone cancellation of the permit. This is akin to mitigation after the fact.

A three person panel of the Commission will hear arguments on the motion in a prehearing conference scheduled for 9:30 AM on June 20th at the Division of Natural Resources. Support of our position during the public comment portion of the conference will be helpful in underscoring the significance and implications of the agency’s motion and the need to dismiss it. Hopefully, the three-member panel will reject the agency’s motion. However, if they support the agency’s motion, then the next step will be

district court.

## *A CELEBRATION OF LIFE*



*Deora (McCann) Carrera*  
*December 15, 1927- June 10, 2019*

Saturday June 22, 2019 at 11 a.m.

Yerington Paiute Tribal Gym,  
171 Campbell Lane, Yerington

Following the Gravesite services at YPT cemetery,  
a potluck luncheon will immediately follow at the  
Community Center.