

Journal #4534 from sdc 3.13.20

Las Vegas Pipeline - Victory as Court Rules Against SNWA Appeal

And the coronavirus strikes

Government watchdog trump hasn't justified blm move

13th Annual American Indian Education Summit

Mexican Women Plan Historic Strike Against Femicides

Conflicts Over Indigenous Land Grow More Violent in Central America

9th International Conference on the History of Records and Archives

Best Practices Exchange Now Open-Sustaining and Maintaining Digital Initiatives

Funding Opportunities - Archives/Records Management

How a Remote Nevada Town Became a Bastion of Basque Culture

Humans Have Been Taking Out Insurance Policies for at Least 30,000 Years

The Resilience of Native Quilts

Story as Sustenance

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"extinct" to "prolific": How landowner's vision saved an extinct desert fish and other desert animals



[Great Basin Water Network](http://greatbasinwater.org/gbwn_press_release0320.htm)

Here is our official statement. It takes a community to achieve a milestone like this.http://greatbasinwater.org/gbwn_press_release0320.htm

**Las Vegas Pipeline Opponents Claim Victory as Court Rules Against Appeal
Southern Nevada Water Authority Fails to Convince Judge**

Baker, Nev — In yet another victory in court for the Great Basin Water Network and White Pine County, Nevada’s Seventh Judicial District Court Judge Robert Estes has denied an appeal by the Southern Nevada Water Authority — invalidating water rights for the Las Vegas water grab and pipeline.

The proposed 300-mile pipeline would siphon billions of gallons of groundwater per year from remote basins in Eastern Nevada, piping it to Las Vegas to feed green lawns, golf courses, and sprawl development. The resultant declines in the water table would decimate hundreds of springs, thousands of acres of wetlands, and impact Great Basin National Park and numerous National Wildlife Refuges.

Residents of Eastern Nevada and lovers of the Great Basin have been fighting the pipeline proposal for over 30 years. The Great Basin Water Network has partnered with White Pine County to fight the project in court, represented by public interest water attorney Simeon Herskovits with Advocates for Community and Environment.

“Judge Estes saw clearly through the various subterfuges and false reasoning advanced by both SNWA and the State Engineer, and he systematically ruled against them on every significant point in contention,” said Herskovits. “In our view, the rigor and care in [Judge Estes’s ruling](#) makes it highly unlikely that any part of this ruling would be subject to reversal on appeal. Under any reasonable reading, this powerful ruling should sound the death knell for this fatally misguided and potentially devastating groundwater export proposal.”

The Southern Nevada Water Authority’s pipeline proposal has lost repeatedly in both state and federal courts. In 2013, Judge Estes remanded the water rights applications back to the Nevada Division of Water Resources, finding many conflicts under the law. Following through on the remand, in 2018, the Division denied the water rights applications. Southern Nevada Water Authority then appealed the remand, resulting in today’s order from Judge Estes.

Additionally, in 2017 a [federal district court judge remanded portions](#) of the federal Environmental Impact Statement for the pipeline’s right of way back to BLM, finding it insufficient in its proposed mitigation measures and suggesting that some impacts may not be mitigated.

“SNWA has no right-of-way for the pipeline and no rights to water with which to fill the pipeline,” said Kyle Roerink, GBWN executive director. “This project is dead in the water. It’s time for SNWA to finally move on.”

The Great Basin Water Network was formed to protect the water resources of the Great Basin for current and future residents – human, animal and plant.

Kyle Roerink, Executive Director, Great Basin Water Network 702-324-9662

KYLE ROERINK

The Great Basin Water Network’s Board of Directors announced that it has hired [Kyle Roerink](#) as the organization’s first-ever executive director.

The decision comes as the Water Network continues to fight the Southern Nevada Water Authority's 300-mile, \$15 billion pipeline, which would remove 58 billion gallons of water annually from the heart of the Great Basin and lower parts of Eastern Nevada's water table by up to 200 feet.

Roerink, who formerly worked for Rep. Dina Titus and the YES on Question 6 energy campaign, will lead the organization as it fights legal battles in state and federal courts, defends the integrity of Nevada water law, and grows the Network's coalition. He will continue the organization's advocacy for smart conservation practices in lieu of expensive and unreasonable pipelines that will destroy water-dependent businesses and communities, indigenous cultural resources, a National Park, National Forests, and National Wildlife Refuges.

GBWN's Board of Directors

STEVE ERICKSON

Steve has been a community organizer, nonprofit executive director, and an advocate for peace and social, economic and environmental justice for over thirty years in Salt Lake City, Utah. He has led successful campaigns and influenced policy on a wide variety of issues in Utah, from establishing the first transitional housing for homeless teens and for homeless veterans, to halting plans for the development of biological weapons labs, electronic warfare ranges and private prisons. He currently serves as policy advocate for the Utah Audubon Council, as an advocate for the anti-poverty nonprofit Crossroads Urban Center, and is the volunteer director of the watchdog group Citizens Education Project.

ABIGAIL JOHNSON

Abby is a consultant on rural community development and environmental issues, with specialties in nuclear waste and public involvement. She is former executive director of Citizen Alert which helped defeat the MX missile project; manager of Nevada's rural Community Development Block Grant program; and technical assistance provider for Rural Community Assistance Corp. She has been the nuclear waste advisor to Eureka County, Nevada since 1991; and is a freelance writer and editor based in Carson City, and Baker, Nevada.

SUSAN LYNN

Susan is the retired Executive Director of Public Resource Associates. She served as a member for seven years and Chairman of the Washoe County Regional Water Planning Commission and its Conservation Committee for 4 years. She formerly served as rural coordinator for Nevada's lone Congressman and was a founder of the Truckee River Yacht Club, Friends of Black Rock/High Rock, and a founding board member of Nevada Women's Fund and Great Basin Land and Water, Inc. Susan is the past coordinator of GBWN and serves as an advisor to the board.

ROB MROWKA

Rob lives in the hill country of western New York, after spending 12 years working in Nevada with the U.S. Forest Service, Clark County government and the Center for Biological Diversity. Rob has a B.S. degree in Natural Resources Management and a M.S. degree in forest ecology. Although now far from NV, Rob visits regularly and cares deeply for the state's natural heritage

and great people, and actively advocates for living within the ecological limits of your environment.

RICK SPILSBURY & DELAINE SPILSBURY [Photo is of Delaine]

Rick and Delaine are members of the Ely Shoshone Tribe. Rick is a videographer and blogger from McGill, Nevada while Delaine has worked extensively with the Nevada Commission on Tourism to promote eastern Nevada and is a businesswoman. She also serves on the board of the Great Basin Heritage Area Partnership.

ROSE STRICKLAND

Rose is an over 30-year Sierra Club activist and leader on public lands and water issues offering analysis, testimony, public comment and coordination on local, state and federal projects. She is a liaison to many agencies on technical and policy issues. An avid birder and hiker, she lives in Reno, Nevada.

TOM BAKER

Tom lives in Baker, Nevada where, along with his father and brothers and their families, he operates Baker Ranches in Snake Valley. Tom is also President of the White Pine County Farm Bureau.

PATRICK DONNELLY

Patrick Donnelly is the Nevada State Director for the [Center for Biological Diversity](#), a nationwide non-profit dedicated to the protection of endangered species and wild places. Based in Southern Nevada, Patrick has been involved in natural resource conservation and activism for 15 years. He enjoys hiking with his dog, photographing wildflowers, and playing music around a campfire.

ANN BRAUER

Ann is a retired teacher; member, and sometimes Chair, of the Indian Springs Town Advisory Board; board member of the Toiyabe Chapter of the Sierra Club. Ann resides in Indian Springs, in rural Clark County, Nevada.

Annette Garland

Annette lives in Callao, Utah, where she taught school for 39 years. She and her daughter's family own and operate the Rafter Lazy C Ranch. Along with her late husband, Cecil, she worked against the MX Missile system and the Air Force's plan for an electronic battlefield in Snake Valley.

Aaron Altshuler

Aaron is originally from upstate New York but has called the Western US home for the last 12 years. He is currently located in Nevada and is the Store Manager of the Patagonia Outlet in Reno. Aaron is passionate about public land protection as well as water issues. He worked on campaigns to remove the four obsolete dams on the Lower Snake River in Eastern Washington as well as opposing the creation of an oil terminal at the Port of Portland, OR. Aaron enjoys snowboarding, climbing and backpacking with his wife and daughter.

Chris Giunchigliani (Chris G)

For more than 28 years, Chris Giunchigliani served Nevadans in the Legislature and Clark County Commission, advocating for responsible growth, conservation, and social equality during a time of immense change in the state. As a former director on the Southern Nevada Water Authority's Board, Giunchigliani's unparalleled opposition to the Las Vegas Pipeline is reflected in her voting record and public rhetoric against the \$15.5 billion project that will siphon 58 billion gallons of water annually from the desert.

The above story was too big to go unnoticed for several decades of reasons. But as the coronavirus takes over the headlines and daily schedules, it deserves some space here. On another (cynical) note, this entire episode will graphically demonstrate the inter-dependent economies and how capital flows. Just think how canceling a sporting event ripples: not only are the team/stadium out of revenue, there are the vendors and the nearby services that have no customers, the tv/radio stations will have to scramble for content, reporters will have to become feature writers and on and on it goes. Again raises the issues of tribal self sufficiency and sustainability. sdc

[Michael YellowBird](#) [March 5 at 7:00 PM](#)

A facebook friend asked if I am scared of the coronavirus. My answer is, "During the 1780s until about the 1840s, my people (Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara) were nearly wiped out by brutal epidemics of smallpox, some of it believed to be spread deliberately among our people by settler governments and military leaders. Measles, chickenpox, cholera, whooping cough, influenza, and many other infectious European diseases killed many of our people for many years following the time of smallpox. We had no immunities to these foreign diseases. There is a written history of this time; the confusion, grief, and death of the tribes, especially the desperation of parents losing child, after child, after child, to these diseases is all a part of the narrative. Reading and hearing about these times, I can only imagine what our ancestors went through being alive one day and then, along with other friends, family, and relatives, watching others die and then getting ready for their own death; much of the death occurring in a very short period of time. But, some survived, and they in turn rebuilt our nation, which is why I am here, which is why my children, grandchildren, and nieces and nephews are here. We're not afraid of the coronavirus; it pales in comparison, many times over, to the smallpox that ravaged our nations. And, with all of the death among our people back then, and what occurs today because of continued colonization, we've never forgotten our brave songs or our death songs." Can our songs prevent coronavirus? Probably not. Can they prevent fear, remind us of the allegory of death in our origin story, and our place in the universe? Most certainly.

[Native Communities Brace for More Cases of Coronavirus](#)

ALIYAH CHAVEZ, INDIAN COUNTRY TODAY

Tribal nations are now trying to protect their communities from coronavirus by imposing travel restrictions. As the number of coronavirus cases continue to grow, tribal leaders are suspending travel for employees, canceling public events and even urging tourists to refrain from traveling onto their reservations. [Read the Article →](#)

The investor Warren Buffett once warned: "It's only when the tide goes out that you learn who's been swimming naked." With that advice in mind, [our financial columnist James B. Stewart explains why the coronavirus poses a real test to the financial system.](#)

BREAKING NEWS: “An Indian Health Service patient from Charles Mix County, South Dakota, is presumed positive for COVID-19. Presumed positive means a sample tested positive for the virus that causes COVID-19 at a state or local laboratory. A sample is being tested at a CDC lab for confirmation. IHS is working closely with the state to identify anyone else in the community who has been in close contact with the patient and may need to be tested. At this time, there is no need for members of the community who have not been in close contact with the patient and are not showing symptoms to seek testing. The IHS will continue to keep our tribal partners informed as the situation develops. For more information on COVID-19 and how to prevent illness, please visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>.”

All IHS facilities are capable of testing patients for COVID-19. There is no cost to patients for this testing. Following [guidance established by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#), clinicians, including those at the IHS, collect samples with standard specimen collections swabs and access laboratory testing through public health laboratories in their jurisdictions. CDC guidance says clinicians should use their judgment to determine if a patient has signs and symptoms compatible with COVID-19 and whether the patient should be tested. Decisions on which patients receive testing should be based on the local epidemiology of COVID-19, patient risk or exposures, as well as the clinical course of illness. Clinicians are strongly encouraged to test for other causes of respiratory illness, including infections such as influenza.

This is a developing story. Follow Indian Country Today for the most up-to-date, factual developments.

UPDATE: 21st National Tribal Preservation Conference -- Monitoring the Situation

Dear Conference Participants and Colleagues,

As of 2:05 pm 3.12.20

Regarding the 21st National Tribal Preservation Conference, hosted by the Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana May 11-15, 2020, the NATHPO Board appreciates the concerns that have been shared about the spread of COVID-19 and the implications for our upcoming gathering. We are communicating with our event hosts about the latest public health advisories and information available.

At this time, we are planning to continue with the meeting, but recognize that this decision will necessarily be contingent on evolving circumstances. The Board of Directors will continue to monitor any further actions that may become necessary.

We encourage you to continue to submit proposals for presentations and nominees for our new NATHPO Award for Excellence in Tribal Historic Preservation, but we suggest that you hold off on paying for registrations and airline tickets. We understand that this is a difficult time for those who are looking to confirm or alter their travel plans, and we appreciate your patience as we evaluate the options. Above all, we want to ensure a safe and healthy experience for our attendees and the broader community.

Thank you for your engagement and feedback through this process

Please contact me at valerie@nathpo.org or 202-628-8476 for additional information. Thank you for all you do to protect culturally important places that perpetuate Native identity, resilience, and cultural endurance, and to empower tribal preservation leaders.

SAVE THE DATE

13TH ANNUAL
NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
AMERICAN INDIAN EDUCATION SUMMIT

"Voices From Our Future"

March 16, 2020

- One Day Youth Summit
- Adult Pre-Summit Event - focus on Cultural Competency
- Evening Event

March 17, 2020

- Adult Summit - focus on Professional Development for Educators
- Youth not in attendance

University of Nevada, Reno
Joe Crowley Student Union

Registration will begin on January 6th. Go to
nphf.org/2020-ai-an-education-summit
to learn more and register.



For additional information:
Call 775-687-9143 or
contact Tess at
tess@nphf.org



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Not cancelled at "press time". Call for status

Mexican Women Plan Historic Strike Against Femicides

ISABELLA COTA, OPENDEMOCRACY

In Mexico, where an average of 10 women are murdered each day, many are growing restless -- and angry at this level of violence. Millions of people are being called to join the country's first all-women labor strike to demand government action against gender-based violence.

[Read the Article →](#)

22-year-old Guatemalan woman who passed initial asylum screening dies in ICE custody

[Very likely an Indigenous woman](#). Apparently most of the children who have died in ICE custody have been Mayan Indigenous with a language barrier issue.

<https://www.dailykos.com/story/2020/3/9/1925786/-22-year-old-Guatemalan-woman-who-passed-initial-asylum-screening-dies-in-ICE-custody>

Conflicts Over Indigenous Land Grow More Violent in Central America

By ALEXANDER VILLEGAS and FRANCES ROBLES

Faced with government inaction, some activists try to reclaim ancestral lands on their own. Often, they pay a high price.



This office building in Grand Junction, CO will be the new headquarters for the Bureau of Land Management. Existing tenants in the building include Chevron and the Colorado Oil and Gas Association. (Photo: BLM)

Government watchdog: Trump hasn't justified BLM move | Nevada Current

Cody Coombs eased his Ford pickup along a rough dirt road

in the Egan Mountains of eastern Nevada, a path once used by the Pony Express to negotiate these remote reaches of the Great Basin. We emerged from a rugged canyon strewn with mine debris into a ravaged landscape of stumps and severed limbs—the remnant of a once-thriving piñon and juniper forest.

If I hadn't known where I was, I might have thought I was looking at an industrial clearcut. But Coombs, the fuels manager for the Bureau of Land Management district in Ely, Nevada, assured me that what we were looking at was undertaken in the service of conservation. We'd entered a small fragment of the Egan and Johnson Basin Restoration Project, which, over the next decade, will remove 25,000 acres of piñon and juniper forest. This is but one of a host of projects aimed at eliminating vast stretches of these native forests, which, some claim, are encroaching across vast swaths of the Great Basin and the Colorado Plateau at an unprecedented clip

We continued on, with the November sun blazing overhead, and passed through a valley filled

with cattle into an area of low hills covered in a dense stand of piñon trees
<https://www.nevadacurrent.com/2020/03/10/government-watchdog-trump-hasnt-justified-blm-move/>

[Read the rest!](#)

I am continuing to post information about meetings/conferences, etc but readers should check with registration to make sure they are still being held on the dates advertised. sdc

Call for Papers: ICHORA Conference

The program committee and organizers invite paper proposals to the **9th International Conference on the History of Records and Archives** (ICHORA). ICHORA 9 will be held at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Michigan, U.S.A. from October 29 to 31, 2020. Submit paper proposals to ICHORA2020@umich.edu by **March 30, 2020**. For more information, please visit the conference website at <https://www.ichora2020.com>. ICHORA 9 will focus on **Archives and the Digital World**.

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### **Best Practices Exchange Registration is Now Open**

*Sustaining and Maintaining Digital Initiatives*      *March 23-25, 2020*

[McKimmon Conference and Training Center](#)

Raleigh, North Carolina

Best Practices Exchange (BPE) is an organization of information professionals dedicated to managing digital information in government and non-government settings. The annual conference is a great opportunity to share, question, and learn from colleagues across a spectrum of government, educational, and cultural organizations.

We are pleased to announce that registration for Best Practices Exchange (BPE) 2020 is now open!

Access the registration form via this link: [http://bit.ly/bpe2020\\_registration](http://bit.ly/bpe2020_registration)

A preliminary conference schedule contains:

- One plenary speaker, a half day of sessions, and a reception the afternoon and evening of Monday, March 23, 2020.
- One plenary speaker and a full day of sessions on Tuesday, March 24, 2020.
- A half day of sessions the morning of Wednesday, March 25, 2020.

The price of registration is \$150.00. It includes two (2) continental breakfasts, one (1) lunch, breaks, and a reception.

Attendance is limited to 200 people. Registration is open until Friday, March 6, 2020 or until capacity is reached.

Registrations are payable online through PayPal or via check.

The program and local arrangements committees continue to do a fantastic job developing this event, but the community of attendees is what makes Best Practices Exchange so special. We look forward to sharing a conference full of open conversation and an exchange of ideas with all of you in Raleigh.

Visit the event website for more information about the unconference and Raleigh. Please contact [bestpracticesexchange@gmail.com](mailto:bestpracticesexchange@gmail.com) with any questions.

### **2020 Western Archivists Meeting in San Francisco**

Join the Society of California Archivists (SCA), Conference of Inter-Mountain Archivists (CIMA), Northwest Archivists (NWA), and Society of Rocky Mountain Archivists (SRMA) for the 2020 Western Archivists Meeting (WAM), to be held April 21–25 in San Francisco, CA. [Learn more.](#)

### **Funding Opportunities**

#### **NHPRC Funding Opportunities**

[Access to Historical Records: Major Initiatives FY 2021](#)

*For projects that will significantly improve public discovery and use of major historical records collections. This program has two phases. You must be invited to submit a Final Proposal*

- [Final Deadline](#): July 9, 2020

#### **Council on Library and Information Resources Funding Opportunities**

[Digitizing Hidden Special Collections and Archives: Enabling New Scholarship through Increasing Access to Unique Materials](#) is a national grant competition administered by the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) for digitizing rare and unique content in collecting institutions.

#### **Call for Proposals for New Archival Futures Series**

Archival Futures is a new series, published jointly by SAA and the American Library Association, that critically engages issues related to archives as—and for—the public good. This series combines provocative discussion with practical insight, examining professional values and current innovations in archival and library practice. Have an idea for a book? We are seeking proposals for volumes of 20,000 to 50,000 words, that demonstrate innovative thinking, cut across cultural and professional boundaries, and stimulate discussion about archives as institutions and sustaining forces in modern society. Contact series editors [Bethany Anderson](#) and [Amy Cooper Cary](#) with questions or [submit a proposal](#).

#### **Explore Your Options for Professional Development with SAA**

Take a look at the SAA [Course Calendar](#) and register for upcoming courses. Don't see an education course in your area? **Learn how your institution can [host a course](#)!**

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#### **How a Remote Nevada Town Became a Bastion of Basque Culture**

Tiny Winnemucca, with its high concentration of Basque restaurants, is doing its part to preserve Basque traditions

[https://www.smithsonianmag.com/travel/how-remote-nevada-town-became-bastion-basque-culture-180974274/?utm\\_source=smithsoniandaily&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=20200309-daily-responsive&spMailingID=41971360&spUserID=OTYyNTc5MzkyMTQyS0&spJobID=1720867658&spReportId=MTcyMDg2NzY1OAS230,000](https://www.smithsonianmag.com/travel/how-remote-nevada-town-became-bastion-basque-culture-180974274/?utm_source=smithsoniandaily&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=20200309-daily-responsive&spMailingID=41971360&spUserID=OTYyNTc5MzkyMTQyS0&spJobID=1720867658&spReportId=MTcyMDg2NzY1OAS230,000)

#### **Humans Have Been Taking Out Insurance Policies for at Least 30,000 Years**

A study of beads made from ostrich eggshells suggests the humans of the Kalahari Desert region formed social networks to help each other [https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/ostrich-beads-lesotho-social-networks-180974368/?utm\\_source=smithsoniandaily&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=20200309-daily-responsive&spMailingID=41971360&spUserID=OTYyNTc5MzkyMTQyS0&spJobID=1720867658&spReportId=MTcyMDg2NzY1OAS2](https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/ostrich-beads-lesotho-social-networks-180974368/?utm_source=smithsoniandaily&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=20200309-daily-responsive&spMailingID=41971360&spUserID=OTYyNTc5MzkyMTQyS0&spJobID=1720867658&spReportId=MTcyMDg2NzY1OAS2)

## Ikea is Switching to Biodegradable Packaging Made From Mushrooms



[Ikea is looking at using biodegradable fungi packaging as part of its efforts to reduce waste.](https://www.globalcitizen.org)  
[globalcitizen.org](https://www.globalcitizen.org)

### The resilience of Native quilts

For generations, Native American quilts have represented Indigenous resilience. In the same way that our grandmothers' grandmothers figured out how to feed the young ones with the scant provisions that the Army gave out, the wise ones figured out ...[Read more](https://www.indiancountrytoday.com)  
[indiancountrytoday.com](https://www.indiancountrytoday.com)

### Story as Sustenance

Examining the role of Native Americans in making and consuming popular culture.  
By Kimberly Guerrero, assistant professor of theatre, film & digital production  
<https://magazine.ucr.edu/winter-2020-counterpoint>

**Inyo County: From “extinct” to “prolific”:** *How one private landowner’s vision saved an extinct desert fish and other desert animals:* *“‘Listen to the land’ is my mantra,” said Susan Sorrells, a 4th generation resident and owner of Shoshone, California. Sorrells grew up in Shoshone, a small desert town located on the edge of Death Valley in Inyo County, and always had a close connection with the natural world. “My family came here as pioneers in 1910,” she said. “Shoshone was one of the best places to grow up because it was surrounded by nature. I truly fell in love with the land and its people.” Integrating nature with community became a part of Sorrells’ and her husband Robby Haines’ vision for stewarding the land. As a gateway to Death Valley National Park, ecotourism became their economic engine. These conservation-minded efforts boosted financial sustainability and helped recover endangered species, particularly a type of fish once believed to be lost. ...”* Read more from the US FWS here: [Inyo County: From “extinct” to “prolific”:](https://www.fws.gov/press/2020/02/20200202-ino-county-extinct-to-prolific) *How one private landowner’s vision saved an extinct desert fish and other desert animals*



Strawberry Finch

on Friday the 13th