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You never know what is killing you when it is done in secret Native women and access to power Tahoe Annual Summit Warns Lake Is Facing Negative Impacts Due To Climate Change Wynn Las Vegas offering working parents distance learning program US Forced Sterilization Policies, targeting minorities/disabled, lasted into the 21st Century from SBA Maria Montessori challenged and changed how kids are taught, and remains influential today Acting BLM director William Pendley compared immigrants to "cancer" and denies climate change Joy Harjo to be featured in Digital Presentation Two Navajo sisters who were inseparable died of COVID-19 just weeks apart American Indian Reporter - September 1 edition Commercial Rental Assistance Grant (CRAG) (NDOT) reminds drivers that the statewide public traffic safety messaging contest United Indians of All Tribes Foundation Nevada elects women but female voter participation lags nation, report says **Orva Hooper Snooks George**

A Message From the Most Bombed Nation on Earth

By Ian Zabarte, Al Jazeera 29 August 20



An atomic bomb test at what was then called the Nevada Proving Grounds, later the Nevada Test Site. (photo: Interim Archives/Getty Images)

More than 900 nuclear tests were conducted on Shoshone territory in the US. Residents still live with the consequences.

 \mathbf{Y}_{ou} never know what is killing you when it is done in secret.

I watched my uncle suffer from horrible cancer that ate away at his throat and my grandfather die of an auto-immune disease that is known to be caused by exposure to radiation. They say he had a heart attack, but when your skin falls off, that puts stress on your heart.

Many of my cousins have died. Last year, my cousin, who is about 50, had a defibrillator put in his chest. Now his daughter, who is a toddler, has heart problems as well. At around the same time, one of my cousins told me his mom has cancer. And then a week later, he found out he has it, too.

A few months ago, an elder here died from a rare form of brain cancer.

Every family is affected. We have seen mental and physical retardation, leukemia, childhood leukemia, all sorts of cancers.

The US military industrial complex

I am the Principal Man of the Western Bands of the Shoshone Nation of Indians - the most bombed nation on earth.

Our country is approximately 40,000 square miles (25.6 million acres), from just west of Las Vegas, Nevada all the way to the Snake River in Idaho, including a 350-mile (563km) wide strip in the Great Basin. There are approximately 25,000 to 30,000 Shoshone lineal descendants but the United States places the number much lower based on blood quantum (a percentage of ancestry).

We have been on this land for at least 10,000 years.

Our relationship to the US is based upon the Treaty of Ruby Valley signed in 1863. In the treaty, the Shoshone continued to own the land but we agreed that in exchange for \$5,000 a year for 20 years, paid in cattle and other goods, the US could establish military posts on the land, that US mail and telegraph companies could continue to operate telegraph and stage lines on it, that a railway could pass through it, that the US could mine for minerals on it.

But shortly before the end of World War II, we started to be overrun by the US military industrial complex, in ways we are only now beginning to understand.

Nuclear fallout

In 1951, in violation of the treaty, the US established the Nevada Proving Grounds (what would later become known as the Nevada Test Site and is now known as the Nevada National Security Site) on Shoshone territory and began testing nuclear weapons - without our consent or knowledge. We suspect that Nazi scientists brought to the US as part of Operation Paperclip - to help the US develop nuclear weapons - were involved.

On January 27, 1951, the first nuclear test took place on our land, when a one-kilotonne bomb was dropped from a plane flying over the site.

Over the next 40 years, it became the premier testing location for American nuclear weapons. Approximately 928 nuclear tests took place on the Shoshone territory - 100 in the atmosphere and more than 800 underground.

When the US dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima in 1945, 13 kilotonnes of nuclear fallout rained down on the Japanese city. According to a 2009 study in the Nevada Law Journal, between 1951 and 1992, the tests conducted on our land caused 620 kilotonnes of nuclear fallout.

I was born in 1964, a year after above-ground testing of nuclear weapons was banned. But the US continued to test weapons of mass destruction under our land almost every three weeks until 1992.

The downwinders

The fallout from these tests covered a wide area, but it was Native American communities living downwind from the site who were most exposed - because we consumed contaminated wildlife, drank contaminated milk, lived off contaminated land. For Native American adults, the risk of exposure has been shown to be 15 times greater than for other Americans, for young people that increases to 30 times and for babies in utero to two years of age it can be as much as 50 times greater.

When the fallout came down, it killed the delicate flora and fauna, creating these huge vulnerabilities across thousands of square miles of Shoshone territory. The pine trees we use for food and heating were exposed, the plants we use for food and medicine were exposed, the animals we use for food were exposed. We were exposed.

As a result, we have watched our people die. Some of the strongest defenders of our land, of our people, just gone.

But we have to protect our land and our people. Our identity is the land. Our identity is the pure pristine water coming out of the ground, flowing for millions, tens of millions, hundreds of millions of years. We see that pure water as a medicine. People need that pure water to heal.

But what we find is that we have the US brokering for the nuclear industry, brokering for the mining industry, the destruction of our property for profit.

We cannot endure any further risk, whether from nuclear weapons testing or coal ash or oil tracking, any radiation source at all.

Hammers and nails

We are beginning to understand what has happened to us. For more than 50 years, we have been suffering from this silent killer and the US government's culture of secrecy keeps it silent. But we need relief.

In every other part of the world where there have been nuclear catastrophes or nuclear testing such as Kazakhstan, Japan, even Chernobyl - there are health registries to monitor those who have been exposed, even if the numbers are kept artificially low in some places. We do not have that here in the US. We do not have that for Native American downwinders. We need that kind of testing. We need health registries. We need monitoring. We cannot wait any longer for the health disparities we are experiencing to be identified.

We are having to fight the US to get it to understand our basic health needs.

We have managed to obtain documents that were declassified in the 1990s. But there are almost two million pages. Trying to understand all of that is daunting. We do not have any funding and we do not have the support of the US to get that work done. So we are having to do this ourselves as we suffer through this continuing health crisis.

And all the while, military activities are still being conducted on our land.

We continue to endure and we live with the understanding that the radiation is there on the ground, it is there in our plants, in our animals, and inside of our people.

Killing Shoshone people was never part of the treaty we signed. Our people would never have engaged in something that would result in our own destruction.

Our custom is sharing, but when all you have is a hammer, everything is a nail, and that is what the US military has been doing, hammering the Shoshone with bombs.

You are strong, thanks to this home. You carry the memories of our canyon. You are made of Mill Creek water, the fruit from our trees, Swanton berries, and Pacific salmon. You are my wild child."

Wallace J. Nichols, a marine biologist, wrote his daughter a letter **breaking the news that their home in the redwoods north of Santa Cruz burned to the ground** — a day after she left for **college**. It's heartwrenching. Outside Magazine

Native women and access to power I MPR News

https://www.mprnews.org/episode/2020/08/26/native-women-andaccess-to-power

Tahoe Annual Summit Warns Lake Is Facing Negative Impacts Due To Climate Change

Wynn Las Vegas offering working parents distance learning program

Wynn Las Vegas is offering to pay for supervised virtual learning for school-aged children of workers.

Forced sterilization policies in the US targeted minorities and those with

disabilities - and lasted into the 21st century (great map included)

From SBA

The SBA is hiring temporary employees to assist with disaster relief efforts during these unprecedented times. The positions include:

- Call Center Customer Service Representative
- Document Preparation/Legal Review/Loan Closings
- Loan Processing/Credit Analysis/Mortgage Underwriting
- Program Support

Apply today

Virtual Mentoring and Training

Offices around the country may be closed due to the Coronavirus pandemic, but SCORE, Small Business Development Centers, Women's Business Centers, Veterans Business Outreach Centers and other resource partners are providing free business mentoring and training by phone, email, and video.

Find an SBA resource partner near you



Did you know that the federal government has a goal to award at least 3% of all federal contracting dollars to certified small businesses in historically underutilized business zones? Learn more

National Preparedness Month is recognized each September to promote family, community and business disaster planning now and throughout the year. As our nation continues to respond to COVID-19, hurricanes and wildfires, there is no better time to be involved this September. Learn more

Maria Montessori challenged and changed how kids are taught, and remains influential today Catherine McTamaney, Vanderbilt University

The innovative educator studied engineering and practiced medicine before devoting her life to spreading a new educational philosophy.

Acting Bureau of Land Management director William Pendley compared immigrants to "cancer" and denies climate change.

Donald Trump has now withdrawn his nomination of climate denier William Pendley to be head of the Bureau of Land Management.

But Trump is still leaving Pendley in power as acting BLM head, with no end in sight.

Pendley's a former oil industry attorney who wants to sell off our public lands to turbocharge fossil fuel development. He called climate change activists "kooks" and said immigration would mean "losing the country we love."

Pendley's tenure is also illegal -- he's stayed on as acting head far longer than the 210 days allowed by the Federal Vacancies Reform Act. (Patricia Akerman petition letter)

by Sondra Cosgrove, League of Women Voters of Nevada

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Poetry Promise, Las Vegas Jewish Film Festival and Clark County Poet Laureate Present: LET THERE BE NO REGRETS; an online series featuring our United States Poet Laureate, Joy Harjo *Free online series runs September 23, 29 and October*

LAS VEGAS NEVADA – Joy Harjo is an internationally renowned performer and writer of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and was named the 23rd Poet Laureate of the United States in 2019. She is the first Native American to be so honored.

Joy will read poems from her new publication <u>An American Sunrise</u> via Zoom on Tuesday, September 29 at 5:00 p.m. (PST). She will also participate in a webinar conversation with author Terry Tempest Williams about the August, 2020 publication of the first Norton Anthology of Native American Literature, When the Light of the World Was Subdued, Our Songs Came Through, on Thursday, October 1 at 5:00 p.m.

The author of nine books of poetry, plays and children's books, and a memoir, her honors include the Ruth Lily Prize for Lifetime Achievement from the Poetry Foundation, the Academy of American Poets Wallace Stevens Award, a PEN USA Literary Award, Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund Writers' Award, a Rasmuson US Artist Fellowship, two NEA fellowships, and a Guggenheim Fellowship. Harjo is a chancellor of the Academy of American Poets and is a founding board member of the Native Arts and Cultures Foundation.

Terry Tempest Williams is an American writer, educator, conservationist, and activist. Williams' writing is rooted in the American West.

In conjunction with the Joy Harjo program, the 20th annual Las Vegas Jewish Film Festival (LVJFF) will be presenting a free online screening of a PBS documentary film entitled *Unspoken Americas: Native American Boarding Schools*, as part of its ongoing virtual film series. Watch film: <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yo1bYj-R7F</u>O

A webinar discussion of the documentary will be on Wednesday, September 23 at 5:00 p.m. moderated by Joshua Abbey, Director of LVJFF featuring Justice Raquel Montoya-Lewis and Professor Andrew Woolford Ph.D. with the University of Manitoba.

Justice Montoya-Lewis is the first Native American Justice to serve on the Washington State Supreme Court, and the second Native American to serve on a state supreme court nationwide. Justice Montoya-Lewis has spent her career as a practicing attorney, tribal court judge, superior court judge, associate professor, and advocate for juvenile justice reform, equity, and tribal communities

Professor Andrew Woolford Ph.D. is the former president of the International Association of Genocide Scholars whose research is centered in the field of genocide studies, with specific emphasis on cultural techniques of group destruction deployed against Indigenous Peoples in North America He is the author of *This Benevolent Experiment*: *Indigenous Boarding Schools, Genocide and Redress in North America*.

REGISTRATION for the FREE Joy Harjo program series: www.lvjff.org or www.poetrypromise.org

LET THERE BE NO REGRETS

for Bears Ears National Monument

We're not losing the birch trees; the birch trees are losing us.

-Wayne "Minoghzhig" Valliere

The songs and stories that formed us are restless

and need a place to live in the world of our grandchildren.

They are weary with waiting.

Earth continues to dream her earth dreams

Though desperate thoughts fed by money hunger roam our minds

To the destroyers, Earth is not a person.

They will want more until there is no more to steal.

Earth who does not know time is patient.

The destroyers will destroy themselves.

So many earth spirits take care of this place. They emerge from the cliff walls.

They emerge from the waves of waters.

Our ancestors are not only human ancestors.

What do you see when you fly to the top of the ancestor tree?

Let there be no regrets, no sadness, no anger, no acts of disturbance to these lands.

-from An American Sunrise, by Joy Harjo

The Joy Harjo program series is presented by: Poetry Prominse, Las Vegas Jewish Film Festival, and Clark County Poet Laureat

The Joy Harjo program series is supported by:

Nevada Humanities, National Endowment for the Humanities, Nevada Arts Council, National Endowment for the Arts, Clark County Nevada, City of Henderson, City of Las Vegas, League of Women Voters, Nevada National Organization for Women, and Unitarian Universalist Church of Las Vegas

In-kind support from:

The Beverly Rogers, Carol C. Harter Black Mountain Institute, Spill the Honey Foundation, Nevada State College, UNLV Native American Alumni Club, Native Arts and Cultures Foundation, National Congress of American Indians, National Indian Justice Center, Brave New Voices, Jewish Nevada/Jewish Community Center of Southern Nevada, Anti-Defamation League of Nevada, ZACHOR Holocaust Remembrance Foundation, Las Vegas Review Journal, Imagine Communications and numerous individual sponsors.

Two Navajo sisters who were inseparable died of COVID-19 just weeks apart Cheryl and Corrina Thinn's deaths devastated their families and their community.

Read in Kaiser Health News: https://apple.news/A7DjeLTMDSsumxWYj5xAvLA



Journal readers - would particularly appreciate your comments on my column, page 5 sdc

Commercial Rental Assistance Grant (CRAG)

The Nevada Commercial Rental Assistance Grant (CRAG) makes \$19MM in Coronavirus Relief Funds available for commercial rental relief for Nevada small businesses (including non-profits, sole proprietorships, independent contractors and those that are self-employed) that have lost revenue as a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Funding of up to \$10,000 may be available to cover lease payments that have or will become due during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Applicants are not required to be in arrears on rent. Eligible

businesses and non-profits entities that have prioritized paying rent over other expenses during the COVID-19 Pandemic are encouraged to apply.

The CRAG Program will be administered through the State's vendor, National Development Council (NDC).

Eligible Businesses

To qualify for the CRAG Program, an Applicant must meet ALL of the following criteria:

- Be a for-profit business or a non-profit organization with Nevada as its principal place of business;
- Must have all required State and local business licenses (all must be active and in good standing);
- Be in operation with 50 or fewer full-time employees;
- Have been in operation in Nevada for at least 6-months prior to March 1, 2020;
- Demonstrate at least a 30% loss of gross monthly revenue after March 1, 2020 as a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic;
- Have a physical commercial location (no home-based businesses) with a current, active lease on commercial property in the state of Nevada;
- Must not have previously received more than \$5,000 in cumulative COVID-19 gift or grant funds on that could have been used to cover rental payments (such as from the Clark County Small Business Rental Assistance Grant or the Paycheck Protection Program); and

LAS VEGAS, NEV. – The Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) reminds drivers that the statewide public traffic safety messaging contest ends August 31. The winning slogans will be displayed atop electronic freeway signs across Nevada. The competition is free and open to all Nevada drivers. Over 600 submissions have been received thus far.

The messages can be holiday-themed and focus on state traffic safety, including attentive driving, buckling up, impaired driving, and stopping on red, as well as motorcycle safety. Messages must be no more than three lines of 18 characters each (including spacing), with no hashtags, punctuation, emojis, website addresses or phone numbers. Advertising and defamatory, obscene, threatening or otherwise unlawful submissions will not be considered.

NDOT will select the best messages, which may then be periodically rotated on the approximately 400 electronic freeway signs statewide. Some popular messages nationally

include "*Texting and Driving? Oh Cell No*," the holiday-themed "*Only Reindeer Can Fly. Watch Your Speed*" and Star Wars-based "*Texting and Driving Leads to The Dark Side*." "Traffic safety impacts all of us," said NDOT Director Kristina Swallow. "Roadway signs can be a first-line defense in reminding motorists to drive safely. We routinely post driving information and tips. Now, we want the public to contribute their safe driving messages. The more creative, relatable, and memorable – the better."

Entries must be submitted by August 31 at <u>nevadadot.com/sign</u>, or by calling (775) 888-7000. NDOT will announce winners in September. Entries will not be accepted through the department's social media accounts. There is no limit to the number of entries per person. Entrants, through submission, acknowledge that they are a Nevada resident of 16 years of age or older, and grant NDOT all rights, including use and distribution of their name and proposed messages in all formats. *Anyone enter an appropriate Paiute, Shoshone, or Washo phrase?! sdc*

Created in 2003 in Seattle, WA with funding provided the Annie E. Casey Foundation. **The United Indians of All Tribes Foundation**, Seattle, WA, convened a forum to discuss issues facing Urban Indian families nationwide. The group consisted of communities including, philanthropy, national organizations, the federal government and the Executive Directors of 12 Urban Indian organizations. As a result of this convening, the National Urban Indian Family Coalition (NUIFC) was born. Since 2003, the NUIFC added 12 more organizations to the coalition and built partnerships with numerous other organizations and tribes from across the nation.

Today the NUIFC advocates for American Indian families living in urban areas by creating partnerships with tribes, as well as other American Indian organizations, and by conducting research to better understand the barriers, issues, and opportunities facing urban American Indian families.

One of the primary intentions of creating the NUIFC is to ensure access to traditionally excluded organizations and families, and to focus attention on the needs of urban indians. The National Urban Indian Family Coalition is dedicated to remaining an access point for the exchange of ideas and dialogue regarding Urban Indian America. https://www.nuifc.org

Janeen Comenote, Executive Director National Urban Indian Family Coalition

jcomenote@nuifc.org

Well this is counter-intuitive. Nevada made oh so many gushing, glowing headlines the world over when it became the first state to have female majority Legislature. And rightsy so! And yet... a ranking of women's participation in politics finds that yes, Nevada elects women, but women voting participation is actually not very good at all, and ranks near the bottom. I mentioned Captain Obvious above, now let's turn to Idle Speculator: Civil society has always been pretty lethargic around here. Nevada elects women but female voter participation lags nation, report says

Orpha" Orva" Hooper Snooks George

December 27, 1921 - August 26, 2020 Funeral Services Friday. September 4, 2020 at 11 am The Gardens Funeral Home 2949 Austin Highway Fallon, Nevada

> Graveside Services at 2 pm Austin Indian Cemetery Austin, Nevada

Dinner to follow in Austin

*Masks will be required