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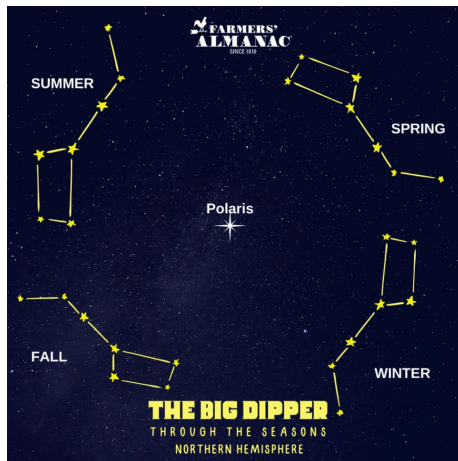
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The role that soil moisture plays in water supply.

'Mediocre' water year wraps up for Tahoe, Truckee basins

Nevada to get Interior funding to modernize infrastructure at Lake Mead National Recreation Area

Greater sage-grouse declines: A comprehensive report



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“Cink’ska Tunka-The Big Dipper”

Another name is “Wicakiyuhapi” and yet another name “Oceti Sakowin” to mention a few. When the Big Dipper and the “ Wanagi O’Canku” Milky Way appear close up above in the Star World it means the weather will be cold.

When they appear far from each other, then it means we will have warm, hotter weather. In winter when the bowl of the Big Dipper turns upside as though spilling its contents then a Blizzard is coming.

Kapemni

The Stars tell us many things, because whatever is in the Star World is also on Mother Earth. This concept we call “Kapemni”, which is a vortex connection of the two Worlds.

Oceti Sakowin Oyate

The first three Stars of the Handle are the three dialects that comprise the Oceti Sakowin Oyate, Dakota, Nakota and Lakota languages.

Total all Seven Stars represents each major band.

Wanagi O’Canku

Even science refers to the Milky Way as a cluster of Star representing Spirits.

“Wanagi Yata”

The road to the Spirit World up above.

Zuya Mani

The 7 Stars of the Big Dipper also represents an average life span, 10 years for each Star equals 70 years which is an average life span.

Tunpi-birth leading to Wakankan-Elder. So each life phase is represented by one Star.

Wicahunkake

We are the People whose Ancestors live above in the Stars.

[The Navajo Language Goes To Mars: NASA Engineer Explains Historic Collaboration](#)

Mar 31, 2021 05:11 pm

Aaron Yazzie was born on the Navajo Nation and grew up in Holbrook, Arizona, a town that borders the reservation. As a kid, Yazzie said he never thought he would one day work for NASA. “There just weren’t a lot of people that I knew in my community or my family that had gone down a path to get a job like this,” he said. “But I knew I was good at building things and being creative. I think those things pushed me in a path toward engineering.” Now, Yazzie designs mechanical components for space robots, like drill bits for the current Mars rover. He’s also at the center of an unlikely collaboration between NASA and the Navajo Nation government. The space agency is using the Navajo language, or Diné Bizaad , to name features on the surface of Mars, which Yazzie said is meaningful to him and his tribe but also totally coincidental. He said NASA split up the area where the rover could possibly land on Mars into quadrants that are roughly one square mile, then they named them after different

[Click here to read more](#) or share on Social Media  

[Mississippi Returns Hundreds of Native Americans' Remains to Chickasaw Natio](#)

On American History TV"

Friday — The Cherokees

In the 1830s, under President Andrew Jackson, the Cherokees were forcibly removed from their lands in the southeastern U.S. in what became known as the "Trail of Tears." University of Oklahoma law professor Lindsay Robertson discusses the decisions issued by the U.S. Supreme Court in cases involving the Cherokee Nation — especially the role of Chief Justice John Marshall. The Virginia Museum of History and Culture, Preservation Virginia and the University of Oklahoma Center for the Study of American Indian Law and Policy co-hosted this event.

[Push To Vaccinate Indigenous Americans Leaves Some Urban Indians 'Out Of The Loop'](#)

Apr 02, 2021 06:58 am

This is the second in a two-part series about the vaccine rollout in Indian Country. Part one looks at the success of the rollout on rural reservations. Listen to an audio version of this story. The Indian Health Service has delivered coronavirus vaccine doses to the most far-flung corners of the country. From remote villages in Alaska to the bottom of the Grand Canyon, Indigenous Americans as young as 16 have had access to the shot for weeks. But some urban Native people haven't been so lucky. Count 55-year-old Jonathan Concha of Albuquerque among them. "For the most part, everybody else in my family has been vaccinated already. So, I'm the last one," he said just after receiving his first shot in mid-March. Concha scored a spot at a mass-vaccination event co-hosted by New Mexico's Indian Affairs Department, Albuquerque's urban Indian health clinic, and several other partners. But this came after two months of "roadblocks." Concha's search started when vaccines became available at

[Click here to read more](#)

[Vaccine Rollout Highlights Tribal Health Programs' Strengths Despite Chronic Underfunding](#)

Apr 01, 2021 08:28 am

This is the first in a two-part series about the vaccine rollout in Indian Country. Part two looks at the challenges of vaccinating our region's urban Native population. Listen to an audio version of this story. On a Saturday morning, it's all hands on deck at Gallup Indian Medical Center. Custodians are directing traffic. Dental and medical assistants are checking in patients. Inside a gymnasium, nurses, pharmacists and physical therapists are administering coronavirus vaccine doses to hundreds of eager patients. "Some of these people have been waiting in line for hours. I think the record today was 4 a.m.," says Dr. Jonathan Iralu, a top infectious disease specialist for the federal Indian Health Service and the incident commander for this event in Gallup, New Mexico. Unlike other segments of the U.S. healthcare system, Iralu says the IHS is very centralized. During the pandemic, that's been the agency's superpower. "We do primary care, we do hospital care, and we do public health.

[Click here to read more](#)

[Pinyon-Juniper Removal Reduces Fire Risk But Could Harm Forest Ecosystems](#)

Mar 27, 2021 07:00 am

Pinyon-juniper woodlands stretch across much of the high desert in the American West. While quiet on the outside, this forest is at the heart of contentious debate between environmentalists,

tribes and the federal government. While these woodlands cover millions of desert acres, they are still among the least studied forest types in North America, according to the National Park Service. [Click here to read more](#)

Register now for Rural Roundup: April 22, 2021

Registration is open now for Travel Nevada's virtual Rural Roundup conference, April 22. Be sure to check out the option to participate in the conference at one of five "outposts," where partners will gather (following safety protocols) to view as a group. Learn about destination development, marketing strategies and more. We hope to see you all there! [Details and registration](#)

Travel Nevada awards \$500,000 to rural communities to boost tourism

CARSON CITY, Nevada — The Nevada Commission on Tourism (NCOT) on Tuesday approved \$500,000 in grants to rural communities to market themselves as tourism destinations. Travel Nevada will distribute 75 grants to support various marketing projects, including promotion of a new special event, the Eureka Gold Rush Games.

“As more and more people become vaccinated and begin to think about traveling again, it’s important for our rural communities to get the word out about what they offer,” Lt. Gov. Kate Marshall, NCOT chairwoman, said. “We are excited to be able to support rural Nevada communities in their efforts with these marketing grants.”

Grants were awarded to nonprofit groups for tourism marketing projects that will result in overnight stays, ultimately increasing room tax revenue for the state. Travel Nevada is resuming its Rural Marketing Grants program after a pause in 2020 due to lack of funding resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Among the funded projects:

- The Western Spirit Foundation was awarded \$10,000 to promote a new special event, the Eureka Gold Rush Games, set for June 26-27. The family event will feature 1800s-style mining competitions such as hand mucking, spike driving and jackleg drilling.
- Friends of Black Rock High Rock received a \$12,000 grant to promote a short film about the Black Rock National Conservation Area on social media. The film, already produced, educates potential visitors about the beauty of and recreational opportunities in the Black Rock Desert, as well as the need to use this resource wisely.
- The Beatty Chamber of Commerce was granted \$7,315 for radio advertising. Beatty will be presented as a great place for a weekend getaway on three radio stations with listeners within a day’s drive of the small community.
- The city of Mesquite received an \$8,000 grant to promote itself on such highly visited travel websites as Trip Advisor and Yelp, as well as on billboards.
- The Comstock Foundation for History & Culture was awarded \$12,000 to produce promotional videos and air them on TV and radio in northern Nevada and northeastern California.

Funding for the Rural Marketing Grants program does not come from the state’s general fund. Travel Nevada receives three-eighths of 1% of room tax revenue as its operations budget. A

portion of those funds is used to offer the Rural Marketing Grants Program. Grant recipients must provide a 50-50 match in funds or volunteer hours unless a waiver is approved. The grants are distributed in the form of reimbursements to the recipients after the projects are completed and labor and funding details are documented.

SAFF has received generous grant funding for producing an educational podcast series titled **NEVADA'S COLORFUL CHILDREN** -

A total of 11 episodes... each episode is a story told by a child or teen or adult from diverse racial -ethnic heritages during a specific situation in Nevada history from the 1800's to the present.

Each episode is researched and written by SAFF's Executive Director Joseph Galata and each episode is recorded by a professional actor/actress.

Our tutors will be using these episodes to teach Nevada history to the students we are serving.

We ask you to PLEASE use and share each entertaining educational podcas

The Rescue

The 1st is a story told by an 11 year old Irish boy who - at the age of 5 - was trapped in the Donner Party blizzards and how he - along with other children - were rescued by 2 Native American teenage men....

Building the Railroad

he 2nd is a story told by a Chinese 16 year old male in Virginia City during the building of the railroad across the Sierra Mountains.



Coming soon ... the story of a young Jewish man in Virginia City who became the 1st American to win the Nobel Prize in Science and has a crater on the moon named after him.

We thank our generous funders for this gift!

Nevada history is exciting and the diverse racial and ethnic populations of Nevada deserve to have recognition and appreciation

for the contributions they have made to the world!

<chrissi.saff@gmail.com>

Spread the Word Nevada - Washoe County
with [Nevada Mining Association](#)



We are proud to announce a new partnership

to provide books and literacy programming to children in Elko, Ely, Winnemucca, and Yerington.



“Mining for Books” aims to raise a total of \$65,000 to support book distribution to four Boys and Girls Clubs in the state’s rural communities. This program will provide nearly 20,000 books, access to over 130 virtual/live storytimes (with one week specifically dedicated to stories about mining), backpacks, reading logs, incentive prizes, and more!



To learn more about the partnership and how to donate, click here: <https://spreadthewordnevada.org/miningforbooks/>

'No One Explained': Fracking Brings Pollution, Not Wealth, to Navajo Land

Jerry Redfern, Guardian UK

Redfern writes: "The two accidents account for just 1% of oil- and gas-related incidents in north-western New Mexico in 2019, according to statistics kept by the New Mexico oil conservation division (OCD). Since those two, there have been another 317 accidents in the region as of 29 March, including oil spills, fires, blowouts and gas releases." **READ MORE**

Bill would create new Nevada community college system

By [Julie Wootton-Greener](#) Las Vegas Review-Journal April 2, 2021 - 3:26 pm

A bill introduced in the Legislature is aimed at creating a separate governing body for Nevada’s community colleges — something proponents have pushed for years.

[Senate Bill 321](#), introduced March 22 and referred to the Senate Education Committee, would create the Nevada System of Community Colleges. The bill’s primary sponsors are Sens. James Settlemeyer, R-Minden; Sen. Scott Hammond, R-Las Vegas; and Sen. Ira Hansen, R-Sparks.

If the bill became law, community colleges would be removed from the Nevada System of Higher Education’s authority effective July 1, 2022. But NSHE’s chancellor opposes the move, saying it would come with a significant price that the state can’t afford and would make it harder for students to transfer from two- to four-year schools.

NSHE currently oversees eight public schools, including four community colleges: College of Southern Nevada, Truckee Meadows Community College in Reno, Western Nevada College in Carson City and Great Basin College in Elko.

The state community college system would have its own governing body, with members appointed by the governor, according to the bill text. The board would appoint an executive director. And each community college would also have its own governor-appointed board of trustees.

Gov. Steve Sisolak referenced the concept in his January [State of the State address](#), saying there needs to be recognition that community colleges will play a larger role in workforce training as part of COVID-19 recovery efforts.

“That’s why I will be asking the Legislature to work with the Nevada System of Higher Education over the next two years to develop a framework transitioning Nevada’s community colleges to a new independent authority that will focus on making Nevadans’ job ready,” he said in the address.

Industry advocates highlight infrastructure needs By AgWeb, 4/1/21

Details of President Biden’s \$2 trillion American Jobs Plan are beginning to surface, even as produce advocates stress industry priorities in any infrastructure legislation. Funding for water projects for growers in California and other Western states is critical for any bill, said Dennis Nuxoll, vice president of federal government affairs for Western Growers

California to Test Whether Big Batteries Can Stop Summer Blackouts

By Bloomberg News, 4/1/21

With summer’s heat approaching, California’s plan for avoiding a repeat of last year’s blackouts hinges on a humble savior – the battery. Giant versions of the same technology that powers smart phones and cars are being plugged into the state’s electrical grid at breakneck speed, with California set to add more battery capacity this year than all of China, according to BloombergNEF

Florida county under state of emergency as reservoir with millions of gallons of "contaminated, radioactive wastewater" could collapse "at any time" (CBS)

[But here are some facts about the native Calusa Indians that Ranger Daniel Stephens at De Soto Memorial National Park shared with me:](#)

- They died out in the late 1700's/early 1800's from tribal conflicts and European diseases
- They are known as the "[shell Indians](#)" and did not make pottery but used shells for tools, jewelry and mounds -- even building entire cities on shell middens
- They were sailors and traveled by dugout canoes along the many waterways in southwest Florida. In Bradenton they sailed the Manatee River
- They were fierce fighters and responsible for the deaths of Ponce de Leon and Christopher Columbus

See also [Uzita, Tocobaga, Pohoy, and Seloy Tribes](#)

Lands bill is the largest conservation bill in state history, restores tribal ancestral land

By Steven Horsford April 5th, 2021 - 2:00am

In early March, I introduced the Southern Nevada Economic Development and Conservation Act (SNEDCA) — a bipartisan bill with support from the entire Nevada congressional delegation and the largest conservation bill introduced in Nevada history.

This bill would protect more than 2 million acres of public land for recreation and conservation and take critical steps to diversify our economy and address affordable housing shortages. The majority of the conservation protections in this bill are within Nevada’s 4th Congressional

District, including more than 1.3 million acres of Wilderness designations in the Desert National Wildlife Refuge north of the Las Vegas Valley, and Wilderness designations surrounding the southern boundary of Gold Butte National Monument southeast of Mesquite.

For years, I have worked to ensure the Desert National Wildlife Refuge, one of the most unspoiled landscapes in the nation, remains protected and accessible for the people of Nevada. The bill keeps access open to the refuge from Alamo Road for the rural communities in Lincoln County, and provides enhanced management for the hundreds of species, such as the desert bighorn sheep, who call the refuge home. The bighorn sheep are sacred to the Southern Paiute people, and the region encompassing the refuge remains central to the lives of Tribal communities, including members of the Las Vegas Band of Paiutes and the Moapa Band of Paiutes. The bighorn sheep, or Nah'gah, are considered the protectors of the Nuwuvi people, and together they have shared the sacred lands of the refuge and beyond since time immemorial.

The Desert National Wildlife Refuge was originally created more than 85 years ago for the protection of the bighorn sheep by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Since then, protections for the sheep and other species have continued to degrade. It is our responsibility to put a stop to the irreversible damage and destruction to this pristine habitat, and traditional homelands of the Southern Paiute people. We must honor the refuge's original intent and ensure the bighorn sheep and the habitat they depend on remain intact for generations to come.

That is why I introduced and pushed for an amendment to last year's National Defense Authorization Act that increased access to the Desert National Wildlife Refuge for Tribal communities and the Fish and Wildlife Service. Congress signed this legislation into law, prompting the creation of a new Memorandum of Understanding for Range Management within the next two years, to be developed by the intergovernmental committee composed of local stakeholders, including affected Tribal Communities. It is also why I have co-sponsored the Southern Nevada Economic Development and Conservation Act, and why I will continue to fight for enhanced protections for the Desert National Wildlife Refuge.

Ensuring permanent protections for the Desert National Wildlife Refuge is just one step in honoring the Southern Paiute people and their history on the land as well as making amends for past injustices. Almost 150 years ago, the Moapa Band of Paiutes reservation was reduced to a meager 1,000 acres after promises by President Ulysses S. Grant of a [2 million acre reservation](#). The bill attempts to make some amends by restoring 41,255 acres of the Moapa people's ancestral lands in an effort to promote and restore Tribal self-governance, economic opportunities and cultural practices on these lands.

The Southern Nevada Economic Development and Conservation Act will ensure that we can properly balance between population growth, economic development and conservation needs in Tribal and non-Tribal communities alike. I'm proud to support this legislation, which safeguards the Desert National Wildlife Refuge and the Nuwuvi's connection to the landscape while providing sustainable growth opportunities for the Moapa Band of Paiutes and all residents of Southern Nevada.

Rep. Steven Horsford represents Nevada's 4th Congressional District.



A royal flycatcher with a fancy crown

Nevada Farmers And Conservationists Balk At 'Water Banking'

By *The Associated Press*

Rural water users in Nevada are panicking over a proposal to create a market for the sale and purchase of water rights in Nevada.

A Monday legislative hearing about so-called “water banking” proposals pitted state water bureaucrats against a coalition of farmers, conservationists and rural officials who were unconvinced by arguments that the concept would encourage conservation.

Nevada State Engineer Adam Sullivan said water banking would encourage conservation by offering water rights holders an option beyond using, abandoning or selling their allocations. Opponents argued creating a market would lead to water being exported from rural areas and potentially financial speculation.

More Calendar Deadlines

April 15 Deadline - 18th Annual NABI Basketball Invitational and 2nd Annual Educational Youth Summit. For more information or to register click [here](#).

April 17-18 - Arizona Indigenous Student Leadership Conference. Presented by Ms. and Mr. Indigenous Arizona State University. For more information click

April 26-29 - Phoenix Indian Center's GONA - Youth Gathering of Native Americans. Held virtually. 3:00-5:00 p.m. For more information [click here](#).

April 26 Deadline - Native American ***Military Veterans Scholarships*** up to \$5,000. Must be a permanent resident of AZ and enrolled in an on-campus AZ college or University program leading to a Bachelors or Masters degree. Active Duty, Reserve and AZNG with 3 years or more service eligible also. Contact COL Rob Welch, Unified Arizona Veterans (UAV) [click here](#). You may also [check the website](#) for an application or go directly and select Veterans Scholarship on the right side of the Menu bar.

April 30 Deadline - 2021 Native American Journalism Fellowship Application. For more information click [here](#).

April 30 Deadline - 2021 Native American Journalism Association's Facebook Journalism Project Scholarships. For more information click [here.](#)

May 1 Deadline - Johns Hopkins Center for American Indian Health's Summer Institute. For more information click [here.](#)

May 13 - Southwest Airlines Scholarship for ages 24 or younger. Must be attending or planning to attend a 2 year or 4-year program. For more information click [here.](#)

May 15 Deadline - University of Arizona Leadership in Health Equity for American Indian Research Development Program. For 1st year freshman from Tribal, Community, or Jr. College Transfer students accepted to UA for the 2021-22 school year. For more information email [them.](#)

May 15 Deadline - Wy-east Pathway Application. Post-Baccalaureate Pathway is for AI/AN who are on the cusp of being accepted to medical school. Ten month program. For more information click [here.](#)

May 31 Deadline - American Indian College Fund's Full Circle Scholarship for AI/AN college students seeking technical, undergraduate, and graduate degrees at Tribal Colleges and other nonprofit, accredited schools. For more information click [here.](#)

June 15 Deadline - Phoenix Indian Medical Center's Auxiliary - Indian Health Career Awards. For more information click [here](#)

The AIA Nevada Diversity Scholarship for BIPOC Scholar (Black, Indigenous and People of Color)

This annual scholarship is established by the Nevada Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, specifically for high school seniors in the state of Nevada, with the primary purpose of providing greater educational opportunities to aspiring black, indigenous and people of color scholars throughout the state, and to assist them in advancing their education in the field of architecture.

Applicants must be senior students enrolled in a high school located in the state of Nevada, must complete the scholarship application and provide a brief essay on their plan to become a licensed architect.

Scholarship Information

Climate Action Is Expensive, But Inaction Costs Much More, Economists Say

Greenland Voters Go Green in Rejecting Pro-Mining Government

By [Morten Buttler](#) April 6, 2021

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-04-07/greenland-election-hands-lead-to-anti-mining-group-in-parliament?fbclid=IwAR2-o255TPmEuRH6MztkomMFH0W7kXU7JL8DD9i08ilxDtsxvvVe5UrCL7o>

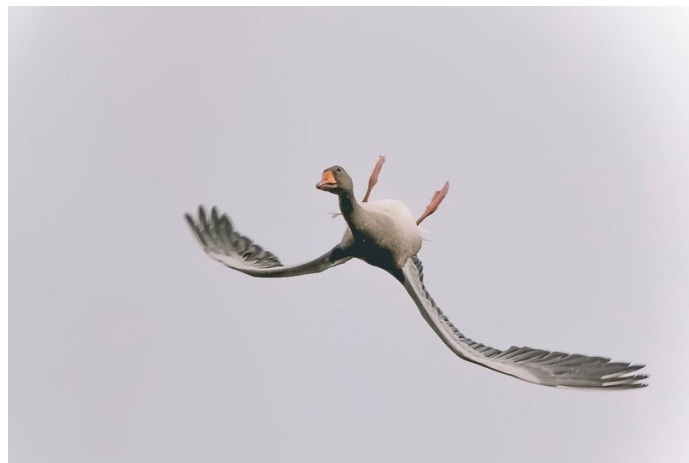
Colorado River cutbacks: [Excellent reporting](#) by *The Arizona Republic's* Ian James on how hydrology in the Colorado River, driven by climate change, is setting the stage for mandatory cuts. The story explains what the cutbacks will mean, and it is a must-read for understanding the road ahead on the Colorado River. From the article: “Lake Mead, the biggest reservoir on the river, has declined dramatically over the past two decades and now stands at just 40% of its full capacity. This summer, it’s projected to fall to the lowest levels since it was filled in the 1930s following the construction of Hoover Dam. The reservoir near Las Vegas is approaching a threshold that is expected to trigger a first-ever shortage declaration by the federal government for next year, leading to substantial cuts in water deliveries to Arizona, Nevada and Mexico.”

[Great piece from Aspen Public Radio](#) on the role that soil moisture plays in water supply.

'Mediocre' water year wraps up for Tahoe, Truckee basins ([via the RGJ's](#) Amy Alonzo)

Nevada facilities to get Interior funding: “One of several investment projects in Nevada will be \$5 million to modernize infrastructure at the Lake Mead National Recreation Area and improve access to drinking water for visitors, concessioners and employees,” [Jeniffer Solis writes for the Nevada Current](#). Because of declining reservoir levels on Lake Mead, the project will relocate the Callville Bay water intake barge and also improve service roads to the new site.

Greater sage-grouse declines: A comprehensive [USGS report shows significant declines](#) in Greater sage-grouse populations over the past six decades and a nearly 40 percent population decrease since 2002. Last week, a federal judge struck down a project to allow more grazing in an area identified as high-quality sage-grouse habitat, [the AP's Scott Sonner reported](#).



LANDING

No, this is not photoshop or a disoriented photo. Photographer Vincent TC captured a goose trying to land with lots of headwinds, in the Netherlands. The bird is trying to brake, briefly turning upside down except for the head. [facebook.com/VincentTC1971](https://www.facebook.com/VincentTC1971)