

Journal #5385 from sdc 1.30.23

Everything is going to be OK

Tribe fights cancer cluster in Nevada town: 'We have to get a new school'

How Native Americans will shape the future of water in the West

As the Colorado River shrinks, Washington prepares to spread the pain

More on Water

Heard this one before?

Upstream: Trust Lands and Power on the Feather River by Beth Rose Manning

Tribal Consultations on the Section 184 Program Proposed Rule

Santa Cruz River Team Presentation on Findings of Latest Living River Reports

House GOP aims to tie oil reserve sales to public land drilling

Nevadans can use library cards to get free parking passes to Sand Harbor

Interest in Hosting International Delegation to Your Home/Community for Dinner

Seeking Archives Technician for National Audio-Visual Conservation Center

Closing Soon: OEJECR is Hiring an Office Director!

Office of Land and Emergency Management EJ Action Plan Engagement Session

US moves to protect Minnesota wilderness from planned mine

Rethinking Maya Heritage: Past and Present

I am also Apache

Your Kid Can Make Money.....Playing with Toys

Alaska Native culture is still alive and thriving today

\$250,000 check helps Minnesota group buy back land taken from Native Americans

Biden administration issues Boundary Waters mining moratorium

More Water Issues/Emails reveal tensions in Colorado River talks

Funding will get broadband to 40,000 Nevada homes

Rupert Steele

Charles "Duddy" Walker, Jr.



"Education is simply the soul of a society as it passes from one generation to another."
— Gilbert K. Chesterton

Tribe fights cancer cluster in Nevada town: ‘We have to get a new school’

The Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Indian Reservation traces a plume of hydrocarbons to a former maintenance facility, and is asking the Legislature for money to build a new school in another location.

~~~~~

### **How Native Americans will shape the future of water in the West**

“As a child, Stephen Lewis heard stories about a river that, for the most part, no longer flowed. “How I grew up was that it was a theft, that it was stolen from us,” he told me late last year. “There was what we used to call the Mighty Gila River, and now it was just pretty much dry. There was no water.” Lewis is the governor of the Gila River Indian Community (GRIC), a group that has occupied land south of Phoenix for centuries. When I met him, in the dining room of the Whirlwind Golf Club, which the tribe owns, Lewis had recently returned from Santa Fe. There, he’d attended a celebration marking the centennial of the Colorado River Compact, an agreement that continues to shape water politics in the Southwest. In Santa Fe, Lewis took note of a black-and-white photograph of the compact’s signers—white men in dark jackets, gathered around a wooden desk. In the United States, water law is founded on the principle of “first in time, first in right”—whoever first put water to “[beneficial use](#)” can claim the right to use it now and in the future. In the 1922 compact, though, tribal nations are mentioned only in passing. ... ” Read more from the New Yorker here: [How Native Americans will shape the future of water in the West](#)

### **As the Colorado River shrinks, Washington prepares to spread the pain**



“The seven states that rely on water from the shrinking Colorado River are unlikely to agree to voluntarily make deep reductions in their water use, negotiators say, which would force the federal government to impose cuts for the first time in the water supply for 40 million Americans. The Interior Department had asked the states to voluntarily come up with a plan by Jan. 31 to collectively cut the amount of water they draw from the Colorado. The demand for those cuts, on a scale without parallel in American history, was prompted by precipitous declines in Lake Mead and Lake Powell, which provide water and electricity for Arizona, Nevada and Southern California. Drought, climate change and population growth have caused water levels in the lakes to plummet. “Think of the Colorado River Basin as a slow-motion disaster,” said Kevin Moran, who directs state and federal water policy advocacy at the Environmental Defense Fund. “We’re really at a moment of reckoning.” ... ” Read more from the New York Times here (gift article): [As the Colorado River shrinks, Washington prepares to spread the pain](#)

### **Colorado River water managers optimistic about drought plan as deadline looms**

“Western water managers are optimistic that a deal to buoy the drought-stricken Colorado River can be pieced together in the waning days before a deadline set by the federal government rolls around next week. The Bureau of Reclamation has given the seven states in the basin until the end of January to propose their own plan for voluntary reductions needed to prevent river’s two main reservoirs from crashing, or risk the federal government moving forward with its own

measures that would most likely result in mandated cuts. That deadline is just days away, and officials from the states say they are inching closer to an agreement. Those discussions have centered around the only public proposal from any of the states that addresses cuts across the entire basin – one that came from the minds at the Southern Nevada Water Authority and was submitted by the agency as part of the federal government’s review process last month. ... ” Read more from the Las Vegas Review-Journal here: [Colorado River water managers optimistic about drought plan as deadline looms](#)

### **Colorado River states attempt to reach water-use plan — again**

“The seven states most affected by dwindling Colorado River levels are meeting over the next few days to draft proposals for managing the basin’s water levels, potentially preventing the Interior Department from imposing its own water cuts. The seven Colorado River Basin states — Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada and California — have been sparring over who receives the biggest reductions in allocations after Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner Camille Touton announced a 2019 deal with the states that hinged on them saving 2 million to 4 million acre-feet of water, as much as a third of the river’s flows, or the federal government would intervene. Rather than imposing its own water cuts on the states, the Interior Department triggered an environmental assessment process that requires the states and federal government to propose three alternatives by the end of January: one that models what would happen if there was no change to current operations of water levels, another that outlines the federal government’s plan and the final one a basin-states-approved “consensus framework.” ... ” Read more from Roll Call here: [Colorado River states attempt to reach water-use plan — again](#)

### **In California’s Imperial Valley, farmers brace for a future with less Colorado River water**

“Just north of the California-Mexico border, the All-American Canal cuts across 80 miles of barren, dune-swept desert. Up to 200 feet wide and 20 feet deep, the canal delivers the single largest share of Colorado River water to the fertile farmlands of the Imperial Valley. It’s more water than what Los Angeles, Phoenix and Las Vegas get combined, and it’s used to grow lettuce, broccoli, carrots and spinach, as well as hay to supply beef and dairy operations, wheat, melons, lemons and other crops. Since its founding in 1911, the Imperial Irrigation District has held some of the most senior water rights on the river, and it is among the last in line to take cuts. Its water rights, which date to 1901, support the local farm economy and sustain a substantial portion of the nation’s food supply. But as the Colorado’s largest reservoir declines closer to “dead pool” levels, politicians and water managers in other states are calling on the IID to make cuts beyond the 250,000 acre-feet, or about 9%, that the agency has pledged to make starting this year. ... ” Read more from the LA Times here: [In California’s Imperial Valley, farmers brace for a future with less Colorado River water](#)

### **[The Colorado River is in peril. Can we save it?](#)**

By The Los Angeles Times, 1/27/23. When you turn on your tap in Southern California, chances are some of that water came from the Colorado River. The waterway, which originates in the Rocky Mountains, is a key source of the water we and our crops drink.



*Joint press release from the Karuk Tribe, Ridges to Riffles, the Yurok Tribe and the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen’s Associations: Despite the wet winter, the Department of Interior has announced plans to cut Klamath River flows up to 30% below the minimum mandated by the Endangered Species Act to protect listed coho salmon. River flows will drop below 750 cubic feet per second (cfs) for the first time in decades. This could prove disastrous to juvenile coho salmon along with other species including Chinook salmon, steelhead trout, and Pacific lamprey. The Yurok Tribe and the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen’s Associations have already filed a 60-day Notice of Intent to sue the federal government. “We know from experience that flows this low lead to massive fish kills. It happened in the fall of 2002 and the spring of 2004,” said Yurok Vice Chairman Frankie Joe Myers. “This plan is reckless and it disregards the best available science.” ...”* Read more from the Lost Coast Outpost here: [Federal plan to cut Klamath River flows threatens salmon fishery, local tribes and fishermen warn](#)

**Multiple agencies exchange resources for research of the Clear Lake Hitch**

*“Members of the California State Water Board, Department of Water Resources, Fish and Wildlife and the Big Valley Rancheria met Wednesday at Adobe Creek in Kelseyville to exchange resources and train staff in order to gain more data in hopes of saving the endangered Clear Lake Hitch. Since 2014, when the state of California listed the Hitch as endangered, continuous efforts have been made to list the Hitch as endangered at the federal level. Big Valley Rancheria Environmental Director Sara Ryan explained some of the complications faced over the past several years. “It has been a long process with the feds, but their own studies say to put in on the endangered list,” she said. ...”* Read more from the Lake County Record-Bee here: [Multiple agencies exchange resources for research of the Clear Lake Hitch](#)

~~~~~

Heard this one before?



1 / 5

Only a portion of the scores of children buried at the former Florida School for Boys were located in its graveyard. The majority of students were buried elsewhere in unmarked, undocumented graves. MICHAEL SPOONEYBARGER/Reuters/Corbis

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/archaeologists-finally-know-what-happened-brutal-reform-school-180957911/?>

[utm_source=smithsoniandaily&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=editorial&spMailingID=47919609&spUserID=OTYyNTc5MzkyMTQyS0&spJobID=2383192080&spReportId=MjM4MzE5MjA4MAS2](https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/archaeologists-finally-know-what-happened-brutal-reform-school-180957911/?utm_source=smithsoniandaily&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=editorial&spMailingID=47919609&spUserID=OTYyNTc5MzkyMTQyS0&spJobID=2383192080&spReportId=MjM4MzE5MjA4MAS2)



www.goodreads.com > [book](#) > [showUpstream: Trust Lands and Power on the Feather River by Beth ...](#)

Oct 2, 2018 · **Upstream** uses a multidisciplinary and multitemporal approach, weaving together compelling stories with a study of placemaking and land development. It offers a vision of policy reform that will lead to improved Indigenous futures at sites of Indigenous land and water divestiture around the nation. 256 pages, Paperback Published October 2, 2018

books.google.com > [books](#) > [aboutUpstream: Trust Lands and Power on the Feather River - Beth ...](#)

Oct 2, 2018 · **Upstream** uses a multidisciplinary and multitemporal approach, weaving together compelling stories with a study of placemaking and land development. It offers a vision of policy reform that will lead to improved Indigenous futures at sites of Indigenous land and water divestiture around the nation.

www.researchgate.net > [publication](#) > [343436169\(PDF\) Upstream: Trust Lands and Power on the Feather River ...](#)

Aug 4, 2020 · **Beth Rose Middleton Manning's Upstream** explicitly fills the void that often follows such woke state-ments of American history as “America was built on the back of slavery and land theft from...”

uapress.arizona.edu > [book](#) > [upstreamUpstream | UAPress](#)

“**Upstream** tackles the timely and significant topic of Indigenous resistance and activism with respect to damming, diversion, and hydropower development in northern California. **Middleton Manning** interweaves her study of place-making and land development with compelling stories.”—Kate A. Berry, co-editor of *Social Participation in Water Governance and Management: Critical and Global Perspectives*

journals.librarypublishing.arizona.edu > [jpeMiddleton Manning, Beth Rose. 2018. Upstream: Trust Lands and ...](#)

Upstream provides a constructive illustration to young and aspiring interested in the scholars possibilities of truly engaged social science research. Using documentary evidence from a variety of sources, as well as technical tools such as ArcGIS, **Middleton Manning** provides an in-depth historical overview of the



Office of Native American Programs



Tribal Consultations on the Section 184 Program Proposed Rule

National Webinar

January 31, 2023, at 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm (Eastern Standard Time)

To join the consultation, click: <https://ems8.intellor.com/login/846365> and follow the prompts to connect audio by computer or telephone. Webex Support: 888-793-6118.

Need to access by phone only?

Dial-in: 888-251-2949 or 215-861-0694

Access Code: 1818146#

No advance registration is needed for this consultation. If you have additional questions about this consultation, please reach out to deana.k.ohara@hud.gov.

Arlington, Virginia

February 5, 2023, at 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Crystal City Gateway Marriott

This consultation is being held in conjunction with the United Southern and Eastern Tribes Impact Week. You do not have to register for the Impact Week to attend the consultation. If you have additional questions about this consultation, please reach out to deana.k.ohara@hud.gov.

https://rollcall.com/2023/01/25/house-gop-aims-to-tie-oil-reserve-sales-to-public-land-drilling/?utm_source=morningheadlines&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=newsletters&utm_content=01/25/2023

Feb 15 at 12:00 pm: [WRRRC Brown Bag Webinar: Sonoran Institute’s Santa Cruz River Team Presentation on the Findings of the Latest Living River Reports](#)

House GOP aims to tie oil reserve sales to public land drilling

Bill gives House GOP the chance to criticize Biden, but is unlikely to reach his desk

https://rollcall.com/2023/01/25/house-gop-aims-to-tie-oil-reserve-sales-to-public-land-drilling/?utm_source=morningheadlines&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=newsletters&utm_content=01/25/2023

- Nevadans can use library cards to get **free parking passes to Sand Harbor**. Local libraries are about to get a lot of sand in their books

Interested in Hosting a Delegation in Your Home for Dinner?

As we get ready for a busy year for both the exchanges and resettlement teams, we are looking for home hosts for the following delegations:

Sixteen entrepreneurs and small business owners from Iraq, Qatar, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Egypt will visit Reno in Mid January, we are looking for a dinner host for the whole group on February 18 or 19

A delegation of early childhood educators from Albania, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Djibouti, Ghana, Hong Kong, Jordan, Namibia, Nepal, Palestinian Territories, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Tanzania, Tonga, Tunisia, and Ukraine will visit Reno to learn about educational leadership approaches in the US. We are looking for one or two dinner hosts for the whole or partial group on February 25 or 26th.

We will also be looking for many more dinner and overnight hosts for youth and adult groups in the coming months.

Please contact Dominique Stedham at dstedham@nnic.org if you are interested in one of the first two groups!

~~~~~

Please see the position information and USAJOBS announcement links below. Thank you so much for your assistance!

**Program Assistant - Department of Health And Human Services  
Indian Health Service - Office of Environmental Health & Engineering | Reno District**

The Program Assistant is responsible for administrative, operational, and clerical support for the OEHE Department.

- ESEP/MP: <https://www.usajobs.gov/job/689771600>
- DE: <https://www.usajobs.gov/job/689771400>

**Open & closing dates      01/19/2023 to 02/01/2023**

~~~~~

Archives Technician (Collection Technician, National Audio-Visual Conservation Center)

The Library of Congress is accepting applications for an Archives Technician, GS-05, until February 9, 2023.

This position is located in the Collections Management and Accessions Unit, Moving Image Section, National Audio-Visual Conservation Center (NAVCC), Researcher And Collections Services, Packard Campus, 19053 Mt. Pony Road, **Culpeper, VA** 22701.

Are you interested in working with the world’s largest collection of moving images? Do you get excited at the prospect of inspecting, describing, and rehousing film reels of every conceivable gauge and stock? Would you enjoy working with videotape, DVDs, Blu-rays, video games, and even the occasional laserdisc? How about doing all this in a facility custom built for the storage

and preservation of audiovisual material, nestled in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, alongside colleagues who share your passion and enthusiasm? We have the job for you.

[Click here for more information.](#)

To see more current job and internship opportunities at the Library of Congress, [visit our careers site](#) and our [internship and fellowships site](#).

~~~~~  
**Closing Soon: OEJECR is Hiring an Office Director!**

EPA's Office of External Civil Rights Compliance (within the new Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights) is hiring an Office Director/Supervisory Equal Opportunity Specialist. This announcement closes on **February 1, 2023**.

In this role, you will:

- Provide direction, guidance, and oversight to staff with respect to external civil rights enforcement activities and external civil rights compliance by programs or activities that receive financial assistance from EPA;
- Plan, organize, and direct the activities of the Office of External Civil Rights Compliance;
- Exercise supervisory personnel management responsibilities.

One or more positions may be filled (in the organization advertised and/or in other organizations), if appropriate to the position.

Learn more and apply here: <https://www.usajobs.gov/job/700465400>

~~~~~  
Office of Land and Emergency Management EJ Action Plan Engagement Session

EPA's Office of Land and Emergency Management (OLEM) is hosting its first 2023 environmental justice (EJ) community engagement session during which updates and achievements from its [OLEM EJ Action Plan](#) major projects will be presented. Each presentation will be followed by a live, open to the public, feedback opportunity. The goal of this session is to provide updates on the accomplishments and milestones related OLEM's EJ related projects, and to provide an opportunity to obtain feedback from communities with EJ concerns.

Date: February 2, 2023 **Time:** 2:00 – 4:00 PM EST

Register Here: <https://usepa.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJlscu6vqjgqHndwRBHR-uBOoHTAtBPRc8l>

Session to include:

- Remarks from:
 - OLEM Deputy Assistant Administrator Carlton Waterhouse,
 - Office of Communications, Partnerships and Analysis Director Kent Benjamin, and
 - Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights Deputy Assistant Administrator for Environmental Justice Matthew Tejada
- EPA's Strategy and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Grant Programs
- Superfund Community Workshops

- Brownfields Technical Assistance Outreach
- EJ Justice 40 Update
- Open discussion on other EJ-related OLEM Activities

Learn more about the OLEM EJ Action Plan: <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/update-environmental-justice-action-plan->

~~~~~

**US moves to protect Minnesota wilderness from planned mine**

The Biden administration moved Thursday to protect northeastern Minnesota’s pristine Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness from future mining, dealing a potentially fatal blow to a copper-nickel project.

<https://www.startribune.com/us-moves-to-protect-minnesota-wilderness-from-planned-mine/600246774/>

~~~~~

Watch the Lecture

Rethinking Maya Heritage: Past and Present

The story of Maya culture as a once-great civilization that built towering pyramids in the jungles of Central America was developed and popularized by national governments, anthropologists, and archaeologists. Previously unable to control the story of their own culture, Maya communities today are actively reframing their heritage and centering their most recent history—not the distant past—to regain power and self-determination. Richard Leventhal will discuss the importance and role that the nineteenth-century Caste War—one of the largest and most successful Indigenous rebellions—is playing in the Maya’s contested heritage.

Richard M. Leventhal, Professor, Department of Anthropology and Executive Director, Penn Cultural Heritage Center, Penn Museum, University of Pennsylvania

"My name is Jose Garcia Acosta. I am a United States Navy Chief.

~~~~~

I am also Apache as my grandfather is from the Mescalero Apache tribe.

Someone said it is disgraceful for me to wear a uniform for the USA if I am Native American. Let me tell you this. I am Apache and American. We do not come up with excuses not to serve or go to battle for our people.”

Photo via: Native American History



**Your Kids Can Make Money... Playing With Toys**

This one is as much a fun gig for you as it is for your kid — and it can be quite lucrative. Just ask that 9-year-old boy who earned nearly \$30 million dollars in a single year by posting unboxing videos on YouTube. He had to start somewhere. Now's [your chance](#).



Step Off the Beaten Path and Explore Authentic Alaska - **Visit secluded and lesser-known destinations where Alaska Native culture is still alive and thriving today** (Travel Alaska)

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/sponsored/step-off-the-beaten-path-and-explore-authentic-alaska-180981145/?no-cache>

~~~~~  
A \$250,000 check will help Minnesota group buy back land taken from Native Americans

<https://www.startribune.com/a-250000-check-will-help-minnesota-group-buy-back-land-taken-from-native-americans/600247158/>

~~~~~  
**Biden administration issues Boundary Waters mining moratorium**

The Interior Department on Thursday issued a 20-year mining moratorium for more than 225,000 acres of federal land in northeastern Minnesota that had been eyed for a potential copper and nickel mine. The public land order signed by Interior Secretary Deb Haaland withdrew the area from consideration for leasing under federal laws. [Read more...](#)

**More Water Issues**

The Interior Department had asked California and six other states that rely on water from the shrinking Colorado River to devise a plan to collectively cut back by Tuesday. **With the states unexpected to reach a deal, Washington is now preparing to unilaterally impose water cuts for 40 million people.** "The crisis over the Colorado River is the latest example of how climate change is overwhelming the foundations of American life — not only physical infrastructure, like dams and reservoirs, but also the legal underpinnings that have made those systems work," [the New York Times wrote](#).

The Imperial Valley receives the single largest share of Colorado River water. **Farmers there are worried their fields could turn to dust.** [L.A. Times](#)

**Emails reveal tensions in Colorado River talks**

[https://www.rgj.com/story/news/2023/01/29/emails-show-western-states-contentious-fights-over-colorado-river-plan/69852221007/?a=a&utm\\_source=rgj-DailyBriefing&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=daily\\_briefing&utm\\_term=list\\_article\\_thumbnail&utm\\_content=PREN-1011GJ-E-NLETTER65](https://www.rgj.com/story/news/2023/01/29/emails-show-western-states-contentious-fights-over-colorado-river-plan/69852221007/?a=a&utm_source=rgj-DailyBriefing&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=daily_briefing&utm_term=list_article_thumbnail&utm_content=PREN-1011GJ-E-NLETTER65)

**[Funding will get broadband to 40,000 Nevada homes](#)**

Nevada is set to receive \$55.2 million for broadband infrastructure projects that will provide internet access to thousands of residents who still lack high-quality broadband.

[Read on »](#)

## **Rupert Steele, Goshute leader who fought to protect tribal land, culture, dies at 69**

**Steele long advocated for tribal land and water rights — and to prevent cultural erasure.**



(Lennie Mahler | The Salt Lake Tribune) Rupert Steele, Chairman of the Confederated Tribes of the Goshute Indian Reservation, speaks during the opening plenary at the 2015 Parliament of the World's Religions held inside the Salt Palace Convention Center on Thursday, Oct. 15, 2015, in Salt Lake City. Jan. 27, 2023, 1:55 p.m.

Rupert Steele, the chairman of the Confederated Tribes of the Goshute Indian Reservation — who advocated for his people on many fronts — died early Thursday at age 69, according to his family.

“With heavy hearts,” Steele’s children announced his death Thursday on social media. Their father “began his journey into the Spirit World” at 1:40 a.m., the announcement read, noting that he was “surrounded by immediate family.” There was no mention of his cause of death.

Steele had long advocated for the Goshute Tribe and others on water and land rights, protecting natural resources, and preserving tribal language, heritage and Indigenous children’s rights.

“He was an advocate for not only his tribe, but for all of Indian country, the elements and sacred lands,” according to the Utah Division of Indian Affairs. “He was a champion for many causes and, importantly, the protection of Native American children in his efforts to codify the Indian Child Welfare Act in Utah.”

Steele represented the Goshute Tribe on the Utah Tribal Leaders Committee, the Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada, the Utah Native American Remains Review Committee, the Utah Governor’s Snake Valley Water Advisory Committee, and served on several tribal committees, according to [the Nevada Indian Commission](#).

The Duckwater Shoshone Tribe shared in a statement that Steele will be missed but that his legacy “will not be forgotten and the teachings he shared will echo for many generations to come.” Steele “will be remembered as a man of impact, strength, and courage,” the statement continued.

“As he joins the council of great chiefs at the creator’s side,” it read, “we know he is looking down on us with a smile.”

The Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada offered its prayers and condolences, praising Steele as a man who “touched the hearts of many and will be remembered and honored by many who respected and valued his leadership, experience and knowledge.”

Utah Gov. Spencer Cox and Lt. Gov. Deidre Henderson issued a statement Thursday calling Steele “a spiritual leader and standard-bearer for his fellow tribal members” who “forged friendships with local, state, and federal leaders — ensuring the voice and interests of the tribe were well represented.”

Born and raised in Ibapah, in Tooele County, near the Nevada border on the Goshute Reservation, Steele’s “intimate knowledge and connection with the landscape became practical tools for his advocacy,” Cox and Henderson’s statement continued. “As a result, the chairman sought and succeeded in efforts to protect his ancestors’ traditions, sacred sites, language, and land.”

Steele [advocated for the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978](#), which has protections against removing Native American children from their tribes and is currently under review by the U.S. Supreme Court. In November, Steele told Utah legislators that when he was a child, he and his siblings hid every time a white person came to their house out of fear that they would be taken away.

“We were afraid that we would be taken away from our family circle, too,” he said. “That fear existed for decades and decades for many Indian families across the United States.” And, he said, “The state of Utah is no exception” when it came to taking Indigenous kids away from their tribes — a form of cultural erasure. “The protection of our children is our greatest responsibility now,” he told lawmakers.

In May 2022, Steele said he wants to see the federal government address the [“disastrous results” of the Native American boarding school system](#), “which were assimilation, economic disparities, families broken up, and unfortunately, death.”

A boarding school survivor himself, he called upon the U.S. government to “use the opportunity to rebuild American Indian communities, revitalize our languages and culture, and provide us with the resources necessary to thrive.”

In Cox and Henderson’s statement, they vowed that Utah “remains deeply committed to Chairman Steele’s efforts to codify the Indian Child Welfare Act and defend tribal sovereignty.”

According to the family, funeral arrangements will be announced once they are finalized.

# Celebration of Life

The family of  
*Charles "Duddy" Walker Jr*  
welcome you to join them in celebrating  
his life



**June 12, 1980 - January 22, 2023**

**SERVICES TO BE HELD AT 465 CLEAR CREEK AVE,  
CARSON CITY, NV 89701 STEWART GYM @ 11AM**

**FOOD DONATIONS WELCOME**



Please contact Lavelle Walker for additional  
information  
775.431.7359

