

**Journal #5560 from sdc 9.30.3**

*We Read Banned Books*

*Ancient Humans Created Super-Fertile “Dark Earth”*

*Hired Guns for Sale Thwarting Climate Progress*

*‘We are just getting started’: the plastic-eating bacteria that could change the world*

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*Confronting climate change impacts, tribes prepare and persist*

*Mary Ann (Silva) Vera*

*Curtis E. Stingerie*

**Banned Books Week takes place October 1–7, 2023.**



**ALA Releases Top 10 Most Challenged Books of 2022 List**

**#8 *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* by Sherman Alexie**

Reasons: Claimed to be sexually explicit, profanity

<https://bannedbooksweek.org>

for T-shirt contact Jesse Hartford [iranon13@yahoo.com](mailto:iranon13@yahoo.com)

(back contains 2022 listing of books)

**Researchers now hope to use the environmental engineering success to combat climate change.**

Read in Popular Mechanics: <https://apple.news/Ay4JDNX-iRRWrScdgOGsu8Q>

**Hired Guns for Sale Thwarting Climate Progress:** Reno and Las Vegas are the fastest warming cities in America, but efforts to reduce emissions are being thwarted by lobbyists representing fossil fuel interests. The article calls for public entities to sever ties with these firms. ([goodmenproject.com](http://goodmenproject.com))

**‘We are just getting started’: the plastic-eating bacteria that could change the world**

When a microbe was found munching on a plastic bottle in a rubbish dump, it promised a recycling revolution. Now scientists are attempting to turbocharge those powers in a bid to solve our waste crisis. But will it work?

[https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2023/sep/28/plastic-eating-bacteria-enzyme-recycling-waste?](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2023/sep/28/plastic-eating-bacteria-enzyme-recycling-waste?utm_source=newsshowcase&utm_medium=gnews&utm_campaign=CDAQ9o2RpcSFpvZIGILwv9WB15LepQEqEAgAKgcICjDCjqoLMMKZwgM&utm_content=bullets)

[utm\\_source=newsshowcase&utm\\_medium=gnews&utm\\_campaign=CDAQ9o2RpcSFpvZIGILwv9WB15LepQEqEAgAKgcICjDCjqoLMMKZwgM&utm\\_content=bullets](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2023/sep/28/plastic-eating-bacteria-enzyme-recycling-waste?utm_source=newsshowcase&utm_medium=gnews&utm_campaign=CDAQ9o2RpcSFpvZIGILwv9WB15LepQEqEAgAKgcICjDCjqoLMMKZwgM&utm_content=bullets)

**EPA Marks One Year of Office Dedicated to Advancing Environmental Justice and Civil Rights**

This week, the EPA celebrates the one-year anniversary of the formation of the Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights (OEJECR), a new national program that delivers on President Biden’s commitment to address the impacts faced by those living in underserved communities overburdened by pollution. The establishment of OEJECR capitalizes on historic resources to ensure EPA’s regulatory, policy, and enforcement decisions always include consideration of environmental justice and civil rights.

OEJECR was created by merging three existing programs at the agency: the Office of Environmental Justice, External Civil Rights Compliance Office, and Conflict Prevention and Resolution Center. OEJECR is at the forefront of delivering on Goal 2 of [EPA’s FY 2022-2026 Strategic Plan](#): Take Decisive Action to Advance Environmental Justice and Civil Rights, as well as several Executive Orders issued by President Biden to bring justice and equity to underserved communities long overburdened by pollution.

OEJECR first-year highlights include:

**Launching the Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers.** OEJECR utilized \$177 million for the creation of 16 [Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers \(EJ TCTACs\)](#) all around the country to help underserved and overburdened communities across the country by removing barriers and improving accessibility for communities with environmental justice concerns. In addition, OEJECR launched competitions and will soon award funding for three new and expanded environmental justice grant programs totaling \$650 million, including a \$550 million Thriving Communities Grantmaking Program, a \$70 million Government-to-Government Program, and a \$30 million Collaborative Problem-Solving Program.

**Strengthening Civil Rights Enforcement** . Over the past year, OEJECR received more than twice the average number of civil rights complaints and accepted a record number of civil rights investigations, while also developing meaningful resolution agreements that provide for greater engagement between recipient entities and communities and increased transparency for the public regarding investigations and resolutions.

**Conflict Prevention and Resolution.** OEJECR responded to increasing demands for Agency-wide conflict resolution services— supporting more than 130 active projects, including an additional 40-60 projects that provide facilitation, mediation, consensus building, and other conflict resolution services.

Additionally, OEJECR led Agency efforts in enhancing communication and engagement by increasing the meaningful participation in critical decision making of persons with limited English proficiency and persons with disabilities.

**Delivering on Justice40.** OEJECR's [Justice40](#) team collaborated with other offices in the Agency to lead this historic Biden-Harris Administration initiative to help deliver on the federal government goal of delivering at least 40% of benefits from certain federal investments to disadvantaged communities. This effort involves working with other national program offices, including over 70 programs, to create an Agency-wide community of practice to ensure that we not just meeting, but exceeding the president's goal.

**Building the Environmental and Climate Justice Program.** The [Environmental and Climate Justice Program](#), created by the [Inflation Reduction Act](#), provides funding for financial and technical assistance to carry out environmental and climate justice activities to benefit underserved and overburdened communities. This program includes the EPA's new [Community Change Grants program \(Community Change Grants\)](#) that will invest approximately \$2 billion dollars in environmental and climate justice activities to benefit disadvantaged communities through projects that reduce pollution, increase community climate resilience, and build community capacity to respond to environmental and climate justice challenges.

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**Request for Nominations for Membership on the Native American Employment and Training Council**

[FRN for the Council Nominations](#). When submitting nomination materials, please indicate the Region or Discipline for which the nominee would like consideration. Information regarding the NAETC can be found at <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/dinap/council>. Nominations for individuals to serve on the NAETC must be submitted electronically by October 18, 2023.

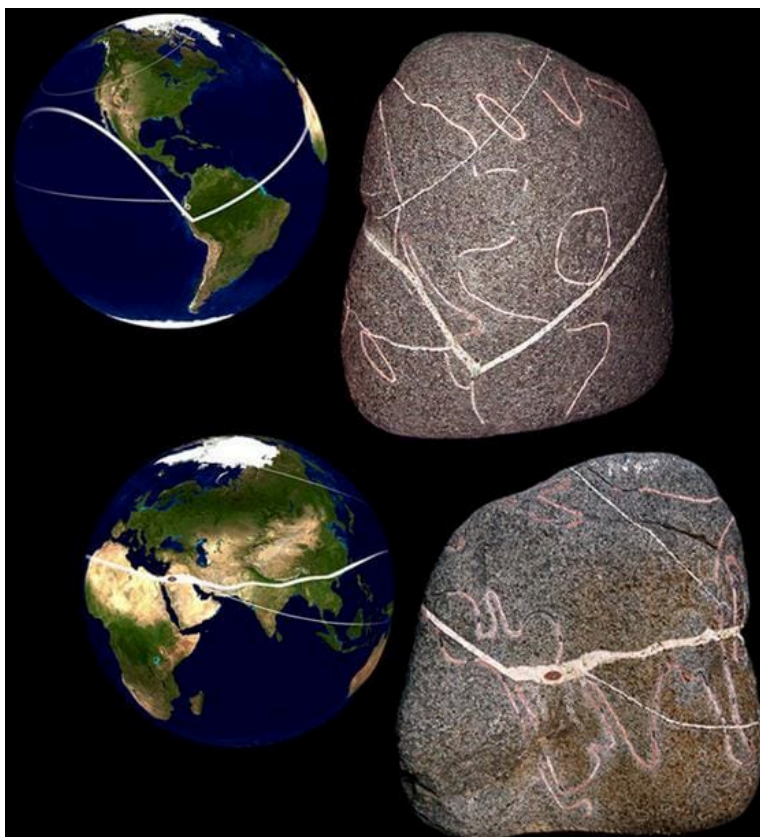
For more information, contact Nathaniel Coley, Division Chief, Division of Indian and Native American Programs, (202) 693-4287 or email at [Coley.Nathaniel.d@dol.gov](mailto:Coley.Nathaniel.d@dol.gov).

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**Ojibwe tribes in Wisconsin celebrate 40th anniversary of landmark decision on treaty rights**

<https://www.wpr.org/ojibwe-tribes-wisconsin-celebrate-40th-anniversary-landmark-decision-treaty-rights>

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**KUDOS to Arianna Bennett and Channel 2 (KTVN) for their special on the Carson River Mercury Problem (Don't eat the fish)**

[https://www.2news.com/features/carson\\_river\\_mercury\\_problem/](https://www.2news.com/features/carson_river_mercury_problem/)



### **Ancient Astronaut Theory** ·

When prospectors in La Maná, Ecuador were digging for gold they unearthed more than they had bargained for when they unexpectedly stumbled upon 300 out of place artefacts which didn't quite fit in with our recorded history books. This curious haul included two rocks which depicts the earth perfectly from above and even includes the great pyramid of Giza, the artefacts were found in a tunnel roughly 100 meters underground. Interestingly many artefacts of pyramids were found in Ecuador and were generously given to revered Salesian monk father Carlos Crespi who was born in Italy in 1891 and resided in Ecuador and gained the trust of many of the indigenous people who ended up gifting many priceless artefacts to father Crespi who opened a museum of sorts in his home and ultimately proved beyond doubt that our history books aren't as straight forward as we are led to believe. So the big question remains how on earth (No pun intended) did our ancients map the earth without satellite capabilities or flight.? Much like many of the ancient maps such as the Piri Reis map which seemingly depicts the Antarctic land mass free of ice, who were these pin point accurate cartographers we have yet to fully identify.?

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Inside Edition

### **[300-Year-Old Tree Made Famous in Kevin Costner Film Cut Down](#)**

A 300-year-old tree was illegally cut down in England. The Sycamore Gap tree was located at Hadrian's Wall, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Hadrian's Wall is believed to have been constructed around 1,900 years ago in what is now Northumberland National Park. The tree was featured in the 1991 Kevin Costner film, "Robin Hood, Prince of Thieves." A 16-year-old boy has been arrested, police say, on suspicion of criminal damage.

**Innovation Center Makerspace  
450 Sinclair St  
Reno, Nevada 89501 ([map](#))**

**Wednesday, Oct 11  
Presentations & Tour: 4:00 - 5:00 pm  
Networking: 3:00 - 4:00 pm**



Prepare for an enlightening excursion through the Innovation Center Makerspace. This curated tour grants you exclusive access to our state-of-the-art equipment, encompassing 3D printers, laser cutters, and CNC machines, providing an in-depth encounter with the tools propelling innovation.

As the tour unfolds, you'll delve into the mechanics of the 3D print lab, gaining insights into the diverse array of 3D printers and their operational intricacies. Continuing onward, the machine shop takes center stage, featuring a captivating demonstration showcasing our advanced 150-watt BOSS laser cutter. The tour culminates with the brand new Innovation Center woodshop, offering a firsthand glimpse into this dynamic woodworking environment.

During your visit you'll see/learn:

3D printers: learn how they work, what the different types are and the capabilities / limitations of these machines

- Large format printers and vinyl cutters
- Laser cutter/etching machine
- CNC mills/lathes/routers
- The newly opened woodshop

Sign up today!

**[Get Tickets Now](#)**

**University of Nevada, Reno:** "Today, Sept. 30, is recognized as Orange Shirt Day. ❤️ This day and color commemorates the trauma and resilience of Indigenous children who were historically forced into boarding and residential schools. The @unevadareno Office of..." ([Instagram](#)) (rc'd 10.01)

## Confronting climate change impacts, tribes prepare and persist

By: [Jeniffer Solis](#) -

*This story is the last in a series. Read part one on infrastructure issues [here](#), and part two on environmental consequences [here](#).*

It can take up to a century for a piñon pine to produce the soft sweet seeds that birds, squirrels and other small mammals rely on for food. The Walker River Paiute Tribe has held their annual Pinenut Festival and blessing in September for just as long.

Earlier in the summer, tribes throughout Nevada expected a high seed yield after record rainfall swept the Great Basin. That wasn't the case this year, however, according to permit data from the Bureau of Land Management, which sets harvesting regulations. It's possible the trees were affected by an unusually late and cool spring and years of drought.

“Traditionally, you would wait until the rabbitbrush turns yellow to go to the mountains to harvest your pine nuts,” said Andrea Martinez, the chair of the Walker River Paiute Tribe. “The weather is different, the seasons are different because of climate change. It's changing the way our Earth operates. It's affecting our harvest, it's affecting nature.”

Whether or not to change the time of the pine nut blessing is becoming a bigger discussion among elders in the tribe, says Martinez.

But for now, the festival will continue as is. There's more to celebrate than a good harvest this year. Walker Lake — a part of the tribe's reservation before disgruntled settlers ripped it away — rose by 15 feet over the summer after historic snow melt.

There's a lot of hope native fish will be reintroduced to the lake someday. After all, the Paiute people of Walker Lake call themselves the Agai Dicutta — “trout eaters” — in their native language.

“We're really happy about that,” Martinez said. “When the lake started to disappear, it's almost like our heritage and our identity was disappearing. But it's coming back, it almost feels like a metaphor.”

Damage from months of flooding in Schurz is still being repaired by the time the annual festival rolls around. The MC on stage near the powwow grounds talks about road construction and other troubles caused by the floods, but he talks about celebrations too. Kids birthdays, Walker Lake improvement, a new season of Reservation Dogs, and veterans returning home.

Calling Eagle, a band, plays traditional prayer songs and between competitive dance sets, everyone is invited to join. Some of the dancers are wearing traditional regalia, some are in cuffed jeans and graphic tees, and others are moms in fleece joggers and tank tops carrying babies.

Later in the night, an elder named Steven “Snake” Frank, instructs festival-goers on how to perform the pinenut blessing in the traditional way, which the tribe hasn't done in years. Dancers

are told to form a complete circle around a small tree the tribe brought in from the hills and planted on a patch of dirt.

“As you dance, you hold hands and hold each other and support each other,” Frank says, as dancers begin a circle dance, kicking up dirt and burying the pinenut seeds under their feet. “Our circle is supposed to be complete, and we dance as one people, in unison.”

The flooding, the erosion on the river bank, it’s a wake up call, Martinez says.

“It’s because of how we’ve been treating the earth and what we’ve been doing, so ultimately, we need to take responsibility for that,” Martinez says. “Since everything is a circle, it’s going to come back to where it used to be.”



*Walker Lake, which rose by 15 feet over the summer after historic snow melt. (Photo: Jeniffer Solis)*

### **A battle against erosion**

Rivers want to meander the way a snake does, says Donna Marie Noel, the director of the natural resources department for the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe.

She points to a map in her office, “We’ve identified several areas along the river that get a lot of erosion.”

The plan is to work with nature to fortify the banks of the lower Truckee River. Erosion under the Weber Reservoir Dam this summer shows the limitations of trying to work against the river.

Before the Army Corps of Engineers straightened the river in the 1960’s to reduce flooding upstream in Reno, cottonwood trees and willows held the bank of the river together. The ones that weren’t torn out soon thinned away.

It won’t be easy. River banks are notoriously challenging sites to establish plant life from scratch, and the grant funded department will need support, but for the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe, it’s the only way.

Restoring suitable floodplains and wetlands is a good start, says Marie Noel.

Functioning wetlands act as a natural filter for water, trapping fine sediments before they flow into Pyramid Lake. Floodplains have always been a part of the Truckee River, taking in overflowing rivers before they pummel downstream banks. And despite Nevada's reputation as the driest state in the union, it's home to a catalog of vegetation suited to waterlogged soil: wild rye, Lemonade bushes, southern cattail, and the threatened spring-loving centaur.

"Hopefully, in the next couple years, we'll have some real good stream bank projects going on," Marie Noel said.

It's the same for the Timbisha Shoshone Tribe in Death Valley.

"Everybody's talking about planting more vegetation now," said Mandi Campbell, the historic preservation officer for the tribe.

Last year, a flash flood left about a thousand people stranded in the Death Valley National Park. The tribe's village was flooded too, leaving residents to set up sandbags overnight as water came up to people's yards. They were more prepared this summer when Tropical Storm Hilary brought massive floods, including a stronger relationship with the U.S. National Park Service to get alerts days before a storm arrives.

"It was just crazy last year compared to this year," Campbell said.

The tribe hopes to build a diversion surrounded by native plant species that can trap floodwater and slowly guide excess water to the mesquite grove they manage.

"We don't want to put anything else. We don't want barricades. We want it as natural as it can be. It's a desert and we want to keep it a desert," Campbell said.

### **From emergency to emergency**

In May, four households in Lyon County voluntarily evacuated after floods grew. By June, another eight households were evacuated from the Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area to protect Nevada Department of Wildfire employees and their families. At the same time, the Lahontan Reservoir — a massive dam near the Fallon Paiute Shoshone Tribe's reservation — was spilling over as lake levels reached the top of flashboards.

"At first, people were really scared," said Jackie Conway, the emergency management manager for the Fallon Paiute Shoshone Tribe. Information meetings on the flooding were packed.

"There were a lot of rumors out there."

Over the following months, the Fallon Paiute Shoshone Tribe's emergency operation center prepared for flooding, expected to be on par with the region's 2017 floods, which caused over \$33 million in damages to state infrastructure, like roads and dams.

Sandbags were prepared, the health clinic prescribed patients two months worth of vital medications, and tribal facilities were equipped to accommodate anyone who needed to be



relocated. Elders volunteered to monitor canals surrounding homes on the reservation and remove any debris threatening to stop water from flowing out of the area.

The unusually cool spring dulled some of the destructive force the tribe saw during the 2017 flood. Conway says the tribe had more experience this time around too. In the past, the main emergencies the tribe planned for were earthquakes and wildfires. But there's more emergencies now.

For three years, the tribe navigated a global pandemic, and like a well-oiled machine, when the flooding came their emergency operation center revved up again.

“Under COVID, that's kind of where we got — and I hate to say this — but it's where we got the experience,” said Jon Pishion, the health center director and deputy incident commander for the tribe.

“A week after the end of the COVID emergency declaration, we did the flood emergency declaration. So we moved from one to the other,” he continued.

Whatever the long-term effects of more extreme weather are, Mervin Wright, the director of the Pyramid Lake Fisheries, said he'll just continue his work. It's part of a decades-long effort to protect the threatened Lahontan cutthroat and endangered cui-ui suckers for future generations. The high flows into the lake provided a greater opportunity for the native fish to enter the Truckee River, which was once cut off from the lake after a badly planned dam blocked water flow. It's not every year the lake gets some 500,00 acre feet of water, and how many fish manage to spawn won't be clear for years.

“There's not a lot of data for a year like this. Hopefully, it will drive our knowledge,” Wright said.

He laughs, “Nature's going to prevail.”

*This series was made possible with a grant from the [Institute for Journalism and Natural Resources](#)*



## What is the Ruby Valley Treaty and Why Should You Know About It?

It's been 160 years since the U.S. government entered into a treaty with the Western Shoshone people. But, tribal members say the treaty is a testament to broken promises.

By [Noah Glick](#) • [Community](#), [Culture](#), [Tribes](#) • September 28, 2023



*Photo courtesy Noowuh Knowledge Center*

In the years before Nevada became a state in 1864, hundreds of hopefuls made their way out West, hoping to strike it rich as part of the California Gold Rush. Along the way, these white settlers often came into contact with indigenous people, leading to violence and conflict.

That included the areas of the Great Basin that is now eastern Nevada, where Western Shoshone people had been living for centuries.

“Much of our ancestors’ food supply was being denigrated by the colonial settlers. Livestock, they were eating much of our peoples’ food supply,” said Mary Gibson, a member of the Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone/Elko Band and executive director of the [Noowuh Knowledge Center](#).

Gibson said these conflicts led to raids against U.S. settlers and massacres against indigenous people. Eventually, as the Comstock Lode was discovered and the country was embroiled in the violent Civil War, the U.S. government entered into a treaty with the Western Shoshone, known as the [1863 Treaty of the Ruby Valley](#).

“The Ruby Valley Treaty is a treaty of peace and a treaty of friendship,” Gibson said. “The treaty allowed the United States to take their journey across Western Shoshone territory in 1863.”

What it didn't do was cede land to the United States government.

“There are very specific boundaries in the treaty. It goes up north into Idaho and parts of Utah, and down through a good two-thirds portion of Nevada and down into Death Valley, California. So, we're talking about vast territory that that we were in,” said Fermina Stevens, a member of

the Te-Moak tribe of Western Shoshone and Executive Director of the Western Shoshone Defense Project.

The treaty is still valid today, yet the territory of the Western Shoshone continues to be ignored. That's a big concern for Stevens and other Western Shoshone people.

"Right now, we're just trying to trying to protect the land and water for future use, for the future of Nevada. With everything going on in Nevada, who knows what's going to happen with our water and food sources as we move along in the next 50-60 years and beyond?" Stevens said.

Part of the concern stems from large-scale projects happening on the traditional land of the Western Shoshone, including the long-proposed Yucca Mountain nuclear waste repository and the Nevada Test Site.

"As stated in the [Constitution, Article VI](#), that treaties are the supreme law of the land. And unfortunately, in our case, the Western Shoshone case, the United States doesn't seem to see it that way," Gibson said.

Gibson said it's critical to educate the community at large about this treaty and the impacts it's had over time. It's why the Noowuh Knowledge Center is putting on a [conference this weekend](#) commemorating the 160-year anniversary of that agreement.

Gail Rappa has seen this lack of awareness firsthand. She's the Humanities Center Coordinator for Great Basin College, which is a partner for the event.

"I've lived here since 1997, in the Elko and northeastern Nevada area, and I did not know very much about the treaty. I'd never heard it talked about. But I've talked to folks who went to school here and they never learned about the treaty," Rappa said.

It's not just non-natives, either. There also seems to be a lack of awareness within native communities.

"We're finding even within native circles, the youth don't know very much about it. This is important information. It's all tied to the land that we live on that we are inhabiting right now," Rappa said.

Several speakers, workshops and activities are planned over three days, designed to celebrate Western Shoshone sovereignty and culture. Cliff Banuelos, a direct descendant of a treaty signer, will be giving a keynote address.

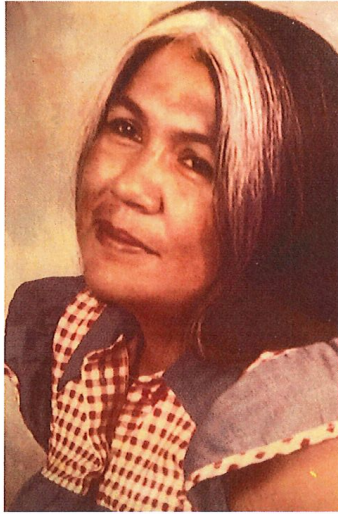
"We're not specifically honoring this treaty, because a lot of our people don't think it's an honor that [the] United States has not lived up to their treaty obligations. We're looking at it from the viewpoint of our ancestors, we are honoring them for what they had to do," Gibson said.

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*Always thought this should be in Nevada curriculum and text books - its only 22 paragraphs long.*

*Mary Ann (Silva) Vera*

*Born 03/20/1939      Passed 09/08/23*

*The Sunrise/Visitation/Memorial  
Will be held at the Blue Building  
(Old Indian Colony)  
01 Circle Way - Battle Mountain, NV*



*SUNRISE CEREMONY  
Friday, October 6th  
Saturday, October 7th  
Sunday, October 8th*

*PRAYERS/VISITATION/VIEWING  
Saturday, October 7th  
All Day*

*MEMORIAL SERVICES  
Sunday, October 8, 2023  
@ 11:30 a.m.*

*BURIAL  
Battle Mountain Indian Cemetery*

*TRADITIONAL DINNER  
The family would appreciate any food donation brought for  
the traditional dinner to share with Mary's family and friends.*

*In Loving Memory of  
Curtis E. Stingerie*



*October 6, 1963 - September 21, 2023*

**Services**

*Friday, October 6, 2023 @ 1:00 p.m.  
Walker River Tribal Gym, 1127 Cottonwood Dr.*

**Burial**

*Schurz Tribal Cemetery*

*Memorial Dinner to follow at Walker River Tribal Gym  
Food donations would be greatly appreciated.*

[pageborder.org](http://pageborder.org)