

Journal #5605 from sdc 12.4.23

Native Mona Lisa

Salton Sea could meet nation's lithium demand for decades, study finds

Indigenous and Native Authors

California water rights battle reaches new stage in Legislature

Smithsonian scientists in collaboration with NASA launched a revolutionary new tool into space

Nevada State Museum highlighted work of Everett Pikyavit (Moapa) for National Indian Month

DINAP Newsletter

How a south Reno hot spring can offer hints about life on Mars

EPA Seeks Comment on Draft Policy for Public Participation in Agency Decision-Making Processes

Sexual Violence Prevention Network (SVPN) E-News

Althea E. Tom



[Salton Sea could meet nation's lithium demand for decades, study finds](#)

Indigenous and Native Authors

Stanford Report synopsized five books from a special display in Green Library's Hohbach Hall, where nearly two full shelves of titles by and about Indigenous and Native authors celebrated Native American Heritage Month in November.

California water rights battle reaches new stage in Legislature - CalMatters

<https://calmatters.org/commentary/2023/06/water-rights-legislative-proposals-advance/>

In April this year, **Smithsonian scientists in collaboration with NASA [launched](#) a revolutionary new tool into space** from Florida's Cape Canaveral Space Force Station. At 7,000 miles per hour, a Falcon 9 two-stage rocket delivered its satellite payload to geostationary orbit, 22,236 miles above the United States, Mexico and Canada. The satellite—a washing machine-sized suite of instruments known as TEMPO, short for Tropospheric Emissions: Monitoring of Pollution—is now providing detailed analysis of the continent's air pollution. The project has been in development for more than 30 years at the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory in Cambridge, M



[Nevada State Museum, Carson City](#)

For Native American Heritage Month, the Nevada State Museum, Carson City would like to highlight the work of Everett Pikyavit, a Southern Paiute and Goshute weaver, who is an enrolled member of the Moapa Band of Paiutes. Everett's work includes traditional Southern Paiute and Goshute basketry, including winnowing trays, burden baskets, seed beaters, water jugs, hats, and a variety of other forms. The Museum is fortunate to have several of Everett's baskets, but this open twined willow fish trap, acquired from Everett in 2007, is a unique piece and demonstrates his skill and technique as a weaver. Thank you, Everett, for your contributions to our collection.



Grantee Spotlight: Navajo Department of Workforce Development

The Navajo Department of Workforce Development (NDWD) is made up of five local Workforce Centers, three Sub-Offices and one Administration office. The NDWD Crownpoint Workforce Center is one of five local Workforce Centers and is in Crownpoint, NM. Crownpoint is located within the Navajo Nation, as part of the Eastern Navajo Agency (ENA) to the Native Indian people within the eastern region of the Navajo Nation. The ENA consists of 31 chapters along with the number representing the total population of each chapter. According to the 2010 U.S. Census, ENA has a total population of 33,216. ENA has a total of 1,039,210 acres.

Highlights:

- Adult Programs: Established a strong bond with Navajo Technical University, Crownpoint NM. Job placement, on-the-job training and coaching of participants to gain the values of Dine' people to become self-dependent are some strong program components.
- Youth Programs: Completion of program activities have demonstrated gains in values of being a leader, helping parents with livestock, and learning self-pride through cultural programs, youth conferences, and the short-term employment.
- Both adults and youth are engaged in finding full-time employment.

For more information, [click here](#).

Good Jobs in Tribal Communities

YOU ARE INVITED TO

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

GOOD JOBS IN TRIBAL COMMUNITIES

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2023

10:00 am ET with doors opening at 9:30 am

U.S. Department of Labor | Frances Perkins Building

200 Constitution Ave NW | Washington, DC 20210

[Register Here](#)

During this event, Native American leaders, employers, labor unions, and workers will engage in discussion with Acting Secretary of Labor Julie Su on how Tribal communities are creating good jobs with equitable workforce development pathways such as Registered Apprenticeship programs, and how those strategies can be used with America funds from across the Biden-Harris Administration.

Good Jobs in Tribal Communities

Engage in discussion with U.S. Acting Secretary of Labor Julie Su on how Tribal communities are creating good

Native America Employment and Training (NAETC) Updates

The next NAETC meeting will take place after the Eastern/Midwest Peer-to-Peer WIOA Conference. NAETC will meet in the Department of Labor's Frances Perkins Building in Washington, DC, on December 7–8, 2023. More information can be found here in the [Federal Register](#).

Census Workgroup

One of the items on the agenda for the upcoming NAETC meeting in December is the implementation of updated census numbers for the funding formula. The current funding formula uses Native American unemployment and poverty data from the 2000 decennial census. ETA will be seeking recommendations from the Advisory Council on the implementation of the 2014–2018 5-year American Community Survey (ACS) census numbers beginning in PY 2024. A side by side comparison between the 2000 census numbers and the 2014–2018 5-year ACS can be found at: [2000 and 2014–2018 ACS Side by Side Comparison](#).

DINAP is asking grantees to review their geographic service areas to make sure their service area has not changed. Grantees should be aware that funding allocations are based on census numbers, so a change from the 2000 decennial census to the 2014–2018 5-year ACS will have an impact on grantee funding. Grantees that have an increase in the poverty and unemployment numbers from the 2000 census data to the 2014–2018 5-year ACS will see an increase in funding and grantees that have a decrease in the poverty and unemployment numbers from the 2000 census data to the 2014–2018 5-year ACS will see a decrease in funding. However, if updated census numbers are implemented, ETA would also implement a 3-year or 5-year hold harmless methodology, which would gradually increase and decrease grantee funding over a period of three or five years to minimize any drastic increases and decreases in grantee funding in one year.

ETA Vision 2030

On November 14–15, 2023, the DOL Employment and Training Administration (ETA) convened representatives in Chicago, Illinois from across the Midwestern workforce ecosystem for a regional convening to discuss the critical role the system has in building pathways and expanding access to quality jobs, especially for those too often left behind.

The ETA Regional Convenings across the nation followed a theme of "Expanding Access to Quality Jobs and Ensuring Job Equity," and focused on creating a national dialogue on the workforce system, fostering partnerships to address the present and future workforce needs, and scaling successful practices by providing a platform for engagement between federal, state, and local entities.

Acting U.S. Secretary of Labor, Julie Su offered her commitment to serving the needs of underserved communities, addressing the needs of a care economy, expanding access to quality jobs, and ensuring job equity. Acting Labor Secretary Julie Su stated. "... this isn't just an opportunity to build new infrastructure. It's an opportunity to create good-paying, union jobs, whenever possible. That requires investing in ETA's (Employment and Training Administration) mission to strengthen our workforce system."



The Canucks First Nations celebration logo is beautiful
Shoutout to the artists Cole Sparrow-Crawford and Cyler Sparrow-Point.

December 4, 1902 US Secretary of the Interior Ethan Hitchcock delivered to the House of Representatives a report calling for a 231.86 acres increase in land for the Moapa tribal reservation.

December 4, 1947 Nez Perce and Yakima members met near Walla Walla to sign legal complaints for violation of 1855 treaty (signed on the same site) guaranteeing salmon fishing rights that would be impeded by construction of McNary Dam on the Columbia River.

Indy Environment: How a south Reno hot spring can offer hints about life on Mars

Good morning, and welcome to the Indy Environment newsletter. I'm Amy Alonzo, the environment reporter for The Indy.

Writing about water in Nevada usually revolves around the lack of the life-sustaining liquid — despite an epic winter, portions of Southern Nevada remain in drought; the future of the beleaguered Colorado River remains uncertain; and basins across the state are over appropriated.

But over the summer, a Northern Nevada scientist took members of The Indy to look at something unique in Nevada — the surprise return of water to a once active hot spring and geyser. We visited the site again in the fall and saw the amount of water bubbling up had increased. Reno's Steamboat Hot Springs is fascinating not only because of its storied history, but also because of the role hot springs play in the search for life on other planets.

So often, the Earth shifts and evolves over millions or billions of years. What an amazing treat to watch the Earth shift — no matter how incremental — over just the course of several months.

As always, we want to hear from readers. Let us know what you're seeing on the ground and how policies are affecting you. Email tips to me at amy@theindy.com



Boiling water bubbles up at a newly forming geyser in South Reno on July 26, 2023. (Joey Lovato/The Nevada Independent)

A bubbling cup of icy soda splashes across a south Reno billboard, advertising cold drinks for sale at a nearby market.

Below the billboard, liquid of another kind bubbles up from beneath the Earth's surface — scalding hot water.

During the past few months, new vents have opened around [Steamboat Hot Springs](#), releasing the scent of hydrogen sulfide into the air and spilling boiling water into fields and driveways.

On cold days, tufts of steam billow up. The hissing of water is audible, heat radiating up from the depths of the Earth.

This water bubbling up and out of Steamboat Hot Springs is brand-new, according to Taylor Wilson, a Reno-based nuclear scientist who showed his findings to *The Nevada Independent*.

“It’s fascinating this area has reemerged,” he said.

Once a spectacular sight to behold as one of the nation’s largest geysers, Steamboat Hot Springs is now an unassuming landmark in south Reno. Flanking old U.S. Highway 395, the springs have been tapped for development — a geothermal plant on one side, a spa resort on the other. Development combined with geologic activity dried up the springs’ surface water decades ago and, until recently, all that remained were mounds of silica deposits leftover from where hot springs once percolated.

But human settlement near the springs has been just a blip in geologic time, and the hydrothermal system that powers the springs is very dynamic, said Steve Ruff, a planetary geologist at Arizona State University’s School of Earth and Space Exploration who works on Mars exploration projects, including the Spirit rover.

“It’s fun to know that Steamboat is still changing and there’s a dynamic process here that is responding to activity at depth,” he said.

Reemergence of the springs’ surface water is interesting to scientists such as Ruff who study hot springs, one of the few habitats that have preserved evidence of early life on Earth and could provide hints about the possibility of life on other planets.

Hot springs were the first place where scientists were able to isolate [extremophiles](#) — microorganisms that can survive scalding temperatures and other extreme conditions. Hot springs can also entomb and preserve cells, making them strong candidates for holding biosignatures of past life. Life in extreme environments is a cornerstone of astrobiology; astrobiologists, in turn, look for signs of ancient hot springs on Mars and other planets.

“Hot springs on Earth, in almost all cases, are great habitats for microbial life — single-cell organisms that live in communities,” Ruff said. Those microbial communities can become entombed in silica that can preserve them for millions or even billions of years.

“On Earth, hot springs means life, and life that can be preserved — let’s go to Mars and see if we can find the same thing,” he said.

‘The devil boils the water’

Steamboat Hot Springs once shot forth as the [third-largest geyser](#) in the country. Erupting between 60 and 80 feet in the air, it was surrounded by open pools of boiling water. The springs served as a winter camp for some Native Americans, and it later served as a stopover for emigrants.

At one point, more than 20 geysers were observed, making Steamboat one of the largest geyser fields in the world.

Settlers were quick to capitalize on the area's potential and, in 1861, a British doctor built a hospital at Steamboat. Later developments included facilities for soaking in the restorative spring water. [Scientists of the time](#) were also studying the springs.

[Mark Twain wrote](#) about the hot springs in 1863, penning “they are natural — the devil boils the water, and the white steam puffs up out of crevices in the earth ... from one spring the boiling water is ejected a foot or more by the infernal force at work below, and in the vicinity of all of them one can hear a constant rumbling and surging, somewhat resembling the noises peculiar to a steamboat in motion.”

Steamboat's geysers were rivaled by those reported in 1869 in Beowawe (located between Elko and Battle Mountain) where, by 1934, more than 50 unique geysers had been counted. Steamboat and Beowawe were at one time the second and third largest geyser fields in the country after Yellowstone.

Hot spring activity at both locations ceased in the 1980s due to development and natural causes.

At Beowawe, geothermal exploration in the 1950s dried up many of the geysers, and the site fully dried up by 1987 after a geothermal plant began operating.

At Steamboat, a large earthquake in the early 1900s caused the geyser to dry up, and [surface flows stopped by the mid-1980s](#). The decline in surface water was likely caused by the operation of a nearby geothermal power plant, coupled with a regional drought, according to the [National Park Service](#).

Terrestrial hot springs and life on Mars

In 1998, Steamboat Hot Springs was added to the state list of historic places — but its history goes back much further than most humans can fathom. The small field of rhyolitic lava domes, steam vents and fumaroles that comprise the springs range from [1.1 to 2.5 million years old](#).

Now, the area around Steamboat Hot Springs is quintessential Nevada, a mishmash of natural and man-made icons of the state.

Across old Highway 395 sits [Ormat Technologies Inc.'s Steamboat Hills](#) geothermal plant. Its first plant reached commercial operation in 1992, tapping into the region's 325-degree Fahrenheit water five years after surface flows from Steamboat Hot Springs stopped. Now comprising six plants, the most recent plant began commercial operation in 2020 and the Steamboat geothermal field is one of the [world's most consistent sources of geothermal energy](#).

“It's this intersection between the modern Nevada economy with the geological history of the area,” Wilson said.

Rhyolite, a volcanic rock consisting primarily of silica, like that found at Rhyolite Ridge, a massive lithium and boron deposit in central Nevada, covers the hills near the geothermal plant.

[Steamboat buckwheat](#), an endangered flowering plant, grows on 150 acres of public and private land around Steamboat Hot Springs — and nowhere else in the world. The buckwheat thrives in the shallow soil derived from sinter — mineral deposits of silica — discharged by old hot spring flows.

NASA's Spirit rover, active from 2004 to 2010, [found silica deposits on Mars](#) likely caused by hot spring, geyser or fumarolic activity.

In 2016, Ruff and another Arizona State University geoscientist found silica deposits at a hot spring site in Chile with structures similar to those found by the Spirit rover. [El Tatio](#) sits above 14,000 feet, with subfreezing nighttime temperatures and intense ultraviolet radiation from the high elevation, making it a good analog for studying potential life on a planet nearly 250 million miles away.

“They're all in a family of the same type of silica sinter deposit,” Ruff said. “You can learn something about the nature of these hot spring deposits and make comparisons with what they found on Mars.”

Unlike El Tatio, Steamboat hasn't been a focus for scientists because, until recently, it didn't have actual hot springs with flowing water and steaming vents.

Nobody knows what the future of the springs will hold. It's unlikely that the new activity was caused by last year's heavy snow runoff — it would take years, or decades, for snow to percolate down, heat up, then rise back up to the surface — and is more likely caused by seismic activity, Ruff said. The new activity could last for years, or centuries, depending on what is happening underground, and it could be useful to those who study sinter mounds and other hot springs on Earth.

“The question of life beyond Earth is the profound question we want to address — we only have one place in the whole universe that we know there's life. Anything beyond Earth is speculation. We have zero examples of life beyond Earth, and Mars is a place we literally can go and attempt to address that fundamental and profound question,” Ruff said. “Even finding long-dead, single-cell organisms on Mars — if they existed — would be a profound new understanding of our place in the universe.”



Boiling water bubbles up at a newly forming geyser in South Reno on July 26, 2023. (Joey Lovato/The Nevada Independent)

EPA Seeks Comment on Draft Policy for Public Participation in Agency Decision-Making Processes

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced the release of the draft policy, [Achieving Health and Environmental Protection Through EPA's Meaningful Involvement Policy](#), that outlines updates on how the Agency will engage with the public and provide meaningful public involvement in all of its programs and regions. This policy is grounded in the acknowledgment that EPA's actions further strengthen health and environmental protections when they are informed by individuals with lived experience.

This draft policy updates EPA's [2003 Public Involvement Policy](#), and incorporates lessons learned over the past twenty years as it has worked to promote an agency-wide approach to providing meaningful involvement opportunities. EPA will apply the draft policy to all national program and regional actions that may benefit from public input. The draft policy describes 3 steps for meaningful involvement:

- Identifying the decision(s) in an EPA action that may be influenced by public input,
- Using the public participation spectrum, and
- Using the public participation model.

The draft policy will be available for a 60-day public comment period, ending on **January 16, 2024**.

Tribes may request consultation regarding this policy by January 5, 2024, by visiting EPA's [Tribal Consultation Tracking Opportunities System \(TCOTS\) website](#).

Comments can be submitted via:

Emailing: MeaningfulInvolvementPolicy@epa.gov;

- Submit the contact us form: <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/forms/epas-meaningful-involvement-policy-public-comment-submission>
- The draft policy docket: [EPA-HQ-OEJECR-2023-0326](#) at www.regulations.gov.

Learn more: <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/epas-meaningful-involvement-policy>

Questions: Please contact MeaningfulInvolvementPolicy@epa.gov.

The draft policy advances the Biden-Harris Administration's commitment for meaningful engagement with the people the Federal Government serves. Additionally, it builds on upon President Biden's Executive Orders [13985](#), [13990](#), and [14008](#) to protect public health and tackle the climate crisis.

Background

In 1981, recognizing the requirements for meaningful public engagement in authorizing statutes and executive orders, EPA issued its [Public Participation Policy](#), addressing public participation in decision-making, rulemaking, and program implementation by the Agency and entities carrying out EPA programs. In 2003, the Agency published its [updated Public Involvement Policy](#), resulting from the multi-year effort of the cross-agency "Review of EPA Public Participation Policies" Workgroup established in 1999. EPA had success with hosting regular meetings of a cross-agency community of practice, building a [web portal](#), developing training, publishing a [newsletter](#), documenting [case studies](#), and collecting information on [customer satisfaction](#).

Although this document does not create new requirements or mandatory obligations for EPA, the recommendations finalized in the policy will provide the public with meaningful involvement opportunities for program and regional needs. EPA seeks to collaborate with all segments of the public on this policy

Sexual Violence Prevention Network (SVPN) E-News



Indigenous peoples have faced violence and tragedy for generations, dating back to the earliest instances of physical and cultural violence during colonialization. The trauma from this history continues to impact Indigenous communities today.

It is crucial to recognize the issue of sexual violence within Indigenous communities. More than four in five American Indian/Alaska Native men and women have experienced some form of violence in their lifetime. This includes physical, sexual, psychological aggression from an intimate partner, and stalking. Women are disproportionately impacted where about half have experienced violence by an intimate partner. Additionally, 78% of Two-Spirit women have experienced physical assault and 85% have experienced sexual assault.

Despite the ongoing trauma Indigenous communities face, their culture and heritage can act as buffer from the harms caused by violence. The organizations highlighted below demonstrate that as they provide culturally grounded resources, they empower and support the communities they serve. Please see more details below:

- The [Minnesota Indian Women's Sexual Assault Coalition \(MIWSAC\)](#) supports culturally rooted grassroots advocacy and provides national leadership and technical assistance to end gender-based violence. MIWSAC has historically supported and advocated for local and national policy and building the capacity of Indigenous communities to end all forms of violence and oppression.
- The [Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center \(MIWRC\)](#) is based in the Phillips Neighborhood of Minneapolis, which is home to the third largest urban American Indian population in the United States. MIWRC offers a variety social and mental health services to support Native women and their families. Examples of services include family services, affordable housing, chemical dependency, mental health care, and cultural resilience and healing.
- The [National Indigenous Women's Resource Center](#) provides national leadership to end violence against American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian women. Their work includes but is not limited to policy advocacy and providing culturally grounded resources and training. They also operate the [Strong Hearts Native Helpline](#), which supports Native survivors of violence in crisis by connecting them with local resources. The number of the hotline is 844-762-8483.

REMINDER: Sexual Violence Prevention Network Virtual Roundtable

Date: Wednesday, December 6

Time: 1-2:30 p.m. CT

Register: [Sexual Violence Prevention Network Meeting Registration](#)

Join the Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault (MNCASA) and the Minnesota Department of Health Sexual Violence Prevention Program (MDH SVPP) for a virtual roundtable event!

After over two years of virtual meetings, MNCASA and MDH SVPP are teaming up to create space for members of the Sexual Violence Prevention Network (SVPN) to connect with one another. This virtual roundtable event is designed to be fast-paced and fun, while also giving participants space for discussion on primary prevention, resource sharing, and networking.

Building on this year's theme of Embracing Equity, discussion prompts will focus on how attendees can collaborate to break down barriers to sexual violence prevention and create a safer Minnesota for all. Please come prepared to turn your cameras on, unmute, and connect.

Webinar: National Indigenous Women's Resource Center: Violence on Indigenous Lands is Violence on Indigenous Bodies and Futures

Date: Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Time: 2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Register: [National Indigenous Women's Resource Center Webinar Registration](#)

The National Indigenous Women's Resource Center will host, Beata Tsosie-Peña Beata Tsosie to lead this webinar focusing on how Land/Environmental violence specifically impacts maternal and reproductive health, spiritual well-being, and emotional safety. Beata Tsosie-Peña will describe the experiences and impacts their community and neighboring communities have endured and are still experiencing due to land violence.

In loving memory

Altha E. Tom

Southern Paiute Woman

August 26, 1946 - November 29, 2023

Services
Friday, December 8, 2023

2:00pm-3:00pm: Viewing
3:00pm-4:30pm: Service
5:00pm: Dinner
Sunset-Sunrise: Traditional Sing
Burial after Traditional Sing

*Viewing, Service &
Traditional Sing Locations:*

Viewing and Service Location:
Moapa Church of Latter-day Saints
1420 E Barlow Dr
Moapa, NV 89025

Dinner & Traditional Sing Location:
Moapa Tribal Building
1 Lincoln St
Moapa, Nevada

Note attached to announcement: *She was such a Beautiful Soul*