

Journal #5994 from sdc 5.30.25

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[Hoodoo Loop Trail in Dixie National Forest](#)

Together, we carry the herd

First, thank you for your ongoing support — your generosity powers the mission of Tanka Fund: restoring Buffalo to Native lands, lives, and economies. Alongside grants and government support, your contributions remain essential to this work.

Our commitment to Native communities and the return of Buffalo as a powerful force for cultural and economic restoration remains unchanged. As Executive Director Dawn Sherman wrote to our rancher partners, “We remain deeply committed to restoring Buffalo and look forward to finding new ways to continue working together.”

On April 14, the USDA ended its \$3 billion Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities program — a groundbreaking initiative that supported regenerative practices across the U.S. Tanka Fund had been awarded up to \$5 million over five years through PCSC to expand our Climate-Smart Buffalo Producer incentives. Two weeks later, our Mountains and Plains Environmental Justice (MAPEJ) Grant — focused on community-based Buffalo harvests — was also formally closed.

For dozens of Native families who steward Buffalo herds, the cut means:

- **Lost cost-share dollars** for regenerative fencing, water-line installation, and prescribed-burn planning.
- **Interrupted soil-health monitoring**, delaying the data that proves Buffalo grazing heals prairie ecosystems.
- **Cultural harvests have been impacted and halted** for the unforeseeable future, which affects our smaller ranchers by removing the access to feed the community, schools, and elders.

“Your commitment during these challenging times empowers our mission to restore Buffalo to Native lands, lives, and economies, which is more crucial now than ever,” Dawn said. “While recent setbacks have posed obstacles, we are actively seeking new avenues and as we move forward, we will keep you informed about our efforts and the impact your generous contributions continue to make. Thank you for standing with us.”

“Buffalo restoration is sacred, generational work — and we won’t let this setback stop us. Your support today is more than a donation; it’s a stand for sovereignty, stewardship, and strength. Together, we’ve made so much possible — and together, we’ll keep going. Wopila and Thank you for standing with us, with Native ranchers, and with the Buffalo.

Tanka Fund co-sponsors inaugural Buffalo to School Conference

We are proud to announce that we are a partner of the Regional Buffalo to School Conference, which kicks off June 22 at Western Dakota Technical College in Rapid City, South Dakota. This is a first-of-its-kind event designed to help school administrators and buffalo producers begin or continue Indigenizing school meal menus with Buffalo!

In addition Ron Brownotter, vice-president of the Tanka Fund Board and one of our rancher partners, will be speaking at the conference.

[READ MORE AND REGISTER](#)

Among the other activities, there will be a Cultural Buffalo Harvest with Lisa and Arlo Iron Cloud on June 22 at the Tanka Fund as "Taste of Indian Country - A Celebratory Indigenous Food Tasting" event with Chef Sean Sherman (The Sioux Chef).



“Technology can go away. This is not going away.”

Across Wyoming, you’ll find a rich variety of petroglyph sites, including Legend Rock, Castle Gardens, and White Mountain.

[WATCH NOW →](#)

Tule Mats and the Importance of Wetlands

Online | June 4 | 12pm – 1pm



Tule mats provide shelter and habitat for predators of mosquito larvae, including dragonfly nymphs, shown here.

Join Bay Nature Magazine, Diana Almendariz, and Geoff Attardo for a virtual talk about the cultural and scientific importance of wetlands on Wednesday, June 4, from 12 - 1pm. Diana, a cultural practitioner and member of the Wintun/Maidu community, will share the history and cultural importance of wetlands to the Patwin people, including traditional stewardship practices and their ongoing relevance today. Dr. Attardo, medical entomologist from UC Davis, will discuss the biology of wetlands and how they provides vital ecological services that can mitigate mosquito-borne disease risks. Together, they will offer a compelling case for restoring and protecting wetland ecosystems through a collaborative model that honors both Indigenous knowledge and scientific insight. This talk is free for Bay Nature Members and \$5 for nonmembers.

[Register Here!](#)

**Join the Waitlist! Bay Nature Hike: Tule Mats at Cache
Creek Nature Preserve**

Woodland | June 14 | 9am – 11:30am



Join Bay Nature, Diana Almendariz, and Geoff Attardo for an immersive visit to the Cache Creek Conservancy, where traditional ecological knowledge and ecological restoration come together to heal land and community on Saturday, June 14, 2025 from 9am - 11:30am. Participants will tour the *Tending and Gathering Garden*, a space cultivated through collaboration with local Native American communities to sustain native plants used for food, medicine, fiber, and ceremony. Learn about the cultural importance and practical uses of these plants from a traditional knowledge perspective. The visit will also include a guided exploration of the site's restored palustrine wetland and participants will have the opportunity to collect water samples from the wetland and observe the diverse and often overlooked microscopic organisms that form the base of the food web. This event is free and available to Bay Nature Members

[Register Here!](#)

Movies and TV shows casting in Reno (wvnews.com) — Aspiring actors in Reno have exciting opportunities as several movies and TV shows are casting in the area. Backstage highlights projects looking for talent in **Reno** and nearby cities, offering roles in feature and short films

Trump has slashed millions in funding for Indigenous peoples.

Within the first 100 days of the Trump administration, Indigenous communities have been dealt a series of devastating blows that will endanger Native families and communities for generations to come.

Hundreds of millions of dollars earmarked for Indigenous peoples' welfare and development were recklessly slashed, eliminating essential lifelines, impacting health care, education, housing, and the very fabric of our community life.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs, a cornerstone for resource allocation, faced significant cutbacks, eroding support for essential services. Educational funding was severely compromised, undermining programs critical for equipping Indigenous youth with the tools to thrive. Health services, already strained under chronic underfunding, saw further reductions, threatening the well-being of countless individuals who rely on these programs for basic healthcare needs.

Keep in mind that draft-dodging convicted felon Trump is planning a \$100 million military parade for his birthday. And he has gilded the Oval Office in 24kt gold tackiness and doubled his family's fortune by selling access to his rich donors.

This disregard extends beyond mere neglect—it is an egregious perpetuation of historical injustices that our communities have battled for centuries. The administration's actions echo the long-standing pattern of marginalization and eradication, as vital initiatives aimed at preserving our culture and protecting our sacred lands were dismantled with alarming indifference. The assault on Bears Ears National Monument, a site sacred to numerous tribes, underscored a blatant disrespect for our heritage and sovereignty.

In the face of such adversity, it is imperative to galvanize support for Indigenous advocacy. The Native Voters Alliance Nevada stands at the forefront of this effort, working tirelessly to build Native power, elect Native Americans and allies, and champion issues vital to our communities.

Stand with us as we strive for justice, equity, and the recognition of our inherent rights.

In the trenches with you.

-Native Voters Alliance Nevada

info@nativevotesnv.org

American Indian Quarterly Search the journal

American Indian Quarterly has earned its reputation as one of the dominant journals in American Indian studies by presenting the best and most thought-provoking scholarship in the field. The journal is a forum for diverse voices and perspectives spanning a variety of academic disciplines. The common thread is *AIQ's* commitment to publishing work that contributes to the development of American Indian studies as a field and to the sovereignty and continuance of American Indian nations and cultures. In addition to peer-reviewed articles, *AIQ* features reviews of books, films, and exhibits.

Issues from 1970's - 2021

<https://www.jstor.org/journal/amerindiquar>

[Forced to relocate by climate change, Alaskan villagers found a new crisis](#)



[Forced to relocate by climate change, Alaskan villagers found a new crisis - MSN](#)

Dozens of grants from at least seven federal agencies have helped pay for the relocation, which began in 2019 and is expected to cost more than \$150 million.

www.msn.com

27-year-old American moved to Germany for medical school and pays \$97 a semester: ‘I feel really happy here’

Unlike the United States, in Germany, you don’t need a Bachelor’s degree to attend medical school. Instead, students enroll in a six-year program that is divided into three stages, with exams administered after each one.

Most public universities in Germany are either free or offer lower costs compared to those in other countries.

<https://www.cnbc.com/2025/05/03/american-moved-germany-medical-school.html>

Climate Reparations Camp, August 4-7, 2025

For the second year in a row, Justice Is Global is teaming up with our friends at ActionAid USA, Youth N’ Power, and the National Partnership for New Americans, to host a Climate Reparations Camp. We’re looking for **twenty-five young people** to join us in learning about the global climate crisis, how it connects to rising fascism, the intricacies of politics and policymaking at the global stage, and the tactics, strategies, and visions we are bringing towards fighting for a different world. **The camp is all expenses paid and will happen at a site near New Orleans.**

[If you're looking to grow as a climate justice advocate and help build a powerful U.S. movement for global climate reparations, this is the place to start. Join us!](#)

Transportation Department moves to end program carving out \$37B for women- and minority-owned businesses in highway, transit contracts ([More](#))

Gener8tor kicked off its spring gBeta cohort as part of their Electrify Nevada program in April. Five outstanding companies in the lithium and clean energy space are participating in a 7-week intensive program, including site visits to facilities such as Redwood Materials, Tesla, and American Battery, as well as connecting with mentors and investors across the region. Check out the five participating startups: [Klustr Hub](#), [Maple Materials](#), [Metzev](#), [PowerTechs](#), and [Zenthos Energy](#).

In partnership with GOED's Office of Entrepreneurship and SBDC, we're excited to announce the launch of the Nevada Business Hub, a new platform to connect startups with Entrepreneur Support Organizations, programming, and events. The Nevada Business Hub is a statewide initiative and will serve as an exciting new resource for entrepreneurs across all industries. [Learn more here.](#)

EDAWN:

We are thrilled to announce the launch of the Business Builders Program on May 5th, 2025!

This initiative underscores EDAWN's unwavering commitment to fostering business vitality in Northern Nevada.

As part of this exciting new program, we now have 17 certified representatives ready to connect with you. They will reach out to discuss how we can support and assist your business in achieving its goals.

Welcome new Certified Business Builders!

Mike Heath – Meadows Bank Olivia Gil Guevara – Grand Sierra Resort Brian Hitchcock - Enterprise Commute Rita Mireles-Bogarin - United Federal Credit Union Samantha Reviglio - Novo Logistics USA Chuck Alvey – Vistage Tony Walker – Fulltilt Logisitcs Stephany Rinaldi - Micone Staffing Resources	Chris McQuattie - Meadows Bank Devin Kahl - Kahl Interiors Michelle Hale – Tesla Kaitlyn Blagen - NV Health Link Trish Gomez - Kasa Living Becky Murway - Frame Arch Jim Gerhard - Aimbridge/Hilton Garden Inn Kylie Tokunaga - Ames Construction
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As Nevadaworks continues working through the implementation phase of the Good Jobs Northern Nevada grant, there are currently 77 participants completing training within the four sectors including manufacturing, logistics, healthcare, and digital technology in the next 30 days. Of those 77 participants, 15 are enrolled in the Information Technology Sector. For employers looking to fill a position in any of the 4 sectors please go to [Nevadaworks.com](https://nevadaworks.com) or email Michelle Long at mlong@nevadaworks.com for more information.

Bad River Tribe's Sugarbush Revives Culture and Community



Tribal staff and volunteers stand in front of the sugarbush after a day of collecting sap

As winter drew to a close and sap began to flow, brown maple leaves emerged from a blanket of snow on the forest floor of northern Wisconsin. On a hillside above Gichigami (Lake Superior), members of the Bad River community gathered to collect one of spring's first gifts from blue, thick plastic bags that hung from silver-barked trees.

Iskigamizigewan (sugar bush) season brought together Tribal staff and a group of volunteers to collect newly flowing sap, strengthen community ties, and continue the traditional practice of maple sugaring.

"Sugaring goes back to our treaties and our rights to harvest from these lands," said Katie Koch, Bad River's Food Sovereignty program coordinator. "It connects us to our culture and way of life."



Koch is entering her third year leading the program for the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa and is deeply committed to her work. With her newborn daughter bundled and secured to her chest, she's less likely to be found behind her office desk and prefers being out on the land helping with the day-to-day, physical work of growing and gathering food.

Beyond coordinating at the sugarbush, Bad River Food Sovereignty has revitalized the tribe's

community gardens, gathered community members to share knowledge about traditional harvest and food preservation practices, and is in the process of bringing a tribal farm into production.

This season, with the assistance of Tribal youth, tribal staff, and community volunteers, her program tapped around 250 sugar maples. Throughout the spring, they collected shy of 3000 gallons of sap from the sugarbush - all of which needed to be hauled back to the community center and boiled down to syrup.

Producing syrup is a labor and energy-intensive process—every gallon of syrup starts as about 40 gallons of sap. But it also provides an opportunity to gather together, tend the wood fire, and breathe in the sweet steam.

With their boiler next to a large pile of firewood alongside the community center and a fire roaring under pans of sap, the food sovereignty program's efforts have produced nearly 60 gallons of syrup. Every gallon ends up feeding the community.

Some will be distributed to youth volunteers, some will be taken home by staff who participated in the project, extra gallons will be used for sugar-making classes and demonstrations, and others will be allocated to tribal programs such as Head Start and the elderly center.

“This is a way we’re going to move forward on the food sovereignty path, and our people need to know how to move forward with seasonal products,” said Koch. “We need to be able to take care of ourselves.”

Intertribal Agriculture Council Calls for Farm Bill Reauthorization to Support Tribal Nations, Agricultural Producers

Last week, the House narrowly passed the *One Big Beautiful Bill Act*—a wide-ranging bill that could significantly impact Tribal farmers, ranchers, and families.

IAC calls on Congress to continue Farm Bill negotiations and support economic opportunity, job creation, and domestic food production in Tribal and rural communities.

READ MORE



A Week of Strategic Advocacy for Tribal Agriculture at the Native Farm Bill Coalition Fly-In

From left to right: IAC Policy Director Mai Nguyen, IAC CEO Kari Jo Lawrence, IAC Policy Fellow Calico Ducheneaux, Cherokee Nation Secretary of Natural Resources Christina Justice, Cherokee Nation Government Relations Specialist Ethan Green, IFAI Executive Director Carly Griffith-Hotvedt, IFAI Director of Tribal Enterprise Steven Shedd, and IAC Rocky Mountain Technical Assistance Specialist Beau LaSalle.



The Native Farm Bill Coalition (NFBC) concluded a productive three-day fly-in in Washington, D.C., marked by high-level meetings with congressional and USDA offices and committees to advance policy priorities for Tribal agriculture.

Read highlights from the Hill and more in the NFBC's latest blog post.

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- [Trump administration reverses planned closures of 3 dozen US mine safety offices](#)