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Nightscaape

Wanada Parker Page (1882-1970)

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Photo Courtesey of David Bingham/Flick



Wanada Parker Page (1882-1970)

Wanada Parker was born in 1882 in Indian Territory. Her Indian name was Woon-ardy Parker. In Comanche, "Woon-ardy" means "Stand Up and Be Strong" because she was weak in her legs and had to use crutches for a long time. She was also given her mother's name, Weckeah.

She went to Chilocco Indian School, and in 1894, she was sent to Carlisle Indian School in Pennsylvania. She stayed there for several years with her half-brother Harold (Quanah's oldest son) and her half-sister Neda.

At Carlisle, her name was first spelled "Juanada," but people said that wasn't right because she wasn't Mexican or Spanish. In 1895, she was baptized as "Annie" at St. John's Episcopal Church in Carlisle, but no one really called her that.

Around 1903, Wanada spent about a year at Fort Sill Indian School, living in the girls' dormitory.

In 1908, she married Walter Komah, a Comanche man. They moved to Mescalero, New Mexico, but Walter died of tuberculosis in 1912. Wanada came back to Lawton soon after. She worked as assistant matron at Fort Sill Indian School while her sister Alice was a student there.

In 1915, she became a nurse's aide at Fort Sill Indian Hospital. That's where she met her future husband, Harrison Page. He was a white soldier in the Medical Corps at the hospital. They traveled by streetcar during their courtship and married on December 18, 1916.

Later in life, Mrs. Page went to the first Parker Family Reunion at Fort Parker, Texas, in 1953. This was when the Indian Parkers of Oklahoma and the white Parkers of Texas met for the first time every year.

Native Americans United fb page

Posted by Merry Ortega

# The U.S. Food System Needs More Than 'Doomsday Vaults' for Seeds

"Climate change isn't the only concern seed vaults now face. In the U.S., the 22 sites operated under the umbrella of the USNPGS face political threat as well. In March, the Trump administration's Department of Government Efficiency, which was briefly headed by Elon Musk, attempted to eliminate some of USDA's probationary employees, including many research scientists. Though a court order restored some job positions, the political climate leaves the future of the USNPGS—and public food security—hanging in the balance.

It's against this environmental and political backdrop that small farm operators and seed keepers fight for seed sovereignty. For seed keepers of color in particular, the practice of tending, saving, and distributing seed offers a tangible avenue of identity affirmation and resistance against austerity measures and the legal and economic domination of Big Seed.

Starting in the 1940s, the federal government distributed seeds for individual households to plant under the Victory Gardens Program. 'Then corporations got the idea that they could get the government to stop giving away seeds, and they could sell a lot of seeds [instead],' Woodley said. Decades later, Diamond v. Chakrabarty, a 1980 Supreme Court case, allowed the first genetically modified organism to be patented, paving the way for companies to treat seeds like intellectual property."

Read about how Bayer and Corteva own nearly 80% of patents related to GMO crops, which make up over half of the U.S.-harvested cropland and much more. Annie Faye Cheng, Prism:

NYTimes: Scientists Retrace 30,000-Year-Old Sea Voyage, in a Hollowed-Out Log <a href="https://www.nytimes.com/2025/06/25/science/anthropology-ocean-migration-japan.html?">https://www.nytimes.com/2025/06/25/science/anthropology-ocean-migration-japan.html?</a> smid=nytcore-ios-share&referringSource=articleShare

An MIT engineer found a way to use AI to quickly restore art Nature | Geoff Marsh. Around 70% of art in museums, libraries, and other institutions is damaged and hidden from the public due to prohibitive restoration costs. See how this new AI-powered method can be used to create physical masks to restore paintings up to 70 times faster than repairing them by hand. (Watch)

"t may be that they had some more advice from Native Americans who had helped them with the routeleading up to the Sierra Crest. Native Americans had been traversing the Sierra Crest for thousands of years and so had experience to pass on. We can imagine members of the Stephens Party sitting with Native Americans who sketched out on dirt or animal skins a route different fromwhat the main group would take over Donner Summit. The drawing would have shown Lake Tahoe, then the fourstreams coming down to the lake and which one to take to the crest."

http://www.donnersummithistoricalsociety.org/PDFs/newsletters/news25/ July25.pdf (always an interesting newsletter)

"At that point the party met a Paiute chief they called "Truckee" (which really meant everything was ok in the Paiute language) who told them about the river they couldfollow to the Sierra – it would be called the Truckee."

# 25th Annual NATHPO Conference





Grand Sierra Resort and Casino.

Register Today

NATHPO's Annual Conference September 8th-12th, 2025!

# Upholding Tribal Sovereignty: Protecting Native Places in a Shifting Landscape

Please join us for NATHPO's 25th Annual Conference & Sacred Places Summit happening September 8-12 at the <u>Grand Sierra Resort and Casino in Reno, NV</u>. The NATHPO Conference demonstrates the importance of fostering meaningful connections among diverse sectors and stakeholders in the field of heritage preservation. It highlights the benefits of collaboration in achieving shared goals, enhancing mutual understanding, and creating positive impacts for both present and future generations. By emphasizing the purpose behind preservation, the conference also invites us to consider the values, stories, and identities that shape our cultural heritage, how we can communicate them effectively, and to what broader end. From thought-provoking presentations to interactive workshops and site visits, our agenda offers a dynamic array of sessions tailored to inspire innovation, foster collaboration, and drive meaningful change.

We'd like to give a heartfelt **THANK YOU** to the **Reno-Sparks Indian Colony** for graciously hosting us at the **Grand Sierra Resort and Casino in Reno, NV**!

**Register Here** 

# MIT study shows using ChatGPT may erode critical thinking skills

**Time I Andrew R. Chow.** Participants had their electrical brain activity measured over several months while writing essays, revealing weak brain connectivity and decreased curiosity and engagement among those who used the chatbot. This article examines these results and the risks of AI use in classrooms. (**Read**)



## Join Us in RENO, NEVADA for the 39th Biennial GBAC - OCTOBER 15-18, 2025

Our registration portal is open. Click the button below to go to the portal page. There, login to your account if you already have one or create an account. (There is a "forgot password" link as well).

REGISTER FOR GBAC

The Conference will be held at Whitney Peak Hotel. Book your room at our \$159/night (plus fees/taxes) group rate and take advantage of all the amenities.

## Book Your Room Government Rate Booking Link

If you plan to stay longer than our block of dates, call in your reservation and ask for the conference discount.

#### FIELD TRIPS

We are excited to announce that we have three field trips planned for this year's GBAC, each with varying levels of cost, accessibility and duration.

## Purchase Field Trips

- 1. **Historic Walking Tour** enjoy a walking tour of historic downtown Reno, with your guide, Alicia Barber, Ph.D. (writer, historian, educator, and founder of the historical consulting firm Stories in Place). Cost is \$10 per person. Lunch is not included because there are plenty of restaurants in the area.
- **2. Hidden Cave and Grimes Point** if you are interested in getting out into the Great Basin Desert, sign up for your guided tour to the prehistoric sites of Grimes Point and Hidden Cave, with your guides, Donna Casset (Northern Paiute Cultural Specialist & Registrar of the Churchill County Museum), and David Hurst Thomas (Senior Curator in Residence, North American Archaeology, American Museum of Natural History). Transportation for 50 attendees and a boxed lunch will be provided for a cost of \$75.
- 3. Basque Tree Carvings If you prefer to spend time in the beautiful Sierra Nevada, enjoying fall foliage and learning how to help digitally preserve Basque tree carvings with your phone, sign up for the Arborglyph field trip guided by Teresa Wriston (Associate Research Professor, Desert Research Institute), Inaki Arrieta Baro (Head of Jon Bilbao Basque Library at the University of Nevada, Reno), and Carrie Smith (Tahoe National Forest Heritage Program Manager). A maximum of 30 people can attend. Carpooling will be the mode of transportation and a boxed lunch will be provided. Cost of field trip is \$35.

## Nevada third for federal oil potential in new study, but industry growth still unlikely



By: Jeniffer Solis - June 27, 2025 4:30 am

Nevada's Ruby Mountains in January. (Photo: Spencer Dondovan for USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.)

The federal government raised its estimate this week for how much oil and gas could be extracted from public lands in Nevada, placing the state third for oil potential.

Nevada holds 1.4 billion barrels of "undiscovered" oil beneath its public lands – only falling behind Alaska and New Mexico – and 1.2 billion cubic feet of gas, according to the newly compiled figures released by the U.S. Geological Survey last week.

"We think there's resource potential there, and it just so happens there's a lot of federal land," said Chris Schenk, the lead author of the report.

The estimates are of "technically recoverable oil and gas resources" — many of which may not be economically viable to extract — that could be retrieved with current technologies. It's the first time the agency has tallied the amount of oil and gas under national parks, wilderness areas and other public lands nationwide since 1998.

Technology has improved significantly since then, increasing the estimated resources that could potentially be extracted from public lands, according to the report.

The analysis was prepared in response to a directive by the Trump administration to "unleash" domestic energy supplies. In February, Interior Secretary Doug Burgum <u>directed his agencies</u> to identify energy and critical minerals on public lands.

**Much more important to read:** https://nevadacurrent.com/2025/06/27/nevada-third-for-federal-oil-potential-in-new-study-but-industry-growth-still-unlikely/

This is Reno: <u>Federal judge blocks Trump's NSF grant cuts</u>, <u>preserves</u> funding for university research

Nevada Current: <u>State orders lithium mine to stop unauthorized</u> water pumping, citing rancher dispute

# https://www.recordcourier.com/news/2025/jun/24/developmentrights-program-up-for-discussion/

Monday's article on Julie Buffalohead promted one reader to forward the obituary of Juie's father.....a fascinating journey:

Roger Buffalohead May 30, 1939 " September 6, 2016: A Great Life Remembered

BY LAURA WATERMAN WITTSTOCK "My English name is

Roger Buffalohead. My Ponca name is Insta dupa, which means Four Eyes. It refers to a very ancient Ponca dog. It had yellow markings above its eyes. At a distance it looked like it had four eyes. It was a very honorific name. In the Ponca clans you inherit a clan name. When you pass on your name goes back into the clan pool. The next born would get your name . We don"'t really know how old those names are but they go back many, many, many generations. Buffalohead is an English translation of Te Nugah pah, which means people at the head of the buffalo ceremony. Some lazy BIA clerk decided that that was too long of a name to put on a form. He shortened it to Buffalohead and that became our name and has remained our name in modern times."

Roger and Priscilla Buffalohead came to Minneapolis with their young son in 1970. A Department of American Indian Studies was being created and the talent seekers wanted the young and gifted man from the Ponca Tribe of Oklahoma to take the position of chair. It was a moment of pride for all of Indian Country and students came from several nations to study at the University of Minnesota.

Roger and Priscilla met at the University of Wisconsin where they were both graduate students and Roger and Priscilla"s brother were taking a class from Dr. David A. Baerreis, a professor known for his environmentally oriented research of human behavior. Priscilla"s brother introduced them and they were astonished to discover that they were next-door neighbors! They married in 1965 and the Wisconsin Alumnae noted the wedding. Their son Eric was born later that year. His English name came from his mother and his Ponca name came from his great grandfather. Both Priscilla and Roger were graduate students, working on their PhDs, and taking turns caring for baby Eric. Roger fashioned a cardboard box into a rocker so he could place the baby in the box and rock him while he studied.

The University of Cincinnati recruited both of them so with unfinished academic study, they moved to Ohio. Then UCLA in California wanted Roger for a one-year special chair and from there it was on to Minnesota. Daughter Julie was born in Minneapolis: named again by Mom in English and for a great aunt of the Ponca Tribe.

Roger was never far from his family in Oklahoma, although. He had been at home with his family until he graduated from high school and went on to Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, a distance of only 40 miles by car, it was also seemingly a world apart. Like many young men of the times, he worked to earn his board and to pay for what scholarships would not cover. Then he got a scholarship to the University of Wisconsin and he was truly far away from his family. They never stopped asking him to come home. The pursuit of higher education was not as important as the bonds of family, in their eyes, although they all felt great pride in their learned son.

For the rest of his professional career, when he could not take his family and visit his home in Oklahoma, he carried the stories of his youth into lessons and conversations with his students and friends. His Ponca identity became an asset and example of how to navigate the foreign worlds of academe or just life far away from one"s home reservation.

After six years at the University of Minnesota, Roger took a one-year assignment at Washington State in Pullman, Washington and was then recruited to Duluth, back at the U of M. From there he went to Santa Fe, New Mexico to the Institute of American Indian Arts to build a new art school from its skeletal beginnings. Then he came back to Minnesota and took a big chance by taking on a new program that promised to help younger Native students succeed in school by learning the tools of communication and having success with the very earliest computers available in 1983. Roger"s magic touch with students worked with high school students as well. They wanted to learn but so much was getting in the way. Roger found ways to move some of those obstacles and to be there as a promise that there was someone to lean on.

From MIGIZI and high school students, he held a few short-term posts before moving to the two-year college the Minneapolis Community Technical College.

Everywhere Roger went, he plunged himself into the lives of his students. During his time at the University of Minnesota, he would join students in the local bars to argue points of history and prod one or more individual students to press harder, always moving forward. There were graduate students who came back to him for advice and encouragement, which they got, and he and Priscilla would cook endless meals for these hungry and often homesick students. It must be said that Roger, along with Priscilla, were unusual academics, who truly enjoyed the company of their Native students, giving them the best lesson of all: we are more than schools; we are a great people.

## Here is just one question Roger posed to his students:

There are several things we might consider as we look for guidelines for future policy. Tribes cannot have political self-determination without economic self-determination, and the federal government must realize that for most tribes the idea of self-sufficiency has not been achieved and will not be achieved without massive support from the federal government. Another problem that exists today is the so-called government-to-government relationship between the United States and all the different tribes. How is that to be carried out? How is the government to accept advice and recommendation from all of these tribes? Should we not be looking at some kind of forums, some kind of congresses, some way in which tribal views or advice that is bona fide and comes from those tribal communities, that reflects the needs of Indian people within those communities, can reach that vast bureaucracy in Washington, D.C.?

There was no better way of helping his students to think than to give them a real dilemma to work on as they made the discovery that the passage to understanding Indian history was never certain.

Roger and Priscilla"s own children, Eric and Julie went on to their own careers. Eric is an Associate Professor and Chair of American Indian Studies at Augsburg College in Minneapolis and Julie"s national reputation as an artist continues to grow.

The grandchildren include Alexandra, Cassandra, Ira, Ely, and Madeline. From time to time, when awards were bestowed, Roger was always embarrassed by praise, but he was absolutely proud of his grandchildren. Whatever might come to him was less important than holding his grandchildren close to him and giving them all the love he could. As time went by, both Priscilla and Roger would face major health issues and eventually, Roger's death came suddenly, but it was at the end of many episodes that threatened his health. Even so, he continued to read, study parts of Indian history, and argue points with Priscilla or visiting friends. There are thousands of former students out there who mourn the loss of their teacher. Because that is what he was at his core: a teacher to those who would learn.

Laura Waterman Wittstock is a writer and education consultant. She is currently working on a book on the migration of Minnesota Native people from their home territories to the cities in the state. She is the author of "Inininatig" s Gift of Sugar: Traditional Sugarmaking," and "We Are Still Here: A Photographic History of the American Indian Movement."

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# The White House took down the nation's top climate report. You can still find it here

The website that hosts the most recent edition of the National Climate Assessment <u>has gone dark</u>. The sprawling report is the most influential source of information about how climate change affects the United States.

The National Climate Assessment is widely used by teachers, city planners, farmers, judges and regular citizens looking for answers to common questions such as how quickly sea levels are rising near American cities and how to deal with wildfire smoke exposure. The most recent edition had a searchable atlas that allowed anyone to learn about the current and future effects of global warming in their specific town or state.

On Monday, the government website that hosts all of that information stopped working.

The Trump administration had already <u>halted work</u> on the next edition of the report, and fired all the staff who worked on it.

The White House did not respond to questions about why the climate report website was taken down, or whether the administration plans to create the next edition of the climate assessment as Congress mandates.

Congress requires the federal government to publish the National Climate Assessment every four years. The last edition was published in 2023, and underscored the degree to which climate change is expensive, deadly and preventable.

"If you are a human being in the United States, your life is already being impacted by climate change whether you know it or not," says Katharine Hayhoe, a climate scientist who was one of the authors of the report. "If we don't recognize that, it's simply because we haven't connected the dots. And the National Climate Assessment was one of the primary tools connecting those dots."

The next edition was supposed to be released in 2027, and about 400 volunteer authors had started working on it. That work stopped after all the federal staff who coordinate it were let go in April.

#### You can still access the National Climate Assessment on other websites

Although the original National Climate Assessment website is down, it's still possible to access the information.

An archived version of the most recent edition is <u>available through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration</u>. All five editions of the National Climate Assessment that have been published over the years will also be available on NASA's website, according to NASA spokesperson Bethany Stevens. NASA doesn't yet know when that website will be available to the public.

NOAA's archive site is not searchable the way the original website was. An archived version of the original, searchable website is available through the <u>Internet Archive's Wayback Machine</u> tool here.

The interactive atlas portion of the National Climate Assessment, which allows users to zoom in on specific locations, is <u>still available</u> on a website hosted by the mapping software company Esri. The climate assessment used that company's map platform to publish the interactive atlas tool.

https://www.npr.org/2025/07/01/nx-s1-5453501/national-climate-assessment-nca5-archive-report

California lawmakers approve last-minute, sweeping rollbacks of environmental law "California lawmakers today approved one of the most substantial rollbacks of the state's signature environmental review law in decades, including a controversial exemption that would allow high-tech manufacturing plants to be built in industrial zones with no environmental review. The changes to the California Environmental Quality Act were embedded in a last-minute budget bill that sailed through the Senate and the Assembly. The new law exempts nine types of projects from environmental reviews: child care centers, health clinics, food banks,

farmworker housing, broadband, wildfire prevention, water infrastructure, public parks or trails

and, notably, advanced manufacturing. Aiming to streamline and lower the cost of construction in California, the new law also restricts legal challenges under CEQA by narrowing which documents courts can consider. It also allows limited environmental reviews of projects that don't have an array of impacts. ... " Read more from Cal Matters.

## Western states step up to save their wetlands

"The U.S. Supreme Court's 2023 decision on *Sackett v. Environmental Protection Agency* dramatically weakened protections for millions of acres of the West's essential wetlands and streams. Under the ruling, only bodies of water with a "continuous surface connection" to a "relatively permanent" traditional, navigable water body can be legally considered part of the waters of the United States (WOTUS) and therefore covered by the Clean Water Act. The court's definition excludes wetlands with belowground connections to bodies of water as well as those fed by ephemeral or intermittent streams. In effect, an estimated 60% of wetlands have lost federal protection, according to a National Resources Defense Council report. The language in the decision was ambiguous — exactly how wet a wetland has to be to fall under WOTUS and qualify protections was left up to federal agencies. ... "Read more from High Country News.

# Investing in the West's water future: Why Congress must fully fund the WaterSmart program

"With drought and climate pressures intensifying across the West, Audubon and partners are sounding the alarm: Congress must fully fund the Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART program before it's too late. Alongside a diverse coalition of 103 national, regional, state, and local organizations representing Tribes, water managers, conservationists, farmers, and business leaders, Audubon submitted a letter last week urging Congress to fully fund the WaterSMART program—an essential tool for helping communities adapt to a changing climate and safeguard limited water resources for birds, people and local economies. As Congress finalizes appropriations for the coming fiscal year, this diverse show of support highlights the widespread need for continued investment in this impactful program and water throughout the West. ... "Read more from Audubon.

## Public land sale is off, but California's forests aren't out of the woods

Columnist Marek Warszawski writes, "Three million acres of public land across California and 10 other Western states won't be auctioned to the highest bidder following bipartisan backlash and widespread public rebuke. But mass sell-off or not, America's forests aren't out of the woods under this administration. The Utah Republican behind the misguided idea withdrew the provision from the sprawling tax and spending bill making its way through Congress that President Donald Trump wants passed by July 4. Senator Mike Lee, in a feeble attempt to save face, blamed the timeline rather than admit his ham-fisted solution to the housing shortage facing many communities wouldn't fly. ... "

Lawsuit seeks protection for rare desert wetland wildflower in Nevada and California: "The plant, which lives in three populations in groundwater-fed alkali wetlands, faces the threat of extinction because of groundwater pumping for agriculture and exurban sprawl, mining, energy production, cattle grazing, off-highway vehicles and climate change." (Center for Biological Diversity)

