

Journal #6040 from sdc 8.4.25

515-Mile-Long Megaflash

Aug. 4 is the celebration of the anniversary of the [Great American Outdoors Act](#).

What Happened When I Tried to Replace Myself with ChatGPT in My English Classroom

The Last Good Days of the Internet; WH planning to transfer \$100 T of assets to stock market

Is Nevada's rural health care at risk after the 'One Big, Beautiful Bill'?

\$1.76 billion budget for Job Corps to continue

New Theory of American History

25th Annual NATHPO Conference

10 Unusual Libraries From Around the World

History Bits

Humanity May Reach Singularity Within Just 5 Years, Trend...

Students Stung by Truckee Town Council

Santa Fe Indian Market



515-Mile-Long ‘Megaflash’ of Lightning Sets a New World Record, Spanning Eastern Texas to West-Central Missouri (Oct 2017)

“Mother Nature is always showing us new, interesting things,” Peterson tells [WXIA-TV](#)’s Melissa Nord and Reems Landreth. “So with these new satellites that are continuously monitoring, looking at all the weather hazards around us ... it’s just a matter of time where if there’s something new to see, we’re going to eventually see it.”

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/515-mile-long-megaflash-of-lightning-sets-a-new-world-record-spanning-eastern-texas-to-west-central-missouri-180987087/>

Fun fact: Lightning’s extreme temperature

The energy from a bolt of lightning can briefly heat the surrounding air to [about 50,000 degrees Fahrenheit](#)—[hotter than the surface of the sun](#).

Aug. 4 is the celebration of the anniversary of the [Great American Outdoors Act](#).
The Great American Outdoors Act, passed in 2020, provides funding to improve infrastructure and expand recreation opportunities in national parks and other public lands.

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*I am not “pushing” or endorsing this article, but it does contains some interesting information.....sort of like when the Spanish king (and others) gave out land grants.*

**The White House is preparing to legally TRANSFER as much as \$100 trillion of America’s most valuable assets onto the stock market.**

**You’re About to Miss America’s New Land Rush**

<https://secure.stansberryinvestmentadvisory.com/?cid=MKT842632&eid=MKT844350&assetId=AST373654&page=1>

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Is Nevada's rural health care at risk after the 'One Big, Beautiful Bill'?

"If nothing is done to the law, starting in 2028, rural hospitals will likely have to eliminate some services they currently provide to rural communities, typically where Indigenous communities are located. The law added Medicaid work requirements, regardless of the job market in their areas and a reduction in the hospital's provider fee program funding." ([KUNR](#))

Were any other tribal clinics interviewed for this article?

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**\$1.76 billion budget for Job Corps to continue**

On Friday, July 25, a federal judge ruled that Job Corps can continue to operate. This applies to all 99 of the federally funded campuses that were ordered to close in May—including our local one, Sierra Nevada Job Corps in Stead.

But as of this morning, according to a source who is close to the situation and asked to remain anonymous, the usual “hustle-bustle” and “upbeat” mood of the campus had been replaced with “a great air of trepidation.” Student and staff numbers were down, and the Department of Labor did not appear to be communicating expectations or guidelines on moving forward with much clarity or promptness.

But things took a turn this afternoon. The Senate Appropriations Committee met shortly after noon (our time) and approved a \$1.76 billion budget for Job Corps to continue. This is the full amount that the programs nationwide need to operate normally.

The political news outlet News From the States appears to have been one of the first to report the details:

The U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations Thursday largely rejected Trump administration proposals to slash funding for education programs, medical research grants, health initiatives and Ukraine security assistance.

Instead, senators from both parties agreed to increase spending in the Labor, Health and Human Services and Education spending bill for fiscal year 2026, as well as the Defense bill, and rebuked the White House's move to dismantle the Department of Education.

The pushback against President Donald Trump was significant as Congress heads toward a possible standoff and partial government shutdown when the fiscal year expires on Sept. 30.

This spending bill passed out of the Senate committee with a bipartisan 26-3 vote. While this doesn't mean Job Corps' future is fully secure—the bill still needs to be OK'd by the full Senate, and then the House and, ultimately, the president—this is definitely a positive step.

In other news: The August print edition of the *RN&R* hits newsstands this weekend! Be sure to pick one up at your favorite grocery store, shop or watering hole. And thank you for reading!

Take care,

—Kris Vagner, managing editor

**PEARLS BEFORE SWINE:** By Stephan Pastis



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## Episode 139: New Theory of American History

[Download file](#) | [Play in new window](#) | Duration: 23:00 | Recorded on December 1, 2023

“How can a nation founded on the homelands of dispossessed Indigenous peoples be the world’s most exemplary democracy?” asks Professor Ned Blackhawk (Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone), author of *The Rediscovery of America: Native Peoples and the Unmaking of U.S. History*. Today, Dr. Blackhawk discusses what it would look like to build a new theory of American history that can fully grapple with the intertwined histories of the United States and



Native America. [Ned Blackhawk](#) Professor of History and American Studies at Yale

Transcript: <https://15minutehistory.org/podcast/episode-139-new-theory-of-american-history/>

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## 25th Annual NATHPO Conference



[Register Today](#)

[See Detailed Agenda](#)

### 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 [Grand Sierra Resort and Casino in Reno, NV](#). 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\*\*](#)

The National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (NATHPO) conference is the **only** national gathering of **Tribal, federal, state, and industry representatives** committed to protecting Native places. The conference is a keystone of NATHPO's work to empower Tribal preservation leaders to protect culturally important places that perpetuate Native identity,



resilience, and cultural endurance. Connections to cultural heritage sustain the health and vitality of Native peoples.

## 25<sup>th</sup> Annual NATHPO Conference & Sacred Places Summit

### Agenda-at-a-Glance

*\* All times approximate*



|                               | Sunday<br>September 7, 2025                                | Monday<br>September 8, 2025                                                      | Tuesday<br>September 9, 2025                                                                                                         | Wednesday<br>September 10, 2025                                                                        | Thursday<br>September 11, 2025                                                           | Friday<br>September 12, 2025                          |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| <b><i>Basic Schedule*</i></b> | <b>Registration Opens</b><br><br>Registration 4:00-8:00pm  | <b>Site Visits &amp; Welcome Reception</b><br><br>Registration 8:00am-5:00pm     | <b>Conference Sessions &amp; Business Dinner</b><br><br>Registration 8:00am-5:00pm                                                   | <b>Conference Sessions &amp; Culture Night</b><br><br>Registration 8:00am-5:00pm                       | <b>Sacred Site Visits &amp; Conference Closing</b>                                       | <b>Community Building</b>                             |
| <b><i>Breakfast</i></b>       | On your own                                                | Provided <i>only</i> for Monday Site Visit registrants                           | Provided                                                                                                                             | Provided                                                                                               | Provided                                                                                 | Provided                                              |
| <b><i>Morning</i></b>         | On your own                                                | Site Visit –<br><br>Zephyr Hills/Lake Tahoe<br>(registration required)           | Session starts 9:00 am<br><br>Includes Break                                                                                         | Session starts 9:00 am<br><br>Includes Break                                                           | Site Visit –<br><br>Grimes Point/Hidden Cave<br>Archaeological Site                      | Community Building<br>Breakfast<br><br>Starts at 9 am |
| <b><i>Lunch</i></b>           | On your own                                                | Box lunch provided to registrants                                                | Buffet lunch provided                                                                                                                | Awards Ceremony<br><br>Buffet lunch provided                                                           | Box lunch provided<br><i>after</i> Stillwater National<br>Refuge approximately<br>1:15pm | On your own<br><br>Conference ends at<br>noon         |
| <b><i>Afternoon</i></b>       | On your own                                                | Site Visit –<br><br>Stewart Indian Boarding<br>School<br>(registration required) | Session starts at 1 pm<br><br>Includes Break                                                                                         | Session starts at 1 pm<br><br>Includes Break                                                           | Site Visit ( <i>before</i> lunch)–<br><br>Stillwater National Refuge                     | Farewell & travel safe!                               |
| <b><i>Evening</i></b>         | Dinner on your own<br><br>Registration open<br>4:00-8:00pm | Welcome Reception<br><br>Light hors d'oeuvres provided                           | Business Dinner & NATHPO Roundtable<br><br>(Registration required for<br><i>only</i> NATHPO members &<br><i>prospective</i> members) | Culture Night & Dinner<br>Conference Closing<br>Ceremony<br><br>Hosted by<br>Reno-Sparks Indian Colony | Dinner on your own                                                                       | On your own                                           |

[See Detailed Conference Agenda](#)

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**RSIC Jingle Dress Dancers at a Women's March in Reno,**

## 10 Unusual Libraries From Around the World

Plus a bonus one in space. [Mental Floss](#) Lorna Wallace



*Tianjin Binhai Library, China. | TPG/Getty Images Entertainment/Getty Images*

In the [words](#) of [Stephen King](#), “books are a uniquely portable magic.” They have to be stored somewhere—and the buildings created to house them can be equally as magical. There are [2.7 million libraries](#) scattered across the globe, and while there are many [beautiful ones](#), there are also a number of more unique ones. Here are 10 of the most unusual libraries—ranging from creative architectural wonders to libraries that aren’t housed within buildings at all.

### 1. Seikei University Library // Tokyo, Japan

The main atrium of Seikei University Library features five [elevated glass study pods](#) that are fashioned in a slick, sci-fi style. It was designed by [Shigeru Ban](#) and completed in 2006. One wall of the five-story library is made almost entirely of glass, giving those outside the building a brilliant view of the raised meeting rooms that are scattered across the different levels. The futuristic domed pods are aptly known as “planets.”

### 2. The Haskell Free Library & Opera House // Quebec, Canada and Derby Line, Vermont

The Haskell Free Library [straddles the border](#) between Canada and the United States and serves patrons from both countries. The main entrance is on the American side, but the majority of the books reside in Canada. There’s even a line on the floor to mark the border. While Canadians are [not required to show their passport](#) to enter the library, it is strongly encouraged that they bring identification in case U.S. Border Patrol or the RCMP decide to do checks.

As well as operating as a regular library, the building is also home to an opera house. The stage is in Canada, but most of the seats are in the States.

### 3. Future Library Project // Oslo, Norway

Each year the Future Library—[described by The Guardian](#) as “the world’s most secretive library”—sees a different author add a manuscript to a collection that will [not be available](#) for reading until 2114. The project was started in 2014 by Scottish artist Katie Paterson, and the stories involved are being stored in the Silent Room at Oslo Public Library. Once the 100 books have been gathered, they will be printed on paper made from a specially grown forest.

A Future Library committee has been established to choose which author should be invited to contribute each year. The decision is made [based on](#) “outstanding contributions to literature or poetry, and for their work’s ability to capture the imagination of this and future generations.”

[Margaret Atwood](#) was the first author to pen a secret story for the Future Library; other authors who have contributed include David Mitchell, Han Kang, and Ocean Vuong.

#### **4. Beach Library // Balchik Municipality, Bulgaria**

The Albena vacation resort has the perfect solution for guests who want to read by the sea but don't want to lug around physical books or risk getting sand in their devices: [An open-air library](#) on the beach. The massive resort, located on the coast of the Black Sea, features the expected amenities like luxurious spas and sports facilities. The real draw for readers is [the beach library](#) outside Hotel Kaliakra. The library has around 6000 books in 15 languages, which are housed on 140 weather-resistant shelves. A plastic cover protects the shelves during inclement weather.

#### **5. Bibliotheca Alexandrina // Alexandria, Egypt**

Bibliotheca Alexandrina stands in commemoration of the ancient Library of Alexandria that was sadly lost to antiquity. Designed by Norwegian architectural firm Snøhetta, the library is a [cylindrical building](#) that looks as though its top has been sliced off diagonally and rises out of a pool of water. Construction was completed in 2001, near the location of the original library.

[According to Snøhetta's website](#), "Its vast circular form alongside the circular Alexandrian harbor recalls the cyclical nature of knowledge, fluid throughout time." The tilted roof, which glistens in the sun, was designed to recall the ancient Lighthouse of Alexandria.

As well as the library facilities, the building is also home to a planetarium, a conference center, four museums, and a number of art galleries.

#### **6. Tianjin Binhai Library // Tianjin, China**

Another library with a futuristic sci-fi design is Tianjin Binhai Library in China. The main atrium features rows of undulating white shelves that stretch up to the ceiling. In the center of it all is a huge spherical auditorium, known as The Eye. Though it's visually impressive, it isn't entirely practical—the higher shelves are inaccessible, and are filled out with images of books printed on aluminium plates.

MVRDV, the Dutch architectural firm that designed the building, [explains that](#) "access to the upper bookshelves from rooms placed behind the atrium" was planned, but had to be dropped because of the tight construction timetable—the library was finished just three years after the first sketch was drawn. "The full vision for the Tianjin Library may yet be realised," MVRDV optimistically writes.

#### **7. Terence Cardinal Cooke-Cathedral Library // New York City**

The main branch of the [New York Public Library](#), located on Fifth Avenue and 42nd Street, is one of the most famous libraries in the world. But the NYPL also claims one of the most unusual: Terence Cardinal Cooke-Cathedral Library. The tiny library is [located in the subway system](#), specifically on the northwest corner of Lexington Avenue and 50th Street, just outside the turnstiles to the 6 train. There's no on-street signage indicating its existence below ground; as a result, many people have no idea it's even there.

In 2010, then-branch manager Anisha Huffman [told \*The New York Times\*](#) that people “come in asking for help with the MetroCard machine. We do help them if we’re not too busy, and they also ask us for subway maps, so we keep a lot of them on hand.” The underground library has served its main purpose of providing reading material though; books about business and page-turning tales were particularly popular with passing commuters. As of 2022, though, the Terence Cardinal Cooke-Cathedral Library has been [temporarily transformed](#) into an IDNYC office.

#### **8. Biblioteca Vasconcelos // Mexico City, Mexico**

From the outside, Biblioteca Vasconcelos looks like a concrete monolith. But inside is a huge cavernous space lined with what seems like endless [cantilevered stacks of books](#). The staggered shelves hover above the central walkway and are barricaded by minimal steel banisters rather than walls. This all gives the space an open feel and brilliantly shows off the hundreds of shelves. The design feels simultaneously geometric and chaotic.

#### **9. Biblioburro // La Gloria, Colombia**

When schoolteacher Luis Soriano realized that his rural pupils lacked access to books at home, he decided to take matters into his own hands and deliver literature directly to them with the help of his donkey. “At first, people saw me as nothing more than a half-insane teacher with some books and his donkey,” [Soriano once recalled](#). But his idea was a success and he soon added a second book-carrying donkey—the pair of burros are called Alfa and Beto, which together spell *alphabet* in Spanish.

Soriano’s traveling donkey library, which he started in 1997, has flourished over the years. At the beginning his collection numbered just 70 books, but it is now 7000 strong. There are nearly 20 Biblioburro operating in the area. Soriano has also helped to open a public library—with walls rather than hooves—and multiple schools.

#### **10. Seashore Library // Qinhuangdao, China**

The Seashore Library [has been called](#) “the world’s loneliest library,” sitting as it does on an isolated stretch of beach with no road access. It isn’t actually that far from civilization. Although patrons have to walk across the sand to reach the doors, the library is located in Beidaihe District, a popular beach resort in Qinhuangdao. The lone building was designed to foster a connection with the ocean and so the main reading room features a [tiered design](#) to ensure that everyone has a good view of the sea.

#### **Bonus: The Informal Library Aboard the International Space Station // Low Earth Orbit**

The informal [library on board the ISS](#) is definitely unusual, given that it isn’t even located on Earth. The small space library is made up of books brought up by astronauts to enjoy during their down time. As might be expected, [science fiction](#) is the most heavily represented genre. **This post originally appeared on Mental Floss and was published December 27, 2022. This article is republished here with permission. Unfortunately, pictures would not transfer, so you need to go to [https://getpocket.com/explore/item/10-unusual-libraries-from-around-the-world?utm\\_source=firefox-newtab-en-us](https://getpocket.com/explore/item/10-unusual-libraries-from-around-the-world?utm_source=firefox-newtab-en-us)**

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## History Bits

- 1775 Aug 5** The Spanish ship *San Carlos* became the first ship known to have entered San Francisco Bay.
- 1844 Aug 7** Explorer John Fremont arrived in St. Louis after a long trip during which he left his imprint on the west by naming everything he encountered including Pyramid Lake, Carson Valley and the Great Basin itself.
- 1883 Aug 4** The *Nevada Appeal* proposed that King Kalakaua of Hawaii, who was visiting San Francisco, be invited to Carson City to see the prehistoric cave footprints on the grounds of the state prison.
- 1883 Aug 5** *Nevada State Journal*: “Within a very few years Lake Tahoe will be one of the most popular resorts on the American Continent. All the most desirable places along the lake shore are being picked up by wealthy men with an eye to future use.”
- 1885 Aug 6** Treaty was signed at Haw’s Ranch by Indian Agent Garland Hurt with ten principal men of the Western Shoshone tribes; Senate failed to ratify it.
- 1898 Aug 4** The Indian Congress of the Trans-Mississippi and International opened in Omaha.
- 1898 Aug 8** The US government deposed the Hawaiian monarchy and “annexed” Hawaii.
- 1905 Aug 5** Land reserved to Fallon Indians reduced from 31,360 to 4,640 acres.
- 1919 Aug 4** The Orr Ditch Trial
- 1940 Aug 6** Native American boxer **Buddy Davis** of Schurz arrived in Las Vegas for a Golden Gloves tourney.
- 1951 Aug 9** The Washo tribe filed claim of \$43,811,985.84 before the Indian Claims Commission, based on the 1862 values of Washo resources plus interest. The US settled the case 21 years later by paying \$5,000,000.
- 1990 Aug 3** A Joint Resolution designating November 1990 as “National American Indian Heritage Month” was approved by President GH Bush. PL 101-343 (104 Stat. 391)
- 2005 Aug 4** The National Collegiate Athletic Association adopted rules curbing the use of tribal mascots by teams.

### Humanity May Reach Singularity Within Just 5 Years, Trend...

When will the singularity occur? According to new research, humanity may achieve singularity within just 5...





*Lava flows after a volcanic eruption on the Reykjanes Peninsula Iceland on July 23.  
(AP Photo/Marco di Marco)*

### **Students Stung by Truckee Town Council**

Despite an impassioned presentation from a group of third graders, the town of Truckee passes on becoming an official Bee City for now.

The students made their case to the Truckee Town Council during the students' summer break, hoping to urge town leaders to become an official affiliate of Bee City USA, joining the cities of Reno and Carson City.

Truckee Council Members told the students they would look into the initiative in future years, and encouraged them to partner with other nonprofits in the area to work on the project. Leaders said the initiative would compete with other priorities for the town, like building infrastructure and fixing housing needs. It would also take time and effort to form a committee, at a time when the mayor says town council is being criticized for asking too much of staff.

Ultimately, it would cost the city of Truckee \$200 to submit an application (based on its population of 17,000), a cost the students offered to help offset through the sale of "Bee Yourself" t-shirts and sweatshirts. To help meet the other requirements of becoming a Bee City, the students also offered to host events at their school, offer educational materials to help property owners reduce harmful pesticide use and encourage more pollinator-friendly plants.

Our Tahoe Correspondent Kayla Anderson has more on the proposal and the town's rationale at [SierraNevadaAlly.org](https://SierraNevadaAlly.org)

[Read the story](#)

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## SACRED SITES PANEL

**2PM**

MIAC  
710 Camino Lejo



## COLLECTIVE SPIRIT FILM SHORTS & PANEL

**4PM**

MIAC  
710 Camino Lejo

**16 Saturday**

## SANTA FE INDIAN MARKET

**8AM-5PM**

Downtown Santa Fe  
Authentic Native Art, Cuisine, Panels & Performances all day long on the Plaza.



## GIFF PANEL

**11AM-1PM**

MoCNA Courtyard  
108 Cathedral Pl  
*SOLD OUT*

## THE SWAIA GALA

**5-9PM**

Convention Center  
201 W Marcy St

**17 Sunday**

## SANTA FE INDIAN MARKET

**8AM-5PM**

Downtown Santa Fe  
Authentic Native Art, Cuisine, Panels & Performances all day long on the Plaza.

## NATIVE AMERICAN REGALIA SHOWCASE

**9-11AM**

Plaza Main Stage  
63 Lincoln Ave

## NATIVE FASHION SHOW

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