

Journal #5822 from sdc 10.2.24

Back from the Brink

Curtis advances bipartisan legislation to protect Utah's Great Salt Lake and boost geothermal energy

Retirements by water and wastewater plant operators are leading to workforce shortages

Major victory for community: NID withdraws Centennial Dam proposal after SYRCL's opposition

Tahoe is the oldest lake in North America, 3rd in the world, study says

Congress approves Lake Tahoe Restoration Act for another decade

Breakthrough-genetically engineered yeast may transform wastewater to valuable protein

Biden Announces Key Appointments to Boards, Commissions

3-D Printed Hotel Being Built in Texas Desert

Guest comment: Vote to support our public libraries

Introducing the 2024 Grist 50 list

October PowWows

River Puhā Tambi Lowman



Northern Bald Ibis - Back from the Brink

<https://www.cnn.com/science/gallery/northern-bald-ibis-photos-c2e-spc/index.html>

Very interesting - and illustrated - article

Curtis advances bipartisan legislation to protect Utah's Great Salt Lake and boost geothermal energy

“Yesterday, Representative John Curtis (R-UT) passed two bills through the House of Representatives with bipartisan support. The Great Salt Lake Stewardship Act would incorporate the Great Salt Lake into ongoing conservation efforts under the Colorado River water conservation program. The Geothermal Energy Opportunity Act aims to expedite the approval process for geothermal projects. ... “Utahns have worked tirelessly to protect the Great Salt Lake, but persistent drought conditions now threaten its long-term viability. Recognizing the urgency of this issue, the Great Salt Lake Stewardship Act would expand the Colorado River water conservation program to include the lake. Over time, this flexibility will help safeguard its ecological and economic significance, protecting Utah and the West from the economic and public health risks of an ecological disaster.” ... ” [Read more from Congressman Curtis.](#)

Retirements by water and wastewater plant operators are leading to workforce shortages

“Across the U.S., drinking water and wastewater utilities are losing experienced workers at an escalating rate. It's part of the “silver tsunami” of baby boomer retirements. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency says that “silver tsunami” is just beginning to sweep across the nation. “We're seeing between 30 and 50% of our water workforce being eligible to retire within the next 5 to 10 years,” said Bruno Pigott, the EPA's acting assistant administrator of water. He was quoting from a report released six years ago by the Brookings Institution. While the data are hard to confirm, it appears the country is heading toward that projection. ... ” [Read more from WDET.](#)

Major victory for community: NID withdraws Centennial Dam proposal after SYRCL's decade-long opposition

“On September 25th, the Nevada Irrigation District voted on the future of their proposed Centennial Dam project, a \$1 billion project that the South Yuba River Citizen's League (SYRCL) has rallied the community in opposition to since its inception. In August of 2014, the Nevada Irrigation District (NID) began planning to construct a new 275-foot-tall dam and reservoir on the Bear River between the existing Rollins and Combie reservoirs. The water agency's proposed new 110,000 acre-foot reservoir with a 275 foot-tall dam on the Bear River would have inundated six miles of the Bear River, completely flooding the Bear River Campground, more than 25 homes and 120 parcels, hundreds of cultural and sacred Native American sites, and the Dog Bar Bridge, the only crossing of the Bear River between Highway 49 and Highway 174. ... ” [Read more from The Union.](#)

Tahoe is the oldest lake in North America, 3rd in the world, study says

“Lake Tahoe is the oldest lake in North America and the third oldest in the world, according to new research presented at the Geological Society of America's annual meeting on Monday in Anaheim. The finding places Tahoe in the pantheon of the world's most ancient lakes. Lake Tahoe is at least 2.3 million years old, according to Winnie Kortemeier, a professor of geosciences at Western Nevada College in Carson City, Nevada. She initially made that discovery in 2012, when she sent samples of volcanic rock she collected near Tahoe City to the U.S. Geological Survey geochronology laboratory for radiometric dating. ... ” [Read more from SF Gate.](#)

Congress approves Lake Tahoe Restoration Act for another decade

“On Tuesday September 24, Congress passed legislation to extend the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act for ten more years, making millions of dollars available to protect and preserve the lake. The original Lake Tahoe Restoration Act (LTRA) was passed in 2000 and pledged \$300 million to restore the lake through various efforts. In 2016, the act was reauthorized and allotted \$415 million. The most recent reauthorization aimed to extend the time on the Congressional clock, as only 29% of the funds had been appropriated. ...” [Read more from the Tahoe Daily Tribune.](#)

Breakthrough-genetically engineered yeast may transform wastewater to valuable protein
<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/technology/researchers-make-breakthrough-with-genetically-engineered-yeast-that-could-transform-wastewater-into-valuable-protein-it-was-plug-and-play/ar-AA1r925B?ocid=socialshare&pc=HCTS&cvid=86fa9842cc654f2daae7e907aeb09266&ei=48>

~**Biden Announces Key Appointments to Boards, Commissions 28 September:** President Biden has announced key appointments to the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board, including Miles Greiner, a professor at the University of Nevada, Reno. Greiner brings extensive expertise in nuclear packaging and safety. (miragenews.com)

ENERGYX

Each EV battery needs ~70 kg of lithium— 10,000x the amount of a smartphone. With over 1 billion EVs needing to be on the road by 2050, current lithium production can't keep up with that demand.

- **NCET Biz Tips: Sustainable batteries to fuel a clean energy future:** Redwood Materials, based in the Tahoe-Reno Industrial Center, is pioneering sustainable battery production and recycling. The company aims to reduce environmental impact and create a circular supply chain for electric vehicles and clean energy products. (nnbw.com)

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/workers-just-started-building-the-worlds-first-3d-printed-hotel-in-the-texas-desert-180985166/?spMailingID=50245037&spUserID=OTYyNTc5MzkyMTQyS0&spJobID=2800005073&spReportId=MjgwMDAwNTA3MwS2>

TED | education



Guest comment: Vote to support our public libraries

by [Ilya Arbatman](#) September 20, 2024

I never thought I'd be writing an op-ed about a fuddy-duddy ballot measure. But the time for cynically dismissing voting or tuning out of politics is long gone, as is the time when pillars of collective life, such as the public library, existed in a special zone above the fray of partisan conflict.

We don't have to agree on what is said in those shared, public spaces, but we should agree that they must remain shared and public, so that we can gather in them to celebrate our differences as the only path to common ground.

I'm waxing electoral to get you to vote yes on [WC-1](#), which would [renew](#), for another 30 years, a special fund that allots two cents of every \$100 of assessed property value to the Washoe County Library System.

First, the talking points: This is not a new or an additional tax, but a renewal of a voter-designated allocation that gives the community an opportunity to determine how a portion of their taxes will be spent. If WC-1 fails at the polls, *this tax will still be collected*, but rather than going directly to our libraries, it will revert to the county's general fund.

In 1994, then-library director Martha Gould developed the original ballot measure to ensure stable, long-term library funding; in 2000, the Board of County Commissioners directed that expenditures from this tax be "limited to costs associated with expansion of services including, but not limited to, additional library branch debt service payments, expanded library services, expanded library hours and additional library collections." Elected officials are unable to redirect this money to any other purpose.

The aptly named [library expansion fund](#) helped build the Northwest Reno, South Valleys, Incline Village and Spanish Springs libraries, and renovate the North Valleys, Downtown, Northwest, Sparks and Sierra View libraries. Money raised protected the library system and staff members through multiple recessions and allowed libraries to open on weekends. When renewed, the expansion fund will continue to make libraries even more accessible to communities. We can expect a brand new North Valleys Library, renovations to the South Valleys and Spanish Springs libraries, an expansion of Bookmobile and book-vending services in north and south Washoe County, and a stable, secure, recession-proof library system.

Singing the library's praises seems gratuitous. "Unlike the internet, where you search for specific things, the library lets you wander and allows discoveries to find you," said Megan Kay, outreach and content coordinator at UNR's Living With Fire program. "I love bringing my daughter there. She discovers books on a bunch of topics I never knew she was interested in, sparking new adventures in our lives."

Melissa Fant, who homeschools her kids, emphasizes that "our public library system is a critical resource for families like ours. Without it, homeschooling in Washoe County would be significantly more expensive, and our access to books that inspire imagination and a love of learning would be far more limited. We check out dozens of books from the library every week.

Our homeschool group also meets monthly in library meeting rooms around the county, allowing us to gather together for group lessons, art projects and storytime.”

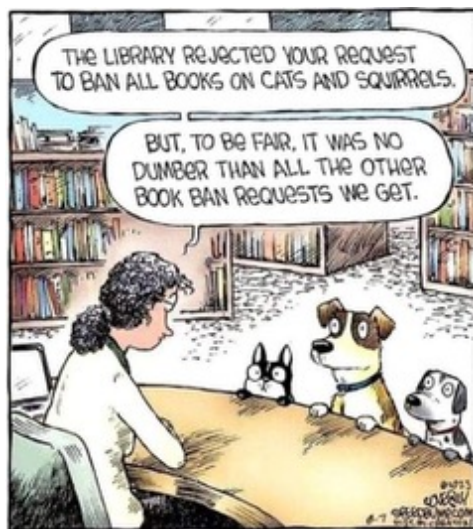
Did you know that there is a branch of the library at the Senior Center on Ninth Street, complete with music, movies, books, newspapers, public computers and even printers? Did you know that you can check out materials online, and staff will deliver them to your home through [Washoe County Library Homebound Services](#)? Did you know that the North Valleys and Incline Village libraries feature legal kiosks—supported by Nevada Legal Services—where you can get access to legal resources and even attend virtual appointments and hearings?

At the Downtown library, there is now a Reno Housing Authority kiosk where you can research RHA properties and programs, manage your documents, apply to housing waitlists and even pay rent. Oh yeah, you can also check out blood pressure machines and state park passes. The list goes on!

I feel confident that if you are reading this, you are likely a library supporter. However, being a supporter in spirit only won't quite cut it this November. Don't take publicly funded social programs—like the library—for granted.

Elections can be a source of frustration and disillusionment, but they can also be a tangible way to declare and act on your values. Tell the county that libraries are vital to our community and deserve direct, secure and long-term funding. Vote yes on WC-1.

Ilya Arbatman is a small-business owner and community advocate. He sits on Reno's Ward 3 Neighborhood Advisory Board. He is part of [Freedom to Read Nevada](#).



On November 5, 2024, Washoe County voters will decide whether to extend a 30-year tax override dedicated to acquiring, constructing, improving, maintaining and operating Washoe County Library System. This is a renewal of a 30-year tax override, **not a new tax**. An allotment of two cents for every \$100 of assessed property value goes directly to Washoe Libraries. This is not an additional tax on Washoe County citizens. Our goal is to maintain the award-winning, outstanding library service Washoe County residents have come to enjoy.

Introducing the 2024 Grist 50 list

It's easy to get mired in headlines that point to ever-increasing climate risks — in 2024, that could be a wildfire covering an area the size of Los Angeles, an early and already damaging hurricane season, or the hottest July on record, coinciding with a scorching summer Olympics. But that story is incomplete without the stories of those fighting back, bringing change to their communities, and inventing a better future. The Grist 50 is just a small slice of that counternarrative: 50 people across the U.S. who are tackling some of the most pressing problems of today in innovative and exciting ways.

On this year's list, you'll find creatives bringing powerful stories to new audiences, advocates pushing for healthy and just food systems, and tech wizards putting AI to work for more efficient energy infrastructure. These leaders have pushed back against harmful industries (and won), cut carbon emissions from hospitals, advanced wildfire solutions from Hawai'i to California, and brought together unlikely coalitions to break ground on clean energy networks. They're teachers, scientists, doctors, farmers, artists, entrepreneurs, and activists who are putting climate front and center in their work and driving real progress.

While no individual can solve climate change, progress depends on individuals figuring out how to bring their skills and passions to the table. The Grist 50 shows what that looks like. For each of the people featured here, their journey is still unfolding — these short profiles offer just a taste of what they've accomplished so far, and where they're going.

Read the stories of climate leaders to watch in: [Arts + Media](#), [Business + Tech](#), [Food + Land](#), [Policy + Advocacy](#), and [Science + Energy](#).

I have highlighted the Native Americans featured this year to honor their contributions, but y'all should read the entire article (perhaps category by category) for some amazing stories and some ideas you might like to bring to your community.

Birdie Sam Independent Creator Puget Sound, WA

[@showme_yourmask](#)

They're calling out fossil fuel execs on social media

Birdie Sam began creating digital content after the pandemic cost their husband his job. To keep their family afloat, Sam leveraged their video editing and public speaking skills to spin up a social media presence around making and selling cloth masks. In 2021, when Enbridge's Line 3 oil pipeline was nearing completion, a campaign to obstruct it swept social media and became Sam's first step into the world of digital advocacy.

Sam went on to support other climate-focused campaigns across social media, including those pushing against the Willow project, Enbridge's Line 5 pipeline, and the creation of new export terminals for liquefied natural gas. Along the way, they collaborated with other digital climate advocates and even partnered with Patagonia, all while centering a message opposed to climate doom.

“Doom really only benefits the oil companies at the end of the day,” Sam said. “We have to really root our work from radical hope.”

Their personal brand of advocacy includes sharing and discussing climate headlines, calling out fossil fuel executives by name, and rallying their followers with the hashtag #teamorca, an approach that has helped them grow their audience to over 340,000 on TikTok.

Sam also advocates for Indigenous justice, with a particular focus on the The Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, of which they are a member. They’ve talked about how anti-Indigenous residential schools impacted their family, and they are working with their dad on the [Lost Alaskans Project](#), which aims to identify, and return to their families, the remains of Alaskans who were interned in a psychiatric asylum in Portland, Oregon, in the early 1900s.

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### **Theresa (Isa) Arriola**

Chair, Our Common Wealth 670 Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands [@ourcommonwealth670](#)

### **She’s fighting the impacts of militarization on her island community**

When the Pentagon announced in 2013 that it planned to turn part of the island of Pagan in the Northern Mariana Islands into a bombing range, many Indigenous residents were shocked. They had already agreed to allow the U.S. military to lease an entire island in their U.S. commonwealth for bombing practice, and two-thirds of another for a military base, and now the military wanted even more land for destructive training.

Among those outraged was **Theresa (Isa) Arriola**, an Indigenous woman of Chamorro, Kosraean, and Irish descent, from the island of Saipan, the commonwealth’s capital.

“This is land that’s connected to our very being,” she thought. “It’s just so presumptive, so cavalier, this idea that you can just take.”

Over the next several years, Arriola read and decoded thousands of pages of dense environmental impact statements, drafted opinion pieces, and spoke with local media about the plans. She helped organize community meetings and push for a local legislative resolution to halt military planning. Along with longtime community advocate Cinta Kaipat (who passed away in 2023), she also co-founded the grassroots organization [Our Common Wealth 670](#) to increase awareness of militarism.

The community’s resistance worked: In 2022, the military abandoned its Pagan bombing range proposal. But Arriola says there’s more work to do to empower her community and illuminate how militarization affects their daily lives.

She sees her advocacy as intertwined with climate justice — not only is the U.S. military one of the world’s biggest polluters, but defense is an easy excuse to justify rolling back environmental protections.

“It’s not just about reducing emissions,” she said. “We also have to take a look at what are the daily and mundane ways that militarism is skewing our relationship with everyone around us.”

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He's shaping fire policy — as a wildland firefighter, and an Indigenous fire practitioner

For many Californians, fire is a terrifying consequence of climate change. But to **Ryan Reed**, who is Karuk, Hupa, and Yurok, it is also an essential part of the ecosystem — one whose absence has increased the risk of catastrophic infernos. “A lot of Indigenous people across the world understand that the use of fire is a significant tool in our toolbox that we need to help us manage the landscape in a sustainable way,” he said.

In 2022, Reed and three other young people co-founded [FireGeneration Collaborative](#) to transform the country's approach to fire management. The group's priority is diversifying the firefighting workforce and the entities that determine fire policy, with an emphasis on bringing Indigenous and youth perspectives to the table.

Reed, who is working toward a master's degree in forestry at the University of California, Berkeley, is also a wildland firefighter with the U.S. Forest Service.

FireGen lobbied to get him a seat on the federal advisory committee amending the Northwest Forest Plan, which guides land management in the region. The plan is being amended for the first time since its creation 30 years ago. At 24, he's by far the youngest person on the committee, and the only wildland firefighter.

It's challenging, he says, working for an agency that barred his ancestors from practicing their traditional uses of fire, often through violence. But he appreciates the opportunity to bring these issues to light within the committee — and also the need to balance the use of healthy fires with the control of dangerous ones. “At this point in time, we can't not have fire suppression,” Reed said. “We need to increase the amount of good fire that we have on the landscape, too, but we can't do one without the other.”

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## **She's building power for rural Indigenous communities**

On the Navajo Nation, almost 15,000 homes do not have electricity. That means no internet access, no lights after dark, no refrigeration. Many drive daily to local stores to get ice. Part of the problem stems from how far away these homes are from the electric grid.

**Suzanne Singer**, a Diné woman with a PhD in mechanical engineering, was doing solar energy research at a national laboratory, getting a firsthand look at projects focused on sustainability and energy independence, when she realized she could use her skills to help her tribe address energy challenges.

In 2015, Singer co-founded [Native Renewables](#), a nonprofit that installs off-grid solar power and battery storage in homes on the Navajo and Hopi reservations. The organization aims to not only advance the clean energy revolution, but to improve the quality of life for rural Indigenous communities.



“Our mission is to grow Indigenous-led solar power, knowledge, and solutions with Hopi and Navajo families in our communities. What that means is we wanted to grow a team of installers locally based and Indigenous,” Singer said.

These local installers also speak Diné, which comes in handy as they work in the homes of elders. “It’s important for us to have staff that can communicate and speak the language, can communicate with those families and help them understand,” Singer said.

The Navajo Nation has seen energy industries like coal and uranium extract resources from its land. Singer wants Native Renewables to learn from that history and offer a different path, investing in local energy resources that will actually benefit the community and provide quality jobs to boot. The team has brought solar to around 90 homes since the organization’s founding, and more than 20 this year alone. With the help of [new funding and partnerships](#), Singer hopes to eventually get to 100 homes a year.~~~~~`

**[Know someone who should be featured here? Nominate them for next year’s Grist 50 list.](#)**

### **October Powwows**

- Oct 12**      **[7th Annual Indigenous Peoples Day \(Pomona, CA\) 2024](#)**      **[- Pomona CA](#)**  
11:00am-6:00pm Hosted by Rumsen Am:a Turataj Ohlone Tribe For Vendor  
Booth Info Contact [rquiroga.og@yahoo.com](mailto:rquiroga.og@yahoo.com) For Miscellaneous Info Contact  
[rumsenama.secy@gmail.com](mailto:rumsenama.secy@gmail.com)
- Oct 14**      **[2nd Annual Honoring Native Nations Pow Wow 2024](#)**      **[- Santa Fe NM](#)**  
This Pow Wow is the 2nd annual Indigenous People's Day hosted by the  
Santa Fe Indigenous Center in Santa Fe New Mexico....
- Oct 18**      **[1st Annual The Roll Call of Veterans Pow Wow 2024](#)**      **[- Louisville KY](#)**  
We are co hosting our event with our brothers and sisters of the Ohio Valley  
Native American Warrior Society OVNAVWS. Education Day...
- Oct 18 - 20**      **[Hunting Moon Pow Wow 2024](#)**      **[- Milwaukee WI](#)**  
Drum Registration: Friday, October 18, from 4:00pm - 7:00pm Saturday, October  
19, 2024, from 11:00am – 1:00pm Please visit website for complete...
- Oct 18 - 20**      **[Lower Muskogee Creek Tribe 2024 Pow Wow](#)**      **[- Whigham GA](#)**  
Gates Open: Friday at 5:00pm, Saturday at 10:00am, & Sunday at 12:00pm  
\$5 per vehicle Womens Fancy Shawl/Jingle and Traditional Competition  
Mens...
- Oct 18 - 20**      **[NAIA 43rd Annual Indian Education Tennessee Pow Wow 2024](#)**      **[- Nashville TN](#)**  
Admission: Cash only at the Gate! Adults: \$8.00 Seniors: \$4.00 Children  
6-12: \$4.00 5 & Under: Free Handicapped: Free Master of Ceremonies:...



**[Oct 25 - 27 40th Annual Roy Track Memorial Mesa Pow Wow 2024](#)** **[- Mesa AZ](#)**  
Free admission. Friday - 7:00pm - 10:00pm - Free Concert Saturday - 11:00am - 10:00pm;  
Gourd 11:00am & 5:00pm Arizona Territory Gourd...

**[Oct 25 - 26 Native Arts Expo 2024](#)** **[- Mendocino CA](#)**  
10:00am-4:00pm Both Days Join us for the annual Native Arts Expo

**[Oct 26 5th Annual Two Spirit Pow Wow 2024](#)** **[- Salt Lake City UT](#)**  
The Urban Indian Center of Salt Lake's Division of Behavioral Health Services' 2 Spirit+ Pow  
wow celebrates and honors all Indigenous identities...

**[Oct 26 ENAEP's Annual Veteran's Honoring Pow Wow 2024](#)** **[- Kirkland WA](#)**  
The Eastside Native American Education program serves our Native students and families across  
Bellevue, Northshore and Lake Washington School district. We host...

**[Oct 26 - 27 Historic Badin Hardaway Pow Wow 2024](#)** **[- Badin NC](#)**  
This is a 2 day intertribal pow wow event celebrating the gathering of many Northern American  
Tribes to the site known as...

**[Oct 26 54th Annual Lipan Apache Tribe of Texas October Pow Wow 2024](#)** **[- Alton TX](#)**  
Come experience American Indian culture, drumming, singing, and dancing. There will be  
raffles, cake walks, and vendors selling Indian food, art, crafts,...

**[Oct 26 Rocky Mountain College Pow Wow 2024](#)** **[- Billings MT](#)**  
Save the Date! 5:00pm - 10:00pm


**[Oct 30 - Nov 2 89th Annual American Indian Exposition 2024](#)** **[- Anadarko OK](#)**  
Parades; Beautiful Baby Contest; Art Competition Art & Craft Vendors; Dance Competitions;  
Handgame Horse Shoe Tournament; Gospel Singing; Gourd Dance Sessions...

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You may also be interested in a new virtual reality tour of Donner Summit by Howard Goldbaum,
Emeritus Professor of Immersive Media, Reynolds School of Journalism, University of Nevada
Reno, NV 89557-0040
goldbaum@unr.edu
<https://howardgoldbaum.com>

Here are the tour links.
The initial tour landing page is here:
<https://allaroundnevada.com/wp-content/vr/nearly/donner/VR/>

The web page where the tour has its public face is here:
<https://allaroundnevada.com/donner-summit/>

W/ regrets: this arrived after 10.1. Journal went out

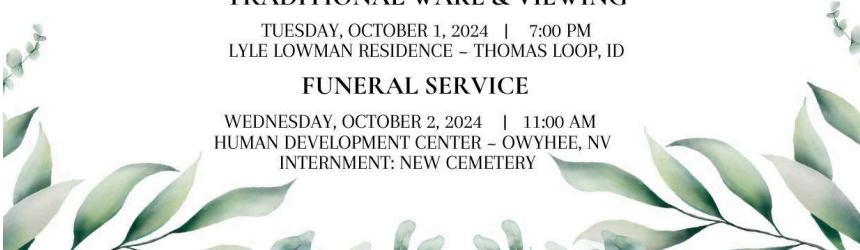


HONORING THE BEAUTIFUL LIFE OF
River Puha Tambi Lowman
"River Boy"
JANUARY 7, 2005 - SEPTEMBER 28, 2024



TRADITIONAL WAKE & VIEWING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2024 | 7:00 PM
LYLE LOWMAN RESIDENCE - THOMAS LOOP, ID

FUNERAL SERVICE
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2024 | 11:00 AM
HUMAN DEVELOPMENT CENTER - OWYHEE, NV
INTERMENT: NEW CEMETERY



[Sarah Sunshine](#)

[Sharing on behalf of the family, and parents Dawn Day Manning and Lyle Lowman.](#) 

Our precious River Boy left this earth on Saturday, September 28, and now joins many relatives and ancestors in the spirit world. Please help us along with your good thoughts and prayers as we do our best to honor our boy with a traditional send off.