

Journal #5913 from sdc 2.6.25

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*Status of Tribal Nations as Political Entities - Implementation of the President’s New EO’s
More Executive confirmations*

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NARF Reminders

Kelly Bigback admitted to Orvis School of Nursing

Luther Bow, Jr.



<https://www.cnay.org/bios/aspen-carrillo/>

Aspen Carrillo | 2024 Creative Native Artist | Yerington Paiute, Washoe Age: 22

Hung Mehheshi! I am Aspen Carrillo. I am 22 years old and from Carson City, Nevada. I grew up on the Stewart Indian Reservation and was raised by my hootse (grandma). I now live in Reno, Nevada and go to the University of Nevada, Reno perusing a Master of Fine Arts. I have been an artist since I was little, using it as a way to escape and cope. It’s only been in the past couple years that I’ve began to share my art and the doors that it has opened for me have been life changing.

The title of my piece is “Lehl Lum Deh Pbst” Washoe word for moon. It translates into English to “crawls along at night.” My piece is inspired by what my Aunt Melba told me. Melba Rakow is one of our last fluent Washoe speakers and one of the most important elders we have. She told me that Washoes used the moon to predict the weather. Saying that you can see a woman on the moon with a basket. When the

woman is spilling out the basket there will be a storm.
on campus (ktvn.com) —

UNR student artist unveils new mural

February 2, 2025
The Honorable Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20500

The Honorable Mike Johnson
568 Cannon House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515
The Honorable John Thune
511 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510
The Honorable Susan Collins
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
The Honorable Tom Cole
2207 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515
The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
522 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510
The Honorable Jeff Hurd
1641 Longworth House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515
The Honorable Mike Simpson
2084 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515
The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
2267 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
322 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510
The Honorable Patty Murray
154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
1036 Longworth House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515
The Honorable Brian Schatz
722 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510
The Honorable Teresa Leger-Fernandez
2417 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515
The Honorable Chellie Pingree
2354 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515
The Honorable Doug Burgum
U.S. Department of Interior
1849 C Street
Washington, DC 20240
Delivered Electronically

RE: Status of Tribal Nations as Political Entities in the Implementation of the President's New Executive Orders

Dear Mr. President, Honorable United States Senators, Members of Congress, and Mr. Secretary:
On behalf of the undersigned organizations that collectively serve the majority of sovereign American Indian and Alaska Native Tribal Nations and their citizens, we write to urge you to recognize and protect the status of Tribal Nations as political entities in light of recent executive and federal action.

The events of the past few days regarding the potential freeze on federal funding of Tribal programs necessitated this letter. Most recently, OMB Memorandum M-25-13 was rescinded by OMB Memorandum M-25-14, which also indicated that if heads of departments and agencies have questions about implementing the President's Executive Orders, they should contact their own agency General Counsels. This raises further questions that reinforce the important need for this letter.

Tribal Nations are eager to work with the Administration on multiple shared priorities. These include, among others, reducing unnecessary federal regulations, streamlining federal funding mechanisms for critical Tribal priorities and economic development, strengthening Tribal self-determination, and addressing long-standing tax issues that are historic impediments to Tribal economic growth.

We look forward to partnering with the new Administration as the President works to establish his priorities and implement new Executive Orders. As that process unfolds, we urge the President and his advisors to take care to protect the unique federal trust relationship between our

sovereign Tribal Nations and the Federal government, which is based on *the political status of Tribal Nations*.

Our unique political and legal relationship with the United States is rooted in our inherent sovereignty and recognized in the U.S. Constitution, in treaties, and is carried out by many federal laws and policies. When Congress is acting under its unique obligation toward Tribal Nations and their citizens, they have legal status as a political class rather than a suspect racial class under the principles of constitutional legal analysis. The U.S. Supreme Court has consistently recognized and upheld the distinct legal and political status of Tribal Nations and their citizens and communities.

We call on the Trump Administration to ensure the United States' delivery on its trust and treaty obligations does not become collateral damage in the Trump Administration's implementation of its other priorities, such as limiting diversity, equity, inclusivity, and accessibility (DEIA) and environmental justice (EJ) initiatives, and restricting the federal workforce.

Federal Tribal programs are not racial or preference programs, and indeed these federal funds and programs are legally mandated under the trust and treaty obligations owed to us. They are carried out in and recognized by many congressional statutes and federal agency actions.

Critically, we reiterate that Tribal issues and Tribal programs are separate and distinct from DEIA and EJ issues -- as portrayed and implemented by the Administration in this entire effort. It is more complex than that, as broad sweeps and flash cuts create confusion and risk. It is also because of this complexity that we wish to engage in a dialogue on the standing of Tribal Nations, their citizens, and communities.

President Trump's first Administration recognized the important status of Tribal Nations and saw Indian Country as a strong partner, especially during the pandemic when the Administration supported local government control and access for Tribal Nations to set-asides that directly addressed Tribal needs. This recognition and relationship paved the way for Tribal Nations and the federal government to partner on additional reforms that met shared goals.

In recognition of the trust responsibility and the unique status of Tribal Nations as governmental sovereigns, we request that the Administration ensure that, as Executive Orders are considered and implemented, funding to and programs for Tribal Nations, their citizens, and their communities from across the federal departments and agencies are neither paused nor otherwise negatively affected. By virtually all key indicators of healthy communities in America, Tribal Nations and their citizens still lag far behind the nation as a whole.

Federal funding programs and regulatory mechanisms that deliver services and facilitate the sovereignty and self-determination of Tribal Nations are created by federal laws and policies that reinforce the obligation of the federal government to fulfill its trust and treaty responsibility to help and support Tribal Nations, their citizens and communities, and their institutions.

Any misclassification of Tribal programs – programs that are designed to fulfill the United States' political trust and treaty obligations – as DEIA and EJ initiatives would severely undermine the trust relationship and have a terrible and wide-ranging negative impact on Tribal communities. This would reverse the progress of the federal-tribal trust relationship over the past 57-year history of the Self-Determination and Self-Governance eras of federal Indian law and policy.

Again, we urge the Administration not to include, pause, or negatively impact Tribal funding or

programs as it implements the Executive Orders in recognition of our distinct political status and the federal trust and treaty relationship. Further, we urge the Administration to ensure that all agencies continue to engage and consult with Tribal Nations at the government-to-government level to resolve policy and compliance matters.

We also urge the Administration to avoid reporting processes that disproportionately burden local governments such as our Tribal Nations. In the Administration's efforts to reduce the federal workforce, we urge caution in implementing any changes to the federal workforce that would negatively impact the federal government's broad mission and mandate in Indian Country and delivery of its trust and treaty obligations. Finally, we urge the Administration to work with and employ the use of the expert Tribal offices in each agency. These dedicated offices that coordinate agency efforts with Tribal Nations are unique and were created by bi-partisan requests to improve and advance the federal trust relationship with Tribal Nations.

All the Tribal organizations represented here are also resolute on a touchstone: Indian Country is a vital non-discretionary part of the federal government budget. So, we urge this Administration to work towards historic achievements by fully embracing the sovereign status of Tribal Nations to drive unprecedented economic development and prosperity across Indian Country.

The undersigned, and all of our Tribal Nations, are committed to assisting the Administration in furthering our government-to-government relationship and the trust and treaty obligations.

Tribal Nations will continue to strengthen and protect our relationship with the federal government. We look forward to partnering with the Administration and with Congress on mutual policy priorities of deregulation, economic development, self-determination, and tax fairness, among others.

We invite the Administration, its representatives, and Members of Congress to engage with us in finding solutions and strengthening our shared government-to-government and trust relationship.

An excellent opportunity exists at our upcoming NCAI Executive Council Winter Session in Washington, D.C. on February 10th to 13th. We would all welcome your presence and engagement at this forum.

Sincerely,

American Indian Higher Education Consortium
Association on American Indian Affairs
Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians
California Tribal Chairpersons Association
Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council
Great Plains Tribal Chairmans Association
Indian Gaming Association
Inter-Tribal Association of Arizona
Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes
Native American Finance Officers Association
National American Indian Court Judges Association
Native American Rights Fund

National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers
Native Forward Scholars Fund
National Congress of American Indians
National Council for Urban Indian Health
National Indian Child Welfare Association
National Indian Education Association
National Indian Health Board
Northern California Tribal Chairperson's Association
Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders Council
Self-Governance Communication & Education Tribal Consortium
Southern California Tribal Chairmen's Association

United South and Eastern Tribes

- [Senate confirms Pam Bondi as US attorney general](#)
- [Doug Collins confirmed as veterans affairs secretary](#)
- [Trump picks former chief entangled in 'Sharpiegate' to lead NOAA](#)
- [Tulsi Gabbard, Trump's pick to oversee US spy agencies, clears Senate committee](#)
- [In Trump's quest to close the Education Dept., Congress and his own agenda may get in the way](#)
- [Trump to sign executive order barring transgender female athletes from competing](#)

Burgum's first order of business: Drilling, public lands and the ESA

“Interior Secretary Doug Burgum’s first edicts on the job aim to meet an “energy crisis” in the U.S. head-on with more drilling for oil and gas and relaxed regulations that the former governor from North Dakota says could help drive down energy prices. Burgum signed six secretarial orders Monday that claim to unleash the full energy potential of public lands in Alaska, establish the U.S. as a leader in extracting minerals other than oil and gas — such as critical minerals — and “eliminate harmful, coercive climate policies” from the Biden era. One order also called for the review of public land protections, which some environmental groups suggested could include a reconsideration of national monument boundaries. The orders echo the flurry of executive actions signed by President Donald Trump in recent weeks. They are the first reveal of how Burgum, who has also been tapped to lead a to-be-formed national energy council, will manage the sprawling Interior

Department. ... ” [Read more from E&E News.](#)

Arizona takes a bold step in rural water management

“Governor Katie Hobbs has introduced the Rural Groundwater Management Act (RGMA), a bipartisan effort to address groundwater depletion in rural Arizona. The legislation, developed with input from state lawmakers, county officials, and agricultural leaders, aims to give local communities greater control over their water management. The RGMA establishes Rural Groundwater Management Areas (RGMAs), a flexible alternative to existing Active Management Areas (AMAs) and Irrigation Non-Expansion Areas (INAs). These RGMAs will allow rural communities to implement conservation programs and set local water management goals. “Rural Arizonans are fed up with seeing their wells go dry,” said Governor Katie Hobbs. “This bill creates common-sense solutions to protect our rural way of life and ensure water for future generations.” ... ” [Read more from Environment & Energy Leader.](#)

New Arizona bill aims to curb groundwater decline and protect rural farmers

“Bipartisan lawmakers introduced legislation that could reduce groundwater use while offering an alternative to Active Management Areas (AMAs) and Irrigation Non-Expansion Areas (INAs). At a press conference on Thursday, Governor Katie Hobbs presented the Rural Groundwater Management Act (RGMA) designed to give rural Arizonans an opportunity to voice their concerns and develop local solutions. The RGMA aims to protect rural farmers from out-of-state corporations tapping into the state’s most

precious resource, according to the

Governor's Office. The bill's primary-

Ripon College Academic Scholarship	\$160,000	March 01, 2025
Ripon College Knop Science Scholars Program	\$201,600	March 01, 2025
Ripon College William J. Woolley History Scholarship	\$10,000	March 01, 2025
Roberts Wesleyan University Christian Ministries Dependent Grant	\$1,000	March 01, 2025
Rocky Mountain Coal Mining Engineering/Geology Scholarship	\$5,000	March 01, 2025
Rocky Mountain Coal Mining Technical School Scholarship	\$1,000	March 01, 2025
Roswell Woman's Club Scholarship	Varies	March 01, 2025
Roy Farms Scholarship	Varies	March 01, 2025
Samuel A. Green Scholarship Program	\$20,000	March 01, 2025
SEG Scholarships	\$10,000	March 01, 2025
Selby Scholarship	Varies	March 01, 2025
SEMA Memorial Scholarship Fund	\$5,000	March 01, 2025
Sertoma Club of Springfield Scholarship	\$2,500	March 01, 2025
SMUD Powering Futures Scholarship	\$4,000	March 01, 2025
Stephen K. Hall ACWA Water Law & Policy Scholarship	\$10,000	March 01, 2025
TACTYC Scholarships	\$1,000	March 01, 2025
Tailhook Educational Foundation (TEF) Scholarships	\$15,000	March 01, 2025
Tall Clubs International Student Scholarships	\$2,000	March 01, 2025
Tennessee HOPE Foster Child Tuition Grant	Varies	March 01, 2025
Tennessee HOPE Scholarship	\$20,400	March 01, 2025
Tennessee STEP UP Scholarship	\$20,400	March 01, 2025
The Charles L. Shor Epilepsy Opportunity Fund	\$10,000	March 01, 2025
The Citadel Incoming Freshmen Scholarships	\$151,760	March 01, 2025
The Elevating Futures Scholarship Fund	\$22,000	March 01, 2025
The John F. & Edith L. Wilsterman Foundation Scholarship	\$20,000	March 01, 2025
The Mitchell Institute Scholarship	\$10,000	March 01, 2025
The Morgan Jayne Hill Memorial Scholarship	\$1,000	March 01, 2025
The Rubber Division, ACS Undergraduate Scholarship	\$5,000	March 01, 2025
Thomas More University Band, Choir and Theatre Scholarships	\$16,000	March 01, 2025
Thomas W. Jones Memorial Scholarship	Varies	March 01, 2025
Ty Cobb Educational Fund Undergraduate Scholarships	Varies	March 01, 2025
UMHEF Scholarships	Varies	March 01, 2025

University of California-Berkeley Middle Class Scholarship	Varies	March 01, 2025
University of California-Berkeley Regents' and Chancellor's Scholarship	\$10,000	March 01, 2025
University of California-Berkeley Undergraduate Scholarship	Varies	March 01, 2025
University of Central Florida Pegasus Gold, Silver, and Bronze Scholarships	Full-Tuition	March 01, 2025
University of Central Florida Provost Scholarship	\$120,000	March 01, 2025
University of Illinois Achievement Scholarship	\$40,000	March 01, 2025
University of Illinois Transfer Scholarship	\$2,000	March 01, 2025
University of Iowa National Scholars Award	\$60,000	March 01, 2025
University of Michigan Bell Scholarship	\$80,000	March 01, 2025
University of North Texas Excellence Scholarships	\$48,000	March 01, 2025
University of Texas Presidential Scholarship	\$40,000	March 01, 2025
USC Norman Topping Student Aid Fund	\$10,000	March 01, 2025
USCTI Scholarship Program	\$5,000	March 01, 2025
USDA 1890 National Scholars Program	Full-Tuition	March 01, 2025
UW Supply Chain Scholarships	\$10,000	March 01, 2025
Valent USA Tree Fruit Scholarship	Varies	March 01, 2025
Van Doren Sales Vocational Scholarship	Varies	March 01, 2025
VFW Scout of the Year Scholarship	\$5,000	March 01, 2025
Virginia Commonwealth Award Program	\$9,000	March 01, 2025
WAEF Scholarships	\$8,000	March 01, 2025
Washington HECB American Indian Endowed Scholarship	\$2,000	March 01, 2025
Wenatchee Bowling Association Scholarship	Varies	March 01, 2025
Wenatchee Women's Bowling Association Opal Wickland Scholarship	Varies	March 01, 2025
West Virginia Engineering, Science and Technology Scholarship	\$3,000	March 01, 2025
West Virginia PROMISE Scholarships	\$5,500	March 01, 2025
Wings Over America Scholarships	\$5,000	March 01, 2025
Wm. C. "Bill" Sterner Memorial Scholarship	\$5,000	March 01, 2025
Women's Independence Scholarship Program (WISP)	\$6,000	March 01, 2025
Women's Overseas Service League Scholarships	\$1,000	March 01, 2025
You Can't Label People, But You Can Label Products	\$3,000	March 01, 2025
Youthline Utah Young Humanitarian Award	\$7,500	March 01, 2025
Zonta Club of Washington, D.C. Undergraduate Scholarship	\$5,000	March 01, 2025

sponsor, Democratic Sen. Priya Sundarashen (LD-18), called it a starting point for rural groundwater negotiations. ... ” [Read more from Arizona Public Media.](#)

Scholarships (R-W)

with March 1 Deadline

Utah’s big water efficiency push may help farms more than the Colorado River

“Water is precious to Dwight Brinkerhoff. Over the decades he’s farmed in Wayne County, the goal has been to stretch water supplies. “It is the resource that we have that if we did not have, we would not be here,” he said. Farms in this southern Utah valley were irrigated by flooding when he was young, he said. Now, some of his neighbors have high-tech automated sprayers. The next evolution might be taking shape in one of his alfalfa fields. That’s where Utah State University researcher Maziyar Vaez Roudbari stood spinning the head of a new rotator sprinkler — a brightly colored plastic nozzle roughly the size of a soda can. He’s testing a potential replacement for the traditional sprinkler heads on Brinkerhoff’s wheel line irrigation system. The rotator throws water in uniform droplets, Roudbari said, so it should help more moisture reach the soil rather than getting lost in the wind. “Ultimately, our goal is [to] identify a sprinkler system to provide the best balance of water conservation and crop health,” he said. ... ” [Read more from KUER.](#)

Trump administration pulls funding for endangered Delta smelt

[Read more from the San Francisco Chronicle.](#)
| [Read via MSN News.](#)

Trump campaigned on a pledge to close the (Education) department, saying it has been infiltrated by “radicals, zealots and Marxists.” Anyone insulted? Reminds me of when Secy. James Watt said Indians were Communists.....public should remember that the whole world and every society is capitalistic (an economic term); it is how the profit (human and fiscal) is distributed that is political.....using scare words only fans ignorance. sdc



Black Springs Volunteer Firehouse Listed in the National Register

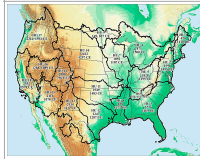
We would like to announce that the property, located at Coretta Way at Kennedy Drive in Reno, the Black Springs Volunteer Firehouse, was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on November 26, 2024, NRIS 100010950. Attached, please find a copy of letters that will be mailed out to you, as well as a copy of the Press Release which will be released tomorrow to the media. Please share this announcement with those associated with the Black Springs Volunteer Firehouse so they may share in this accomplishment and recognition. [<jean.dube@shpo.nv.gov>](mailto:jean.dube@shpo.nv.gov)

"Jean-Guy T. Dube"

THE AI SUPPLY CHAIN, EXPLAINED

Tech companies tend to market AI as “magical,” implying that its outputs are pulled out of thin air. But the truth is that there’s nothing magical about it—AI is only made possible by scores of workers around the world collecting data, training the algorithm, and even impersonating AI to bridge its gaps. We’re here to demystify the AI supply chain, shining light on the data workers who make the whole industry run. [Read on to learn more.](#)

[Read on](#)



[Radiocarbon dating of artifacts and bones shows North American Indigenous population changes over 2,000 years](#)

A small team of archaeologists and anthropologists from the University of Wyoming, Michigan State University, and the Desert Research Institute, all in the U.S., has used radiocarbon dating of bone and other artifacts found at various sites across North America to learn more about Indigenous population fluctuations before the arrival of Europeans. www.msn.com

The Wilbur D. May Museum is pleased to announce the appointment of Wes Jahn as its new curator. Jahn brings a wealth of

experience in museum programming and a passion for engaging the community with dynamic exhibitions and educational initiatives.

Prior to this role, Jahn served as the Museum Program Coordinator at the Wilbur D. May Museum, where he was instrumental in organizing and promoting various exhibits and events. His dedication to enriching the museum’s offerings has been evident through his innovative approach to program development and community outreach.

“I am honored to step into the position of curator at the Wilbur D. May Museum,” Jahn said. “I look forward to collaborating with our dedicated team and the community to create engaging experiences that celebrate our rich history and inspire curiosity.”

Jahn is a Reno native and holds a degree in English with a focus on Community Design and Photography from the University of Nevada, Reno. His vision is to continue building upon the museum’s legacy by introducing exhibits that captivate diverse audiences and foster a deeper appreciation for cultural heritage. In his free time, Jahn enjoys Reno’s underseen film history and writing about film at large. He can be found exercising, shooting on old cameras, haunting thrift stores, or trying to stay up to date with all of the new and exciting places to eat that Reno has to offer.

The museum also wishes to extend its heartfelt gratitude to Kristy Lide, who retired after an impressive 39 years of service as Curator. Lide’s unwavering commitment and passion have been pivotal in shaping the museum into the esteemed institution it is today.

The Wilbur D. May Museum's endeavors are generously supported by the Wilbur D. May Foundation. (edited)

Currently, the museum is featuring "The Lost World of Dragons," an enchanting exhibition running until April 27. Visitors are invited to explore the myths and legends of dragons through interactive displays and impressive animatronics. This exhibit offers a captivating experience for all ages.

The Wilbur D. May Museum is located within Rancho San Rafael Regional Park at 1595 N. Sierra Street, Reno, Nevada 89503. For more information on current and upcoming exhibits, as well as visitor information, please visit the [museum's website](#) or call the museum at (775) 785-5961.

HP Galleries is excited to announce "Serva Pool Flux" — **an opportunity for artists and curators to exhibit in a pop-up style format in 2025** through the months of May to September. All exhibitions will occur in the HP Serva Pool Gallery located at 140 Vesta Street. Preference will be given to proposals that aim to exhibit brand-new work and/or to those considering experimental projects and approaches.

Deadline: Monday, February 24

More details are available in the application in the link below. *Have you reviewed the application, but still have questions? Email the HP Galleries team at galleries@hollandreno.org*

[APPLY FOR SERVA POOL FLUX](#)

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**"I have chosen to be happy because it is good for my health." Voltaire**

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[Native American Rights Fund](https://narf.org) <https://narf.org> > [2025-federal-funding Tribal Nations disproportionately affected by federal funding freeze ...](#)

We at the Native American Rights Fund, like many of you, are shocked at the withholding of federal funding. Tribal Nations, more so than almost any other community, will be negatively impacted by this decision.

[Feb 10, 2025 – Feb 13, 2025](#)

[NCAI Executive Council Winter Session 2025](#)

Reminder

[Feb 10, 2025 – Feb 13, 2025](#)

[NCAI Executive Council Winter Session 2025](#)



[Native Youth Leadership Summit 2025](#)
[Feb 10, 2025 – Feb 13, 2025](#)

but it
disappeared

with apologies;
had a great pic
of Kelly in
front of “N”

**In Loving Memory
of
Luther Bow Jr.**



September 8, 1967-February 1, 2025

Funeral Services

Wednesday~February 5, 2025

@MOAPA TRIBAL BUILDING

Viewing 1:30-2:00pm

Services 2:30-4:00

Dinner 5:00

Half night sing to follow

Burial at sunrise

1:31

Kyree Bigback.

5G

3h · 🌐

Amazing news to share! Kyree Bigback has achieved the impressive feat of being admitted to the Orvis School of Nursing at the University of Nevada, Reno for the spring semester of 2025. This is a superb achievement for her! There were 500 pre-nursing students at UNR competing for 200 nursing school positions. What makes her achievement even more amazing is there have been over 100 Native American students in pre-nursing over the past ten years at UNR, and Kyree is the second to be admitted to the Orvis School of Nursing. On Wednesday, March 12th, Kyree Bigback will attend the Honor Pledge Induction Ceremony at the Orvis School of Nursing to pledge her commitment to the nursing profession. Her success is the result of hard work and persistence. She earned this! Please send her congratulations and encouragement.