

Journal #4902

Deb Haaland News Storm

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The farms being run from space

Puya raimondii, queen of the Andes

CONGRATULATIONS MADAM SECRETARY!



"Indian Country has shouted from the valleys, from the mountaintops that it's time. It's overdue," Pueblo tribal member Stephine Poston told NPR about Haaland's nomination.

[Native Organizers Alliance](#) · [History was made today!](#)

Deb Haaland has officially been confirmed as Secretary of the Interior!

For the first time in the history of the United States, a Native woman will serve in the President's Cabinet. Congratulations Secretary Haaland for this groundbreaking appointment and thank you for being fierce for us. [#RepresentationMatters](#) [#BeFierce](#) [#DebForInterior](#)

Elvida Martinez ·

History was made today. I listened in while native women and others offered comments, prayers, tears and songs to the new Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland. Some comments:

*We now have a cabinet that looks like us.

*We put our moccasins on the ground to Get Out The Native Vote.

*We made a difference.

*A movement made this happen - led by Indigenous women.

*We started at the grassroots - now we're at the highest place of power.

*Risks were made for the land and people.

*Women have been leaders since time immemorial - we deserve to be there.

*Systems were designed to silence us.

*Feel joy and empowerment.

With that, I want to give a shout out to our Native Women that worked to Get Out The Native Vote here at Walker River -

Kelley Carter

, Rana Phillips, Elaine Montoya, Anna Montoya Miller, LaVerne Hics, Crystal Miller, Maria Martinez, Alyssa Vazquez, Jade Kizer, Kylee Bearcloud, Heleena Louise Aguilar-Williams, Lyn Smoki, and Andrea Martinez.

Haaland confirmed as first native Interior secretary

Democrats highlighted the historic nature of her confirmation, noting that she describes herself as a 35th generation New Mexican

By Joseph Morton

Rep. Deb Haaland, D-N.M., will be the first Native American to serve in the Cabinet after the Senate voted 51-40 Monday to confirm her as Interior secretary.

Democrats highlighted the historic nature of her confirmation, noting that she describes herself as a 35th generation New Mexican.

“Rep. Haaland’s confirmation represents a gigantic step forward in creating a government that represents the full richness and diversity of this country because Native Americans were for far too long neglected at the Cabinet-level and in so many other places,” Senate Majority Leader Charles E. Schumer, D-N.Y., said ahead of Monday’s vote.

She will run a department whose 70,000 employees oversee vast tracts of public land and manage a large portion of the country’s natural resources. The department also includes the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

[GOP critics unlikely to let up on Haaland after confirmation]

Her confirmation came despite the strong objections of some Republican senators, particularly those representing western oil and gas states. They cited her past positions and statements about the need to keep fossil fuels in the ground and protect wildlife in ways that her critics said ignored science.

“Unfortunately, Representative Haaland has a very well documented and hostile record toward made-in-America energy, toward natural resource development, toward wildlife management and sportsmen,” said Sen. Steve Daines, R-Mont., who helped lead the opposition to her nomination.

'Divisive positions'

Daines said his opposition was not based on her political party and he pointed out that he has supported other Biden nominees.

“This is about her record, her very far left divisive positions that will fail to represent the West, to be in the mainstream of commonsense and balance,” Daines said. “And I fear she will harm the Montana way of life as we know it.”

Haaland sought during her confirmation hearing to reassure senators that she will be pursuing President Joe Biden’s agenda, not her own, and that she understands her role will be different than representing a single House district. That was enough to win over a few Republican senators, including both from Alaska.

Her nomination was supported by a host of Native American and environmental groups who welcomed her confirmation on Monday.

Schumer outlined the challenges Haaland will now face in the job.

“She must re-focus the Interior Department on preserving and protecting almost 500 million acres of public lands, combatting climate change and environmental degradation, and upholding the federal government’s obligation to tribal nations,” Schumer said.

He said the Trump administration undermined the relationship between federal agencies and those tribal nations, in part by neglecting those communities as they were hit hard by the coronavirus pandemic.

“In elevating Rep. Haaland to lead the Department of the Interior, we reset the relationship between the federal government and tribal nations to one of cooperation, mutual respect and trust — so different than the last administration’s attitude,” Schumer said.

'Monumental day': Indian Country reacts to Deb Haaland vote

Citizens of tribes across the U.S. cried and clapped in celebration Monday as Deb Haaland became the first Native American confirmed as secretary of a Cabinet agency.

<http://strib.mn/3vw7leS>

Today, Deb Haaland was officially confirmed by the Senate as U.S. Secretary of the Interior! She is the first Native American Cabinet secretary (though certainly not the last!), and she will be an excellent leader for the Department of the Interior.

Secretary Haaland's record shows that she is a champion for the environment and public lands, and I know that she will make addressing climate change and protecting our country's outdoor spaces -- like the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge -- top priorities.

[I'm thrilled about Secretary Haaland's confirmation, and I'm putting together a card to congratulate her on this historic achievement. Will you add your name next to mine to congratulate our new Secretary of the Interior?](#)



SIGN THE CARD »

I'm looking forward to seeing what Secretary Haaland accomplishes over the next four years and beyond.

Thank you, Maria Cantwell, Washington State Senator

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**Minnesota tribes blast Rep. Pete Stauber for opposing Interior nomination**

Stauber didn't tell Minnesota tribes of his effort to block Rep. Deb Haaland as Interior Secretary.

<http://strib.mn/3o7rSRK>

**From Indian Country Today:**

This was an amazing week: Deb Haaland was confirmed as the first Native American to ever lead a cabinet agency.

But there is another story you might not know: The Biden administration is actually more diverse than the national news media. In 2021 there is not a single Native American on the national networks working as a reporter. Let alone an anchor. Or a news leader.

That's why Indian Country Today is so important. The stories we report everyday are stories that are missing from a national news diet.

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Jennifer Thomas <j.thomas@admin.nv.gov>

Tue, Mar 16 at 11:07 AM

Attached is information regarding the **first Empowerment Workshop** that will take place on March 18, 2021 through Facebook Live.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/822478118655850>

## **Next infrastructure bill aims to end ‘digital divide’**

### **In the big infrastructure bill that Democrats hope to pass, making sure that every American has high-speed internet access is a goal**

House Majority Whip James E. Clyburn wants enough investment in the next infrastructure bill to end the digital divide. (Tom Williams/CQ Roll Call)

•  
By [Dean DeChiaro](#)

Now that President Joe Biden has signed into law the \$1.9 trillion pandemic relief package that Congress passed last week, Democratic lawmakers are beginning to focus on the next big-ticket item on their legislative agenda, a massive infrastructure package, and the broadband money they plan to include in it.

Several coronavirus-related aid packages that Congress passed since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic included money for broadband, but not on the scale that Democrats are eyeing for the upcoming package. Last week, Speaker Nancy Pelosi said broadband would be among the priorities for the upcoming infrastructure package, which she called “big, bold and transformational.”

Right on cue, all 32 Democrats on the House Energy and Commerce Committee proposed a far-reaching infrastructure measure that would authorize more than \$109 billion to expand broadband access throughout the country in an effort to close what’s become known as “the digital divide,” the gap between those who can access the internet at home and those who cannot.

Of that total, \$80 billion would be set aside for deploying new broadband networks or expanding existing ones to reach those who currently can’t get a signal. The committee said the investment would be enough to drive 100 percent connectivity throughout the country.

The Federal Communications Commission would be responsible for awarding three-fourths of the \$80 billion through a national bidding process, according to the bill summary, to “ensure the efficient distribution of the funds to areas that don’t have high-speed broadband internet service today.” The remainder of the funds would be given to the states to fill in connectivity gaps.

An additional \$15 billion would go toward implementing Next Generation 911 services, including systems that accept text messages, images or videos in emergencies when a phone call is not possible. Another \$5 billion would be used to subsidize low-interest financing for broadband deployment projects and \$8 billion in subsidies to help low-income families and students afford their monthly internet bill.

The proposed legislation, backed by Energy and Commerce Chairman Frank Pallone Jr., D-N.J., is one of the leading contenders to make up the broadband aspect of the coming infrastructure package. But it’s not the only one. (It wasn’t even the only one last week.)

House Majority Whip James E. Clyburn, D-S.C., and Sen. Amy Klobuchar, D-Minn., last Thursday reintroduced legislation to authorize \$94 billion in broadband spending. The legislation, also backed by Pallone, overlaps to an extent with the bill introduced by Energy and

Commerce Democrats but has provisions specifically aimed at deploying service in unserved and underserved communities.

“Access to broadband today will have the same dramatic impact on rural communities as the rural electrification efforts in the last century,” Clyburn said in a statement. “When I formed the Rural Broadband Task Force, our mission was to address the digital divide. The disparate effects of that divide have been amplified during the COVID-19 pandemic and exposed the urgency of ensuring universal access to high-speed internet.”

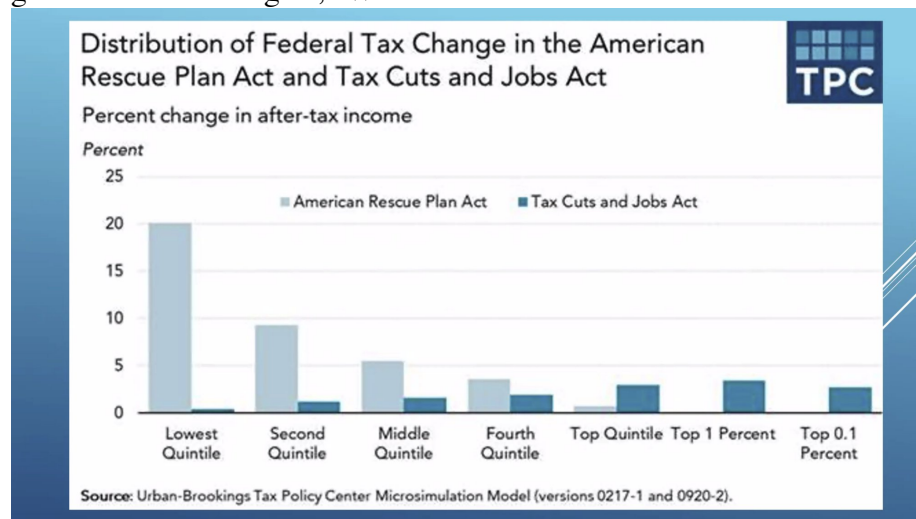
Clyburn’s proposal won immediate support from Democratic commissioners at the Federal Communications Commission, including acting Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel, as well as a wide variety of industry groups and advocacy organizations.

“For the last year the conversation around closing the digital divide has centered on short-term, urgent solutions necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic,” John Windhausen Jr., executive director of the nonprofit Schools, Health & Libraries Broadband Coalition, said in a statement. “While these efforts are critical, we also need long-term solutions to address the enormous inequities in our broadband landscape so we are better prepared for the next crisis.”

So far it isn’t clear exactly how Democrats plan to move their infrastructure bill through Congress. Party leaders have left open the possibility of bypassing the Senate filibuster by passing the infrastructure package through the budget reconciliation process, similar to last week’s relief package, but they say they first want to appeal for Republican support.

Broadband, especially in rural areas, is a longtime priority for Republican lawmakers, but they have their own ideas for how it should be deployed. Mississippi Sen. Roger Wicker, the top Republican on the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee, earlier this month announced legislation that would use proceeds from an FCC spectrum auction to establish a rural broadband fund worth up to \$65 billion.

“This legislation would preserve valuable resources to expand broadband access in unserved areas, secure the nation’s communications supply chain, and promote the development of next-generation technologies,” Wicker said in a statement.



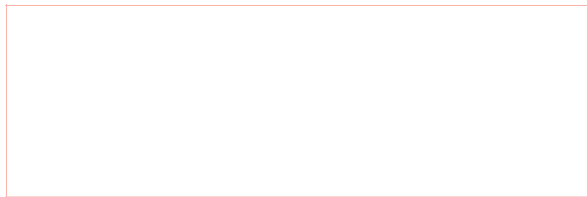
pull at corner to enlarge

**Please join the Council of State Archivists (CoSA) for a virtual Partner Briefing** on March 18, 2021, from 2:00 - 3:30 EDT.

CoSA leadership will share information about CoSA's priorities for the year ahead and share exciting developments about CoSA's State Electronic Records Initiative (SERI).

We're also looking forward to hearing from briefing attendees about positive changes created or initiated because of the pandemic for your work and organization.

We'll send a final agenda and other information out to you during the week before the briefing. Please register at the following link (Click on box)



After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Thanks, and look forward to seeing you at the briefing

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**ArcBest**

Our Sparks campus is growing! If you have **dispatching or logistics experience**, we're looking for you! Check out the details: <https://bit.ly/3qCNWFI>

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**Be an Indy Intern**

The deadline for applications is **Friday, Apr. 16** for the summer 2021 semester. Additional information can be [found here](#).Cool DIY Plans

\$187.62 per month for 10 years to a "professional" solar installer... Not me!

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**Time to put teeth in Nevada's public records law By Richard Karpel**

**Legislation seeks to curb public's access to governmental records**

State and local agencies are pushing bills in the Nevada Legislature that would curtail the public's access to governmental records and workings across the state.

**Voters say thumbs down to public records law violators**

The Nevada Poll found that a majority of voters would not support a candidate whose agency was a repeated violator of public records laws.

**KTMB's Warrior Youth and High School Education**

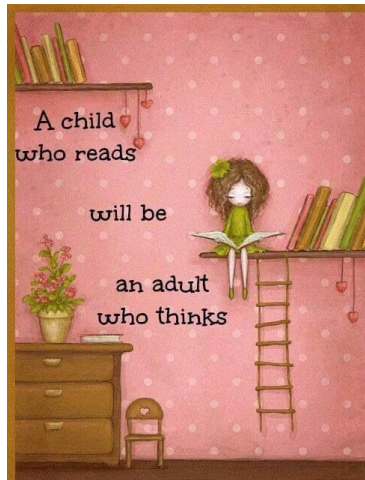
A Next Generation Science Standards-aligned environmental education series that includes three units: Waste Warriors, Weed Warriors, and Watershed Warriors. KTMB also offers support and training for High School clubs and organizations.

<https://www.ktmb.org/warriors-youth-education>

## Scholarships (H-J) with April 16-30 Deadlines

|                                                                                              |          |            |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|------------|
| <a href="#">Hawaii Education Association (HEA) High School Student Scholarship</a>           | \$2,000  | 04/01/2021 |
| <a href="#">Hawaii Education Association (HEA) Undergraduate College Student Scholarship</a> | \$1,000  | 04/01/2021 |
| <a href="#">Hearing Impaired Scholarship</a>                                                 | \$3,000  | 04/01/2021 |
| <a href="#">Heinlein Society Scholarship</a>                                                 | \$3,000  | 04/01/2021 |
| <a href="#">Herman and Katherine Peters Foundation Scholarship</a>                           | \$5,000  | 04/01/2021 |
| <a href="#">Hinsdale (HJWC) Junior Women's Club Scholarship</a>                              | Varies   | 04/30/2021 |
| <a href="#">Hope For The Warriors Scholarships</a>                                           | \$2,500  | 04/02/2021 |
| <a href="#">Hopson-Laurent Scholarship</a>                                                   | \$1,000  | 04/01/2021 |
| <a href="#">Horticulture &amp; Tree Fruit Agriculture Scholarship</a>                        | \$1,000  | 04/15/2021 |
|                                                                                              |          |            |
| <a href="#">IAFC Fire Explorer Scholarship</a>                                               | \$500    | 04/26/2021 |
| <a href="#">IFDA Education Foundation Student Scholarships</a>                               | \$3,000  | 04/15/2021 |
| <a href="#">IHS PhD Scholarship and Humane Studies Fellowship</a>                            | \$15,000 | 04/30/2021 |
| <a href="#">Illinois CPA Society Accounting Textbook Scholarship</a>                         | \$500    | 04/01/2021 |
| <a href="#">Illinois CPA Society Accounting Tuition Scholarship</a>                          | \$4,000  | 04/01/2021 |
| <a href="#">Illinois Restaurant Association Educational Foundation Scholarship</a>           | Varies   | 04/14/2021 |
| <a href="#">Incight Scholarship</a>                                                          | Varies   | 04/15/2021 |
| <a href="#">Infinite Hope Scholarship Award</a>                                              | Varies   | 04/30/2021 |
| <a href="#">Infinitus Dream Scholarship</a>                                                  | \$3,000  | 04/30/2021 |
| <a href="#">Irene Adler Prize</a>                                                            | \$1,000  | 04/30/2021 |
| <a href="#">ISL Midwest Senior Scholarship</a>                                               | \$1,000  | 04/30/2021 |
| <a href="#">ISPA Foundation Mary Tabacchi Scholarship</a>                                    | \$5,000  | 04/08/2021 |
| <a href="#">IWSH Essay Scholarship Contest</a>                                               | \$1,000  | 04/30/2021 |
|                                                                                              |          |            |
| <a href="#">Jack &amp; Julie Narcolepsy Scholarship</a>                                      | \$1,000  | 04/01/2021 |
| <a href="#">Jason Kulpa Special Needs Scholarship</a>                                        | \$1,000  | 04/17/2021 |
| <a href="#">Jeffrey D. Sollender College Scholarship</a>                                     | \$10,000 | 04/03/2021 |
| <a href="#">Joel Polsky Prize</a>                                                            | \$5,000  | 04/15/2021 |
| <a href="#">John Cowan Memorial Scholarship</a>                                              | \$1,000  | 04/15/2021 |
| <a href="#">Jon Yi Education Scholarship</a>                                                 | \$1,000  | 04/01/2021 |
| <a href="#">Joshua L. Anderson Memorial Foundation Scholarship</a>                           | \$3,500  | 04/09/2021 |
| <a href="#">Julie Keil Memorial Scholarship</a>                                              | \$3,000  | 04/17/2021 |





## Legislative Notes

[AB213](#) would change that.

Introduced on Tuesday, the bill would remove citizenship requirements for higher education scholarship programs and secure access to in-state tuition for any graduate of a Nevada high school.

"During this pandemic, we've had very vulnerable populations not have access to certain things, even though they were essential workers that were deemed critical," Flores told *The Nevada Independent*. "We have all these barriers for them, including our students. So I think this was a time for us to come as a state collectively and say, we recognize you, we see you, and we're going to codify this to ensure that you're protected."

The proposed bill also addresses other higher education access inequities by:

- Ensuring that any members of a federally recognized Indian tribe or nation in the state can pay in-state tuition, even if they live outside the state
- Removing the requirement to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), which requires a social security number, to receive a Silver State Opportunity Grant (a state-support financial aid program for low-income students attending community or state colleges within the Nevada System of Higher Education)
- Guaranteeing that any graduate from a high school in the state can receive a Silver State Opportunity Grant or a Nevada Promise Scholarship (a scholarship for Nevada high school graduates attending community college)
- Eliminating a rule that the Board of Regents must distribute scholarships first to students who complete the FAFSA

The state's policy of requiring at least one year living in Nevada in order to qualify for in-state tuition could be detrimental for Native students who temporarily left or attended school out of state only to decide to come back, Flores said.

"[Access is] really the essence of the bill," Flores said. "It's just us sending a real strong message. We just came out of a very, very difficult pandemic, we're still in it, technically ... and I think right now we kind of need to set our priorities very straight." — Tabitha Mueller

Assemblywoman Natha Anderson (D-Sparks) has introduced a bill, [AB262](#), that would prohibit the Board of Regents from charging out-of-state tuition to members of federally recognized tribes who graduated from a Nevada high school.

Anderson also is sponsoring [AB265](#) — which provides an alternative licensing structure for school administrators — and [AB261](#), which would require instruction on the history and contributions of various minority or marginalized populations, and prohibit the purchase of instructional materials that don't "accurately portray the history and contributions of those groups."



### **Legislature moves to protect swamp cedars considered sacred**

A pair of proposals in the Nevada Legislature would add new protections for the swamp cedars in the Spring Valley area of White Pine County, a site that the Shoshone tribes consider sacred.

*Another area of ancestral territory being attacked. Protect the Sacred. MG*

[elkodaily.com](http://elkodaily.com)

[Scrapped Vegas pipeline plan looms amid swamp cedar debate](#)

[The Ely and Duckwater Shoshone and Goshute people view the trees and the ground beneath them as sacred](#)

~~~~~ *"Hypocrisy can afford to be magnificent in its promises, for never intending to go beyond promise, it costs nothing." -- Edmund Berke*

Descendants of Black Cherokee Indians Are Being Denied Tribal Rights

Video by America Reframed

Most Americans are familiar with the Trail of Tears, when Cherokees were removed from their native lands and forced west. However, the involvement of African Americans is less known. When the U.S. Indian Removal Act forced many Native Americans to move, enslaved Africans also followed them into the frontier. After the [...] double click box below



"Here we are again, and what did we learn? It seems very little. Whenever things are doing well here in our state, there seems to be this expectation that they'll always be that way and that we should just not rock the boat." — *Jim Murren, former CEO of MGM Resor*

[New US vehicles must be electric by 2030 to meet climate goals – report \(Guardian\).](#)

[For your new convertible, green is the new red.](#)

[The googly eyes of the mantis shrimp inspire new optical sensors](#) (ArsTechnica). Did you know they can see three times as many colors as humans?

[Meet the Climate Change Activists of TikTok](#) (Wired)

[Physics undergraduate proposes solution to quantum field theory problem](#) (Phys)

[The farms being run from space](#) (BBC)



Puya raimondii, queen of the Andes, is the largest species of bromeliad, reaching up to 15 m (50 ft) in height and carry 20,000 flowers. It is native to the high Andes of Bolivia and Peru. It has been considered a Protocarnivorous plant (ensnaring birds).

Its reproductive cycle lasts approximately 80 years.

Photo : Waldemar Niclewicz

US Lawyer Steven Donziger Speaks From House Arrest After Suing Chevron for Amazon Oil Spills on Behalf of Indigenous Ecuadorians

Democracy Now!

Excerpt: "Decades of reckless oil drilling by Chevron have destroyed 1,700 square miles of land in the Ecuadorian Amazon." [READ MORE](#)