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World's oldest known wild bird lays egg at 74

Colorado River Negotiations

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Mining Minds guest talks about the power of positive storytelling

Kelly Ann Conway



World's oldest known wild bird lays egg at 74

https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c86w9n4jlvwo?utm_placement=newsletter

For the latest on Colorado River negotiations, please read Maven's Sunday edition:<https://mavensnotebook.com/2024/12/08/daily-digest-weekend-edition-meeting-of-colorado-river-users-wraps-with-focus-on-mexico-and-tribes-annual-ocean-indicators-point-to-varied-conditions-for-pacific-salmon-the-future-of-kern-river-hy/>

Meeting of Colorado River users wraps with focus on Mexico and tribes

“The Colorado River Water Users Association concluded its three-day conference at the Paris Hotel in Las Vegas on Friday with the needs and desires of Colorado River tribes and Mexico taking center stage. Over 40 million people use the river, including the most vulnerable people, and the conference was geared toward finding solutions to conserving water for future generations. “We face two challenges: water scarcity and getting to a consensus,” said David Palumbo, deputy commissioner of operations for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. “We have 30 Native American tribes, seven states and two countries to work with.” The Colorado River watershed is divided in two — the lower basin consists of Arizona, California and Nevada and the upper basin includes Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming. Mexico also gets a share of the water from the drought-stricken river. ... ” [Read more from the Courthouse News Service.](#)

Leaving Las Vegas without a deal over the Colorado River, states expected to keep talking

“In her remarks to the crowd on the final day of the Colorado River Water Users Association, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner Camille Calimlim Touton appeared to urge states to return to the bargaining table. “We all know that the Colorado River is more than just water. It’s a lifeline,” she said. Touton, who will leave office with the change in presidential administrations, spoke with pride about accomplishments her agency made in combating drought and aridification in the western United States. She spoke about their many partners in the Upper and Lower Basin states. “We do this work for the millions of people who rely on this resource. For the ecosystems of which we are stewards for future generations who will inherit a world that we are shaping today,” she said. “Keep doing the hard work. Stay at the table. Listen to each other. Challenge one another, but push forward with courage together. The river demands nothing less than the best of us.” ... ” [Read more from Fox 13.](#)

Seven states' Colorado River negotiators, all at same conference, didn't meet together

“The 40 million people who rely on the Colorado River will continue to wait for a long-term plan for its management as negotiations between the seven states in the river basin remain stalled. One illustration of that impasse: The seven negotiators did not meet during this week’s three-day Colorado River Water Users Association annual conference, despite representatives from each state spending that time in the same windowless Las Vegas hotel. “All seven of us have been in this city, yet we were not able to meet,” Colorado’s negotiator, Becky Mitchell, said during a panel discussion. “That is a lost opportunity.” ... ” [Read more from Denver 7.](#)

Colorado River states bluster and bicker ahead of an uncertain future for the water supply

“States that use the Colorado River have spent the better part of 2024 deadlocked about how to share its shrinking water supplies, and annual water meetings in Las Vegas laid bare [how far those states are](#) from an agreement. The seven states [can't agree](#) on who should feel the pain of water cutbacks during dry times. The river is getting smaller due to climate change, and states need to come up with new rules to share its water. Colorado, Utah, Wyoming and New Mexico

make up the Upper Basin. California, Arizona and Nevada represent the Lower Basin. The current rules for sharing water expire in 2026, and each group has submitted a separate proposal for new guidelines after that point. In Las Vegas, the Colorado River Water Users Association annual conference provided a rare peek behind the curtain of talks between those states. Surrounded by the golden wallpaper and shimmering chandeliers of the Paris Hotel, policymakers showed little progress towards an agreement but brought plenty of bluster. ... ” [Read more from KUNC.](#)

This tribal governor is ‘hopeful’ Trump will ‘help us finish’ post-2026 Colorado River guidelines

“While President-elect Donald Trump and his transition team prep to regain the White House, critics have expressed concern about how they’ll handle water in the West. But a key Arizona tribal ally of President Joe Biden believes the incoming administration is ready for the task. Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis of the Gila River Indian Community shared his optimism at a sovereign-to-sovereign dialogue with Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren and Ute Mountain Ute Tribe Chairman Manuel Heart during the annual Colorado River Water Users Association conference in Las Vegas on Friday. “I’m not worried about the next administration,” Lewis said on stage, “as some have otherwise indicated. The Trump administration delivered [Drought Contingency Plan], as we all remember, and I remain hopeful that they will help us finish this journey that we’re on for those new guidelines.” ... ” [Read more from KJZZ.](#)

Earlier Articles:

Western water negotiators spar as time runs out to stabilize Colorado River

Nevada’s Colorado River negotiator is urging northern states to come to the table.

Here’s what you need to know about this week’s Colorado River conference

As President-elect Donald Trump takes office and deadlines loom, there’s little clarity on a path forward for post-2026 operation plans for the Colorado River.

[Experts urge caution in taking Colorado River negotiations to Supreme Court](#)

Those familiar with water law aren’t optimistic that a court case is the best path forward to update quickly expiring Colorado River operating guidelines.

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**From Forbes’ “Thirty Under Thirty**



**Gisela McDaniel**

A diasporic indigenous Chamorro artist, Gisela McDaniel's work interweaves audio, oil paintings, and motion sensor technology to create pieces that interact with the viewer upon being triggered. Her work has been shown across the globe, including Lon

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## **Food Sovereignty Program founded by Indigenous students celebrates “Paba Tuka”**

**Lance Owyhee shares about the recent event that celebrates Indigenous food sovereignty through traditional plants, cultural dishes and community collaboration**

Dinner is served at the Paba Tuka. Photo by Jill Moe.



*Lance Owyhee, an intern with the Food Sovereignty Program, works with the Desert Farming Initiative to promote Indigenous food traditions. Photo by Robert Moore. In this first-person narrative, Lance Owyhee, Food Sovereignty Program intern in the Desert Farming Initiative through the Nevada Agricultural Experiment Station, tells Nevada Today about the Food Sovereignty Program and an important event it held, “Paba Tuka.”*

"Food sovereignty is defined as the right of people to healthy and culturally appropriate food produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods. The concept of food sovereignty by nature encompasses food security, food access, food justice and environmental sustainability. This is the definition that we relate to here at the University's [Food Sovereignty Program](#), but that definition is loose and everchanging among the community, to fit appropriately with different and diverse Indigenous organizations across the globe.

Here at the University, the Food Sovereignty Program was started on a dream in 2021, after students experiencing the impacts of COVID-19 approached the University's Desert Farming Initiative, aiming to increase access and awareness about culturally significant food and medicinal plants of the local tribes. The program was then founded with the help of the University's Desert Farming Initiative, the Experiment Station and the Extension Program for Federally Recognized Tribes. It has since blossomed into what it is today, helping to develop demonstration gardens, providing a space to propagate culturally significant plants, hosting internships, and much more, including holding the program's main event, the “Paba Tuka.”

Paba Tuka means “Big Eat.” Paba Tuka is our fall harvest dinner that allows for the community to get together and celebrate culture and hardships through a collective tradition of sharing a meal with one another. It combines all of our preparation and knowledge with the program, as well as work with different native and non-native organizations to make sure this event runs smoothly. The main focus of the dinner event is around our plants that we either gathered ourselves or have grown ourselves, to promote the main idea of being “food sovereign.”

Some of the plants we have successfully grown and harvested include O’odham Ke:li Ba:so Melon, Casados Multicolor Corn, Paiute Pinto Bean and Poblano Chile, which are not native to our region but important in the mission for Indigenous food sovereignty. The plants we gathered or grew were then used for the preparation of our Paba Tuka.



*Jamiika Thomas (left) and Nina Vargas shell pinenuts in preparation for the Paba Tuka. Photo by Jill Moe.*

In preparation for the main event, we hosted several other cultural events, such as gatherings of traditional berries, such as chokecherries, elderberries and buffaloberries. We also had an event where we gathered pinenuts with the help of Indigenous students, faculty and the community. These gatherings helped make some of our main dishes at our event, such as the chokecherry pudding, elderberry lemonade and pinenut soup. We also offered space and events for individuals to learn more about these plants and the dishes that can be made from them, as well as provided more cultural knowledge to Indigenous students who are interested in learning how to gather properly on their own.

Several Indigenous students, faculty, community members, and family helped prepare and make dishes for the Paba Tuka, such as bison steaks, Indian tea, bfan stew, Frybread and many more! At our Paba Tuka, we hosted about 60 people at the Desert Farming Initiative’s washhouse on Valley Road. Students, staff, community, Indigenous members and family members attended. Although the event began at 4 p.m. we started preparing dishes the day before. The event was a great success. It was also a very emotional event for me, due to the fact that I have served as one of the main food sovereignty interns and will be graduating at the end of the semester. Great food, great atmosphere and great messages were shared all through the night at this unique cultural event. Please take a look at some photos of the event on our [Facebook page](#).



*Nina Vargas has recently joined the Food Sovereignty Program as an intern, contributing her efforts to cultural events like Paba Tuka. Photo by Robert Moore.*

Finally, here is an experience shared by our food sovereignty intern Nina Vargas, who has just started with the program in September and has been a huge help with the program since. This is what she has to say about the event: 'For me, this was the first time I've helped plan, prepare and host such an important event. I think my favorite event while preparing for the Paba Tuka was gathering the pinenuts and preparing them for pinenut soup. Traveling to the site for the pine trees with several Indigenous students and community members was very exciting, as it was the first pinenut gathering I participated in. Working alongside everyone to gather pinecones and cook the pinenuts was also very exciting, as I got to see how much time and effort goes into preparing the pinenut soup. After all of our hard work during the Paba Tuka, it felt very rewarding to watch everyone enjoy the dishes that had been prepared and everyone's hard work. I am looking forward to working alongside everyone for the next Paba Tuka!'

<https://www.unr.edu/nevada-today/news/2024/experiences-of-the-pack-paba-tuka-food-sovereignty>

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Supreme Court could narrow the scope of federal environmental reviews, with less consideration of how projects would contribute to climate change

“In the 1993 movie “Jurassic Park,” Dr. Ian Malcolm, a fictional math genius specializing in chaos theory, explains the “butterfly effect,” which holds that tiny actions can lead to big outcomes. “A butterfly flaps its wings in Peking,” Malcolm posits, “and you get rain in Central Park instead of sunshine.” What about when a federal agency flaps its wings? Should bureaucrats be required to think through the extended effects of decisions like funding a highway intersection or approving an offshore wind farm? Congress opened the door to this question in 1969 when it passed the National Environmental Policy Act, known as NEPA. This law requires federal agencies to analyze the environmental effects of major proposed actions before making decisions. ... ” [Read more from The Conversation.](#)

Restoring habitat — and history

JENNIFER BROOKS Columnist jennifer.brooks@startribune.com

The lost history of Minneapolis is being restored along the riverbank, step by step, seedling by seedling.

A soaring waterfall once churned the river near here. Owámniyomni, the Dakota called this place. Turbulent waters. Ten thousand years of history in 5 square acres.

Not that you would know that, standing on the Stone Arch Bridge with your face to the Minneapolis skyline, looking out over what remains of the St. Anthony Falls.

To Shelley Buck, the story of Minneapolis seemed to start when they harnessed the great waterfall to power the mills, sometime after the Dakota were forced off the land, sometime after Father Hennepin renamed the falls for the patron saint of lost things.

There was so much more to the story.

Now Buck and the Dakotaled nonprofit Owámniyomni Okhódayapi are working to restore part of the landscape we lost and the history the Dakota people have never forgotten.

“We are working to restore five acres of land at Owámniyomni, which white settlers called St. Anthony Falls, into a place where Dakota feel at home again and are visible again,” said Buck, president of the nonprofit formerly known as Friends of the Falls.

Those 5 acres surround the Upper St. Anthony lock and dam, which has been closed to navigation for almost a decade. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which maintains the site, is giving the surrounding land, long fenced off and unused, back to the public.

Buck has worked for years on a plan to restore the landscape to a space that welcomes the Dakota community and their neighbors back.

There are stories to share about the history of this place.

And new stories to tell about its future.

“Most people know the history of the Mill City,” said Buck, past president of the Prairie Island Indian Community in southeastern Minnesota.

“Our job is to bring the complete history to the table, as well as the forgotten people — the Dakota people — and make sure they’re visible.”

There is no way to fully restore the lost landscape.

The 20-foot falls have been dammed, diminished and girdled in concrete to hold them in place. The river is a fraction of its original width. Spirit Island — Wíta Waná i — once rose in the middle of the river; it was so sacred that Dakota women traveled there to give birth. It was quarried for its limestone to build the mills and the city, hacked and chiseled and dredged until there was nothing left. Much of the 5-acre site featured unappealing stretches of concrete, rubble and stagnant water.

“But we’re going to do what we can to restore what we can,” Buck said.

There are plans for walking paths and flowing water and new plantings to restore the original oak savanna that once flourished here. Muskrats have been spotted returning to the area already, she said.

“We really just want to make it a place for not only our people and non-Native people to come but for our other relatives.

The plants. The animals.

The water ... we really want to help in any way we can to restore the health of the water,” Buck said. “Yeah, it’s a big list.

But it’s one that’s important enough to us to make it work.”

It was almost Thanksgiving when Buck talked about the plans for the site. An American holiday freighted with myths and misconceptions and stories told about Native Americans, instead of by Native Americans.

“Growing up — because I grew up with my white mother — I only heard about the common story ... this friendly gathering of Pilgrims and Native Americans,” she said. It would be years before she learned the name of the tribe — or that the Wampanoag communities who vanished from our national narrative after a harvest celebration in 1621, still thrive in Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

“Dakota people are still invisible in our own homelands,” she said. “So to change that narrative is really important.

... We are still here.”

One of the first changes to the site was historical markers, inviting visitors to scan a code and take an audio tour narrated in Dakota and English.

Dakota voices, sharing Dakota stories beside the turbulent waters once again.

Ecadan yuteca kin u kte.

Soon renewal is coming.

Nahanhin Dakota makoce kin. This is still Dakota land.

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from MM:

My Hmong students noted the similarity of their jingle dresses to those of of Native Americans

[https://replica.startribune.com/infinity/article\\_popover\\_share.aspx?guid=c31ff3db-fade-4913-afee-8c399f6227ac&share=true](https://replica.startribune.com/infinity/article_popover_share.aspx?guid=c31ff3db-fade-4913-afee-8c399f6227ac&share=true)

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watch, reflect, and make a generational impact.

AICLS Master Apprentice and Family Language Program Participant Reflections Video:
Click HERE

[Research finds 'Indigenous' grows in popularity among Native youth](#)

December 4, 2024 - Alex Gonzalez, Public News Service (NV)



A new survey of Native American teens and young adults highlights a growing preference for the term "Indigenous" rather than being referred to as "American Indian."

Researchers from the Aspen Institute's Center for Native American Youth surveyed close to 1,000 Native Americans younger than age 24 across nearly 240 different tribal affiliations. Nevada is home to 21 federally recognized tribes and 28 separate reservations.

Cheyenne Runsabove, associate director of youth programs at the center, said the term "Native American" is still dominant.

"Fifty-three percent of Native youths prefer the word 'Native American,' and only 7% prefer the word 'American Indian,'" Runsabove reported. "We continue to see that 7% going down, and what we continue to see uptick is the word 'Indigenous.'"

The report, called "Center Us," also found many Native youths are apathetic toward U.S. elections and disappointed in the rate of change. It also found Native youths who feel culturally educated are four times more likely to see themselves as capable of making a difference than those who do not.

Just over half of Native youths on reservations reported feeling their culture is respected by people beyond their family, compared with 28% in small towns and 33% in cities.

Runsabove emphasized for Native youth, culture is identity.

"Language, history, stories, connection to land; all of those things are at the core of identity for Native youth," Runsabove explained. "We have to be mindful of their true cultural identities."

The survey noted big differences between young people in urban areas versus reservations, when it comes to the availability of culturally informed health care, after-school programs, and money for college. While 80% of Native youth in cities have access to high-speed internet, the figure falls to less than 60% for those living on reservations.

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From a reader:

I have been reading about the **Toltecs, an advanced pre-Aztec culture in Mexico**. The Toltecs established four attitudes or agreements to foster improved connections with life and others.

- The first pillar of Toltec wisdom, is always be true to your word.
- The second pillar is: don't take anything personally.
- The third pillar is: don't make assumptions.
- The fourth pillar is: always be your best self.

We have a lot we can learn from the past.

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As Nevada's population grows, so does the need for new doctors — and resources to train them. Nevada ranks 45th in the US for active physicians per 100,000 residents, and with seemingly little appetite to fund residency programs at the federal level, officials in the Silver State are mulling new ways to tackle a worsening issue. ([Read more here](#)).
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**[Portion of controversial Bay Area housing development returned to Indigenous land trust](#)** [sfchronicle.com](https://www.sfchronicle.com)

An Indigenous land trust, a Bay Area affordable housing developer and community members on Tuesday celebrated the return of a portion of a housing site in Castro Valley to Indigenous stewardship - an agreement that follows years of controversy over the development. The nonprofit Eden Housing returned 3 acres of creek land adjacent to its Crescent Grove development to the women-led Sogorea Te' Land Trust.



**White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council (WHEJAC) Public Meeting: December 17, 2024**

The [White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council \(WHEJAC\)](#) will convene virtually on **Tuesday, December 17, 2024**, from approximately **1:00 PM to 8:00 PM Eastern Time**. This free meeting is open to all members of the public. Individual registration is required, and the public will have the opportunity to register at any time before and throughout the duration of the meeting.

**Register for the virtual WHEJAC public meeting here:** [https://usepa.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN\\_xUyUcLTYSTan4fUf0i4rNw](https://usepa.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_xUyUcLTYSTan4fUf0i4rNw)

A public comment period will take place from approximately **5:30 PM to 7:00 PM Eastern Time**. Members of the public who wish to participate in the public comment period must register by **11:59 PM Eastern Time, Friday, December 13, 2024**. Priority to speak during the public meeting will be given to registered public commenters who have relevant comments on the charges, topics and questions listed on our webpage: <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/white-house-environmental-justice-advisory-council>.

Submitting written comments for the record are strongly encouraged. Written comments can be submitted through **December 31, 2024**. To learn about submitting written comments, please visit our website: <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/white-house-environmental-justice-advisory-council>.

The meeting agenda and other meeting support materials including the public comments will be posted in the public docket **EPA-HQ-OEJECR-2024-0147** as they become available at <http://www.regulations.gov>.

To learn more about the WHEJAC and the public meeting, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/white-house-environmental-justice-advisory-council>.

For questions about this event, please contact [whejac@epa.gov](mailto:whejac@epa.gov).

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From HECHO:

- The United States Supreme Court [recently declined](#) to consider the request from Arizona's San Carlos Apache Tribe to stop Resolution Copper's mine in Oak Flat from discharging water contaminated with copper and polluting a stream considered sacred by Indigenous peoples. Read more [here](#).
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- Check out PBS's episode "[Who Killed the Colorado River?](#)" Once a lifeline for the American Southwest, it's now a shadow of its former self. What happened? Outdated water laws? Excessive urban development and agriculture? Is there a possibility for restoration? Watch [this video](#) to learn more.
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- Do you want to volunteer? The Arizona Sustainability Alliance has several opportunities. Check out the [list of events](#).

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**[First-Ever “Flying” Electric Ferry to Make Its Lake Tahoe Debut](https://nicenews.com/innovation/flying-electric-ferry-coming-lake-tahoe/)**  
<https://nicenews.com/innovation/flying-electric-ferry-coming-lake-tahoe/>

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[Mining Minds](#) guest talks about the power of positive storytelling (elkodaily.com) — Conway Fraser discusses the importance of positive storytelling in the mining industry on the Mining Minds podcast. His experiences in Reno highlight the potential for career opportunities in Nevada's mining sector, emphasizing the benefits of effective communication.

Kelly Ann Conway

9/22/1984 - 12/2/2024

Funeral Service:

Friday, December 13, 2024
Smith Family Funderal Home - Fallon, NV

Viewing: 10:00am | Service: 11:00am

Burial:

Stillwater Indian Cemetery
Following the Service

Potluck:

FPST Gymnasium
Following the Burial

Rest In Peace

