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Winter Scene

Plan to replace run-down Owyhee School moves forward

Bay Area American Indian Two-Spirits PowWow

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Could the Carrington Event happen again?

Take the 'Local' Out of Local TV At Your Own Peril

Reno's 2025 Junior Ranger program: All ages & abilities are invited.

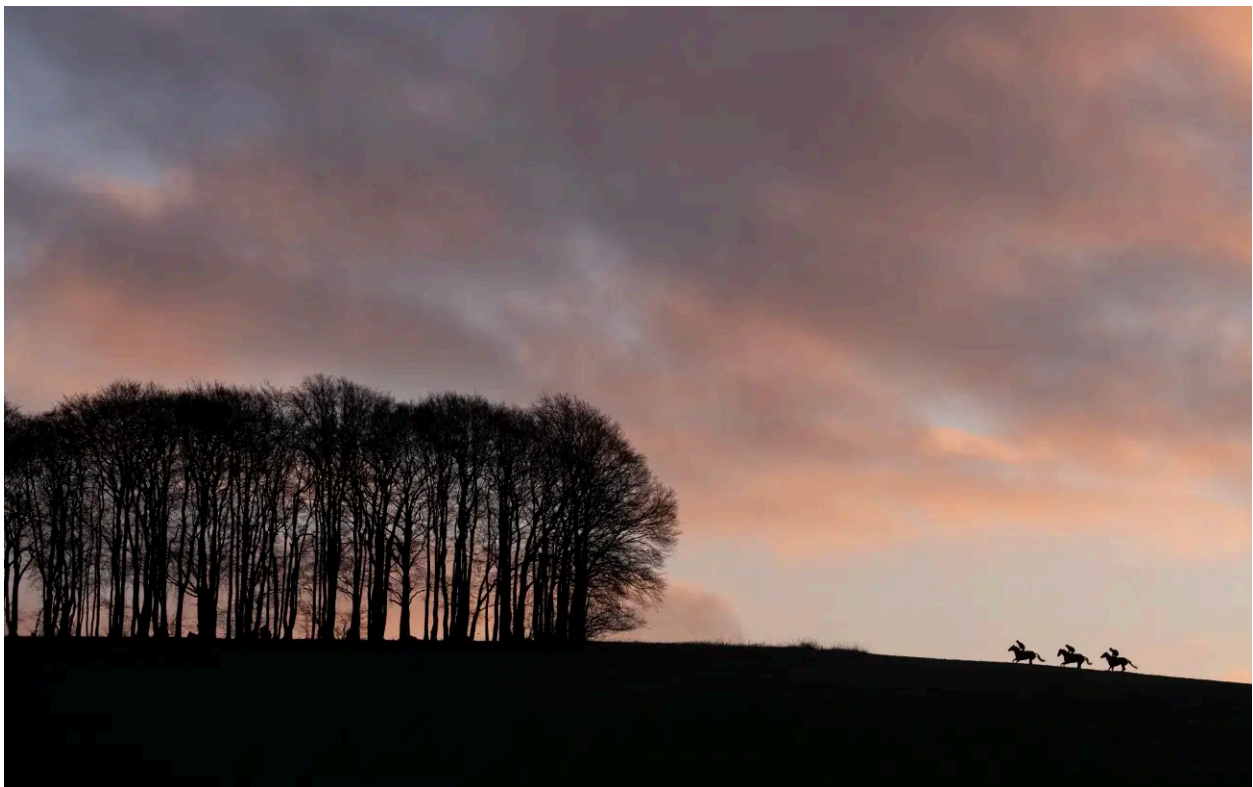
Washoe Tribe brings back cultural fire to restore forests, plants amid climate change

executive order puts 'temporary moratorium' on major Idaho wind project

Over \$3 million in Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funds to protect Lake Tahoe Basin

Gov. Joe Lombardo outlines agenda and budget priorities in state of the state

In 1891, Lili'uokalani was sworn in as Hawaiian queen



“Winter in Lambourn” by Edward Whitaker.

[After setbacks, plan to replace run-down Owyhee school on reservation moving forward by Rocio Hernandez](#)

Future funding for capital projects remains uncertain as Elko County sues the state for forcing a tax increase for school construction.

Bay Area American Indian Two-Spirits PowWow

Free Admission

All are welcome to join the Indigenous two-spirits community for the annual “[Bay Area American Indian Two-Spirit \(BAAITS\) Powwow](#)” at Fort Mason Center for Arts & Culture (FMCAC) on Yelamu Ramaytush Ohlone Lands. The “Two-Spirit Powwow” celebrates traditional Indigenous culture and also provides a gender-affirming experience for the diverse two-spirits community, the LGBTQ+ community, and allies. The 2025 event takes place in FMCAC’s Festival Pavilion on Saturday, February 1, 2025, from 11:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

The free “Two-Spirit Powwow” is open to all (Indigenous and non-Indigenous) and features performers from every tribal nation in traditional Indigenous regalia (clothing), dancing, singing, drumming, contests, and joyful celebration. On-site vendors sell frybread, buffalo burgers, Indigenous art and jewelry, and other items. See the powwow day schedule below and visit the [BAAITS web site](#) for information on [Powwow week events](#) (Monday, January 27, 2025 to Sunday, February 2, 2025) at different locations; including virtual events, a talking circle, a virtual panel, a mixer and speed dating, a [25th anniversary celebration and welcome dinner](#), a [hand drum circle and potluck](#), [performances](#), and more.

Check the BAAITS [livestream](#) resource and the [BAAITS Powwow YouTube channel](#) for possible livestreaming of the Powwow on the event date.

11:00 a.m. (Noon) Gourd Dance Exhibition

1:00 p.m. Grand Entrance

Throughout the Day: Indian Market, Frybread, and Contest Dancing.

Powwow Performers & Participants —

Ohlone welcome with [Gregg Castro](#) (Ramaytush Ohlone, T’rowt’raahl Salinan, Costanoan Rumsen)

Co-Masters Of Ceremonies: [Dustina Abrahamson](#) (Lemhi Shoshone) & [Coy McLemore](#) (Kiowa)

Arena Director: [Michelle Allrunner-Sanchez](#) (Apache, Diné Navaho, Southern Cheyenne, Kiowa)

Head Dancers: [Kiera Munroe](#) (Yellow Quill First Nations) & [Kellen Trenal](#) (nimíipuu, Nez Perce, Black)

Head Gourd: [Dennis Manuelito](#) (Diné Navaho)

Host Northern Drum: All Nations Singers (San Francisco Bay Area)

Host Southern Drum: Southern Pride

Head Tabulator: Shea Norris

Lyda B. Conley's Visionary Advocacy for Tribal Rights

- Clare Cushman January 22, 2025



Lyda B. Conley at her 1902 graduation from the Kansas City College of Law. Credit: Kansas City College of Law

In March 1909 Kansas lawyer Lyda B. Conley brazenly wrote to Chief Justice Melville Fuller. Her petition asking for an injunction against Congress's authorization of the proposed sale by the Secretary of the Interior of her Wyandot tribe's burial ground had been docketed in October 1907. She was waiting for an argument date. Conley admonished Fuller: "With me, time is money, and I cannot afford to spend either in idleness." Indeed, she was so poor that she had struggled to pay the filing fees and the cost of printing materials necessary to file her Supreme Court appeal. Eking out a legal practice representing Wyandot friends in routine contract and property disputes was not enough. She took a job teaching telegraphy to survive. Lyda and her two sisters also spent their time holding vigil over the graves of their ancestors, including their mother, father, and older sister Sallie, who died as a teen. (The sisters lived in a nearby shack and kept off cemetery trespassers with a shotgun.) The Supreme Court notified her in December that oral argument was set for January 14, 1910.

Accompanied by her sister, Lena, Lyda took the train to Washington. Unnetworked, she struck out finding a lawyer who would vouch for her admission to the Supreme Court bar. Most women advocates of that era had attended the same law schools and moved each other's admission; Lyda had been the first woman admitted to the Kansas Bar Association in 1902. She plowed ahead "pro se" (arguing as a plaintiff not as an attorney), telling a reporter: "No lawyer would plead for the grave of my mother as I could." Her papers include her handwritten account of her remarks to the justices: she spoke eloquently at the podium about her tribe's history and setbacks. Radical for her time, Conley articulated both the notion that the burying grounds of American Indian tribes are sacred and deserve federal protection and that descendants of signers of a treaty with the federal government have standing to enforce the treaty's provisions. She wrapped her argument in patriotism: "I cannot believe that this is superstitious reverence, any more than I can believe that the reverence every true American has for the grave of [George] Washington at Mount Vernon is a superstitious reverence."



Gravesites of Eliza Burton “Lyda” Conley and Helena “Lena” Conley. Lyda was not “the only woman admitted to the Supreme Court of the United States”: she was the second woman to argue a case (after Belva Lockwood), in 1910, and was not admitted to practice in the Supreme Court until 1915, well after many other female attorneys had gained bar admission. Credit: Find A Grave

The Court ruled two weeks later in *Conley v. Ballinger* (1910). Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes was careful in his unanimous opinion to reassure Conley that the justices had deliberated carefully: “For every reason we have examined the facts with anxiety to give the full weight to any argument by which the plaintiff’s pious wishes might be carried out.” But the Court agreed with the Kansas district court’s decision that Conley did not have standing to bring the case because the Wyandots had signed a treaty in 1855 agreeing to dissolve their tribe and cede their lands in exchange for becoming U.S. citizens. (Many Wyandots moved to Oklahoma and established the federally recognized Wyandotte Nation. The Conleys had opted to stay in Kansas City and persisted in calling themselves Wyandots even though the U.S. government legally counted them as citizens.) That the 1855 treaty had specifically omitted the burial ground from the sale and “permanently reserved” it for use by the Wyandot people did not sway the Court. Justice Holmes held that this did not legally oblige the federal government to protect the cemetery.

Conley may have lost the legal battle but she won the public relations war. Senator Charles Curtis (R-KS), a member of the Kaw Nation persuaded Congress to repeal the sale authorization in 1913. Until her death in 1947, however, Conley continued to fight off developers as the cemetery, in the heart of downtown Kansas City, was eyed as prime real estate. (By then, the Conley sisters lived together in a house offsite, U.S. marshals having razed their shack.) The sacred burial ground—where some 800 are now interred, including the Conley sisters—was not fully protected until 2017 when it became a National Historic Landmark.

Lyda B. Conley is remembered as a Supreme Court “first”—the first woman of Native American descent to argue a case in the Supreme Court—115 years ago. (She was officially admitted to the Supreme Court bar in 1915, on motion of John W. Davis, the leading advocate of his generation.) Conley should also be hailed as a visionary who, on her own, formulated compelling legal and moral arguments that the burying grounds of Native Americans were entitled to federal protection.

<https://supremecourthistory.org/scotus-scoops/lyda-b-conleys-visionary-advocacy-for-tribal-rights/>

2025 Supreme Court Summer Institute

June 8-13 or June 22-27, 2025

Each year we select 60 teachers from a pool of applicants to come to Washington, D.C. for six days of educational activities that strengthen and expand instruction about the U.S. Supreme Court.

From neon to nuclear reactors: 12 oddball museums in Nevada



Neon signs outside at the Neon Museum on Las Vegas, Nev.

(Vitya_maly) By Aleza Freeman

Learn a ton and have a blast at these 12 strange museums in Nevada featuring offbeat art, interesting exhibits, and creepy collectibles.

Who says museums have to be boring? Nevada museums are anything but with off-the-wall yet educational exhibits, art, and collectibles such as working neon signs, clown figurines, mind-bending illusions, junked cars, and even a nuclear reactor.

Whether learning about the Silver State's atomic history, perusing an old drug store, searching for secret passages, or playing pinball, you'll learn a ton and have a blast at these 12 strange museums in Nevada.

1. Omega Mart Area 15, 3215 South Rancho Drive, Las Vegas

Most people don't equate a trip to a grocery store with going to a museum unless the food is expired. Or if it's Meow Wolf's Omega Mart inside [Area 15](#). The enigmatic supermarket is stocked with one-of-a-kind, often tongue-in-cheek finds and secret passages leading to an interactive playground wrapped in surreal and innovative art, conspiracy theories, and other mysteries—plus a full bar.

2. Neon Museum 770 Las Vegas Boulevard N., Las Vegas

[The Neon Museum](#) in downtown Las Vegas tells the story of this fabulous city through old signs. Founded in 1996, the outdoor spaces include more than 250 signs, some illuminated and restored. Even the visitors' center is iconic, housed inside the former La Concha Motel lobby. A nonprofit museum and educational institution, it chronicles the city's history as well as changes in sign design and technology dating back to the 1930s.

3. Erotic Heritage Museum 3275 South Sammy Davis Jr. Drive, Las Vegas

Explore erotic art of multiple genres at the [Erotic Heritage Museum](#). The 24,000-square-foot space is devoted to the educational, scientific, and literary aspects of sexual, emotional, mental, and physical health. Exhibits on the first floor include commercial art, pornographic art, folk art, pop art, and fine art, while the second floor has paintings, sketches, watercolors, porcelain figurines, sculptures, and carved wood objects. The museum is also home to the nude live comedy show Puppetry of the Penis.

4. The National Atomic Testing Museum 755 E. Flamingo Road, Las Vegas

Get up close and personal with a nuclear reactor, personal atomic weapons, and other rare artifacts related to the nuclear weapons testing program at the Nevada Test Site at the [National](#)

[Atomic Testing Museum](#). Explore 8,000 square feet of museum exhibits covering 70 years of nuclear testing, including Atomic Age culture, the effect of nuclear testing on the world, and scientific and technological advances. You'll also see a piece of the Berlin Wall and two pieces of the World Trade Center.

5. Burlesque Hall of Fame **1027 S. Main Street, #110, Las Vegas**

The [Burlesque Hall of Fame](#) in the Las Vegas Arts District is a nonprofit museum committed to preserving the living legacy of burlesque. The world's largest archive of vintage burlesque items and one of the world's only institutions dedicated to preserving burlesque art, artifacts, and traditions, the collection includes thousands of costumes, stage props, photographs, and personal effects documenting the careers and lives of burlesque performers from the late 1800s to today. Some items include Dita Von Teese's martini glass bath, Gypsy Rose Lee's traveling trunk, and costumes from Sally Rand and Rose La Rose.

6. Pinball Hall of Fame **4925 Las Vegas Boulevard South, Las Vegas**

Forget playing in the casinos. The world's largest collection of pinball machines, comprising 25,000 square feet, the [Pinball Hall of Fame](#) is fun for the whole family. Nearly 400 machines, ranging from the 1950s to the 1990s, are restored to like-new playing conditions and ready to



play for 25 and 50 cents. It's truly a blast from the past.

A room filled with pinball machines at Pinball Hall of Fame in Las Vegas. (Kent Kanouse/CC BY-NC 2.0)

7. Museum of Illusions **63 CityCenter, 3716 South Las Vegas Boulevard, Suite 1.02**

Immerse yourself in interactive illusions and grab strange selfies as you make your way through the mind-bending exhibitions at the [Museum of Illusions Las Vegas](#). Each exhibit is designed to blow your mind and fool your eyes but also to teach you the science behind the trick. It's a magical experience you have to see to believe..

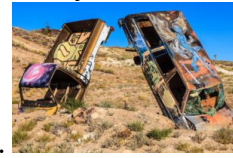
8. Goldwell Open Air Museum **1 Golden Street, Beatty**

A 15-acre outdoor sculpture garden, [Goldwell Open Air Museum](#) consists of seven enormous and bizarre sculptures, some more than 25 feet high. The original five were erected in 1984 by Belgian artist Albert Szukalski, while others have been added by contemporary artists. Located at the foot of the ghost town of Rhyolite off the road leading to Death Valley, California, the sculptures stand in the Mojave desert as a testament to artistic exploration in the Amargosa Desert.

9. International Car Forest of the Last Church **1111 East, Crystal Avenue, Goldfield**

Junked cars colorfully covered in graffiti decorate the desert in unconventional ways at the [International Car Forest of the Last Church](#). A quick detour off the highway at the southern tip of Goldfield, this roadside attraction rivals Cadillac Ranch in Texas with 40 uniquely painted,

junked cars, trucks, and even a bus that you can explore from your own car or by foot. Some



stand vertically in rows like dominoes, while others are stacked to the sky.

Double Trouble cars at the International Car Forest of the Last Church in Goldfield, Nevada. (James Marvin Phelps/CC BY-NC 2.0)

10. Clown Museum 521 N. Main Street, Tonopah

Located in the lobby of the world-famous Clown Motel in Tonopah, the [Clown Museum](#) is home to an extensive and growing collection of more than 5,000 clown figurines and artifacts. All on display for free, it's fascinating and terrifying all at once.



Clown dolls at the Clown Museum on the Clown Motel of Tonopah, Nev. (Will Keightley/CC BY-SA 2.0)

11. Tonopah Mining Park 110 Burro Ave, Tonopah Once home to a working silver mine, the non-profit [Tonopah Historic Mining Park](#) has 113 acres of preserved and restored buildings, artifacts, and exhibits. Explore the now-defunct mining area on a self-guided tour that includes old mining tools and artifacts and a glimpse inside the 500-foot-deep Mizpah Mine Shaft.

12. McGill Drugstore Museum 11 S. 4th Street, McGill

A drugstore frozen in time, the [McGill Drugstore Museum](#) is virtually unchanged from how it looked when it closed in 1979, with products dating back to the 1950s, including shampoos, nail polish, toys, candy, and more. Peek behind the original pharmacy counter to see the original prescribed medicines and a log dating back to the 1930s. The original milkshake counter still serves tasty, malted treats.

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**One day, Thomas Alva Edison came home and gave his mother a note. He said, "My teacher gave me this note and told me to give it only to you."**

The mother's eyes filled with tears as she read aloud the letter her son had brought: "Your son is a genius. This school is too small for him and we do not have adequate teachers to teach him. Please teach him yourself."

So, the mother devoted herself to Edison's education.

Many years later, when Edison's mother died, he had become one of the greatest inventors of the century. One day, while she was going through old family things, she found a piece of paper folded into a picture frame on the desk.

She took it and unfolded it. On the paper was written:

"Your son is mentally ill and we cannot allow him to return to school."

Edison cried for hours, then wrote in his diary: "Thomas Alva Edison was a mentally ill child, but thanks to a heroic mother he became the genius of the century."

What an impressive reaction the mother had, isn't it? Instead of reading what the letter actually said, and having been able to make her son feel less, she gave it a complete turn and injected confidence and certainty into her son! She made him believe he was a genius and he believed it so much that he grew up and died being one.

It's amazing the power parents have over their children.

The veracity of this version of events, however, is belied by the actual account given by Thomas Edison himself in a rare [interview](#) to a long-extinct newspaper and literary journal called *T.P's Weekly* published on 29 November 1907. This interview is the earliest documented account of Edison's leaving formal schooling and is therefore likely to be the source of the historical fiction regarding his early education:

One day I overheard the teacher tell the inspector that I was "addled" and it would not be worthwhile keeping me in school any longer. I was so hurt by this last straw that I burst out crying and went home and told my mother about it. Then I found out what a good thing a good mother is. She came out as my strong defender. Mother love was aroused, mother pride wounded to the quick. She brought me back to the school and angrily told the teacher that he didn't know what he was talking about, that I had more brains than he himself, and a lot more talk like that. In fact, she was the most enthusiastic champion a boy ever had, and I determined right then that I would be worthy of her and show her that her confidence was not misplaced.

As Edison's first-person account stated, no letter to his mother was involved in these events, and Edison was never kept out of the loop for the sake of sparing his already hurt feelings. One of the most prolific and ingenious inventors of all time, Thomas Edison would be homeschooled until he set out on [his own](#) at the age of sixteen, openly grateful for his mother's support and education throughout his life.

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Giving financial help to local business through the Reno Rebuild Fund (kolotv.com)

— The Reno Rebuild Fund is now accepting applications to support local businesses in the Reno/Sparks area. This initiative offers low-interest loans and mentorship to foster business growth, with funding sourced from local establishments.

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**Could the Carrington Event happen again?**

It happened in 1859.

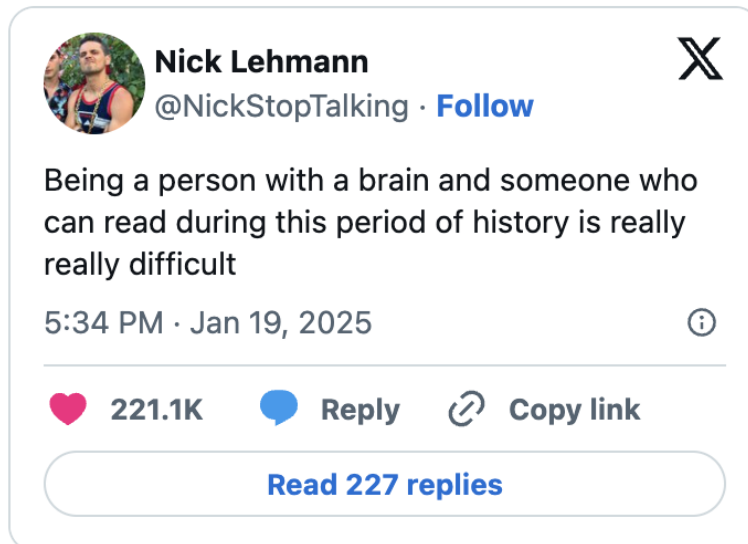
<https://www.popsci.com > science > carrington-event-now>





As [I recently wrote, the L.A. fires here](#) reminded us of the importance of local media in an age where social media has become in large part a worthless firehose of lies, conspiracy theories and hate. And things are just going to get worse under the new regime in Washington, D.C. — one that rewards those lies and covers up truth.


When it comes to weather, the effects of climate change will also only make our environment more dangerous and unpredictable in the coming years. This is a public safety issue, and broadcast stations carry an FCC license that requires some responsibility to operate in the public interest. Firing your meteorologists and beaming in reports from Atlanta is the opposite of that.




Full article: [https://currently.att.yahoo.com/news/facing-backlash-over-firing-meteorologists-194929156.html?.tsrc=daily\\_mail&uh\\_test=1\\_11&.tsrc=daily\\_mail&segment\\_id&ncid=crm\\_-1295960-20250126-282&bt\\_user\\_id=qC6GHGM5EcGUHVNb3uxCAk8Qp7dNKKJS8ZtfABmzkUzMqSSAYr%2Fd2DufWMKXpGYV&bt\\_ts=1737880150022](https://currently.att.yahoo.com/news/facing-backlash-over-firing-meteorologists-194929156.html?.tsrc=daily_mail&uh_test=1_11&.tsrc=daily_mail&segment_id&ncid=crm_-1295960-20250126-282&bt_user_id=qC6GHGM5EcGUHVNb3uxCAk8Qp7dNKKJS8ZtfABmzkUzMqSSAYr%2Fd2DufWMKXpGYV&bt_ts=1737880150022)



 **Nick Lehmann**   
@NickStopTalking · [Follow](#)

Being a person with a brain and someone who can read during this period of history is really really difficult

5:34 PM · Jan 19, 2025 

 221.1K  Reply  Copy link

[Read 227 replies](#)

**Cherokee War Dance (Northern Traditional) (click on pic)**



**A Program To Close Insurance Gaps for Native Americans Has Gone Largely Unused** ([californiahealthline.org](http://californiahealthline.org)) — Dale Rice, a Native American in Reno faces medical debt due to

insurance gaps. A new tribal sponsorship program in Nevada aims to help tribal citizens like Rice access affordable health care through the ACA marketplace.

### **More Maven:**

#### **House passes forest management bill supported by Valley representatives**

“The House of Representatives has passed the Fix Our Forests Act to provide for healthier forests and increased wildfire protection. All Central Valley representatives co-sponsored the bill – which was introduced by Rep. Bruce Westerman (R–AR) and voted in support of it. The big picture: The Fix Our Forests Act passed through the House by a 279-141 vote on Thursday. Representatives Jim Costa (D–Fresno), Vince Fong (R–Bakersfield), Adam Gray (D–Merced), Josh Harder (D–Tracy), Tom McClintock (R–Elk Grove) and David Valadao (R–Hanford) all supported it. ... ” [Read more from the San Joaquin Valley Sun.](#)

#### **NEW BOOK: Waters of the United States: POTUS, SCOTUS, WOTUS, and the Politics of a National Resource**

In 2023, the Supreme Court made one of its most devastating rulings in environmental history. By narrowing the legal definition of ‘waters of the United States’ (WOTUS), the court opened the floodgates to unregulated pollution. But while tremendously consequential, the decision was also simply the latest in a long series of battles over WOTUS and which waters are protected by the federal Clean Water Act, enacted over president Nixon’s veto in 1972. In [Waters of the United States: POTUS, SCOTUS, WOTUS, and the Politics of a National Resource \(Publication Date: December 19, 2024\)](#), Royal C. Gardner, an internationally recognized expert in wetland law and policy, delivers an unprecedented exploration of WOTUS’ history and its importance for today’s efforts to protect a critical natural resource. The result is a fascinating look at the ongoing power struggle over water quality at all levels of government, from the president to Congress, federal agencies, courts, and states. ... ” [Continue reading this book announcement.](#)

#### **Judge clears way for massive lithium project near Salton Sea over environmental concerns**

“A California judge has denied environmentalists’ claims that the Hells Kitchen lithium extraction project approved by Imperial County officials was not adequately studied for water supply or air pollution issues, and did not consult properly with area tribes. Commercially processed lithium is a key component of electric vehicles, smart phones and myriad other products, and the north end of the county sits atop a huge underground reserve of the whitish substance and other minerals. Comitè Civico del Valle and Earthworks filed suit in 2024, alleging county planners and consultants had not adequately considered the potential environmental impacts of a nearly \$2 billion project dubbed Hells Kitchen, the first of several related projects which Controlled Thermal Resources aims to develop along the fast-drying southern edge of the Salton Sea, between Calipatria and Niland. ... ” [Read more from the Desert Sun.](#)

#### **Forest thinning aims to curb catastrophic wildfires in Arizona. It also could stretch water supplies**

“When lightning ignited chaparral and ponderosa pine litter to form the West Fire one night in late August, U.S. Forest Service fire managers knew they had some room to let it run. Flames would creep along the brush and undergrowth some 13 miles northeast of Payson, burning around natural firebreaks in the rocks just below the rim. Once the fire crested the rim, having

covered some 15,000 acres, it would die against a broader firebreak that Salt River Project contractors had chewed out of the dense ponderosa forest with the intention of saving critical Arizona watersheds from just such a fire. It would not climb into the ponderosa canopy and rage for miles from pine to pine. ... ” [Read more from Arizona Central.](#)

**EPA withdraws plan to regulate harmful ‘PFAS’ chemicals in drinking water**

“Just days into President Donald Trump’s second term, the federal government has made major changes to environmental regulations. A significant change is the regulation of toxins in drinking water or so-called “forever chemicals” that can build up in the environment and our bodies. These chemicals are found in the drinking water consumed by most people in Arizona. This week, the Trump administration withdrew a pending plan to limit the amount of PFAS chemicals the industry can release into the environment. “If you’re wondering right now, have I picked those PFAS? The answer is yes, definitely,” explained Dr. Rhett Larson, a water law professor at Arizona State University. While there is still very little known about the chemicals, he says there’s strong evidence that exposure to PFAS can cause cancer. ... ” [Read more from AZ Family.](#)

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Reno’s 2025 Junior Ranger Program: All ages & abilities are invited
Join the 2025 Junior Ranger Program in Reno! Explore parks, earn your badge, and promote stewardship. It's fun for all ages and abilities!

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**Washoe Tribe brings back cultural fire to restore forests, plants amid climate change**

<https://www.kunr.org/local-stories/2025-01-21/washoe-tribe-intentional-fire-restore-forests-cultural-plants>

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executive order puts ‘temporary moratorium’ on major Idaho wind project

Among the flurry of executive orders this week was one targeting a massive wind energy project in Idaho. Some officials and activists are applauding the move.

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**Over \$3 million in Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funds to protect Lake Tahoe Basin Maria Palma**

More than \$3 million to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species in Lake Tahoe will go to local tribes and agencies. The funds will support existing and new projects.

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Gov. Joe Lombardo outlines agenda and budget priorities in state of the state <https://www.kunr.org/nevada-state-government/2025-01-17/gov-joe-lombardo-outlines-agenda-and-budget-priorities-in-state-of-the-state-address>

If you are out of Nevada, be sure to check your gov’s statement....and legislative agenda

Today in History: [In 1891, Lili’uokalani was sworn in as Hawaiian queen](#)