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As Trump cuts federal jobs, even national parks are on the chopping block

Archaeologists Unearth Rare 1,000-Year-Old Food Storage Pit in Alaska

UNR researcher develops sorghum varieties for dairy feed and gluten-free human nutrition

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AI and scientists unite to decipher scrolls charred by the Vesuvius volcano

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Scientists find bones inside the world's largest-tree

AI and scientists unite to decipher old scrolls charred by the Vesuvius volcano

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The Gulf of Mexico's Long History of Colonization and Varying Names

Rep. Huffman secures \$3 million for Weaver Creek habitat restoration implementation

Researchers Studied a 11,000-Year-Old Rock Art Motif—and Uncovered a Fascinating Story



Yosemite National Park's El Capitan and Cathedral Rocks with the Merced River on Feb. 1, 2021. (Carolyn Cole / Los Angeles Times) By [Andrew J. Campa](#) Staff Writer Feb. 5, 2025

[**As Trump cuts federal jobs, even national parks are on the chopping block**](#)

Alt National Park Service

This morning former Director Jon Jarvis made this statement about recent events involving the National Park Service:

"I have been watching the Trump administration trying unsuccessfully to suppress the National Park Service with a mix of pride and amusement. The NPS is the steward of America's most important places and the narrator of our most powerful stories, told authentically, accurately, and built upon scientific and scholarly research. The Park Ranger is a trusted interpreter of our complex natural and cultural history and a voice that cannot be suppressed. Edicts from on-high have directed the NPS to not talk about "national policy", but permission is granted to use social media for visitor center hours and safety. The ridiculousness of such a directive was immediately resisted and I am not the least bit surprised.

So at Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site in Atlanta should we not talk about his actions to secure the rights to vote for African Americans in the south, or is that too "national policy"?

At Stonewall National Monument in New York City, shall we only talk about the hours you can visit the Inn or is it "national policy" to interpret the events there in 1969 that gave rise to the LGBT movement?

Shall we only talk about the historic architecture of the Washington, DC home of Alice Paul and Alva Belmont or is it too "national policy" to suggest their decades of effort to secure the rights of women can be linked directly to the women's marches in hundreds of cities last weekend?

And as we scientifically monitor the rapid decline of glaciers in Glacier National Park, a clear and troubling indicator of a warming planet, shall we refrain from telling this story to the public because the administration views climate change as "national policy"?

These are not "policy" issues, they are facts about our nation, it is how we learn and strive to achieve the ideals of our founding documents. To talk about these facts is core to the mission of the NPS. During the Centennial of the National Park Service, we hosted over 300 million visitors (now that is huge) to the National Parks and most came away inspired, patriotic and ready to speak on behalf of the values we hold most dear.

The new Administration would be wise to figure out how to support the National Park Service, its extraordinary employees and their millions of fans."

"We need history, not to tell us what happened or to explain the past, but to make the past alive so that it can explain us and make a future possible."
Alan Bloom

Archaeologists Unearth Rare 1,000-Year-Old Food Storage Pit in Alaska

Initial findings suggest the cache was used to preserve moose and caribou meat in the harsh climate of southeastern Alaska [Eli Wizevich](#), History Correspondent, February 3, 2025



The cache pit was discovered on a hill overlooking the Knik Arm, a thin branch of the Gulf of Alaska. Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson

On a hill of birch and spruce overlooking the [Knik Arm](#), a narrow stretch of the [Gulf of Alaska](#) that extends northwest of Anchorage, archaeologists have unearthed a remarkably intact cache pit used by the region's Indigenous Dene people. The discovery is offering a new perspective on the long human history of the region, as well as how to preserve and protect its legacy for generations to come.

Cache pits are like root cellars, as [Elizabeth Ortiz](#), an archaeologist and cultural resource manager at [Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson](#) (JBER), the military complex where the discovery was made, says in a [statement](#).

Located along a well-known Dene trail that led north out of the modern-day Anchorage area, the pit measures about 3.5 feet deep. It was dug into well-drained soil and lined with birch bark and

grass, which preserved fish, meat and berries through the harsh seasonal extremes of southeastern Alaska.

The cache pit is nearly 1,000 years old, making it a rare find in the highly developed region surrounding Anchorage. Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson

The Dene, also known as Athabaskans, include the [Dena'ina](#) and [Ahtna](#) people. In the summers, they would have stayed in the area to catch and preserve salmon and terrestrial meat, with houses and smokehouses lining the bluffs above the [Cook Inlet](#), according to [Arkeonews](#).

Archaeologists expected the cache pit to be a few hundred years old. However, radiocarbon testing revealed that it was actually much older.

“When we got the results back that said it was 960 years, plus or minus 30, we were shocked,” Ortiz tells Alena Naiden of [KNBA](#), a local radio station. “[We] were jumping up and down in our cube in tears. It was very, very exciting.”

The new analysis “further substantiates Dena'ina and Ahtna oral traditions that JBER and the surrounding area have been used for a very long time,” [Margan Grover](#), an archaeologist with JBER, says in the statement.

Initial tests show that moose and caribou were stored in the cache pit. [Public domain via Wikimedia Commons](#)

The team conducted additional radiocarbon and [stable isotope tests](#) to determine whether the food buried in the cache pit was from the land or the sea. Initial findings suggest the presence of moose or caribou, though researchers plan to test the surrounding soil to confirm whether such animals were stored in the cache or were just passing by.

Occasionally, archaeologists find comparable cache pits in areas like Alaska's [Matanuska-Susitna Valley](#) and the [Kenai Peninsula](#). Other Alaskan archaeological sites like [Swan Point](#), which contains evidence of humans hunting mammoths, can date back as many as 14,000 years.

In this case, most of the area surrounding the cache had been razed by the military in the 1940s, when JBER was under construction. To find such an old and well-preserved site in the [Anchorage Bowl](#), as the developed region surrounding Alaska's largest city is known, is much rarer and holds “extra significance” to the region's Indigenous groups, according to the statement.

“We know we can't stop development,” [Aaron Leggett](#), president of the Native Village of Eklutna and a curator at the [Anchorage Museum](#), tells KNBA. “But can we use these opportunities to fill in the picture?”

Cache pits were used like root cellars to preserve and store fish, meat and berries. Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson

In the statement, Leggett expresses his hope that the tribal governments and the U.S. government will use the cache site as motivation to work toward their “shared goals and the co-production of knowledge about our past.”

Today, half of Alaska’s population lives within traditional Dene lands, according to KNBA. The archaeologists are collaborating with local tribes and stakeholders to gain additional context and understanding of the surrounding area.

“There are things that we know inherently from what was passed down about living in a place, but there are other things that these archaeological sites tell us about the past,” [Angela Wade](#), the historic preservationist of the [Chickaloon village](#), tells KNBA.

“I feel like every site that we learn about, every site that we can further investigate, is a piece of our history that was potentially lost,” Wade adds. “So this is kind of regaining some of the history that we were separated from.”

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**University of Nevada, Reno researcher develops potential game-changing sorghum varieties for dairy feed and gluten-free human nutrition ([unr.edu](#))** — Reno's University of Nevada researchers have introduced 200 innovative sorghum varieties, promising advancements in agriculture and nutrition. The project, led by Melinda Yerka, has gained international attention and recognition through local accelerator programs.  
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- **[Companies scaling back DEI goals include McDonald's, Target, Ford, Walmart and Google](#)**

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**Check below 5 U.S. companies sticking by their DEI policies**

1. Apple has made it clear that it will not abandon its DEI initiatives. In January, the company urged shareholders to reject a proposal from the far-right think tank, the National Center for Public Policy Research, which sought to dismantle Apple’s DEI commitments. Apple argued that the proposal was “unnecessary” and that its DEI programs do not engage in discriminatory hiring or promotion practices. A shareholder vote is set for February 25.
2. Delta Air Lines remains committed to its DEI initiatives. On January 10, Executive Vice President and Chief Legal Officer Peter W. Carter emphasized that DEI programs are essential to the company’s success, particularly in talent development.
3. Costco’s Board of Directors unanimously opposed a proposal from the National Center for Public Policy Research that sought a risk assessment of its DEI policies. The board defended its commitment to workplace inclusion and supplier diversity, arguing that the proposal reflected a “policy bias.”
4. JPMorgan Chase remains steadfast in its DEI efforts. CEO Jamie Dimon has expressed unwavering support, describing himself as a “full-throated, red-blooded, patriotic, ‘unwoke’ capitalist CEO” who sees DEI as integral to business success.
5. Mastercard has also defended its DEI initiatives. -American Indian Reporter 2.15.25

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7 sunken treasures in the waters beneath Hoover Dam



The largest manmade reservoir in the United States, [Lake Mead](#) is hiding everything from [fighter jets to entire towns](#). Since the lake's water level has dropped dramatically over the years due to drought and water usage, some hidden treasures have reemerged. Some are explorable via underwater expeditions while others can be visited by foot. Here are seven sunken treasures hiding in the waters of Lake Mead and Hoover Dam..

- [St. Thomas](#)
- [Lake Mead B-29](#)
- [Aggregate plant](#)
- [Navy PBY-5A Catalina](#)
- [Human remains](#)

[See the full list here](#)

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<https://www.msn.com/en-us/video/animals/scientists-find-bones-inside-the-world-s-largest-tree/vi-AA1yisq5?cvid=2f409b38dcdf4eccaf434652c825b3e0&ei=16#details>  
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AI and scientists unite to decipher old scrolls charred by the Vesuvius volcano

Scientists hope a mix of artificial intelligence and human expertise will help decipher ancient scrolls carbonized by a volcanic eruption 2,000 years ago. Scientists hope a mix of artificial ...

Scholarships with March 2 - 5 Deadlines

AFCEA Washington, DC Chapter Scholarship	\$2,000	March 02, 2025
Cal Grant C Award Program	\$12,036	March 02, 2025
Cal Grant High School Entitlement Award	Varies	March 02, 2025
California State University- Fullerton Adopt-a-Titan Scholarship	\$32,000	March 02, 2025
Hope College Distinguished Artist Awards - Dance	\$12,000	March 02, 2025
Joseph James Morelli Legacy Foundation Scholarship	\$3,000	March 02, 2025
Mary Fran Carroll Non-Traditional Scholarship	\$17,500	March 02, 2025
Mary Fran Carroll Traditional Scholarship	\$17,500	March 02, 2025
Opus Scholarship Program	\$2,500	March 02, 2025
Red Rocks Community College Foundation Scholarships	\$5,500	March 02, 2025
Samuel A. Green Scholarship Program	\$20,000	March 02, 2025
Sunshine Opportunity Scholarships	\$25,000	March 02, 2025
UCLA Chancellor's Blue and Gold Scholarship	\$20,000	March 02, 2025
UCLA Freshman Alumni Scholarship	\$20,000	March 02, 2025
University of California-Santa Barbara Middle Class Scholarship	Varies	March 02, 2025
Women in Cyber Scholarship Program	\$10,000	March 02, 2025
(ISC)² Graduate Scholarships	\$5,000	March 03, 2025
(ISC)² Women's Undergraduate Cybersecurity Scholarship	\$5,000	March 03, 2025
Arthritis Champions Scholarship	\$20,000	March 03, 2025
ASGC Undergraduate Teacher Education Scholarship	\$1,500	March 03, 2025
Augustana College Lucken Geology Scholarship	\$8,000	March 03, 2025
CFV Verdugos Scholarships	\$6,000	March 03, 2025
Corporate Relocation Council Scholarship	\$2,500	March 03, 2025
Cyril Smith Scholarship	Varies	March 03, 2025
Ford Opportunity Scholars Program	\$40,000	March 03, 2025
Ford Sons & Daughters Scholars Program	\$20,000	March 03, 2025
Ford Transfer Scholars Program	\$40,000	March 03, 2025
Friends of the California State Fair Scholarship Program	\$2,500	March 03, 2025
GVTC Foundation - Ritchie T. Sorrells Scholarship	\$25,000	March 03, 2025
Humboldt Area/Wild Rivers Community Scholarships	\$10,000	March 03, 2025
ICSC Foundation Graduate Scholarships	\$10,000	March 03, 2025

ICSC Scholarships	\$10,000	March 03, 2025
Loyola University Cristo Rey Scholars Program	Full-Tuition	March 03, 2025
Mac Hyde Brownfield Scholarship Program	\$2,000	March 03, 2025
Marin County Bar Association Legal Scholarship	\$5,000	March 03, 2025
National Technical Honor Society Scholarship	\$1,000	March 03, 2025
Nightwing Underrepresented Minorities in Cybersecurity Scholarship	\$10,000	March 03, 2025
PFund Scholarship	\$12,000	March 03, 2025
Samantha Jennings-Jones Memorial Scholarship	\$5,000	March 03, 2025
Scarborough Renaissance Festival Scholarship	\$2,500	March 03, 2025
Science Without Borders Challenge	\$500	March 03, 2025
Sharing Network Foundation Scholarship	Varies	March 03, 2025
Sigma Kappa Foundation Scholarships	\$5,100	March 03, 2025
Society of Actuaries Hickman Scholar Program	\$40,000	March 03, 2025
STEM Stars Actuarial Scholars Program	\$20,000	March 03, 2025
University of North Texas Dean's List Scholarship	Varies	March 03, 2025
Virginia Smith Scholarship	Varies	March 03, 2025
Washington HECB American Indian Endowed Scholarship	\$2,000	March 03, 2025
Alabama Golf Association Women's Scholarship Fund	\$24,000	March 04, 2025
Cal Grant Competitive Awards	Varies	March 04, 2025
NJ Space Grant Consortium Undergraduate Summer Internships	\$5,000	March 04, 2025
YCF Scholarships	\$5,000	March 04, 2025
ASHG DNA Day Essay Contest	\$1,000	March 05, 2025
Coastal Community Foundation Scholarships	\$5,000	March 05, 2025
Doris Kallina / 'Nez Muhleman Scholarship	\$25,000	March 05, 2025
Melanie Foundation Scholarship	\$10,000	March 05, 2025
North Central Massachusetts Chamber of Commerce Scholarships	\$2,000	March 05, 2025
Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community Endowed Scholarship	\$28,000	March 05, 2025
Udall Scholarship	\$7,000	March 05, 2025
AFA Scholarships	\$3,200	March 06, 2025
Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program	\$5,000	March 06, 2025
McDonald's HACER National Scholarship	\$100,000	March 06, 2025

From the Maven (mavensnotebook.com):

Imperial Valley's first lithium project moving forward again after court denies legal challenge

“Development of a major lithium project in northern Imperial County is lurching ahead after a county judge threw out a lawsuit that had frozen construction for close to a year. The planned [Hell's Kitchen Project](#) would be the region's first operational commercial lithium extraction plant. Situated near the Salton Sea, it aims to collect dissolved particles of the valuable mineral from searing hot water deep below the valley and is being built by the privately-held energy firm Controlled Thermal Resources, or CTR. The lawsuit that blocked it was brought early last year by two environmental justice groups, [Comite Civico del Valle](#) and [Earthworks](#). They accused Imperial County officials of rushing their environmental analysis of the plant and underestimating its future impacts on the region's water, air and tribal cultural resources. ...”

[Read more from KPBS.](#)

Is Lake Mead in peril? Snowpack declines in the West, worrying some

“Water managers aren't in for the exceptional year they had hoped for, with snowpack across the West underperforming in the latest federal update, released Wednesday. In the Upper Colorado River Basin, where the majority of the flow into Lake Mead originates, snowpack sits at 85 percent of the historic median — a noticeable decline from January numbers that put it closer to 95 percent. The Spring Mountains in Southern Nevada, important for flows to rural groundwater users, continues to fall short, at zero percent of the median as of Wednesday. Tom Albright, a UNR professor who serves as Nevada's deputy state climatologist, said Southern Nevada's dry streak — more than 200 days of no measurable rain and nearly nonexistent snowfall — is a harbinger of what's to come throughout the West” [Read more from the Las Vegas Review Journal.](#)

Top Colorado River official pushed to resign by Trump

“One of the West's top water officials was pushed to resign by the Trump administration. Anne Castle was appointed to serve as federal representative to the Upper Colorado River Commission by the Biden administration in 2022. It's not uncommon for her position to turn over with a change in the White House. But Castle says she's worried about the future under Trump. She says recent orders to release water from California reservoirs were based on a “total lack of understanding about how the system works.” “While it's rational, I think, for us to think that the Colorado River system and its policy direction isn't partisan, and therefore may be safe ... while that's rational to think, these are not rational orders,” Castle said....” [Read more from KJZZ.](#)

The Colorado River is salty. But where does salinity come from, and what's being done about it?

“Of all the challenges facing the Colorado River, there's at least one that all stakeholders are working on collaboratively, not competitively — salinity. Since 1974, the seven Colorado River basin states — Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming — have coordinated efforts to implement salinity control in the waterway as part of the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum. The forum was created by the U.S. Congress, flowing funding through the Bureau of Reclamation to reduce the salt load in the river and research the issue. “The fact that the seven states, despite all of the scratching and kicking that's going on on the

water quantity side, still meet twice a year, collegially with the bureau, and everybody works together. It's quite remarkable and sort of an anomaly," said David Robbins, a water and environmental attorney who has been involved with the salinity control program and forum on behalf of Colorado since 1975. ... " [Read more from Summit Daily](#).

EPA lifts spending freeze on some environmental funding

"The Environmental Protection Agency on Tuesday directed agency officials to allow the disbursement of funds from at least some programs under the bipartisan infrastructure law and Inflation Reduction Act that had been paused since Jan. 20, according to an internal memo viewed by POLITICO. The memo cites a ruling by a federal judge on Monday that barred agencies from enforcing any remaining elements of the Trump administration's spending freeze. "Consistent with the Order, the agency's financial system will now enable the obligation of financial assistance," wrote EPA's acting chief financial officer, Gregg Trembl. "This includes programs within the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and the Inflation Reduction Act, including federal financial assistance in the State and Tribal Assistance Grants, Brownfields, and Superfund." ... " [Read more from Politico](#).

Megadroughts have grown in size and scope

"Megadroughts, or multiyear droughts that are exceptionally severe, long-lasting, or widespread, can plague vegetation, deplete water supplies, wreak havoc on agriculture, and contribute to erosion and wildfire severity. And they've been on the rise for the past 40 years, according to a new study published in *Science*. As the climate warms, the total land area affected by multiyear droughts has expanded by 50,000 square kilometers, or more than 12 million acres, each year, researchers report. In the new study, scientists created the first global catalog of long-lasting drought events since 1980 and how they have affected vegetation, then ranked the events in terms of severity. "We found out that there are many of these [multiyear droughts] all over the world, and if you look at the trends, they're increasing in size, intensity, and impact," said Pascal Buri, a glaciologist at the University of Alaska Fairbanks and one of the authors of the study. ... " [Read more from EOS](#).

[Kansas reckons with large tuberculosis outbreak as health officials hamstrung](#)

The Gulf of Mexico's Long History of Colonization and Varying Names

Long before Trump expressed interest in a name change, conquerors have battled to claim the wealth of its rich waters.

<https://www.bunkhistory.org/resources/the-gulf-of-mexicos-long-history-of-colonization-and-varying-names>

Rep. Huffman secures \$3 million for Weaver Creek habitat restoration implementation

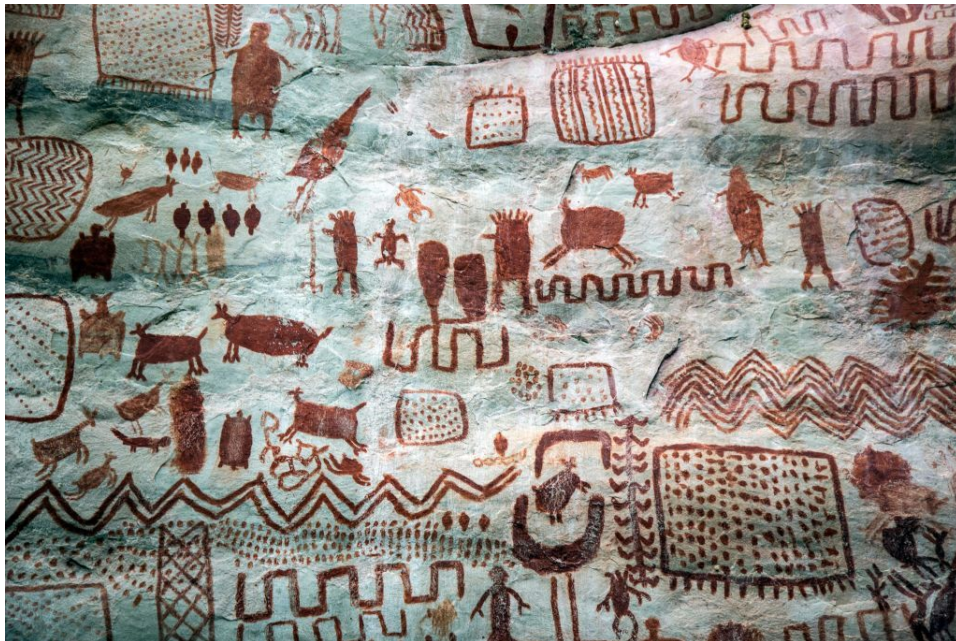
"Today, U.S. Representative Jared Huffman (CA-02) announced that he secured \$3 million in federal funding for the Yurok Tribe Fisheries Department for habitat restoration along Weaver

Creek in California's 2nd District. Funds for this grant were awarded through the Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART program. The Yurok Tribe Fisheries Department will create instream habitat and develop new [floodplain](#) areas along the upper section of Weaver Creek, a [tributary](#) to the Trinity River. The project will control the spread of invasive plant species, establish habitat connectivity during summertime baseflow conditions, and support populations of threatened Coho Salmon. ... ” [Read more from Congressman Jared Huffman](#).
(found in my drafts and now hoping status not changed)

Researchers Studied a 11,000-Year-Old Rock Art Motif—and Uncovered a Fascinating Story

The 12-mile-long piece of art depicted humans transforming into animals.

By [Tim Newcomb](#) Published: Feb 04, 2025 8:00 AM EST



DIANA SANCHEZ//Getty Images

- Deep in the Colombian Amazon, a team of scholars worked with Indigenous elders to interpret a 12-mile-long stretch of 11,000-year-old rock art.
- Researchers now believe that the art tells a spiritual story of an interconnecting human and non-human world.
- The animals shown on the rocks weren't likely a direct interpretation of life, rather a spiritual transformation that a human underwent.

More: https://www.popularmechanics.com/science/archaeology/a63633494/amazon-rock-art/?utm_source=firefox-newtab-en-us