

Journal #5920 from sdc 2.17.25

Shewly yours

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Verna Plympton



A tiny, elusive mammal native to a small stretch of the Sierra Nevada has been photographed for the first time by a team led by UC Berkeley student researchers.

https://nature.berkeley.edu/news/2025/01/california-s-most-elusive-mammal-photographed-first-time?utm_placement=newsletter&user_id=66c4c6935d78644b3ab73873

Tribal Organizations Say Trump’s Mass Layoffs Have Life-or-Death Consequences

Opposition mounts to the layoff of thousands of workers in health, education and other key tribal programs and agencies.

<https://truthout.org/articles/tribal-organizations-say-trumps-mass-layoffs-have-life-or-death-consequences/>

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** February 14, 2025

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### **Under Threat: Nevada’s National Monuments Face Critical Federal Review**

**[\\*\\*CLICK HERE TO VIEW A COMPREHENSIVE HISTORY OF THE EFFORTS TO HONOR AVI KWA AME AS NEVADA’S NEWEST NATIONAL MONUMENT\\*](#)**

**NEVADA** — The Department of the Interior, under recent federal directives, has launched a comprehensive review of the protective status of several national monuments across the United States, including key sites in Nevada such as Avi Kwa Ame. This review could lead to a reassessment of land designations that have historically restricted mining and energy development activities. The aim is to evaluate whether changes are necessary to the current management and protection levels of these lands to better align with broader economic and policy objectives set by the Administration.

**Mathilda Guerrero Miller, Government Relations Director of Indigenous Voices of Nevada, issued the following statement:**

“As we confront the federal review of Nevada’s national monuments, we must emphasize the sacred nature of these lands—cherished ancestral lands of Indigenous communities. These landscapes, including Avi Kwa Ame, represent far more than natural beauty; they embody the deep spiritual and cultural heritage of Native peoples who have been their stewards since time immemorial. Our dedication to protecting these sacred landscapes is unwavering, and we are committed to continuing our efforts to honor and preserve these crucial parts of our nation’s history and culture. We stand united in the fight to ensure that these lands remain respected and intact, guided by the voices and wisdom of the Indigenous communities to whom these lands are sacred. This is not merely a policy issue—it’s a moral imperative to safeguard our shared heritage.”

**Mandi Elliott, Executive Director of the Nevada Outdoor Business Coalition, issued the following statement:**

“It is an unequivocal fact that national monuments improve local economies. By threatening the newly appointed national monuments, the rural communities surrounding them are also being threatened. To revoke the national monument status of Avi Kwa Ame would be to spit in the face of the Nevadans, who widely supported the designation.”

**Jocelyn Torres, Nevada-based Chief Conservation Officer of the Conservation Lands Foundation, issued the following statement:**

“Conducting a secret, slap dash review of national monuments shows that this administration knows how popular these public lands are and is scared of public scrutiny. Nevadans continue to show their love for public lands, including during the first Trump administration’s attempt to privatize Nevada’s sacred, historic and recreationally and culturally significant landscapes - Gold Butte and Basin and Range National Monuments.

*“With roughly 85% of BLM lands already available for energy production and Nevada’s monuments having little to no oil and gas potential, it’s crystal clear that these recent orders targeting the 15% of public lands that are protected for the public’s use have nothing to do with the nation’s energy portfolio and instead are sneaky attacks to sell off our public lands.”*

**Mitch Fry, President of Friends of Gold Butte, issued the following statement:**

“We, the Board of Directors for Friends of Gold Butte, urge President Trump, Secretary Burgum, and all elected officials to preserve our national monument, Gold Butte, and all national monuments in our country.

*“Our national monuments have for generations allowed us to safeguard our water, wildlife, and ways of life. The landscapes, waterways, and stories they preserve are fundamentally a part of the American identity. That’s why, since 1906, millions of Americans and Presidents of both parties have valued the Antiquities Act as a tool to preserve these lands and all they represent to all Americans.”*

**Kristee Watson, Executive Director of Nevada Conservation League, issued the following statement:**

“Our western way of life in Nevada was built on resilience, gratitude, and respect. Values that start at our kitchen tables and extend beyond to our public lands and national monuments like Avi Kwa Ame, Gold Butte, and Basin and Range. Over the last year, 81% of Nevadans visited a national park, forest, monument, or wildlife refuge because we love our land. Outdoor recreation drives economic growth through jobs and tourism and contributes \$8.1 billion to our state’s GDP. For over 119 years, regardless of political party, leaders have listened to a chorus of voices, from hunters and anglers, to tribal leaders and conservationists, to grant protection of the Wild West as we know it. The Department of the Interior and [billionaire Secretary Burgum’s](#) overreach to reassess monument designations is an attack on our state’s thriving outdoor economy, our tribal communities, and our freedom.”

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**About Indigenous Voices of Nevada:** *Indigenous Voices of Nevada (IVN) is a bold force in the fight to protect Nevada’s sacred landscapes, defend its public lands, and preserve the cultural lifeblood of Indigenous communities. Rooted in resilience and powered by action, IVN amplifies Indigenous voices to safeguard the places that define our identity and history. Through transformative voter education and sustainable stewardship, we equip communities to lead the charge in protecting the natural and cultural legacy of our state. Together, we are reclaiming our stories, amplifying our sovereignty, and our future. Learn more and join the movement at <https://www.indigenousvoicesofnevada.org/>.*

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**[https://www.tcenergy.com/community-giving/scholarships/US/Former Interior Secretary Deb Haaland announces run for New Mexico governor](https://www.tcenergy.com/community-giving/scholarships/US/Former%20Interior%20Secretary%20Deb%20Haaland%20announces%20run%20for%20New%20Mexico%20governor)
Former House member would be first Native American woman to serve as governor if elected**

Deb Haaland, a former Democratic House member and Interior secretary under Joe Biden, launched a run for New Mexico governor on Tuesday.

Haaland would be the nation's first Native American woman to serve as a governor if she is elected to succeed term-limited Democratic Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham, herself a former House lawmaker.

In [a video message](#) kicking off her campaign, Haaland emphasized kitchen table issues, pledging to lower costs and make rent and housing affordable. "New Mexico is rich in tradition and spirit," she said. "Rich in natural resources. So why can't our families pay our bills?"

Haaland also addressed crime and addiction in her video and said she intends to travel the state to hear directly from New Mexicans.

Haaland, who was the losing Democratic lieutenant governor nominee in 2014, is the biggest name to enter the race so far. Democratic Sen. Martin Heinrich [opted against a bid](#) last month, saying in a statement that "New Mexico needs a strong voice in Washington now more than ever." No major Republican has announced a campaign as yet, although former Rep. Yvette Herrell and 2024 Senate candidate Nella Domenici have been mentioned as potential contenders.

Haaland's video message emphasized her personal struggles. She raised a child on her own and relied on food stamps for groceries. "In my life, I've learned that nothing comes easy," she said. "I worked at the local bakery, sold my homemade salsa, cleaned at my child's preschool to reduce the bill."

Haaland, a former chair of the New Mexico Democratic Party, was first elected to the House in 2018, when she and Kansas Rep. Sharice Davids became the [first Native American women](#) elected to Congress. She resigned in 2021 to join the Biden administration as Interior secretary, again making history as the first Native American to serve as a Cabinet secretary.

She is the first former Biden Cabinet secretary to formally announce a 2026 campaign, but at least two others are considering bids. Former Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg is weighing a run for [Michigan's open Senate seat](#). And former Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra [is said to be "strongly considering"](#) the open governorship in California, a position for which former Vice President Kamala Harris [could also be a contender](#).

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**Nevada Highway Patrol facing critical vacancy levels ([kolotv.com](http://kolotv.com))** — The Nevada Highway Patrol is struggling with a critical trooper shortage, particularly affecting Reno. With only 24 active troopers out of the ideal 60, the agency faces challenges in maintaining round-the-clock public safety.

## [Alt National Park Service](#)

### **Intro**

**The official "Resistance" team of U.S. National Park Service. Our mission is to stand up for the National Park Service to help protect and preserve the environment for present and future generations.**

“Trump claimed that DOGE has uncovered billions in “fraud, waste, and abuse.” However, no evidence has been provided, and all public fraud claims from both Elon Musk and Trump have been debunked as false.

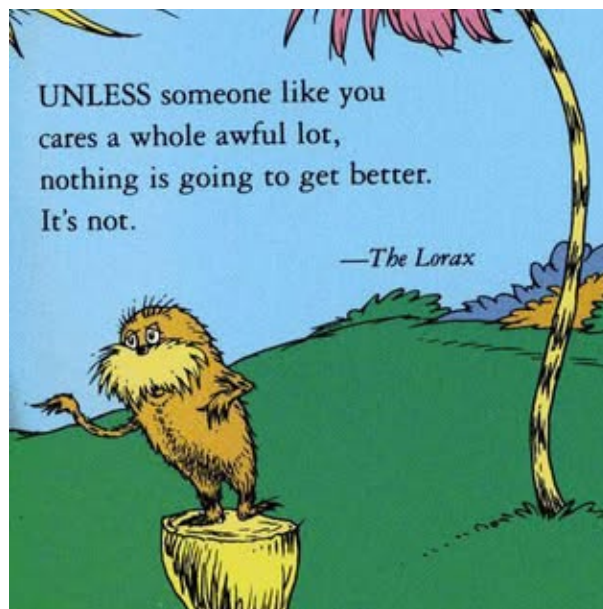
Elon Musk plans to file a financial disclosure report to the White House, though it will remain confidential.

Yesterday, the White House announced that Mr. Musk’s office, the United States DOGE Service, is now shielded from public records requests and most judicial oversight until at least 2034, with its documents classified as presidential records. This means Americans can no longer file Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests regarding its activities.

If there’s nothing to hide, hide nothing!”

2.11

Judge John D. Bates of the D.C. Federal District Court has ordered the CDC to temporarily restore pages removed from its website to comply with Trump’s executive order barring references to race, gender identity, or sexual orientation. The judge stated that these deletions put “everyday Americans, and most acutely, underprivileged Americans,” at risk.



## **HISTORY BITS**

- 1585 Feb 17** Columbus's second expedition to the New World sent 550 Native Americans to Spain as slaves (only 350 survived the trip).
- 1821 Feb 21** The first issue of the Cherokee Phoenix appeared, was published until 1834, was later revived and still in publication.
- 1861 Feb 18** Under pressure from federal officials, Cheyenne and Arapaho tribal leaders agreed to surrender much of Colorado that was guaranteed to them by an 1851 treaty only to face the fierce opposition of their tribes to the land cession.
- 1881 Feb 20** Matt Canavaan, prominent citizen on the Constock, said "Among these Indians no one has ever found a harlot, a coward or a thief."
- 1890 Feb 19** An order was issued to Pyrami Lake tribal members prohibiting them from fishing on their reservation between January 15 and March 15.
- 1893 Feb 21** Nevada Legislature's Ways and Means Committee reported a resolution calling Congress to take Warlker River away from natives "on grounds that Pyramid Reservation is sufficient for the Indians, and Walker Reservation is mostly mining country such as the Indians have no use for."
- 1900 Feb 20** Chief Washakie died and was buried with full U.S. military honors and with a funeral train that stretched for miles.
- 1902 Feb 22** Indian agent Fred Spriggs denied that there was smallpox on the Pyramid Lake reservation and also denied that there was a quarantine in force.
- 1911 Feb 21** Comanche chief Quanah Parker walked on, buried at Fort Sill.
- 1944 Feb 22** Near Padiglione, Italy, **Lt. Jack Montgomery**, a Cherokee from Oklahoma, single handedly attacked three enemy positions that were firing on his unit, took prisoners and received the Medal of Honor.
- 1964 Feb 18** The Atomic Energy Commission invited utilities to submit proposals for a nuclear facility capable of generating 150,000 kilowatts.
- 1986 Feb 17** Timbisha Shoshone Constitution was certified.
- 1986 Feb 19** The US finally ratified the 1947 Genocide Convention, 39 years after the December 9, 1947, adoption by the General Assembly of the UN and 37 years after the June 16, 1949 submission by President Truman, one of eight presidents who asked for its ratification.

**A program to close insurance gaps for Native Americans has gone largely unused.** Last year, a tribal health insurance sponsorship program in Nevada was introduced. The program offers coverage for Native Americans through the Affordable Care Act marketplace and allows tribes to pay the premiums for their members, increasing access to care outside the tribal system. It has helped many in Nevada, with more tribes expected to join. However, there are concerns about the expiration of enhanced tax credits that could increase premiums. ([Via KFF Health News](#))

**Mt. Trumpmore.** While the House GOP pushes to slash Medicaid in the name of fiscal austerity, a Republican lawmaker has introduced legislation to spend big money adding President Donald Trump to Mt. Rushmore. The project has no official price tag — but one expert estimated that labor costs alone would be \$64 million. The Lever

**Nevada turns to thermal imaging to curb semi-truck crashes** ([mynews4.com](#)) — Nevada Highway Patrol is introducing thermal imaging vans to enhance road safety, with plans to deploy them in Reno this spring. These vans can quickly identify safety issues in semi-trucks and help combat human trafficking.

**Licensing test contributing to shortage of psychologists in Nevada, say critics** ([rgj.com](#)) — Nevada faces a shortage of psychologists due to a controversial licensing test, the EPPP-2, which critics say is racially biased. The University of Nevada, **Reno**, is highlighted as a key training ground, but the test's requirements are driving graduates to seek licensure in other states.

**Eel River pact redresses past wrongs, provides model for compromise among diverse interests, officials say**

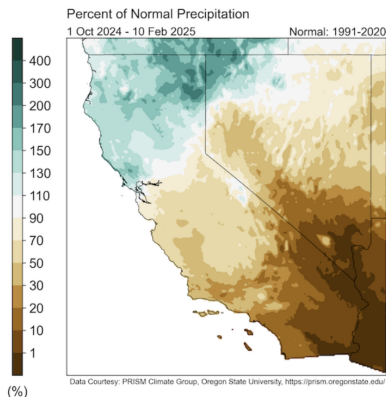
“There was emotion in the room Thursday as public officials from around the North Coast gathered in Sacramento for a ceremonial signing. They were putting their names to a historic agreement on the future of the Eel River that secures crucial water supplies for the Russian River [watershed](#) while redressing past oversights and injustices. Negotiated over more than six years to chart a way forward once Pacific Gas & Electric decommissions its Potter Valley powerhouse and tears out dams that have degraded the Eel River and imperiled fish species, the multiparty pact gives equal attention to river restoration needs and to modernizing water diversions for Russian River users in Sonoma and Mendocino counties. In the process, it confers Eel River water rights to the Round Valley Indian Tribes in northeast Mendocino County, requiring beneficiaries on the Russian River to pay them \$1 million a year for the privilege of transferring water from the Eel into the Russian River. ...” [Read more from the Santa Rosa Press Democrat](#). SEE ALSO:

- [Natural Resources Agency thanks Tribal leaders, Northern California counties and conservation groups for their leadership as historic agreement announced to secure water reliability in the Russian River, benefit salmon on the Eel River](#), press release from state agencies

[On January 21, 2025 Trump issued an Executive Order called “ENDING ILLEGAL DISCRIMINATION AND RESTORING MERIT-BASED OPPORTUNITY” https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/ending-illegal-discrimination-and-restoring-merit-based-opportunity/](https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/ending-illegal-discrimination-and-restoring-merit-based-opportunity/) Among much else, it revoked Executive Order 12898 of February 11, 1994 (Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations)

Principal Man Ian Zabarte, Western Bands of the Shoshone Nation of Indians  
Treaty of Ruby Valley (Consolidated Treaty Series Vol. 127 1863)

## Drought status update for California-Nevada



“A record-setting dry start to the water year in southern California and Nevada led to Extreme Drought (D3) in the region—and now Exceptional Drought (D4) in Nevada—according to the U.S. Drought Monitor. The first four months of Water Year 2025 were among the top three driest October–January periods on record for California’s South Coast Drainage (2nd driest) and Southeast Desert Basin (3rd driest) climate divisions and Nevada’s South Central (3rd driest) and Extreme Southern (driest) climate divisions. A recent storm and an ongoing atmospheric river are bringing much needed precipitation to central and southern California and Nevada. This will mitigate some of the most acute drought impacts, but drought conditions will remain. Drought preparedness is key for California and Nevada. After the ongoing atmospheric river event, outlooks suggest a lull in precipitation over the next 2 weeks and potentially beyond. ... ” [Read more from NIDIS](#).

### **‘Terrible and dangerous’: Federal cuts threaten critical Tahoe avalanche forecasting service**

“For a growing number of people who ski and snowboard out of bounds and in the backcountry, the daily avalanche forecasts written by the Sierra Avalanche Center provide crucial, life-saving information about the stability of the snowpack and the risk of avalanches in Lake Tahoe and the Sierra Nevada. But the Sierra Avalanche Center announced this week that due to ongoing staff cuts by the federal government, it may have no choice but to cut back on the number of forecasts it issues. The center currently works with three forecasters who are employed by the U.S. Forest Service. They cover a 200-square-mile region that stretches from Sierraville to Bear Valley, including Donner Pass, Truckee and the entire Lake Tahoe Basin. ... ” [Read more from SF Gate](#).

### **Arizona senators say federal funding freeze is putting Colorado River at risk**

“Colorado River conservation programs have stopped receiving money from the federal government, despite temporary restraining orders intended to halt the Trump Administration’s funding freeze. KNAU’s Melissa Sevigny reports. Arizona Senators Mark Kelly and Ruben Gallego raised concerns this week that Colorado River programs are no longer receiving money from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act. The Senators say freezing these funds could “undo the collaboration and careful planning needed to keep the Colorado River flowing.” ... ” [Read more from KNAU](#).



## **The water fate of thousands may rest with the Arizona Supreme Court**

Opinion columnist Joanna Allhands writes, “We don’t yet know whether the Arizona Supreme Court will agree to intervene in a dustup between Chandler and the Roosevelt Water Conservation District (RWCD). Or if it does, how the court might rule. But this case should be a cautionary tale for all of Arizona: We’re going to see more disputes like this as water grows scarcer and competition for supplies grows. It’s in all our best interests to resolve them before the fate of thousands (or even millions) of water users rests with a black-and-white court order. ...” Read more from Arizona Central.

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## **McMahon says Trump’s plan to close Education Department would need Congress’ approval**



Linda McMahon, the former CEO of a professional wrestling and entertainment juggernaut and Donald Trump’s pick as Education secretary, told senators Thursday that the president’s plan to dismantle the Education Department would need congressional approval. [Read more...](#)

## **Senate confirms RFK Jr. for HHS secretary**

The Senate voted Thursday morning to confirm Robert F. Kennedy Jr. to serve as Health and Human Services secretary. The final vote was 52-48, with Sen. Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., a polio survivor, becoming the only Republican to vote against Kennedy. [Read more...](#)

## **Rollins confirmed as Agriculture secretary**



The Senate on Thursday confirmed Brooke Rollins to be Agriculture secretary by a vote of 72-28, giving her the reins of a department trying to distribute \$10 billion in recently appropriated farm aid and tackle the bird flu outbreak. [Read more...](#)

## **Quick animal fact #25:**



Most bobcats are not named bob

*Like many others, this missive arrived after I sent out the Valentine issue: (edited)*

**This Valentine's Day, we are coming together to show that Nevadans love public lands and believe in the importance of preserving them now more than ever. Join us as we share that message with our community and with our representatives, who can help us protect these lands.**

*If you missed our last email, check out Board President Ron Safran's important update about defending our National Monuments [here](#).*

Join us **today** in shouting out the love for Public Lands in Nevada all over social media!

Pick a sample post from the list below or write your own (just remember to let love rule and keep it positive).

Nevadans LOVE public lands! My favorite is ***(insert your favorite Nevada landscape here)*** #NVlovespubliclands

I LOVE ***(insert your favorite Nevada landscape name here)*** because ***(your reason)*** #NVlovespubliclands ❤️

We 🙌 ***(insert your favorite Nevada landscape)*** and we want ***(insert your recipient here)*** to know it and help us fight for it! #NVlovespubliclands

Cactus are prickly, Nevada skies blue, I love public lands, and so should you! #NVlovespubliclands

Public lands are our treasures, let's make sure they shine for generations to come by taking care of them and preserving as much as we can #NVlovespubliclands

Remember to use the tags **#NVlovespubliclands** and **#ActNowForPublicLands** and tag **your Valentine recipient** whenever you can.

Want to support the work we are doing? Become a member, donate or volunteer with Friends of Avi Kwa Ame National Monument!

Tag your representatives on social media:

Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto

X/twitter @SenCortezMasto

Instagram @sencortezmasto

Facebook @SenatorCortezMasto

Sen. Jacky Rosen

X/twitter @senjackyrosen

Instagram @senjackyrosen

Facebook @SenJackyRosen

Rep. Dina Titus

X/twitter @repdinatitus

Instagram @dinatitusnv

Facebook @CongresswomanTitus

Rep. Susie Lee

X/twitter @RepSusieLee

Instagram @repsusielee

Facebook @RepSusieLee

Rep. Steven Horsford

X/twitter @RepHorsford

Instagram @rephorsford

Facebook @RepHorsford

Rep. Mark Amodei

X/twitter @MarkAmodeiNV2

Instagram @markamodeinv2

Facebook @MarkAmodeiNV2

Gov. Joe Lombardo

X/twitter @joelombardonv

Instagram @joelombardonv

Facebook @JoeLombardoNV



In loving memory of

# Verna Plympton

November 17, 1938 - February 11, 2025



**Wednesday February 19, 2025**

**Nixon Gymnasium - Nixon, NV**

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

**Burial at Nixon Cemetery**

**Dinner to follow at Nixon Gymnasium**

**Food donations appreciated.**