

## ***Journal #5928 from sdc 2.27.25***

*Nevada - with unique history with land and water, a surprisingly diverse place for wildlife*

*If you support firing of me and my cohorts, please see yourself off my friends list. I won't miss you.*

*Depth of federal worker firings unknown in Nevada, but impact already being felt*

*'Utter chaos': 3 Nevadans recount losing jobs in sweeping federal cuts*

*Archaeologists Found Ancient Tools That Contradict the Timeline of Civilization*

*Librarians - the unsung heroines/heroes*

*MuckRock News*

*Open govt coalition urges Supreme Ct to support prompt responses to public records request*

*Apple to expand in Nevada as part of \$500 billion US pledge*

*Massive Victory Logistics District project grows near Reno*

*Predictions of the future made by experts in 2009*

*Record 9 wild condor chicks fledged in 2024*

*Vox explains coming crisis for national parks in two simple charts*

*US Geological Survey provides another clue for "hidden" archives*



Nevada has a unique history with water and land, making it a surprisingly diverse place for wildlife. But recent pressures threaten its species.

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[Jessica Harkreader updated her profile picture.](#)

Dear Friends,

I am a federal employee. I am a real person with a real family. I joined the American government workforce 5 years ago and have worked extremely hard to get where I am.

I am a subject matter expert in the Indian trust and restricted assets field. I have 20 years of experience under my belt. I have a Master's of Jurisprudence in Indian Law and a Bachelor's of Science in Paralegal Studies.

I am not lazy. I am not corrupt. I am not dumb. Contrary to what a certain narcissist and billionaire would have you believe, 98% of us want to be in the office 5 days a week.

Federal civilian employees make up 1.87% or roughly 3 million people who work tirelessly for you and the American government. Cutting these jobs without a plan is going to have a terrible ripple effect on you, me, and our economy.

Don't tell me it's about efficiency. It's not. What's going to happen when the work isn't getting done because there's no one to do the work? It just doesn't make sense.

So, if you support the firing of me and my cohorts, please see yourself off my friends list.

Promise I won't miss you.

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### **[Depth of federal worker firings unknown in Nevada, but impact already being felt](#)**

Five newly appointed park rangers at Great Basin National Park in Nevada were unexpectedly dismissed following the Trump administration's directive to terminate nearly all recent hires across federal agencies, potentially compromising visitor safety and affecting local communities.



[Read more...](#)

### **['Utter chaos': 3 Nevadans recount losing jobs in sweeping federal cuts](#)**

In Nevada, agencies that manage public land and water were hit hard by the Trump administration's "Valentine's Day Massacre."

[Vox](#) explains the crisis coming for our national parks in two simple charts.

People brace for impacts on land, water and wildlife after feds fire thousands during the holiday weekend, [High Country News](#) reports.



## Archaeologists Found Ancient Tools That Contradict the Timeline of Civilization

Sophisticated seafaring technology may actually have originated in the islands of Southeast Asia

By [Tim Newcomb](#) Published: Feb 25, 2025 9:30 AM EST



John Seaton Callahan//Getty Images

- Stone tool analysis of sites in Southeast Asia provided evidence that the area was a technological leader in seafaring.
- Archaeology supports that, 40,000 years ago, the people living in Southeast Asia were well-versed in boatbuilding and open-sea fishing.
- This research puts Southeast Asia ahead of Europe and Africa in technological process.

More at [https://www.popularmechanics.com/science/archaeology/a63870396/ancient-boats-southeast-asia/?utm\\_source=firefox-newtab-en-us](https://www.popularmechanics.com/science/archaeology/a63870396/ancient-boats-southeast-asia/?utm_source=firefox-newtab-en-us)

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*Another instance of librarians as heroines/heros*

**Adopted in secrecy: With help from TMCC's Open Genealogy Lab, Randall Lorenz learned his true birth story—and finally met his biological family**

<https://renonr.com/2025/02/27/adopted-in-secrecy-with-help-from-tmccs-open-genealogy-lab-randall-lorenz-learned-his-true-birth-story-and-finally-met-his-biological-family/>

## MuckRock News

### Join us on FOIAFriday!

FOIAFriday is coming up this Friday at 1 p.m. ET, featuring MuckRock's Data Reporter, Dillon Bergin. FOIAFriday questions and gets into the weeds on a variety of topics in FOIA and state public records laws.

This month, we'll be talking about how you can sue for public records, background businesses and more!

[Register](#)

#### Exposing the history of human radiation experiments

Historical records can be powerful sources for reporting, and helping readers explore primary documents on their own can give your investigation extra credibility. The San Francisco Public Press used DocumentCloud to investigate U.S. military experiments in their "[Exposed](#)" [investigative series](#). See how they organized, explored and preserved fading paper records in their conversation with MuckRock.

[Read more](#)

#### New MuckRock user guide

MuckRock has consolidated all of our technical documentation into one central location at [help.muckrock.com](http://help.muckrock.com) for easier access. Other key updates include the release of a Python wrapper for the new MuckRock API and an update to the Python wrapper for DocumentCloud.

<https://muckrock.us2.list-manage.com/track/click?u=74862d74361490eca930f4384&id=1fa8a3bc9a&e=ce3c056e9b>

The Data Liberation Project is looking for volunteers for the upcoming projects. Join us on [the Data Liberation Project Slack](#) to learn more.

- Register for the upcoming [DLP Orientation and Update on March 13](#). We will share updates on existing projects and welcome new members with a walkthrough of how to contribute.
- Airlines sometimes extend [credit to political candidates](#), and we received a [PDF from the Department of Transportation](#) on this. We need someone to do a [small amount of documentation](#) before being published.

- We submitted a request seeking all database records stored in [FEMA's HOMES dataset](#), plus all relevant database documentation, and received [80 spreadsheets and tables](#) that [need documenting](#).
- We requested the Department of Education's [records explaining their data](#) on student loans, and they sent [thousands of pages in PDFs](#). We need someone to take a look at these docs and [summarize them](#).
- The DOE also sent us a [spreadsheet](#) on students in its [Cancer Treatment Deferment program](#), and we need someone to [document](#) this as well

Calendar:

**Mar 6-9** MuckRock staff will be attending NICAR25 (<https://www.ire.org/training/conferences/nicar-2025/>) in Minneapolis, presenting on public records, free tools and more.

**Mar 19-20** Celebrating the 20th anniversary of national Sunshine Week, Sunshine Fest (<https://sunshineweek.org/sunshine-fest/>) is organizing an in-person conference to find solutions to pressing problems in freedom of information and public records.

### The Update

- **Police misconduct database shuts down:** The first nationwide database tracking misconduct by federal police officers has been shut down by President Donald Trump, [reports Tom Jackman and Elizabeth Dvoskin at the Washington Post](#). Researchers say the database improved public safety by helping to prevent bad officers from jumping to new agencies and starting over with clean records.
- **FOIA under Trump:** The recent firings of staff responsible for handling FOIA requests have left some transparency advocates worried about access to government records under President Donald Trump, [reports Angela Fu at Poynter](#). With dwindling staff, experts worry that agencies will “be looking for more lenient production schedules.”
- **Now hiring:** The First Amendment Coalition is looking for [a full-time Programs Coordinator](#) to support their journalist education initiatives and other programs.

### [Open government coalition urges Supreme Court to support prompt responses to public records requests](#)

The Nevada Open Government Coalition, the Las Vegas Review-Journal, and the ACLU of Nevada have submitted an amicus brief requesting the Nevada Supreme Court to maintain the standard of timely and specific replies to public records requests.

## BIZARRO: By Wayno and Piraro



[Read more...](#)

### **Apple to expand in Nevada as part of \$500 billion US pledge**

The \$500 billion investment in Nevada and other states across U.S. was first teased by President Donald Trump after a meeting with CEO Tim Cook.



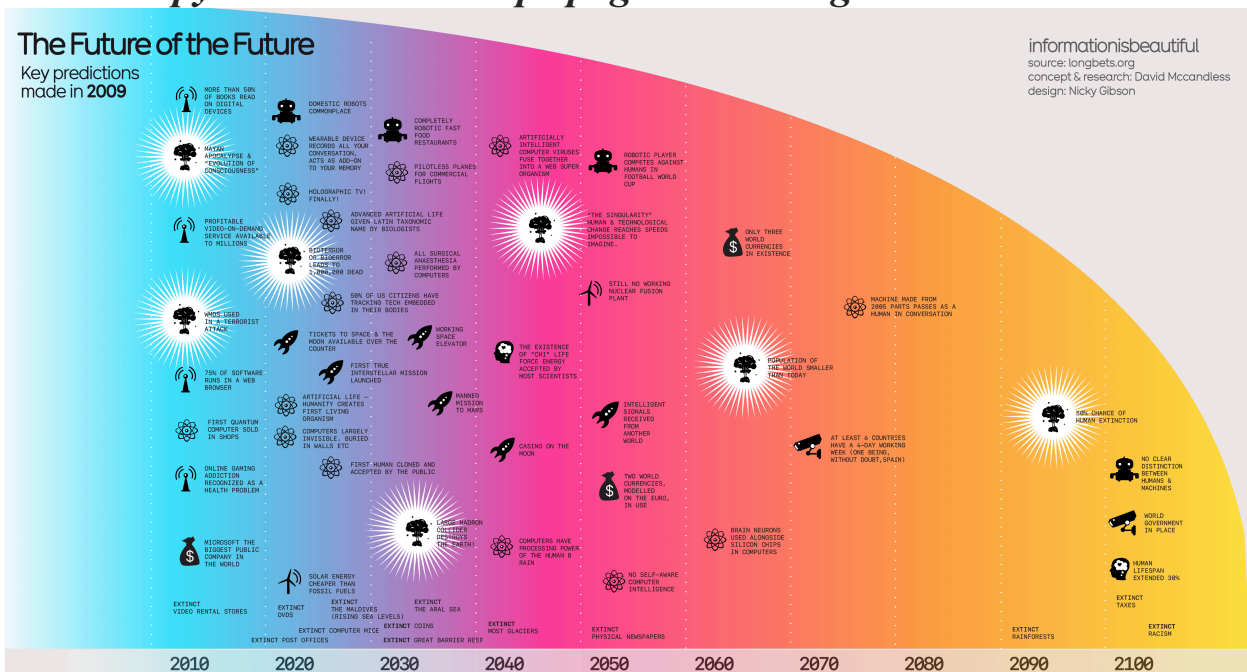
[READ MORE](#)

## Massive Victory Logistics District project grows near Reno

The Victory Logistics project boasts “tens of millions of square feet” and was the second-biggest land sale in Nevada history.

[READ MORE](#)

## Best to copy to a new landscape page and enlarge!



Predictions of the future made by experts in 2009. Interesting to see how (mostly) wrong & (sometimes) right they were.

Created for our book [Information is Beautiful](#)

Design by [Nicky Gibson](#)

Source: [Longbets.org](#)

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### Topics:

- [Science & Health](#)

- [Tech & Digital](#)

*Ed note: if any readers are so moved, you may want to comment on your community's status in 2009.....and any changes since!*

**Record 9 wild condor chicks fledged in 2024**, as Central California flock continues to grow By John FitzRandolph Special to The Tribune February 02, 2025 11:00 AM| 2 The chick survived with minor injuries and is recovering with both of her parents by her side after the Thomas Fire in Southern California. By U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Last year was an exceptional milestone for the Central California condor flock, as nine wild chicks fledged from their parents' nests, "the highest number of chicks (to fledge) in the program's history," reported Kelly Sorenson, executive director of Ventana Wildlife Society. Moreover, along with the release of 12 captive-bred juveniles (six in San Simeon, six at Pinnacles National Park) in the fall — and the fact that only three of the giant birds died in 2024 — the total number of free-flying condors in Central California (released from San Simeon, Big Sur and Pinnacles) has grown to 113, the highest total on record.

TOP VIDEOS In stark contrast, only four chicks fledged in 2023; there were 10 captive juvenile releases and eight condor deaths, bringing the total of free-flying condors up to 100. "Although we mourn every condor death," Sorenson said, "2024 marks an incredible event: Wild-fledged condors outnumbered total condor deaths in Central California." Pigwidgeon nurtures his condor chick in a hollowed-out redwood tree nest in Big Sur. The chick was one of eight to fledge in the wild in 2024. Pigwidgeon nurtures his condor chick in a hollowed-out redwood tree nest in Big Sur. The chick was one of eight to fledge in the wild in 2024. Meredith Evans Ventana Wildlife Society Condors vaccinated against bird flu Meanwhile, the wildlife society announced that 70% of the condor flock has been vaccinated against the menacing Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI), which has killed an estimated 280 million poultry birds worldwide.

In the U.S., over 20 million egg-laying chickens died from HPAI in the fourth quarter of 2024, according to the Centers for Disease Control. An estimated 130 million poultry have died in the U.S. since January 2022. This particularly virulent strain of bird flu has also killed tens of thousands of pelicans, geese, cranes and swans; additionally, the virus has spread to mammals, including dairy cattle. The inoculation of condors in Central California — and the development of quarantine pens in the event of an outbreak — are decisive steps in the safeguarding of the critically endangered birds that boast 9-1/2-foot wingspans and can fly up to 15,000 feet. Indeed, when HPAI arrived in Arizona in 2023, 25 condors in the Utah-Arizona flock succumbed, essentially kick-starting the VWS vaccination effort in California.

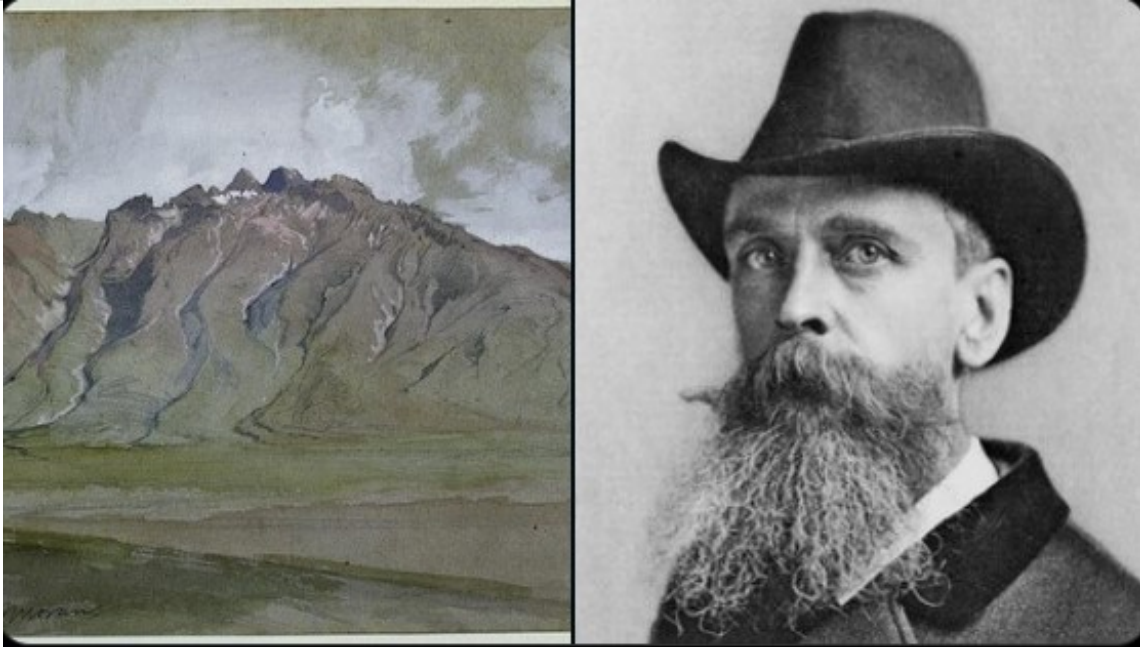
Success of Non-Lead Ammunition Program Why were there only three condor deaths in 2024? The partial answer, according to VWS, is that many hunters and ranchers are "switching to non-lead (copper) ammunition," reducing condors' mortality after ingesting lead from animal carcasses. Lead poisoning has been linked to the mortality of condors for years, leading to Assembly Bill 711, which sought to ban lead ammunition for hunting in California. It went into law on July 1, 2019. The wildlife society's Free Non-Lead Ammunition Program offers two boxes of ammo per household to qualified hunters and ranchers within the condor habitats. Since 2012, the VWS has provided 16,615 boxes of non-lead ammunition to hunters and ranchers. More information is available at [www.ventanaws.org/ammunition.html](http://www.ventanaws.org/ammunition.html).



Read more at: <https://www.sanluisobispo.com/news/local/environment/article299566564.html#storylink=cpy>

[Vox](#) explains the crisis coming for our national parks in two simple charts.

People brace for impacts on land, water and wildlife after feds fire thousands during the holiday weekend, [High Country News](#) reports.



Before cameras were commonplace, U.S. Geological Survey expedition painter Thomas Moran's sketches and watercolors captured some of the West's most magnificent features — his art is believed to have helped [Yellowstone get designated](#) as a national park in 1872.

His work included Elko's Ruby Mountains, pictured here in a painting from 1879.

*(Example of where one can find “hidden” archives. sdc)*



**Join Bay Nature and the Solano Land Trust at Patwino Worrta Kodoi Dihi Open Space Park for an out and back, 4-mile hike at this newly opened park on Saturday, March 8 from 9am - 11:30am.** “For the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation, Solano County’s new open space park is sacred land,” [writes](#) Anthony Roberts, Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation's tribal chairman in our Winter 2025 Issue. “We chose to name it Patwino Worrta Kodoi Dihi, which means “Southern Rock Home of the Patwin People.” We will start our hike at the park’s welcome plaza, take the All People's Trail, cut over to the left on the Doris Klein Ridge Trail, and then cross over to the Harmonia trail. We hope to see some of the flowers which grow along the trails, including sky lupine, California golden poppies, blue dips, purple owl’s clover, seep monkey flower, and goldfields. **This event is free for members and \$10 for nonmembers. Tickets are limited.**

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### **Eat a nutria, save the Delta from these invasive rodents**



“Federal wildlife officials are promoting a unique strategy to help eliminate nutria, the pesky critters that have invaded California’s Delta: Eat ’em. Turns out that nutria, a giant rodent that looks like an outsized guinea pig, can be a mouth-watering entree. “Their meat is lean, mild and tastes like rabbit,” the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service says, urging the consumption of nutria and four other bothersome invasive species. Nutrias have been particularly troublesome in the Delta because they can reproduce quickly and are tearing up the marshlands. A single female can birth up to 200 offspring in a year, and their burrowing causes erosion of riverbanks. Plus, they have a voracious appetite. A single nutria can consume up to 25% of its body weight in vegetation a day. ...” [Read more from Stocktonia.](#)

**SEE ALSO:** [The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Wants You to Eat These Giant, Invasive Rodents](#), from Smithsonian Magazine

### **What does it mean for western water management when the federal government becomes an unreliable partner?**

Jon Fleck writes, “I got a text message yesterday afternoon about this, which is nuts: “The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-Albuquerque District announced today that an unintended water release from Cochiti Dam may increase flood risk on the Rio Grande in the river channel, riverbanks, and floodway. The cause of the unintended water release was a procedural error during routine maintenance.” Accidentally dumping 8,000 cubic feet per second into a river channel that hasn’t seen that much water since 1985 is a big deal. The gage data suggests the river level rose four feet basically instantaneously. I’ve been thinking a lot lately about the stuff the federal government does in water management in the United States that we used to be able to take for granted, like, for example *safely operate the dams*. ...” [Read more from the Inkstain blog.](#)

### **Fired federal employees in Humboldt County say their unjust terminations will impact the public**

“Danielle Bauman-Epstein knew there was a good chance that she’d be fired, but when it

actually happened it still hurt. “Honestly, I’m just devastated,” she said in a recent phone interview. “I loved my job so much. It was really a dream job.” A program specialist living and working at the Mad River Ranger District in Six Rivers National Forest, Bauman-Epstein said her job involved formalizing agreements between the U.S. Forest Service and outside organizations — nonprofits, tribes, universities, etc. — for projects ranging from climate change mitigation and wildfire reduction to workforce development, reforestation, tribal youth stewardship and more. “These agreements help disperse federal funds into local communities,” she explained. ... ” [Read more from the Lost Coast Outpost.](#)

### **EPA would shrink to 1970 staffing levels— ‘when the skies were dark with smog’ — under proposed plan**

“The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency would slash 65 percent of its workforce under plans that its administrator, Lee Zeldin, has discussed with the White House, President Donald Trump said Wednesday at his first cabinet meeting. Such a severe cutback would leave EPA with a staffing level on par with its workforce in its first year of existence, 1970, when it was responsible for only a fraction of the laws it now implements and enforces on clean water, air and land. Based on budget figures on the agency’s website, a 65 percent cut would bring the agency’s 15,130-person workforce down to about 5,300 full-time employees. “I spoke with Lee Zeldin, and he thinks he’s going to be cutting 65 or so percent of the people from environmental,” Trump said at the cabinet meeting where he laid out plans for massive layoffs across the federal government. “And we’re going to speed up the process, too, at the same time,” he said, apparently referring to a plan for quicker decision-making at EPA. ... ”

[Read more from Inside Climate News.](#)

### **RELATED: White House says Trump meant EPA will cut 65 percent of spending, not staff, from E&E News**

~~~~~ **US Forest Service firings decimate already understaffed agency:** ‘It’s catastrophic’“On a recent Friday afternoon, Marie Richards sat in her living room in northern Michigan. She was having a hard time talking about her job at the U.S. Forest Service in the past tense. “I absolutely loved my job,” she said. “I didn’t want to go.” Richards, a citizen of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, was a tribal relations specialist at the Huron-Manistee National Forests. In mid-February, she found out she was one of the some 3,400 workers who had been targeted for layoffs — an estimated 10 percent of the workforce — as part of the Trump administration’s move to cut costs and shrink the federal government. Richards watched as some of her colleagues were laid off on February 14 — the so-called Valentine’s Day massacre, when the Trump administration laid off thousands of probationary employees, generally hired within the past two years. She got a call from her supervisor that Saturday informing her that she had been let go, too. The letter she received cited performance issues, even though she, along with others in a similar position, had received a pay raise less than two months earlier. ... ” [Read more from Grist.](#)

### **Group sounds alarm over possible Corps of Engineers firings**

“The proposed firing of more than 2,000 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers federal employees, including more than 600 in the Pacific Northwest, would “dramatically” affect the Corps’ ability to execute its mission “safely and effectively,” the leader of the Pacific Northwest Waterways Association says. Association executive director Neil Maunu sent a letter opposing the proposed cuts to the Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington congressional delegations, the U.S. House

of Representatives and the Senate, President Donald Trump and Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) director Elon Musk. DOGE intends to fire more than 2,000 Corps employees nationwide who are on “probationary status,” hired in a role for less than a year, and in some cases two years, Maunu states in the letter. ... ” [Read more from the Capital Press](#).