

Journal#6209 from sdc 3.27.26

Trash Trail Temptations

Who Controls the West: Prayer on Trial From RootsTech 2026

from Amy Alonzo at Nevada Independent

How will the A's stadium be financed?

Sanders and AOC Introduce Bill to Pause New AI Data Centers Nationwide

Justice department Clears Path for Resolution Copper Project in Arizona

Nevada Open Government Coalition (NOGC)

The fight over water in the West

The world's largest oil spill is still leaking 17 tonnes every day

The number one reason America never learns from its history

The world's largest oil spill is still leaking 17 tonnes every day

Lawrence Hall of Science at UCB hosts family activities on Saturday

Teach your students about climate change - Learning Lab modules

In 2026, the Gathering of Nations Pow Wow bids farewell in its final year

UNR plans veterinary school to address Nevada's vet shortage

Trump administration seeks Endangered Species Act exemption for oil, gas projects in Gulf

Education Department headquarters will relocate as part of Trump's dismantling

Only some driver's licences usable for voter registration under SAVE America Act

Weekend Newsrime by Mark Trahant

Midterm candidates making history



Trash trail temptations

Polar bear, Churchill, Manitoba, Canada. Gold in the Urban wildlife category.

Photograph: Robert Gloeckner/World Nature Photography awards

Who Controls the West: Prayer on Trial

03/22/2026 02:02

Legal battles over Thacker Pass are over—but Paiute elder Dean Barlese’s fight to protect sacred sites goes on.



From RootsTech 2026: 2026Session was published in 2026

[Navajo Oral History Project from Gathering of Tribes](#)

[Rachel Crouse](#)

[Roland Denny](#)

[Shane Manning](#)

[Cindy Quinney](#)

[Christina Harrison](#)

[Emerson Mose](#)

This session is an overview of the Navajo Oral History project from Gathering of Tribes, including a short film with testimonials about the importance of the project from Navajo community members and the oral history interviewers who work on the project. The goal of the Navajo Oral History project is to create a new database of names of Navajo people and their ancestors so family members can do more in-depth research in the future. In communities with written historical documents, this work is done by taking names from government, church, community, and other records and entering them into a database, sometimes called "indexing." With Navajo community knowledge being orally transmitted, this project will help families record and document this information from the living holders of historical knowledge: community elders. The information is compiled into a report and returned to the interviewee to keep for their records, as well as entered into a database for future access.

[Watch](#)

America 250 Series: Historical and Genealogical Importance of America’s Forgotten Patriots

[Ric Murphy](#)

As we approach our nation’s America 250, the Semiquincentennial of the signing of the Declaration of Independence and the founding of our great nation, it is essential that we are reminded of our founding principles, and that all voices and sacrifices that help shape our nation's founding are recognized. Nearly 10,000 Americans of African and Indigenous ancestry contributed to the Revolutionary War effort, but unfortunately their stories have been minimized or forgotten from history. Their descendants are unaware of their ancestors’ crucial roles in shaping our nation’s history and in its founding. By highlighting their contributions, we hope to enrich the historical narrative by reevaluating, recontextualizing and honoring the legacy and collective understanding of the diverse tapestry of American history and our nation’s Forgotten Patriots, and to

provide a historical and genealogical roadmap for their descendants. [Video duration is 59:54](#)

[Complexities in Indigenous Genealogical Research](#)

[Shane Manning](#)

[Andi Gooch](#)

[Cindy Quinney](#)

[Charity Fleming](#)

[Emerson Mose](#)

[Gavriel Wise](#)

Indigenous genealogical research has inherent complex issues that are more frequently encountered than in research done in many other communities. This session will address complexities including inconsistent naming and terminology; systematic destruction of family relationships through boarding schools, foster care, adoption, early death, and other mechanisms; oral tradition vs. written records; inaccurate and incomplete records created by people outside the community (ie census takers); and some researchers' disinclination to believe oral history. We will conclude with strategies for overcoming these complexities. Panelists represent tribes from across North America.

[Watch](#)

Beginner This session has a skill level of Beginner

[Healing Lineages: Indigenous Mental Wellness Through Ancestral and Genealogical Reconnection](#) with [Charity Fleming](#)

This session invites participants to critically engage with the role of ancestral connection and family history in promoting Indigenous mental wellness. Drawing upon Indigenous frameworks of well-being—grounded in concepts of hope, meaning, purpose, and belonging—the workshop will examine how genealogical reconnection can serve as a catalyst for emotional resilience, cultural identity formation, and intergenerational healing.

- Participants will also explore the psychological impact of confronting traumatic histories, including those related to residential schools, child welfare interventions, and systemic displacement. Through the integration of trauma-informed strategies and Indigenous wellness teachings, the session offers a reflective space to consider both the restorative and emotionally complex dimensions of genealogical research within Indigenous contexts.
- Ideal for those engaging with Indigenous family history, cultural revitalization, or decolonial approaches to mental health,

[Video duration is 50:16](#)

[DNA for Native American Genealogy](#)

[Roberta Estes](#)

Techniques and tools available for testers to find and confirm Native American Ancestors. We will discuss ethnicity and why it may or may not be helpful, and how to morph your ethnicity results into a tool to identify which ancestors were Native. Y-DNA and mitochondrial DNA, yours and others, can confirm or refute Native heritage in each line. Leave with a plan!!

[Playlists](#)

[Share](#)

from Amy Alonzo at Nevada Independent

Pipeline authorization moves forward — Legislation authorizing construction of a water pipeline beneath the Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area is waiting for President Donald Trump's signature. Introduced by Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV) and [Rep. Dina Titus](#) (D-NV), the [Sloan Canyon Conservation and Lateral Water Pipeline Act](#) would authorize the building of a water pipeline beneath the conservation area instead of routing it through the city of Henderson. It also expands the more than 48,000-acre conservation area by nearly 9,300 acres, increasing its size by nearly 20 percent.

About 1 million people and 40 percent of businesses in the Las Vegas Valley are served by the South Valley Lateral pipeline. The line lacks a backup and is vulnerable to outages; it is also expected to reach capacity by 2034.

The legislation has the support of Gov. Joe Lombardo [®].

Leadership changes — Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Director James Settelmeyer is stepping down from his position to run for Nevada's 2nd Congressional District after Rep. Mark Amodei (R-NV) announced he would not seek another term.

Vinson Guthreau, currently the executive director of the Nevada Association of Counties, will replace him following a March 20 appointment by Lombardo.

And, former Nevada Cannabis Compliance Board Executive Director James Humm has been appointed by Lombardo to lead the state's office of energy. Prior to leading the cannabis board, Humm served as the director of public policy and government affairs for the Governor's Office of Economic Development. He assumes his new position March 30, replacing Dwayne McClinton, who stepped down in February to take a position as senior vice president of energy and infrastructure development for Red Post Energy Futures.

Lesser protections a decision for the birds — A slew of conservation groups are suing the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) over its newest management plan for the greater sage-grouse in nine Western states, including Nevada. Scientists with the federal U.S. Geological Survey have previously predicted sage-grouse breeding sites could disappear over the next [60 years](#).

Water woes — The BLM has given the green light to the [Cedar City Pipeline](#) near Great Basin National Park, giving the public just a few hours to weigh in on the [environmental impact statement](#) before giving the final thumbs up in early March.

The pipeline will tap into the headwaters of the Great Salt Lake Desert Flow System, a mix of groundwater and mountain runoff that flows toward the Great Salt Lake. Conservationists and others monitoring the pipeline caution it is likely to affect groundwater in areas such as the Snake Valley in eastern Nevada.

Endangered or extinct? — The Center for Biological Diversity is [petitioning](#) the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to protect the Barren Valley collomia, a vanishing Great Basin flower, under the Endangered Species Act.

The small annual plants that produce tiny blue-white flowers are only known to exist in a few sites in southeastern Oregon and two locations in northeastern Nevada. Barren Valley collomia

hasn't been sighted in Nevada since 2008 and in Oregon since 2014 and haven't been photographed since 1983, but scientists believe they still exist and can be found with further surveys.

Park visitation changes — Great Basin National Park recorded its highest visitation in the last five years, with more than 161,000 people visiting last year. In the south, more than 6.1 million people visited Lake Mead National Recreation Area in 2025, down from 6.4 million people the year prior. Nationally, the [National Park Service](#) reported 323 million visits across all its park units in 2025, a nearly 3 percent decrease from 2024.

How will the A's stadium be financed?

The financing for the Las Vegas Athletics ballpark is a mix of public and private funding. Here's the breakdown ^{1 2}:

- Private Funding: \$1 billion will come from Athletics owner John Fisher and his family through an equity contribution. Additionally, the team has secured a \$300 million loan from U.S. Bank and Goldman Sachs.
- **Public Funding: The state of Nevada will contribute \$380 million, as granted by SB1 in 2023. This public funding is part of the agreement for the stadium's construction on the Las Vegas Strip.**
- Potential Investors: The Athletics are still looking to bring in investors, particularly from Las Vegas, to contribute to the project. In April 2024, the team hired Galatioto Sports Partners to raise \$500 million for the ballpark. However, it's unclear if they've been successful so far.

The total construction cost has risen to \$2 billion, up from initial estimates of \$1.5 billion. The team expects to request the \$380 million in public assistance from the Las Vegas Stadium Authority next year ³.

-
- **Sanders and AOC Introduce Bill to Pause New AI Data Centers Nationwide** | Jake Johnson | Common Dreams

Justice Department Clears Path for Resolution Copper Project in Arizona, Strengthening U.S. Resource Security 03/23/2026 08:00 AM EDT

The Justice Department's Environment and Natural Resources Division (ENRD) has delivered a major win for mineral development and national security. On March 13, the Division's Appellate Section secured a decision from the Ninth Circuit affirming the district court's denial of a preliminary injunction seeking to block the Resolution Copper project in Arizona. The decision allows the federal government to proceed with a congressionally mandated land exchange crucial to advancing development of one of the largest known copper deposits in the world.

The [Nevada Open Government Coalition \(NOGC\)](#) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit, nonpartisan organization supporting democratic government accountability through transparency. Citizens interested in learning more about how to use the state's public records process should [sign up for NOGC's educational webinar](#), set for 1 p.m. on Tuesday, April 7.

Its board members are Michelle Rindels, Sondra Cosgrove, Anjeanette Damon and Maggie McLetchie.

The fight over water in the West



Lake Powell and the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area at sunset. iStock photo.

“The seven states connected to Colorado River share at least one thing in common: all are feeling the pain of trying to cut their water consumption from the iconic Western waterway. As the current guidelines over how to divide water resources in dry years expires, the states have a deadline of Oct. 1 to come to a new agreement. This is no small feat. The states have been stuck in a [stalemate](#) over water cuts for more than two years, with the Upper Basin states — Utah, Colorado, New Mexico and Wyoming — at odds with their Lower Basin neighbors — Arizona, California and Nevada. The urgency for these Western states to finalize a deal is greater than ever amid the record-breaking heatwave and generational drought moving through the Mountain West. “It’s way too early to be having 80-degree weather and of course, the snowpack is a concern,” Utah Gov. Spencer Cox said last week during his monthly news conference. In Phoenix, Arizona, temperatures have been over 100 degrees for multiple days in March, marking the earliest 100-degree weather in the city’s recorded history. ... ” [Read more from Deseret News](#).

Amid ‘dire situation’ for Colorado River Basin, headwater states say they can’t cut water they don’t have

“Under pressure to strike a compromise on water cuts, and amid talk of litigation, Wyoming and other upper Colorado River Basin states are pointing to the climate-driven disaster unfolding in the West to insist they can’t cut what Mother Nature isn’t providing in the headwaters. While some observers suspect that argument is cover for withholding more cuts in water use, the upper-basin contingency insists it has negotiated in good faith and still hopes to strike a deal with its lower-basin counterparts despite missed deadlines. They simply cannot commit to calculations that are beyond their control. “If the water is not there, our water users don’t get to use it, and

that is typically the case,” New Mexico’s water negotiator Estevan Lopez said. On paper, it might appear the headwater states are being stingy, Lopez added. New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming and Utah, however, live with “very real and mandatory reductions that are imposed by nature, which we refer to as hydrologic shortage.” ... ” [Read more from WyoFile](#).

Water isn’t red or blue, former Reclamation boss tells Utah water users

“The former commissioner of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation under President Joe Biden told a group of Utah water users to avoid looking at water from a red state, blue state lens. “It’s inherently clear,” Camille Touton said, pointing out that it flows through communities regardless of politics. Touton, who served under President Biden, had praise for Governor Spencer Cox and Utah leaders for the work they have done on water issues. She said the state worked well with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation during her time in office because of a mutual trust and work done on both sides. ... ” [Read more from Fox 13](#).

Feds need 1.7 million acre-feet to save Lake Powell this year

“For more than two years, Southwestern states have struggled to reach an agreement on managing the parched Colorado River after 2026. But a true crisis threatens to hit the river basin before that agreement would even take effect. River managers need to conserve around 1.7 million acre-feet in Lake Powell to keep the reservoir from dropping below hydropower turbines this year, according to federal government projections. The Bureau of Reclamation, a federal agency that manages dams on the Colorado River, has estimated that reservoir levels could fall below required elevations for hydropower production before August as record-low snowpack turns into pitiful flows in streams and rivers. “The situation is dire, the stakes have never been higher, and the reservoirs have never been drier,” Estevan Lopez, New Mexico’s negotiator on interstate Colorado River matters, said during a meeting of the Upper Colorado River Commission on Tuesday. ... ” [Read more from Aspen Daily News](#).

SEE ALSO:

- [What the historic snow drought means for water, wildfires and the future of the West](#), from The Conversation
- [Federal plan to divide drought-stricken Colorado River water brings flood of pushback](#), from Cronkite News
- [The situation is dire’: Lake Powell is heading for a record low as Colorado River states remain deadlocked](#), from the Salt Lake Tribune
- [Arizona lawyers up ahead of potential legal action against Utah, other Colorado river states](#), from ABC4

As alfalfa drains the Colorado River, alternative feed is crop sought

“The green shoots that rise from the soil under Perry Cabot’s cultivation look a little different from the standard, brushy bunches of alfalfa and other cattle forage crops growing on the flats here north of the Colorado River. ... “The plant tells the story,” said Cabot, an extension professor and irrigation specialist with Colorado State University. The story that he and colleagues at the Western Colorado Research Station’s Grand Valley farm are trying to narrate is one of a future in which farmers and ranchers have alternative forage crops to help them survive drought and the intensifying tug-of-war between Colorado River water users. Alfalfa and grass

hays are the biggest drain on the Colorado River, using as much as 46% of the water, according to recent research. ... ” [Read more from Arizona Central.](#)

Megafarm seeks pause in Arizona groundwater public nuisance case

“As the Arizona Department of Water Resources works to regulate groundwater pumping in western Arizona, a megafarm responsible for more than 80% of all pumping in a 912-square-mile groundwater basin seeks to stay a public nuisance lawsuit in which it’s accused of excessive pumping. In a state courthouse Wednesday, Fondomonte Arizona LLC argued the ongoing process to designate the Ranegras Plain Basin as an active management area would achieve the same groundwater regulation goals as the lawsuit Attorney General Kris Mayes filed against it in 2024. Rather than move forward with the litigation, Riley Snow of Rose Law Group suggested the court allow the two-year process to play out and address any remaining concerns later. “We can essentially avoid duplication of effort and allow the agency to do what the legislature intended it to do, which is step in and regulate groundwater,” Snow told Maricopa County Judge Scott Minder. ... ” [Read more from the Courthouse News Service.](#)

ALSO: [Fondomonte asks judge to pause groundwater lawsuit brought by Arizona AG](#), from KJZZ

Water-based recreation gives nearly \$12 billion boost to Arizona economy, new report says

“A new report from the Audubon Society found that water-based recreation drives \$11.7 billion of economic output in Arizona. The environmental group says the findings highlight the importance of keeping water in the state’s rivers, streams and reservoirs amid water shortages. “We just wanted to bring attention to the importance of these places,” said Haley Paul, an Arizona-based policy expert with Audubon. “We know that, culturally, spiritually and in general, these are important places for us as people in Arizona, as well as our tourists that come and visit. But we thought, ‘What if we put some numbers behind it?’” The report took a wide-reaching tally of recreational activities that people do along the water in Arizona — fishing, hiking, biking, boating, birding and more — and calculated the amount of money those activities contribute to the economy. ... ” [Read more from KJZZ.](#)

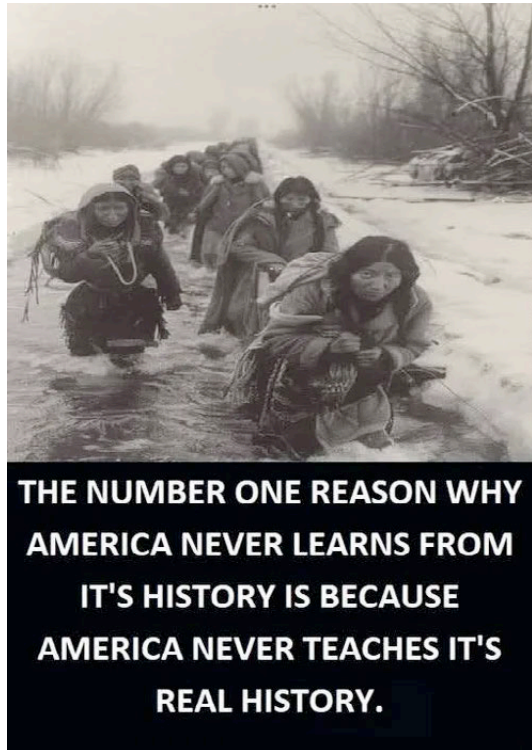
Lawmakers in driest state weigh excessive water and energy needs of data centers they court

“NV Energy believes it will need 50% more energy than it projected needing just two years ago, and that energy demand could double by 2030. The skyrocketing demand is overwhelmingly driven by the boom in artificial intelligence and large scale data centers. And state lawmakers, who have for a decade have courted data centers with millions of dollars in tax abatements, are taking notice. “I think it should make all of us pause for a moment,” said Stacy Tellinghuisen from Water Resource Advocates, “because it is truly staggering.” Water Resource Advocates was one of more than a dozen groups that gathered Wednesday for a joint meeting of the interim committees on natural resources and infrastructure. The meeting focused solely on data centers and their water and energy needs. Other participating groups included industry lobbying group Data Center Coalition, environmental advocacy group Sierra Club Toiyabe, researchers from the Desert Research Institute, and representatives from regional water authorities and energy utilities. ... ” [Read more from the Nevada Current.](#)

~~~~~

*“We read to know that we are not alone.” William Nicholson*

from a substack post:



[Carolyn Brackett](#)

Or grammar- never teaches its history- no apostrophe

[John Lewis](#)

As a third generation, Welchman, I've said this for years. We didn't prosecute the confederacy and a discussion of never been prosecuting the native American genocide delivered by the white man. I am sorry does not cover it, I'm sick to my stomach thinking about the cruelty we have put on other people and calling ourselves great because of it. We humans are a poor example of intelligence

[Wayne Stiles](#)

Anyone interested in the history of the U.S. should read Howard Zinn's "The People's History of the United States." The reality of the our average attention span combined with how few read to be informed would make this 700 page tome a challenge. Suffice to say that the overriding feature of the U.S. for the entire period of its existence, has been inequality. Replacing the riots, murders, beatings, workplace dangers and violence, the use of Federal and State troops we now have sign-carrying demonstrations and outraged writers.

[Barbara Morgan](#)

We kept the American continent beautiful, clean, managed and lived beside our brothers and sisters, the animals. We respected Mother Earth and Father Sky, until Euros showed up diseased and filthy, money hungry!


**The world's largest oil spill is still leaking 17 tonnes every day**

In 1941, the battleship USS Arizona sank during the attack on Pearl Harbour, along with nearly 5,000 tonnes of oil in its fuel tanks. This has been slowly leaking out over the past 84 years, and the tanks are still half full.

Read in BBC Science Focus Magazine: <https://apple.news/ASIPNIJPuR0yRacijXcomLg>

The **Lawrence Hall of Science** at UC Berkeley hosts family activities on Saturday to preview its annual Earth Day celebration. Visitors can handle live cockroaches with the UC Berkeley Entomology Club or explore Ohlone culture and plant knowledge at the Outdoor Nature Lab. On April 26, the Earth Day event will feature Alphabet Rockers

Discover the **FREE** Climate Education Modules used in all 50 states!

|                        |                                                                                    |                             |
|------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Used In                |  | Used by                     |
| <b>50</b><br>States    |                                                                                    | <b>400,000+</b><br>Students |
| &                      |                                                                                    | &                           |
| <b>35</b><br>Countries |                                                                                    | <b>3,500+</b><br>Teachers   |

★★★★★  
"The modules are top-notch" - Matthew | Mississippi



*Natives lived here for 1000s of years and never needed signs to not pet the buffalo*

**In 2026, the Gathering of Nations Pow Wow bids farewell in its final year.** With humble beginnings in 1983, this event became the largest gathering of Native American culture, food, dance and music in North America. Don't miss "The Last Dance" in Albuquerque! Gathering of Nations will take place April 24-25 at EXPO New Mexico.

**Amid a nationwide expansion:** UNR plans a veterinary school to address Nevada's vet shortage. It is the second Nevada university in the past year to announce plans, with site and teaching hospital still undecided -- **see what's planned and undecided.**

- [Trump administration seeks Endangered Species Act exemption for oil, gas projects in Gulf](#)
- [Education Department headquarters will relocate as part of Trump's dismantling](#)
- [FACT FOCUS: Only some driver's licenses usable for voter registration under the SAVE America Act](#)

## **Weekend Newsrime by Mark Trahant**

*Donald J. Trump now signs U.S. legal tender  
I'll switch to Sacajawea coins to pay the vendor  
And remember digital funds won't boost the name  
ignoring only president who demands his fame Fascinating midterm elections ahead*

### **Midterm candidates making history**

Native candidates are seeking top offices across the country, Minnesota, New Mexico, and Alaska

**In New Mexico** former Interior Secretary Deb Haaland is running for governor. She has, of course, a brilliant resume. She's Laguna Pueblo, she's been a state party chair, a member of Congress – and she knows how to get things done.

**Minnesota:** The candidate is Peggy Flanagan, White Earth Ojibwe. I have known Peggy since she was a political organizer with Paul Wellstone. And she's built her political career step by step, a school board seat, then winning a special election as a state representative. Then joining the ticket with Tim Walz and becoming the first Native woman to be elected as a lieutenant governor.

Methodical. Practical. And ideological. She is a champion for progressive values. I have been writing on my substack that one thing about the Trump era is that we have to begin planning for what happens next. After this disruption, what kind of country do we want to build? Peggy answers that brilliantly. Universal health care is absolutely do-able.

**Alaska:** The story starts with Mary Peltola. The Yupik woman first won a special election and fulfilled Young's prediction. Then she won a two-year term. (Followed by a loss.) Now she is running for the U.S. Senate against Dan Sullivan. She is running on a platform of fish and household economics. Her campaign cites the independence of Alaska's Republicans, Sen. Ted Stevens and Don Young.