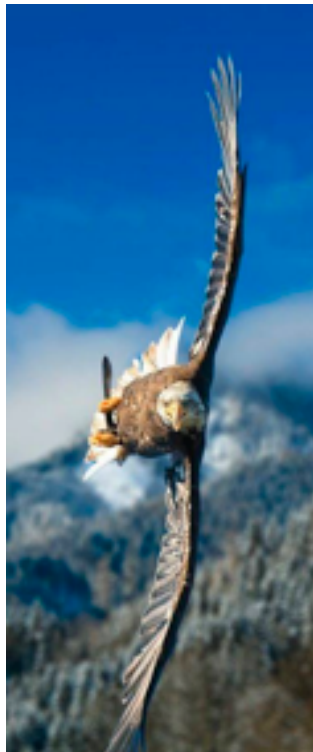


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Even at Lake Mead, eagles prefer the north
By Henry Brean, Las Vegas Review-Journal

If you want to see bald eagles, you need to head north to a place like Alaska, Washington or Lake Mead's Overton Arm.

The northern tip of Lake Mead once again posted the highest [number of eagles](#) during an annual count by the National Park Service on Tuesday.

Of the 113 bald eagles spotted within the 1.5-million-acre national recreation area, 36 — nearly a third — were found along the open, quiet waters of the Overton Arm.

And even more eagles might have been counted had there been more water in the reservoir. As it was, low water conditions forced the boat assigned to the Overton Arm to turn around about 10 miles short of the confluence of the Virgin and Muddy rivers, usually one of the best places at Lake Mead to spot the national bird.

"It's certainly where they used to hang out," said wildlife biologist Ross Haley, who has been tracking eagles at the recreation area east of Las Vegas for about 20 years.

Haley was one of about 50 biologists, birders and other volunteers who fanned out across Lake Mead and Lake Mohave in eight boats for the dawn-to-dusk wildlife survey.

This year's total was up 14 from last year, but still down from counts of 132 to 178 during the previous five winter eagle surveys at the recreation area.

Experts don't know the reason for the decline — or even if there really are [fewer eagles at the lake](#), since lower levels have limited the scope of the water-based survey. But they're not worried about it in any case because they don't really have enough information to go on yet, said Julia Mueller, a Lake Mead fisheries biologist who organized Tuesday's count.

Mueller spent the day scanning a 65-mile stretch of Black Canyon downstream from Hoover Dam, where the team on her boat spotted an adult bird near the site of the only known bald eagle nest in the recreation area.

"We still believe they are there," she said of the mated pair that has successfully fledged two young eagles in the past five years.

Tuesday's count was part of a national eagle survey that dates from 1979 and is designed to track the population and distribution of a species that was close to extinction in the lower 48 states when it was listed as endangered in 1967.

Thanks to widespread habitat protection and the elimination of the pesticide DDT, the population rebounded from fewer than 500 nesting pairs in the lower 48 to 20,000 birds by 2007, when the species was dropped from the endangered list.

Of the 113 bald eagles cataloged at lakes Mead and Mohave on Tuesday, 44 were adults and the rest were juvenile birds, lacking the distinctive, snowy white hoods that develop with sexual maturity at age 4.

Haley said bald eagles migrate here from as far away as Canada in search of open water free of ice. They generally arrive in November and head north again in March.

The Park Service conducts its annual winter eagle count at Lake Mead with help from an alphabet soup of government agencies including the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Bureau of Reclamation, Bureau of Land Management, Nevada Wildlife Department and UNLV.

"There are a lot of acronyms, but we get a lot of cool work done," said Theresa Thom, an aquatic ecologist for the Park Service at Lake Mead.

Her assigned survey route covered all of Boulder Basin, Lake Mead's busiest area, where she and her crew spotted three bald eagles, two golden eagles and a sixth large raptor that flew away too quickly to be identified.

They also saw harriers, red tail hawks, peregrine falcons, ravens, bighorn sheep, burros and other wildlife, including a pair of coyotes that watched them warily from a small island in what used to be Las Vegas Bay.

Contact Henry Brean at hbrean@reviewjournal.com or 702-383-0350. Follow him: [@RefriedBrean](#)

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Wildlife Biologist Carla Wise, intern with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Sarah Robenstein, and Aqua Ecologist Theresa Thom counted and recorded bald eagles by boat at Lake Mead on Tuesday, January 12, 2016. (Rachel Aston/Las Vegas Review-Journal)

A juvenile bald eagle looks down on Lake Mead as it is perched on a outcropping of rocks on Tuesday, Jan. 12, 2016. Biologists and volunteers from the National Park Service and other agencies fanned out across Lake Mead and Lake Mohave for their annual count of eagles and other raptors. David Becker/Las Vegas Review-Journal

Theresa Thom, aquatic ecologist with the National Park Service peers out from an open boat hatch at Lake Mead in search of eagles on Tuesday, Jan. 12, 2016. Biologists and volunteers from the National Park Service and other agencies fanned out across Lake Mead and Lake Mohave for their annual count of eagles and other raptors. David Becker/Las Vegas Review-Journal

A juvenile bald eagle flies overhead at Lake Mead on Tuesday, Jan. 12, 2016. Biologists and volunteers from the National Park Service and other agencies fanned out across Lake Mead and Lake Mohave for their annual count of eagles and other raptors. David Becker/Las Vegas Review-Journal

A coyote walks over rocks near Lake Mead on Tuesday, Jan. 12, 2016. Biologists and volunteers from the National Park Service and other agencies fanned out across Lake Mead and Lake Mohave for their annual count of eagles and other raptors. David Becker/Las Vegas Review-Journal

National Park Service ranger Nate Snyder walks on a beach after docking his vessel on a island during the annual eagle count at Lake Mead on Tuesday, Jan. 12, 2016. National Park Service and other agencies fanned out across Lake Mead and Lake Mohave for their annual count of eagles and other raptors. David Becker/Las Vegas Review-Journal

Theresa Thom, left, aquatic ecologist with the National Park Service and volunteer Sarah Rubenstein, intern with the Student Conservation Association, scan the skies over Lake Mead in search of eagles on Tuesday, Jan. 12, 2016. Biologists and volunteers from the National Park Service and other agencies fanned out across Lake Mead and Lake Mohave for their annual count of eagles and other raptors. David Becker/Las Vegas Review-Journal

A juvenile bald eagle, lower left, appears to be watching an egret as it flies overhead at Lake Mead on Tuesday, Jan. 12, 2016. Biologists and volunteers from the National Park Service and other agencies fanned out across Lake Mead and Lake Mohave for their annual count of eagles and other raptors. David Becker/Las Vegas Review-Journal

A golden eagle flies over a weather station at Lake Mead on Tuesday, Jan. 12, 2016. Biologists and volunteers from the National Park Service and other agencies fanned out across Lake Mead and Lake Mohave for their annual count of eagles and other raptors. David Becker/Las Vegas Review-Journal

A juvenile bald eagle flies overhead at Lake Mead on Tuesday, Jan. 12, 2016. Biologists and volunteers from the National Park Service and other agencies fanned out across Lake Mead and Lake Mohave for their annual count of eagles and other raptors. David Becker/Las Vegas Review-Journal

[imagevideo](#)

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## **90,000 acres transferred into trust for Isleta Pueblo**

By [Olivier Uyttebrouck / Journal Staff Writer](#) Friday, January 15th, 2016

PUEBLO OF ISLETA – A stroke of the pen enlarged the Pueblo of Isleta by 50 percent on Friday.

A signing ceremony that transferred nearly 90,000 acres into trust for Isleta lasted only minutes, but it followed an application process that began in the 1990s.



“It has been a long time coming, and it has finally happened,” Isleta Gov. E. Paul Torres said shortly after he and U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell signed the transfer papers in Isleta Village proper, about 20 miles south of Albuquerque.

The 89,978-acre trust land about six miles west of Belen – long known as Comanche Ranch – was part of Isleta’s aboriginal domain, Torres said.

*U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell and Pueblo of*

*Isleta Gov. E. Paul Torres sign a transfer of nearly 90,000 acres into trust for Isleta, making it part of Isleta's reservation. (Jim Thompson/Albuquerque Journal)*

Isleta bought the property in 1997 for \$7.3 million – a costly purchase, “but it gave us back part of our heritage,” Torres said. At that time, Isleta also began the long application process to make the land a permanent part of the Isleta pueblo.

“There’s a plan when we put land into trust that it will stay as part of the reservation for future generations,” he said. “If tribal leadership changes and they wanted to sell it, they can’t sell it.”

Isleta, established in the 1300s, is one of New Mexico’s 19 pueblos.

Many former Isleta governors and officials who participated in the decades-long application process attended the signing ceremony, followed by a banquet in the Old Courthouse at the south end of the village’s plaza.

“The value of having it in trust is it locks the land into ownership by the tribe,” said Verna Teller, an Isleta tribal council member and former governor. “It becomes part of the reservation. It is our land.”

The transfer marks the largest trust acquisition during President Obama’s administration and brings to nearly 400,000 the total acreage placed in trust since 2009 on behalf of federally recognized tribes, Jewell said.

“So much of what tribes identify with is a connection with the lands and the landscape,” Jewell said minutes after the signing ceremony. The Obama administration has set a goal of placing 500,000 acres into trust for tribes by the end of his term in January 2017, she said.

Isleta plans to continue using Comanche Ranch as the site of a 1,000-head cattle ranch, Torres said. Isleta also plans to protect wildlife species on the land, including antelope, deer and many bird species.

Trust status gives Isleta total control over the land’s use, Jewell said.

“Their ability to decide how to use that, whether it’s for economic development purposes or for habitat and cultural reasons, it’s completely up to them,” she said.

Lands placed into trust typically lie within the historic domain of the tribe, said Larry Roberts, the U.S. Department of Interior’s acting assistant secretary for Indian Affairs.

“The history of Indian Country is that tribal lands have been taken and lost, and the purpose of placing land in trust is that it will be there for future generations,” Roberts said. “It would literally take an act of Congress to remove that from the tribe.”

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**[Isleta Pueblo Receives Obama Administration's...
krwg.org/post/isleta-pueblo...land-trust-acquisition...](http://krwg.org/post/isleta-pueblo...land-trust-acquisition...)**

"We also recognize that the Native Americans had the claim to the land, but they lost that claim," (Ammon) Bundy said. "There are things to learn from cultures of the past, but the current culture is the most important."

4,000 artifacts stored at Oregon refuge held by armed group

Thousands of archaeological artifacts — and maps detailing where more can be found — are kept inside the national wildlife refuge buildings currently being held...

timescolonist.com By Rebecca Boone

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#### **First Oregon Arrest Is Made, And The Reason Why Is Freaking Hilarious**

It's about time. The first arrests in the Oregon standoff have happened, after two weeks of these idiots getting away with all manner of illegal activity at the Malheur... [news.groopspeak.com](http://news.groopspeak.com)

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#### **Tension between ranchers and federal officials is dangerously high in Nevada**

**Molly Hennessy-Fiske, Los Angeles Times**

Gerald "Jerry" Smith grew up in Nevada and went to work for the Bureau of Land Management right after college. As a local, he figured he was uniquely suited to work with the ranchers who have long resented the federal government's role in land management here.

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#### **Alabama city destroying ancient Indian mound for Sam's Club**

City leaders in Oxford, Ala. have approved the destruction of a 1,500-year-old Native American ceremonial mound and are using the dirt as fill for a... [www.southernstudies.org](http://www.southernstudies.org)

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#### **Geneal Anderson: Paiute pioneer**

At first, the name Geneal Anderson doesn't sound like the name of a Native American activist and a tribal chairwoman. But as with so many things Native American, appearances can be very deceiving. [www.deseretnews.com](http://www.deseretnews.com)

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I wanted to let you know that registration for **USGBC's LEEDership Awards in Northern Nevada** is now open! [CLICK HERE](#). The LEEDership Awards begin at 11:30 AM on February 4<sup>th</sup> at the Terry Lee Wells Nevada Discovery Museum, 450 S. Center. St. Reno.

Join us as we honor outstanding individuals and organizations who are advancing green building in Northern Nevada. The event increases public awareness of the outstanding services provided by USGBC Nevada members and associated communities while emphasizing the roles we all play in shaping where we live, learn and labor through green building and sustainability excellence. This celebration promises to be a great start for 2016 with lunch and networking opportunities.

Sponsorship of this event is also available! Please see attached, the registration website or contact Kelly at 702-952-2468 or [kthomas@usgbc.org](mailto:kthomas@usgbc.org) for more information.

Hope to see you there!

**Kelly Thomas, LEED AP BD + C, Director, Community - Nevada, U.S. Green Building Council**  
**6795 Edmond St. #331 Las Vegas, NV 89118**

## **To Save Its Salmon, California Calls In the Fish Matchmaker**

By MATT RICHTEL

At a hatchery on the Klamath River, biologists are using genetic techniques to reduce inbreeding, though some argue natural methods are more effective.

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## **Del Norte Indian Education Center Program Assistant II or III (Hiring level will be based upon experience)**

Provides educational, cultural and tobacco program services, maintains student tracking systems, and provides support to the Director. Must pass background check and have clear driving record.

### **Full Time Plus Benefits**

#### **Salary:**

Program Assistant II = \$12.75-\$14.25 per hour

Program Assistant III = \$14.25-\$16.00 per hour

Please Go To <http://ncidc.org/events/employment-opportunity> To Download Full Job Descriptions And Application Forms

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### **Brandon experiments exposed**

Children at the Brandon Indian Residential School were test subjects of extra-sensory-perception experiments during the Second World War, states a science journal recovered from a university archive. The article, ESP Tests with American... [www.winnipegfreepress.com](http://www.winnipegfreepress.com)

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### **Parenting not schools has the biggest impact on student outcomes, so why are teachers blamed for...**

The most significant challenge that every school in this country now faces is to bridge the educational attainment gap between the “haves” and “the have nots”;... [www.tes.com](http://www.tes.com)

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### **VIDEO: A New Dinosaur Takes Shape**

The American Museum of Natural History unveils a new dinosaur exhibit this month. The process required careful planning and delicate handiwork.

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### **Fifty-Nine Indigenous Corn Varieties at Risk as Monsanto Eyes Mexico [Read the Article at EcoWatch](#)**





## **Mom Creates Periodic Table Battleship Game To Teach Her Kids Chemistry**

When they play, they're in their element.

[huffingtonpost.com](http://huffingtonpost.com)

## **Mom Creates Periodic Table Battleship Game To Teach Her Kids Chemistry**

Matt Richtel, New York Times

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### **Calling all Women-Owned Small Businesses**

The SBA is seeking input and comments on certification of Women-Owned Small Businesses (WOSB) and Economically Disadvantaged Women-Owned Small Businesses (EDWOSB) in connection with the Women-Owned Small Business Federal Contract Program (WOSB Program).

SBA is planning to amend its regulations to implement section 825 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (2015 NDAA). Section 825 of the 2015 NDAA removed the statutory authority allowing WOSBs and EDWOSBs to self-certify.

SBA intends to draft regulations to implement the statutory changes

### **Review The WOSB & EDWOSB Announcement of Proposed Rule Making (ANPRM) online**

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**Art and Soul - Tobin Rupert**

**By Jeri Chadwell-Singley** [01.07.16](http://01.07.16).

*A tree in Tobin Rupert's yard died after its roots were struck by a construction crew. The artist preserved it as a large art piece.*

PHOTO/JERI CHADWELL-SINGLEY

For more information visit [www.rupertsprecisiongemcutting.com](http://www.rupertsprecisiongemcutting.com)

**For 20 years after graduating from college**, Tobin Rupert ran the family business, Rupert's Auto Body in Carson City. He watched the business grow and prosper but, eventually, found himself growing bored. The way he describes it, there came a point where the business no longer needed him, and he found himself needing something new to invest his time and energy in. His

solution was to convert his childhood home—located next door to the auto body shop—into retail space for Rupert’s Precision Gem Cutting, a venture geared toward combining his artistic strengths and a lifelong love of gem and mineral collecting.

“My whole family was hunters,” Rupert said. “We’d go out hunting and I’d never get anything, but I’d come home with the best looking pocketful of rocks you’ve ever seen.”

Auto body repair and gem cutting may seem like unrelated fields, but, to Rupert’s mind, there’s a translatable artistry between the two. “It’s all the same exact tools you use in the gem cutting business,” Rupert said. “They’re just smaller.”

In the five years since Rupert took a step back from the family’s auto body business, he’s earned certifications in advanced gem cutting, diamond setting, jewelry repair and goldsmithing. The home where he was raised by his grandparents has since been divided into a workspace and showroom, separated by a kitchen with a large island that serves as a sort of way station for rocks and gems.

“Most people seem to have a rock or a stone that that’s their stone,” Rupert said, picking up a small, clear box from the kitchen island.

“Tiger’s Eye is this guy’s stone. He just loves it. Look at this piece—came out cool. It kind of looks like a bumblebee, huh? He took the really good ones already because he likes the chatoyancy of that, where it really turns colors and stuff.”

Rupert enjoys helping people find a stone or gem they like. In a room off the back of his workshop, he keeps a supply of raw gems and minerals that customers can select for custom jewelry and art pieces. This back stock also comes in handy when gem and mineral hunters stop by to trade. Rupert welcomes these visitors as well as novice rockhounds, who often drop by to see samples of what they’re hunting for or to have their recent finds identified.

Across the house, in Rupert’s showroom, necklaces on headless display stands sparkle. They feature everything from tourmaline to garnets, many created using one of Rupert’s five signature cuts, held within delicate filigreed-gold settings. In another display case, opals found near Denio, Nevada, shine from within the confines of water globes set on polished wood bases. On the adjacent table, the root of a manzanita tree from Tahoe has been hollowed out to make a stand and fitted with a color changing light that shines through the facets of a huge quartz crystal.



Rupert's passion for sharing the experience of gems and minerals finds its way into the storefront, too, often at the expense of profits. Many of the items on display are not for sale. "A lot of things are just for people to look at," Rupert said. "Like some pieces of jewelry that you're never going to find again, I just really don't want to cut loose with, and there's some really nice rocks that—if they're really rare—I probably don't want to sell them".

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### **Saying goodbye to the last Seminole Code Talker**



projects.aljazeera.com

### **Flags to Fly at Half-Staff on Navajo Nation to Honor Code Talker Ernest Yazhe**

Published January 16, 2016 WINDOW ROCK- The Navajo Nation Office of...

nativenewsonline.netlBy [Native News Online](#)them."

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**RIP JJ Emm** (passed Saturday after years of a lengthy battle with a sickness that took his body away but not our Bros huge heart n spirit n his love for his family. To see his always radiant smile when you seen him gave our family inspiration to continue the fight to live n love no matter how very hard the battle with life at times could be. EJ)

**RIP Baby Myles Darrell Smith**