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Grandparents & mother taught if green things that grow were taken from earth, there could be no life
The Endangered Species Act faces its own existential threat
How redefining just one word could strip the Endangered Species Act's ability to protect vital habitat
Interior department weighs less conservation, more extraction
'They don't want to say what they're up to': Interior releases heavily redacted action plans
Rep. Steven Horsford on tourism, trade wars and taking on Trump
California lawmakers pull ethnic studies bill, introduce anti-discrimination bill
Couldn't be in LA last week for AAM 2025? Highlights now on AAMTV feature
The Longest Long Words List
Arizona, Utah, CA, WA seek federal money for water infrastructure
Commentary: Algae blooms, traffic and plastics at Lake Tahoe — what can we do about it?
Geologically rich but economically poor, Salton Sea communities want a say in their lithium future
As time grows short for a Colorado River deal, Trump is set to fill vacant water post
"Commentary: Arizona will have less water after 2026. Where will new supplies come from?
Farmers, cities seek to join fight against Arizona's water-pumping lawsuit
Could a public lands deal amount to a water grab for Utah?
Wyoming begins exploring voluntary water conservation programs
Trump admin plans to undo standards on toxic 'forever chemicals' in the U.S. drinking water supply
As Library of Congress crisis deepens, lawmakers tread carefully
Ralph Burns posthumously awarded Honorary PhD
Annette Cavanaugh earns her PhD
The complete history of the US State of the Union address



Before I was six years old, my grandparents and my mother had taught me that if all the green things that grow were taken from the earth, there could be no life. If all the four-legged creatures were taken from the earth, there could be no life. If all the winged creatures were taken from the earth, there could be no life. If all our relatives who crawl and swim and live within the earth were taken away, there could be no life. But if all the human beings were taken away, life on earth would flourish. That is how insignificant we are."

*Russell Means, Oglala Lakota Nation
(November 10, 1939 – October 22, 2012)*

The Endangered Species Act faces its own existential threat

Marcy Cottrell Houle, a wildlife biologist and author, writes, “We are on the cusp of losing the integrity of one of the most significant environmental acts ever enacted in the United States. Why should this matter? As the Pulitzer Prize-winning evolutionary biologist E.O. Wilson put it: “We should preserve every scrap of biodiversity as priceless while we learn to use it and come to understand what it means to humanity.” Wilson considered the Endangered Species Act of 1973 the most important piece of conservation legislation in our nation’s history. I know what that means. I know because I lived it. ... ” [Read more from the LA Times.](#)

How redefining just one word could strip the Endangered Species Act’s ability to protect vital habitat

“It wouldn’t make much sense to prohibit people from shooting a threatened woodpecker while allowing its forest to be cut down, or to bar killing endangered salmon while allowing a dam to dry out their habitat. But that’s exactly what the Trump administration is proposing to do by changing how one word in the Endangered Species Act is interpreted: harm. For 50 years, the U.S. government has interpreted the Endangered Species Act as protecting threatened and endangered species from actions that either directly kill them or eliminate their habitat. Most species on the brink of extinction are on the list because there is almost no place left for them to live. Their habitats have been paved over, burned or transformed. Habitat protection is essential for their survival. ... ” [Read more from The Conversation.](#)

Interior department weighs less conservation, more extraction

“The Trump administration is proposing a drastic reimagining of how public lands across the United States are used and managed, according to an Interior Department document leaked to the public in late April. The document, a draft of the department’s strategic plan for the next five years, downplays conservation in favor of an approach that seeks to maximize economic returns, namely through the extraction of oil, gas and other natural resources. “That’s a blueprint for industrializing the public lands,” said Taylor McKinnon, who works on preservation of Southwestern lands for the [Center for Biological Diversity](#), a nonprofit organization. “A separate question is whether they’re able to achieve that,” Mr. McKinnon said, vowing lawsuits from his group and others. ... ” [Read more from the New York Times.](#)

‘They don’t want to say what they’re up to’: Interior releases heavily redacted

action plans “The Interior Department released hundreds of heavily redacted documents on Monday from a two-week review in February. These records contain action plans for national monuments and mineral withdrawals across the U.S. to accelerate President Donald Trump’s American energy agenda. “This is over-redacted in a way that is almost laughable,” said Aaron Weiss, deputy director of the nonpartisan Center for Western Priorities. “Clearly, they don’t want to say what they’re up to.” None of the 468 pages reveal any recommendations for several national monuments of cultural significance to tribes scattered throughout the Southwest. ... ” [Read more from KJZZ.](#)

Yesterday in History: [In 1940, the first McDonald's restaurant opened](#)

Rep. Steven Horsford on tourism, trade wars and taking on Trump



Asked if the ends can justify the means in politics, Rep. Steven Horsford brings it back to tariffs. “That’s part of the problem right now. You know, tariffs are not a bad thing, but how you do it matters,” the Nevada Democrat says. [Read more...](#)

California lawmakers pull ethnic studies bill, introduce anti-discrimination bill

https://www.mercurynews.com/2025/05/15/ethnic-studies-bill-california/?campaign=sjmnbreakingnews&utm_email=85834408B47115A944CE9435C9&active=no&lctg=85834408B47115A944CE9435C9

Catch Up on AAM TV

By Elizabeth Merritt

Couldn't be in LA last week for AAM 2025? Here's how you can see the highlights with this year's new AAM TV feature, including museum spotlights, speaker interviews, and scene reports from attendees. Plus, learn about AAM's upcoming plans for virtual professional development you can join from anywhere.

[Read more »](#)

The Longest Long Words List

Don't read this if you have hippopotomonstrosesquippedaliophobia (fear of long words).

https://www.merriam-webster.com/wordplay/longest-words-ever?utm_placement=newsletter&user_id=66c4c6935d78644b3ab73873

> What Is News?

Pew Research | Staff. The rise of social media, podcasts, and other new media platforms has blurred the lines between news, opinion, and entertainment. This analysis reveals what Americans think news is—and isn't—in the digital age. ([More](#))

HAWAII ISLAND ALL NATIONS POWWOW 2025



Saturday, September 13th 10-4

Sunday, September 14th 11-5

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96749

Island of Hawaii

Specials

Hoop Dancers

Tuscarora Smoke Dancers

Woodland Sky Dance

Company

Birds Singing and Dancing by
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Head Staff

Headman : Shane Mitchell

Headwoman : Michelle Reed

EmCee : Brian Jackson

Arena Director : Terry Goodsky

Head Youth Male : Grason Jackson

Head Youth Female : Jayla Frank

Head Veteran: Jesse Ramirez

Host Drum: Warpaint Singers

Local Drum : Little Bear Spirit

Guest Drum: Healing Nations

In fiscal partnership with Grassroots Community Development Council . For more info: NICHE-Hawaii All Nations Pow-wow or email: hawaiiipowwow@hotmail.com Host Hotel : Hilo Hawaiian Car rental: Budget v222904

A Family Centered Alcohol and Drug Free event. Bring you own tents , chairs, blankets/

Arizona, Utah, CA, WA seek federal money for water infrastructure

“U.S. Sen. Mark Kelly, D-Arizona, is part of a bipartisan bill to unlock federal funding for water infrastructure in the West. Working alongside U.S. Sen. John Curtis, R-Utah, Kelly has introduced the Restoring WIFIA Eligibility Act. It’s part of efforts by their states, Washington state and California to get federal dollars. Established in 2014, the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) created a program to provide credit assistance to wastewater, drinking water, and stormwater projects, both public and private. With terms that included low, fixed-interest rates and repayment schedules, WIFIA loans allowed applicants to draw funds when needed. Still, Kelly’s office said “certain interpretations of the program” created hurdles for any projects with federal involvement. That, said the senator, made them ineligible for WIFIA loans because of language that made them available only to non-federal borrowers. ... ” [Read more from the Center Square.](#)

Commentary: Algae blooms, traffic and plastics at Lake Tahoe — what can we do about it?

Niobe Burden Austere, a professional photographer and advocate, writes, “To many in the Reno-Carson area, Lake Tahoe is more than a getaway — it’s a sanctuary. After living overseas for a decade, I was stunned upon returning to see just how much the lake has changed. Early algae blooms now cloud the shoreline, plastics litter the beaches even in winter, and oil residue clings to the rocks. These aren’t isolated signs — they point to a lake under mounting environmental pressure. All those who love Lake Tahoe are part of this story. And we have a responsibility to be part of the solution. After the presentation of the long-awaited 2023 Tahoe Regional Planning Agency Environmental Threshold Evaluation (1), I delved deeper than intended and found a staggering lack of transparency by TRPA staff to the public and even to the Governing Board when first presented on Feb. 26. ... ” [Read more from This is Reno.](#)

Geologically rich but economically poor, Salton Sea communities want a say in their lithium future



Geothermal plant at the Salton Sea.

“The Salton Sea is a haven for wildlife, a repository of critical minerals and the site of some of the worst environmental and economic conditions in California. The contrast between its natural riches and its impoverished population has sharpened as companies seek to mine vast deposits of lithium, a mineral used to make batteries for electric cars, computers and cellphones. “Today, the Salton Sea region stands at a critical juncture with a chance to become a major domestic supplier of lithium,” state Sen. Steve Padilla, who represents parts of Riverside, Imperial and San Diego counties, recently told the Senate Committee on Business, Professions and Economic

Development. The Chula Vista Democrat wants to give the region a bigger say in how it grows amid the projected lithium boom. His bill, SB 534, would create a “green empowerment zone” around the sea that would govern how to use public money, invest in local communities and support the transition to a renewable energy economy. ... ” [Read more from Cal Matters](#).

As time grows short for a Colorado River deal, Trump is set to fill vacant water post

“The Trump administration is preparing to announce its pick to head the Bureau of Reclamation, a crucial position in deciding the future of the Colorado River, a White House spokesperson told the Arizona Republic. The move would effectively complete the new federal team overseeing strained negotiations over one of Arizona’s largest water sources. The new commissioner will take charge amid tense negotiations among the seven states that use the Colorado River, which has strained under multi-decadal drought and high water demand. Southwestern states are working on an agreement to manage the river after the current guidelines expire in 2026. Without a proposal from the states, the new administration must impose a solution and risk drawing the river into a stream of lawsuits and conflict. ... ” [Read more from Arizona Central](#).

Commentary: Arizona will have less water after 2026. Where will new supplies come from?

Opinion columnist Joanna Allhands writes, “Cities across central Arizona can expect markedly [less Colorado River water](#) after 2026. So, where are they going to find the water to replace it? It’s a fair question. And the short answer is: We don’t know yet. Officials have been working to find more water for years. Some of those ideas are even in various stages of planning and construction. But none will be ready by 2027. And it’s unclear if they will produce enough water to fill the gap — in part, because we don’t know how large the gap might be. Arizona’s Water Infrastructure Finance Authority has set a goal of securing [100,000 to 500,000 acre-feet of water](#) a year over the next 10 to 15 years from outside Arizona. But that was based on what cities said they might be willing to buy a couple of years ago. And who knows if that will still be enough ... ” [Continue reading at Arizona Central](#).

Farmers, cities seek to join fight against Arizona’s water-pumping lawsuit

“A group of farmers, ranchers and cities are going to court to stop the state attorney general from pursuing her effort to halt pumping of groundwater by a Saudi-owned alfalfa farm in western Arizona. There’s no legal basis for the claim by Attorney General Kris Mayes that the actions of Fondomonte are violating any state water laws, Attorney David Brown says. Instead, Mayes is trying to convince Maricopa County Superior Court Judge Scott Minder that the company is creating a “public nuisance” by draining water from the aquifer. But the real purpose behind the new court filing, Brown said, is the fear that if Mayes wins in court, “this case is just the beginning.” “This case is a known test case for future lawsuits against other groundwater users who lawfully use groundwater under Arizona law,” the lawsuit says. And that, Brown told the judge, could mean his clients. ... ” [Read more from the Arizona Daily Star](#).

Could a public lands deal amount to a water grab for Utah?

“A controversial federal budget amendment would transfer about 10,000 acres of public land in Utah to a water district — reviving concerns in the Colorado River Basin about a pipeline from the country’s second-biggest reservoir. Rep. Celeste Maloy, R-Utah, has proposed a land transfer to Washington County in Southern Utah, and water activists are drawing comparisons to the contentious Lake Powell pipeline project because of similarities to the pipeline’s map. Some say

it's a water grab that could have implications for Southern Nevada. In a joint statement Wednesday from Reps. Susie Lee, D-Nev., and Greg Stanton, D-Ariz., they called on House Republicans "to immediately withdraw this reckless public land sale proposal which looks to be a Trojan horse to steal Nevadans' and Arizonans' water." ... " [Read more from the Las Vegas Review-Journal](#).

Wyoming begins exploring voluntary water conservation programs

"In Cheyenne, Wyoming, the northernmost city receiving Colorado River water, the state engineer and attorney general's offices met with legislators on the select water committee last week to discuss ongoing Colorado River negotiations. Their message was clear: Wyoming must adapt to a future in which the river has an inadequate supply of water for all of its users. Brandon Gebhart, Wyoming's state engineer responsible for managing and regulating the water within the state, and Chris Brown, with the Wyoming attorney general's water and natural resources division, gave committee members background on the Colorado River negotiations, and outlined why it is in Wyoming's interest to come up with its own water conservation statutes. With many Colorado River basin mountain ranges holding less than 50 percent of their average spring snowpack, it's clear that the river and its reservoirs will again be stressed this year by deepening drought. "We don't have anything set up right now," said Gebhart. "But I think it's very important that if we're to do that, we need to do it in a way that doesn't impact our water users, and it's something that Wyoming can live with." ... " [Read more from Inside Climate News](#).

The Trump administration plans to undo standards on toxic 'forever chemicals' in the U.S. drinking water supply

"The Trump administration on Wednesday announced plans to rescind and postpone rules limiting "forever chemicals" in drinking water that were enacted under the Biden administration and designed to prevent millions of people from exposure to these persistent and dangerous contaminants. Lee Zeldin, the administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, said the agency plans to issue new rules this fall that would repeal drinking water levels for four PFAS chemicals and delay the implementation of limits on two others. PFAS—or per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances—have been used in the manufacturing of a huge range of products for decades, becoming ubiquitous in water and soils despite the dangers they pose to human and environmental health. Research has shown that roughly half of the U.S. population consumes water contaminated with PFAS, which are linked to cancers, reproductive and neurological problems and low birth weights. New data shows that PFAS are found at more than 8,500 drinking water sources across all 50 states and Washington, D.C. ... " [Read more from Inside Climate News](#).



As Library of Congress crisis deepens, lawmakers tread carefully

A stalemate at the Library of Congress continued Tuesday with no easy resolution in sight, as lawmakers considered how far to wade in. [Read more...](#)



Today Ralph will be posthumously bestowed with an Honorary Doctorate at a special ceremony after Commencement.

Dear Wolf Pack Family,

Elder Ralph Burns was an extraordinary human being whose life and influence on our entire state will be remembered for generations to come. His passing on April 25 is a tremendous loss for all Nevadans. Ralph was an advocate for all aspects of Native American language, culture and traditions. Through his tireless and compassionate efforts, Ralph was able to remind us how a true culture keeper can have such a profound impact on the people around him. Ralph's example as a leader for his people was woven tightly into who he was as a person — a person who valued education, collaboration and empowerment.

Language forms the basis of all culture. When the language disappears so does the folklore, myths and traditions. You begin to lose a sense of place, purpose and identity when your language no longer exists.

Elder Ralph Burns



Our University, in particular, owes Ralph a tremendous amount of gratitude for the many contributions he made in furthering our institutional mission. He gave many Indigenous blessings at major events at the University and was, quite simply, a cornerstone of the University experience. In addition, Ralph touched future generations as a highly respected Paiute Language teacher for our University. Through his work teaching Paiute I and II language courses, Ralph has had a significant impact on revitalizing the Paiute Language, which the University will carry forward in his honor. It is no exaggeration to say that it was Ralph's vision and energy that helped bring the Paiute language courses we offer to life. During our upcoming Spring Commencement Exercises, we will proudly honor Ralph's life and work with the conferral of an honorary doctorate of humane letters.

Ralph Burns touched the lives of many, many people and advanced and preserved the culture of his people. On behalf of the entire University, Lauralyn and I wish to offer our sincere condolences to the Burns family and his many friends throughout our community and state.

Sincere regards, Brian Sandoval, President

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And congratulations to **Annette Cavanaugh** who will be receiving her PhD today.

# The complete history of the US State of the Union address

By [John Haltiwanger](#)

- The State of the Union address has a long, interesting history that dates back to President George Washington.
- The address derives from the US Constitution, but the language is vague, so different presidents have put their own spin on it.
- Now the State of the Union largely serves as an opportunity for the president to highlight accomplishments while outlining hopes for the future.
- President Donald Trump is the second president in US history to deliver a State of the Union following impeachment.
- Follow along with all of Business Insider's [coverage of the State of the Union here](#).

The State of the Union is an annual address the president delivers before a joint session of Congress.

Its history dates back to the first leader of the nation, President George Washington, and it has evolved several times over the years.

Now the State of the Union largely serves as an opportunity for the president to emphasize the ways in which he feels his administration has been successful while also laying out his agenda and hopes for the future.

Here's the history behind the State of the Union.

The State of the Union address derives from Article II, Section 3 of the US Constitution, which says presidents "shall from time to time give to the Congress information of the state of the union, and recommend to their consideration such measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient." This has been interpreted differently by various presidents, given how vaguely worded it is.

It's not required that presidents deliver "information of the state of the union" in a speech, but that's how it was initially done. In the US's first 12 years, George Washington and John Adams delivered their State of the Union addresses before Congress.

The constitutionally mandated presidential message was formally known as the "Annual Message" from 1790 to 1946.

On January 8, 1790, Washington delivered the first State of the Union address before Congress in New York City, the US capital at the time.

President Thomas Jefferson ended the tradition of delivering a speech before Congress, opting instead to send a written message to lawmakers. Jefferson felt that delivering an address before Congress was too aristocratic and similar to practices in monarchies.

Presidents followed Jefferson's example for over a century. But the precedent the third president established was broken by Woodrow Wilson in 1913.

Wilson was the first president to deliver the executive's message in a speech before Congress since 1801. At the time, The Washington Post reported that lawmakers were "agape" at Wilson's break from tradition. "Washington is amazed," the newspaper said.

Since Wilson, most presidents have delivered their message to Congress in person, with a few exceptions — for example, Harry S. Truman, Dwight D. Eisenhower, and Jimmy Carter sent their final messages in print. President Richard Nixon also sent a written message in 1973 because his staff felt that delivering one in person would have come too soon after his inaugural address.

In 1923, President Calvin Coolidge became the first commander-in-chief to deliver the speech via radio.

The phrase "state of the union" was popularized by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, whose speech was informally referred to as the state of the union "address" or "message."

Truman officially named the speech the "State of the Union address," and the rest is history. Truman was also the first president to broadcast his address on TV.

President Lyndon B. Johnson shrewdly moved the speech from midafternoon to 9 p.m. to attract a larger TV audience across the nation.

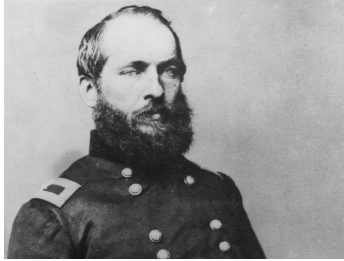
President Ronald Reagan started the practice of inviting special guests, often ordinary Americans who've performed an act of heroism or people who help the president make specific policy points.

Nixon holds the record for the shortest State of the Union address, delivering his 1972 speech in about 28 minutes.

The longest State of the Union was delivered by President Bill Clinton in 2000, clocking in at about 89 minutes.

President Jimmy Carter holds the record for the longest address in terms of total written words: 33,667 words in 1981. Meanwhile, Washington holds the record for the shortest address in terms of written words: 1,089 words in 1790.

**Only two presidents have not delivered a State of the Union address in any form: William Henry Harrison, who died of pneumonia 32 days after his inauguration, and James A. Garfield, who was assassinated in 1881 after 199 days in office.**



President James A. Garfield. Mathew Brady / Stringer / Getty Images

Source: [\*Associated Press\*](#)

The speech has been postponed at least once. Reagan's 1986 address was pushed back after the Challenger space shuttle exploded on January 28.

In 2002, President George W. Bush brought the speech into the internet era, becoming the first president to make the address available via webcast and the first to post it on the White House's website.

There has not been a State of the Union address every year. Several presidents did not give official speeches in this capacity in their first year: Reagan in 1981, George H.W. Bush in 1989, Clinton in 1993, George W. Bush in 2001, Barack Obama in 2009, and Donald Trump in 2017. But many, such as Trump, did deliver speeches to Congress in their first year.

In 2019, Trump became the first president in history to be disinvited from delivering the State of the Union address. But his address was eventually rescheduled.

Some State of the Union addresses have been more memorable than others, and the influence of the speech has perhaps been exaggerated at times. But it is a vital opportunity for the president to grab the attention of Congress and the US public, and, in many ways, to address whatever feels most important in the world in that moment.

Trump is the second president in US history to deliver a State of the Union address after being impeached. In Clinton's 1999 address, which came after he was impeached in December 1998, he did not mention impeachment. Clinton's Senate impeachment trial was ongoing at the time, and it ended in February with his acquittal.