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**Valley of Fire**

Correction: At UNR graduation ceremonies, Annette Cavanaugh received two masters - the doctorate next May.



Annette Cavanaugh

It has been a whirlwind of about three weeks—submitting my professional paper, presenting my writing, and prepping for finals on a 15 graduate credit load was not for the faint of heart. There has been a lot of celebration too. With the Native Student Affinity celebration, Mother’s Day and another birthday, I’m feeling pretty grateful! Thank you to my family and close friends for your valuable support! This semester closes with an MS completed en route to my PhD slated to be completed next year. There is still much work to be done but I have my research, writing, and one advanced stats class remaining in my program of study. I’m almost there!

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Native student graduates received a stole, a Pendleton blanket from the university and items from the Native students’ Alumni organization.

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For those that wish to watch the posthumus degree awarded to Ralph Burns, see video at 33:16

If you watch the video from the beginning, you will hear some inspirational remarks by Mark Johnson. The honors awarded both Marilyn Newton and Ralph demonstrate that the academic community now recognizes life-long perfection of a craft or knowledge base equal to that of a traditional doctorate program.



Whitney Jade Dressler Martinez (UNR)



Hope Allen (UNR)

[The Other 98% ·](#)

[The Library of Congress just delivered a masterclass in institutional independence by refusing entry into the building to Trump's appointees, who arrived claiming new authority after President Trump abruptly fired Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden, an accomplished leader with broad bipartisan support. In a remarkable display of backbone, Library staff and legal counsel stood firm, denying the appointees access and even calling in Capitol Police, refusing to recognize their authority without explicit direction from Congress.](#)

This confrontation wasn't just bureaucratic drama, it was a pivotal moment for the separation of powers. The Library of Congress, a legislative branch agency, is supposed to serve lawmakers and the public, not the whims of the White House. Trump's move to install loyalists, including a former defense attorney from his own criminal trial, raised serious legal and ethical questions about executive overreach and the potential politicization of a nonpartisan institution. Congressional Democrats swiftly condemned the firings and called for investigations, warning that the integrity of confidential legislative research and copyright policy was at risk. By standing its ground, the Library made clear that the legislative branch won't be steamrolled by the executive, especially when it comes to safeguarding its own independence. This episode is a sharp reminder that checks and balances aren't just constitutional theory; they're real, and they matter most when democracy is under stress. This is the way.

#### **AmeriCorps cuts hit Tahoe: 'This is not just about losing funding'**

"At least 16 AmeriCorps members in the Tahoe Basin were terminated essentially overnight after the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) cut funding to the AmeriCorps program nationwide on Sunday, April 27. Many members were around halfway through their service term. "This is not just about losing funding," Jenny Hatch said, executive director of the Sierra Nevada Alliance, "It's about losing the very infrastructure that has made meaningful conservation possible in our region." Hatch explains the grants were cut in the middle of the fiscal year and describes it as unprecedented. The unexpected cut resulted in AmeriCorps members arriving to work on Monday, April 28, just to be told to go home and not return on Tuesday. ... Many of the members moved from other parts of the country for the opportunity. "I know a lot of programs just literally have ceased and everybody's just in shock," Hatch said. "Everyone's trying to gather and try and figure out what's next." ... " [Read more from the Tahoe Daily Tribune.](#)

#### **EPA backs Arizona's bid to regulate underground injection wells.**

"The Environmental Protection Agency is moving forward with Arizona's request to oversee permitting for underground injection wells. During a signing ceremony today, agency Administrator Lee Zeldin said that this action would grant primary enforcement responsibility to the state. "This is to grant class one through six primacy to the state of Arizona," Zeldin said, noting that the agency received the state's request around February 2024. Congressman Juan Ciscomani described the announcement as more than regulatory authority and an example of the agency keeping its promises and pulling back red tape on natural resource projects. "It's about trust in Arizona's ability to manage its own resources and protect our communities," Ciscomani said. ... " [Read more from Arizona Public Media.](#)



## **Governor Hobbs convenes “roundtable” at Central Arizona Project HQ to emphasize**



### **Arizona unity during challenging Colorado River negotiations**

**“Arizona Governor Katie Hobbs convened a “roundtable” of state water users and other officials on Tuesday to assess the condition of Arizona’s Colorado River water supplies and to increase public awareness of the challenges the state faces as negotiations over the future operations of the river system go forward. The event at the headquarters of the Central Arizona Project included a helicopter fly-over for the Governor of parts of the 336-mile CAP canal system, which typically delivers nearly half of Arizona’s Colorado River water to central and south-central Arizona communities. Asked about the on-going negotiations over new guidelines for operating the river system after 2026, Governor Hobbs acknowledged that from her perspective, the negotiations appear “more than a little frustrating,” noting that Arizona’s designated representative for Colorado River matters, Department of Water Resources Director Tom Buschatzke, was “at the table, I think, hourly having these conversations.” ... ” [Read more from the Arizona Department of Water Resources](#).**

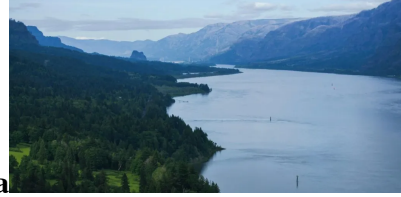
### **Arizona lawmakers seek right to sue to overturn national monument**

**“Rebuffed by a federal judge, Republican state legislative leaders want an appellate court to give them a chance to void the designation of nearly a million acres in northern Arizona as a national monument. In new filings Wednesday, Arizona’s House speaker and Senate president argue that Judge Stephen McNamee got it wrong in January when he ruled they have no legal standing to challenge the creation of Baaj Nwaavjo I’tah Kukveni Ancestral Footprints of the Grand Canyon National Monument. If there is a right for Arizona to sue on this issue, and that has not been decided, McNamee said it belongs to the executive branch. But neither Gov. Katie Hobbs nor Attorney General Kris Mayes have sought to overturn the monument’s 2023 designation by former President Joe Biden. ... ” [Read more from the Arizona Daily Star](#).**

### **Arizona: Coalition of farmers, cities want to stop Mayes’ groundwater lawsuit**

**“A group of farmers, ranchers and cities are going to court to stop Attorney General Kris Mayes from pursuing her bid to halt the pumping of groundwater by a Saudi-owned alfalfa farm. Attorney David Brown says there’s no legal basis for the claim by the attorney general that the actions of Fondomonte are violating any state water laws. 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 the attorney general wins in court, “this case is just the beginning.” ... ” [Read more from the Arizona Capitol Times](#).**





### **A crucial river treaty is tangled in Trump's feud with Canada**

“Caught up in the tariff spat between the United States and Canada is a little-known treaty that shapes the lives of millions of Americans and Canadians. The 60-year-old treaty governs the water rushing down the Columbia River and its tributaries, which snake from British Columbia through Montana, Idaho, Washington and Oregon, and provides the single largest source of hydropower in the United States. But parts of the treaty expired around the U.S. presidential election. Negotiators were still weeks away from completing the details of an updated version of the treaty when President Joseph R. Biden Jr.’s term ended. Then a decade of talks crashed into President Trump’s hostility toward Canada. He called Canada the “51st state,” slapped tariffs on Canadian exports and fixated on tapping its water as a “very big faucet.” In a contentious call in February with Canada’s prime minister at the time, Justin Trudeau, Mr. Trump included the treaty among the ways he said Canada had taken advantage of the United States. The implication was clear: The treaty could become a bargaining chip in a broader negotiation to remake the relationship between the two countries. ...” [Read more from the New York Times](#)

### **Senators introduce bipartisan bill to expand access to water infrastructure funding**

“On Tuesday, U.S. Senators John Curtis (R-UT) and Mark Kelly (D-AZ) introduced the *Restoring WIFIA Eligibility Act*, a bipartisan, bicameral bill designed to improve water quality and storage infrastructure throughout the Western United States. Companion legislation has also been introduced in the House of Representatives by Congressmen Jim Costa (D-CA) and Dan Newhouse (R-WA). Senator Curtis emphasised the need for the legislation in light of Utah’s rapid growth. “After meeting with several water conservancy districts across Utah over the past few months, one thing is clear: Utah’s rapid population growth is placing significant pressure on our community water resources,” said Senator Curtis. “This bipartisan legislation would make it easier for local governments and utilities to invest in critical water infrastructure projects—helping ensure we can meet the growing needs of our communities.” ...”

[Read more from Smart Water Magazine.](#)

### **12,000 reasons why the Trump administration must be stopped from dismantling FEMA**

“In May through October, the United States and its Caribbean territories experience their worst climate impacts—a time we call Danger Season. As I write this, 62 percent of the people living in the country have faced some kind of extreme weather alert since May 1—including flood warnings along the East Coast and mid-Atlantic, extreme heat warnings in Texas, and wildfire danger in the Midwest, Northern Plains and Southwest. As Danger Season cranks up, we will likely see many more extreme events—and some of them will require the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to rescue people and help them recover. The FEMA Review Council’s deadline for public comments on how to improve FEMA is May 15. President Trump established the council on January 24 to get its advice on what changes to FEMA “best serve the national interest.” However, their track record thus far sets off alarm bells that this could just be a rigged process to further undermine and dismantle FEMA. ...” [Read more from the Union of Concerned Scientists.](#)

### **Interior wants to do NEPA reviews in 28 days. Is that even possible?**

“The Interior Department is plowing ahead with plans to fast-track environmental reviews, directing officials to blow through what is often a yearslong process in less than a month. But former federal workers and other experts who’ve long dealt with the National Environmental Policy Act — one of the nation’s most important environmental laws — told POLITICO’s E&E News that meeting the new timeline while still complying with federal requirements would be next to impossible. The new 28-day standard could lead, these officials said, to analyses that contain little or no recognition of environmental factors on the ground. The move, announced last month, is part of President Donald Trump’s push to expand traditional energy development in the United States. It could remake how project reviews are conducted and set up new legal battle lines. “It takes longer to get a mortgage,” said Jamie Pleune, a law professor at the University of Utah, who has studied NEPA permitting. ... ” [Read more from E&E News](#).

### **A Minnesota tribe built solar for its casino. Now its electric supplier vows to cut off power.**

[https://www.startribune.com/a-minnesota-tribe-built-solar-for-its-casino-now-their-electric-supplier-vows-to-cut-off-power/601343902?utm\\_source=newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=best\\_of?utm\\_source=gift\\_email](https://www.startribune.com/a-minnesota-tribe-built-solar-for-its-casino-now-their-electric-supplier-vows-to-cut-off-power/601343902?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=best_of?utm_source=gift_email)

### **More Executive Orders to read:**

- [Armed Forces Day, 2025](#) May 16, 2025
- [Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, 2025](#) May 16, 2025
- [Jewish American Heritage Month, 2025](#) May 16, 2025

### **And the Biggie:**

### **ENDING TAXPAYER SUBSIDIZATION OF BIASED MEDIA (benign heading)**

### **Donald Trump signs executive order to *IMMEDIATELY DEFUND* NPR and PBS!**

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, it is hereby ordered:

Section 1. Purpose. National Public Radio (NPR) and the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) receive taxpayer funds through the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB). Unlike in 1967, when the CPB was established, today the media landscape is filled with abundant, diverse, and innovative news options. Government funding of news media in this environment is not only outdated and unnecessary but corrosive to the appearance of journalistic independence.

At the very least, Americans have the right to expect that if their tax dollars fund public broadcasting at all, they fund only fair, accurate, unbiased, and nonpartisan news coverage. No media outlet has a constitutional right to taxpayer subsidies, and the Government is entitled to determine which categories of activities to subsidize. The CPB's governing statute reflects principles of impartiality: the CPB may not "contribute to or otherwise support any political party." 47 U.S.C. 396(f)(3); *see also id.* 396(e)(2).

The CPB fails to abide by these principles to the extent it subsidizes NPR and PBS. Which viewpoints NPR and PBS promote does not matter. What does matter is that neither entity presents a fair, accurate, or unbiased portrayal of current events to taxpaying citizens.

I therefore instruct the CPB Board of Directors (CPB Board) and all executive departments and agencies (agencies) to cease Federal funding for NPR and PBS.

Sec. 2. Instructions to the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. (a) The CPB Board shall cease direct funding to NPR and PBS, consistent with my Administration's policy to ensure that Federal funding does not support biased and partisan news coverage. The CPB Board shall cancel existing direct funding to the maximum extent allowed by law and shall decline to provide future funding.

(b) The CPB Board shall cease indirect funding to NPR and PBS, including by ensuring that licensees and permittees of public radio and television stations, as well as any other recipients of CPB funds, do not use Federal funds for NPR and PBS. To effectuate this directive, the CPB Board shall, before June 30, 2025, revise the 2025 Television Community Service Grants General Provisions and Eligibility Criteria and the 2025 Radio Community Service Grants General Provisions and Eligibility Criteria to prohibit direct or indirect funding of NPR and PBS. To the extent permitted by the 2024 Television Community Service Grants General Provisions and Eligibility Criteria, the 2024 Radio Community Service Grants General Provisions and Eligibility Criteria, and applicable law, the CPB Board shall also prohibit parties subject to these provisions from funding NPR or PBS after the date of this order. In addition, the CPB Board shall take all other necessary steps to minimize or eliminate its indirect funding of NPR and PBS.

Sec. 3. Instructions to Other Agencies. (a) The heads of all agencies shall identify and terminate, to the maximum extent consistent with applicable law, any direct or indirect funding of NPR and PBS.

(b) After taking the actions specified in subsection (a) of this section, the heads of all agencies shall identify any remaining grants, contracts, or other funding instruments entered into with NPR or PBS and shall determine whether NPR and PBS are in compliance with the terms of those instruments. In the event of a finding of noncompliance, the head of the relevant agency shall take appropriate steps under the terms of the instrument.

(c) The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall determine whether "the Public Broadcasting Service and National Public Radio (or any successor organization)" are complying with the statutory mandate that "no person shall be subjected to discrimination in employment . . . on the grounds of race, color, religion, national origin, or sex." 47 U.S.C.



397(15), 398(b). In the event of a finding of noncompliance, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall take appropriate corrective action.

Sec. 4. Severability. If any provision of this order, or the application of any provision to any agency, person, or circumstance, is held to be invalid, the remainder of this order and the application of its provisions to any other agencies, persons, or circumstances shall not be affected thereby.

Sec. 5. General Provisions. (a) Nothing in this order shall be construed to impair or otherwise affect:

- (i) the authority granted by law to an executive department or agency, or the head thereof; or
  - (ii) the functions of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget relating to budgetary, administrative, or legislative proposals.
- (b) This order shall be implemented consistent with applicable law and subject to the availability of appropriations.
- (c) This order is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the United States, its departments, agencies, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.

DONALD J. TRUMP

THE WHITE HOUSE,

May 1, 2025.



**Bert and Ernie have yet to comment.**

**Kermit's remarks about MTG not printable here.**

<b>The disrespect and betrayal of Republican Rep. Mark Amodei</b>
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<b>From:</b>	Native Voters Alliance Nevada
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The recent surprise amendment introduced by Republican Rep. Mark Amodei of Nevada, mandating the sell-off of public lands *that aren't even in his district, but in those of his Democratic colleague's*, is nothing short of a betrayal.

He didn't even consult with the Representatives who live in and represent the areas he wants to commodify and exploit.

This coordinated land grab, executed under the cover of darkness, targets our sacred homelands, including areas near Avi Kwa Ame and Gold Butte National Monuments, and threatens to sever our connection to the land that has been cared for by our ancestors for generations. National Monuments, by the way, that were just established after years of organizing and advocacy.

The betrayal is particularly egregious as it seeks to dispose of tens of thousands of acres and encroach upon lands that are integral to our culture and identity. The maps show a targeted dispossession of our ancestral lands, including parcels that border the Pyramid Lake Paiute Reservation. This is not a mere oversight or policy adjustment; *it is a calculated assault on our sovereignty and heritage.*

As Indigenous peoples, we have a sacred bond with the land that sustains us. These lands are not just parcels on a map. They are the remnants of our history, our spirituality, and our existence as a people. Once sold, these lands will be lost forever, and our connection to our ancestors will be irrevocably severed.

**We must unite to protect what is rightfully ours. We are committed to building our political power and defending our sacred public lands. We need your support to fight back against these unjust attempts to erase our heritage and exploit sacred lands.**

**In the trenches with you.  
-Native Voters Alliance Nevada**

< <a href="mailto:info@nativevotesnv.org">info@nativevotesnv.org</a> >
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Native Voters Alliance Nevada (NVAN) is the only 501(c)(4) organization in Nevada that is led by Native Americans for Native Americans. NVAN works to uplift the Indigenous community by building political power. This power is built through mobilizing voters, electing officials that advocate for our issues, and promoting legislation that benefits our people.

**The Nevada Arts Council invites members of the community to serve as panelists** for our grant panels. Serving on a peer-review panel is a powerful learning experience and...  
See more



[nevadaartscouncil.submittable.com](https://nevadaartscouncil.submittable.com)

## [Nevada Arts Council - GRANT REVIEW PANELIST APPLICATION](#)



[Help shape Nevada's arts future!](#) [We're seeking experienced professional Arts in arts administration or nonprofit work to serve as panelists for our FY26-27 Operating Support Grant. Panelists will review grant applications that help strengthen the arts infrastructure across Nevada. This is a paid opportunity \(\\$250 per panel day\) and includes a two to four-week commitment with virtual orientation and panel meetings held online. It's a great way to give back, make connections, and support the arts statewide. Apply now: \[LINK\] https://nevadaartscouncil.submittable.com/submit/218471/grant-review-panelist-application \\* \\* \\* #NevadaArts #GrantPanel #SupportTheArts #ArtsLeadership](#)

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## [More graduates \(they're everywhere!\)](#)



Hallie Jim (UNLV)



Dr. Drucilla Gould (Idaho State University)



University of Oregon Graduates



## **The clean energy boom that could snarl the GOP megabill**

Arizona Rep. Juan Ciscomani and other rank-and-file Republicans are facing a tough choice: resist Donald Trump's efforts to gut Democrats' climate law or incur the wrath of constituents who could lose billions in investments and thousands of new jobs.

[https://www.politico.com/news/2025/05/16/clean-energy-arizona-ciscomani-ira-00342972?utm\\_source=firefox-newtab-en-us](https://www.politico.com/news/2025/05/16/clean-energy-arizona-ciscomani-ira-00342972?utm_source=firefox-newtab-en-us)

## **Ancient DNA Charts Native Americans' Journeys to Asia Thousands of Years Ago**

Analysis of ten Eurasian individuals, up to 7,500 years old, gives a picture of movement across continents. [urce=firefox-newtab-en-us](#)

[https://getpocket.com/explore/item/ancient-dna-charts-native-americans-journeys-to-asia-thousands-of-years-ago?utm\\_source=firefox-newtab-en-us](https://getpocket.com/explore/item/ancient-dna-charts-native-americans-journeys-to-asia-thousands-of-years-ago?utm_source=firefox-newtab-en-us)

## **Colony of Roanoke Was Never Actually Lost—and He Can Prove It**

The 'amateur archaeologist' says he's discovered proof of what happened to the colony members who completely vanished from the site of one of the U.S.'s greatest mysteries.

[https://www.popularmechanics.com/science/archaeology/a64771175/roanoke-never-lost/?utm\\_source=firefox-newtab-en-us](https://www.popularmechanics.com/science/archaeology/a64771175/roanoke-never-lost/?utm_source=firefox-newtab-en-us)

## **Why Some People Can Deal With The Cold**

A gene mutation that allowed our ancestors to venture north might also give some of us a competitive sporting advantage.

[https://getpocket.com/explore/item/why-some-people-can-deal-with-the-cold?utm\\_source=firefox-newtab-en-us](https://getpocket.com/explore/item/why-some-people-can-deal-with-the-cold?utm_source=firefox-newtab-en-us)

## **The Secrets of How Life Began May Be Hidden Inside the World's Oldest Rocks**

Smithsonian researchers trekked to a remote site in northern Canada to collect four-billion-year-old rock samples that could unlock mysteries about Earth's earliest history

[https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smithsonian-institution/the-secrets-of-how-life-began-may-be-hidden-inside-the-worlds-oldest-rocks-180986638/?utm\\_source=firefox-newtab-en-us](https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smithsonian-institution/the-secrets-of-how-life-began-may-be-hidden-inside-the-worlds-oldest-rocks-180986638/?utm_source=firefox-newtab-en-us)