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Agencies launch innovative pilot program to protect Lake Tahoe's air and water

Colorado River Basin operated in red most of 21st century; Call for broad water cuts, now.

The Interior Department, War Department and Indian Policy, 1865-1887

History Bits

Map: Scarce Oklahoma promotional issued in advance of the 1893 Cherokee Strip land run

Graham Greene Funeral



Wild horses wading through the water in rural Washoe County

Nevada to be hit hard by SNAP cuts

By Naoka Foreman

Hundreds of thousands of Nevadans, including children, are at risk of losing food support amid federal rollbacks by the Trump Administration.

That includes a [\\$186 billion reduction](#) from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), also known as food stamps, over the next 10 years as a result of the passage of the [“One Big Beautiful Bill Act”](#) this summer.

In 2024, [1 in 6 Nevadans](#), or 15% of the population, relied on SNAP benefits, compared to 1 in 8, or [12% of neighboring Arizonans](#). Nevada exceeded the national rate of SNAP use, while Arizona mirrors the rest of the nation, as reported by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.

Follow the votes. Watch your legislators like a hawk: [Sign up for beta access to My Legislator](#), your weekly report on what your state legislators said, voted on, introduced, and more. Our beta version runs weekly until Sept. 15, and we'd love your feedback on what works, what doesn't, and what you want to see.

Mille Lacs Band is second Minnesota tribe to sign deal to open off-reservation cannabis stores

https://www.startribune.com/cannabis-store-mille-lacs-band-weed-marijuana/601471532?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=politics&utm_term=Politics?utm_source=gift_email

How Japanese 'tiny forests' are sweeping Scotland

Grown using the Miyawaki method, fast-growing miniature forests in the middle of cities can bring surprisingly big benefits for people and the environment.

For the first time, there are more children with obesity than underweight children worldwide, according to UNICEF. Since 2000, the number of overweight children in lower and middle-income countries has risen exponentially, even alongside chronic malnutrition.

The newly discovered desert city that's rewriting the history of the Americas

Heather Jasper



(Credit: Zona Arqueológica Caral)

On Peru's desert hillsides, archaeologists have uncovered a 3,800-year-old city that may reshape our understanding of the cradle of civilisation in the Americas.

Four hours north of Lima, the ochre slopes of the Supe Valley seem inhospitable: windswept plains, crumbled adobe walls and the shimmer of heat rising from the desert. It's hard to imagine that these dry slopes once supported one of the world's first great civilisations – and that, once-buried beneath this desert, [a new discovery is rewriting the history of the Americas](#).

In July 2025, Peruvian archaeologist Dr Ruth Shady unveiled Peñico, a 3,800 year-old city of Peru's ancient Caral civilisation. The newly excavated site features 18 structures, including ceremonial temples and residential compounds. Most importantly, it provides fresh evidence that the Caral people adapted to climate disaster without turning to war – a survival strategy that feels as extraordinary today as it must have been millennia ago.

"Peñico continues the Caral civilisation's vision of life without conflicts," said Shady, who has led research in the valley for three decades.

The peaceful cradle of the Americas

Long before the Aztec, Maya or Inca, Peru's arid coast was home to the Caral, one of the world's most ancient and peaceful societies. Their main settlement of Caral-Supe – considered the cradle of civilisation in the Americas and [Unesco-listed since 2009](#) – flourished 5,000 years ago in parallel with the earliest urban centres of Mesopotamia and Egypt on the other side of the globe. "Caral was inhabited [from] 3000BC to 1800BC," explains Shady.



Zona Arqueológica Caral

Peñico's discovery sheds light on what became of the Americas' oldest civilisation, the Caral (Credit: Zona Arqueológica Caral)

But unlike its Old World counterparts, Caral had no defensive walls and researchers have found no evidence of any weapons. When Shady began excavating Caral in 1994, she uncovered a society built on trade, music, ritual and consensus.

According to Shady's findings, about 3,000 people lived in Caral, plus several smaller nearby villages. The Supe Valley's strategic position linked the Pacific coast to fertile Andean valleys and the distant Amazon, which created a network of cultural and commercial exchange. The Caral people grew cotton, sweet potatoes, squash, fruit and chilli peppers, trading for minerals from the mountains and squirrel monkeys and macaws as pets from the Amazon. Along the coast, they gathered shellfish, seaweed and fish.

Visiting Caral and Peñico

Caral is open daily from 09:00-17:00, with the last tour starting at 16:00. Entrance tickets include Caral's onsite museum, the nearby sites of Áspero and Vichama, and local guides, most of whom speak only Spanish. Go with a guide who can translate Spanish and who knows the way, since the roads are poorly signed once you leave the Pan-American highway and turn onto the Caral-Ambar road. Peñico is 11km past Caral with the same opening hours.

Visitor tip: Guides at both sites are locals trained by Shady's team, offering rich insights into politics, religion, astronomy and agriculture.

"They had intercultural relationships with people of the jungle, the mountains and across large distances as far as Ecuador and Bolivia, but always peacefully," said Shady. In contrast, the Aztec, Maya and Inca were militaristic states, often waging long campaigns against neighbouring groups.

Caral's ingenuity extended to architecture and the arts. The city's amphitheatre was seismically sound, designed to withstand the Pacific Rim's strongest earthquakes, and had a unique acoustic design for large concerts. Excavations have revealed 32 transverse flutes, some carved from pelican bones, others decorated with monkeys and condors – material proof of long-distance trade and cultural inclusion.

"With these instruments they welcomed people from the coast, the mountains and the jungle in rituals and ceremonies," said Shady.



Zona Arqueológica Caral

One of Caral and Peñico's most fascinating features is their round central plazas (Credit: Zona Arqueológica Caral)

Collapse in the desert

Despite its societal success, Caral faced a formidable challenge: climate. Approximately 4,000 years ago, [a 130-year drought](#) – part of a wider global shift that also disrupted Mesopotamia, Egypt and China – led to crop failures and famine. Caral's monumental plazas and pyramids were abandoned to the desert.

"Climate change caused a crisis in Caral," says Shady. "The rivers and fields dried up. They had to abandon urban centres, which also happened in Mesopotamia."

For years Shady's team theorised that the starving survivors fled entirely to the coast where they could gather shellfish and fish. Excavations at [Vichama](#), a site in the neighbouring Huaura Valley, seemed to support that idea.

But the recent discovery of Peñico tells another story.

Peñico: survival through adaptation

Built upriver from Caral at 600m above sea level, just 10km from Caral-Supe, Peñico shows how some of the Caral people adapted by moving closer to glacial-fed water sources. In a valley where rivers had run dry, proximity to mountain meltwater meant survival.

What makes this remarkable is not just the relocation itself, but how the society responded. There is no evidence of warfare, weapons or fortified walls at Peñico – a rare outcome in times of scarcity.

Archaeologists have uncovered carvings at the site (Credit: Zona "Peñico continues Caral's with nature and relating to other Shady.



sophisticated figurines and Arqueológica Caral) tradition of living in harmony cultures with respect," said

Excavations have also revealed Shady's team has uncovered beaded necklaces and carved into the shape of a human skull. A striking sculpture depicts a woman's head with an elaborate hairstyle, her face painted red with hematite pigment. These objects suggest that even with a reduced population, the community invested in cultural expression as a way of sustaining identity and cohesion.

advances in art and ritual. sophisticated clay figurines, bones – including one fashioned A striking sculpture depicts a

The site is already open to visitors who can explore its ceremonial temples and residential compounds. A new visitor centre with interpretive exhibits has a circular design that echoes Caral and Peñico's most fascinating feature: round central plazas. These plazas are in sections of the cities that archaeologists theorise were administrative areas, evidence of a society that may have functioned on consensus, possibly with a similar democratic structure to Greece some 2,000 years later.

Gaspar Sihue, a tour guide at Caral, encourages travellers to make the trip before the sites become widely known. "I enjoy guiding in the Supe Valley because it's so far off the main tourist trail," he says.

At the same time, Shady cautions that excavations in Peñico are relatively recent, and many buildings are still covered by the desert. "We still have a lot more to learn," she says.



Zona Arqueológica Caral

Travellers can now explore Peñico through guided tours and interpretive exhibits at its striking new circular visitor centre (Credit: Zona Arqueológica Caral)

Lessons from the past

Standing among Peñico's plazas, it is fascinating to consider how an ancient society responded to crisis with adaptation rather than conquest. Its survival strategy – moving closer to water, maintaining trade networks and sustaining art and ritual – is a 3,800-year-old reminder of how cooperation can endure even in times of extreme stress.

This message feels urgent today. Peru still relies on Andean glaciers for its water supply yet has lost 56% of its tropical ice in the past 58 years, according to government glaciologists.

"There are many things we have to do as we're facing climate change," says Shady of the lessons gleaned from Peñico. "We have to change how we see life and how we see the changes that are happening to our planet so that human society can continue with a good quality of life and mutual respect."

Even half-buried in the Peruvian desert, the city feels like a discovery with lessons for the world.

Learn more about Peru's rich pre-Incan history

- North of the Supe Valley, near the city of Trujillo, the ancient city of [Chan Chan](#) was built around AD850 by the Chimú, famous for their finely sculpted ceramics and [for surfing on reed crafts](#).
- In Lima, archaeological sites like the Huaca Pucllana and Pachacamac preserve the memory of the Lima culture, which flourished on the coast around AD200-700.
- South of Lima, [the Nazca lines](#) are the most impressive testimony to the great Nazca civilisation that thrived in the desert from AD100-800. They are best visited on flyovers from the towns of Pisco or Nazca.

More like this:

- [The empire the Aztecs couldn't conquer](#)
- [Spiro Mounds: North America's lost civilisation](#)mm
- [The mysterious people of the Caribbean](#)

National student test scores hit historic lows: The National Report Card tested eighth-grade and 12th-grade students in 2024 and found poor marks in math, reading and science compared with the last time they were tested, in 2019. The decline echoed data released earlier this year.

[Check out the testing results.](#)

Where were Minnesota's fur trading posts located long ago?

[https://www.startribune.com/fur-trading-posts-minnesota-history/601470393?](https://www.startribune.com/fur-trading-posts-minnesota-history/601470393?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=north_report&utm_term=Duluth?utm_source=gift_email)

[utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=north_report&utm_term=Duluth?utm_source=gift_email](https://www.startribune.com/fur-trading-posts-minnesota-history/601470393?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=north_report&utm_term=Duluth?utm_source=gift_email)

The California Report Magazine

Oakland Comedian Jackie Keliiaa on Pain, Punchlines, 'Good Medicine'

Host Sasha Khokha talks with Oakland comedian Jackie Keliiaa, who has built a career turning identity and grief into humor that heals as much as it provokes. Raised in Hayward, Keliiaa draws inspiration — and material for her stand-up routines — from her Native American, Native Hawaiian, Portuguese and Italian heritage. She has been featured in the book “We Had a Little Real Estate Problem: The Unheralded Story of Native American Comedy,” appeared on “Team Coco,” voiced the character Bubble in Netflix’s Native animated series “Spirit Rangers” and co-created the all-Native comedy tour “Good Medicine.” Keliiaa discusses indigeneity, loss and the transformative power of laughter.

<https://www.kqed.org/news/program/the-california-report>

She's part Washoe/Paiute, very funny but serious when discussing boarding schools and holds a degree in Urban Planning. Great interview and pays homage to Charlie Hill, the "Father of Indian Comedy". sdc Actual shows on U-tube or podcasts - Jackie Keliiaa

Presidential Actions

Patriot Day 2025, The 24th Anniversary of the September 11 Terrorist Attacks

Proclamations **September 11, 2025**

Honoring the Memory of Charlie Kirk **Presidential Actions, Proclamations** **Sept 10, 2025**

Memorandum for the Secretary of Health and Human Services the Commissioner of Food and Drugs **September 9, 2025**

Restoring the United States Department of War **Executive Orders** **September 5, 2025**

Strengthening Efforts to Protect U.S. Nationals from Wrongful Detention Abroad
Executive Orders **September 5, 2025**

Taylor Kitsch and Josh Brolin on Shamans, Sweat Lodges, and Self-Transformation
By Josh Brolin

<https://www.interviewmagazine.com/film/taylor-kitsch-and-josh-brolin-on-shamans-sweat-and-self-transformation>~~

Nearly 45 million acres of public forests are under threat, if the U.S. Department of Agriculture gets its way.

The federal agency houses the U.S. Forest Service, and its Secretary is trying to repeal the 2001 Roadless Rule -- which has protected forests from environmental threats such as road construction and logging.

Building roads and logging these forests will not only increase the risk of fires and climate change, but also undermine existing Tribal protections in forest plans, cultural site management, and treaty resource rights.

For example, Joel Jackson, the President of the Organized Village of Kake in Alaska, explained:

"The remaining old growth timber is so important for providing shelter, the berries, and our medicines. It provides shade for our streams to keep them cool so our salmon can return year after year. We are the people of the forest and salmon people. Salmon has sustained us for thousands of years."

Let's lift up their voices, and the voices of the other Tribes opposing the USDA's move to take away crucial protections without any Tribal consultation. We must hold the federal government accountable to its obligations to sovereign Tribal Nations.

[Please submit a public comment before next week's deadline, demanding the USDA keep the Roadless Rule in place to respect Tribal sovereignty, as required by law.](#)

Hawwih (*thank you*) for taking action to support Tribal sovereignty, including our right to steward and make decisions about our homelands.

Judith LeBlanc (Caddo)
Executive Director

P.S. [Click here to check out events happening near you this week](#) during the Pacific Northwest campaign against the USDA's repeal of the Roadless Rule, led by our allies at the Lummi Nation's House of Tears Carvers and Se'Si'Le. Scroll down toward the end of the article to find details and tour dates.

BUILD NATIVE POWER

SUBMIT YOUR COMMENT

**FIGHT BACK! Chip in to elect Native American candidates and our allies who will
STOP Trump from attacking our communities!**

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under the Trump regime is clawing back funding for Indigenous-led initiatives aimed at addressing pollution and environmental justice in our communities.

Our communities have suffered decades of pollution from military and industrial operations that allowed harmful contaminants to leach into our land, water, and air. And now Trump's unconstitutional rescissions will delay our remediation projects aimed at healing and restoring soil and water systems.

These cuts represent a direct attack on our ability to protect the natural resources that we rely on. Our health, our culture, and our future are intertwined with the land we call home.

At Native Voters Alliance Nevada, we are building political power by electing Indigenous leaders and allies who represent our values. We need representatives who will advocate for the issues we care about - clean air, clean water, and the ability to make decisions about our own lands.

As Indigenous peoples, our connection to the land is sacred. It sustains us, nourishes our spirits, and is integral to our identity. However, our communities are under threat. The current political climate, driven by the Trump regime and its allies, seeks to undermine our rights and erode the funding critical to our survival and well-being.

Your contributions are vital in helping us mobilize our community, register new voters, and ensure that our voices are heard at the polls. Together, we can fight back against these injustices and protect the land that has sustained us for generations.

In the trenches with you.
-Native Voters Alliance Nevada

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.

[Donate to our work here.](#)

To donate by check, send to:
Native Voters Alliance Nevada
300 S 4th St, Floor 6
Las Vegas, NV 89101

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Paid for by Native Voters Alliance Nevada, a 501(c)(4) organization. Contributions or gifts to Native Voters Alliance Nevada are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes.

Klamath Tribes warn water plan threatens endangered fish

“The Bureau of Reclamation proposal faces opposition from the Klamath Tribes over fish survival. The Klamath Tribes are opposing a new federal water plan they say risks killing off endangered fish. The Bureau of Reclamation’s proposal would send up to 38,000 additional acre-feet of water — roughly 12.4 billion gallons — to Klamath Project irrigators in southern Oregon and northern California. The bureau’s Annual Operations Plan, which covers April 1 to Sept. 30, initially allocated 277,000 acre-feet from Upper Klamath Lake. An additional 53,000 acre-feet of water could come from deferred project supply, water banked when irrigators postpone use for later. ...” [Read more from Jefferson Public Radio.](#)

Agencies launch innovative pilot program to protect Lake Tahoe’s air and water

“Today, Keep Tahoe Blue, The Tyre Collective, and Desert Research Institute (DRI) announced a groundbreaking collaboration with the Emerald Bay Shuttle and its operator, Downtowner, that brings together science, technology, and alternative transportation to protect Lake Tahoe’s world-renowned water clarity. “While we know that vehicles impact water quality and Lake clarity, this project will help us better understand exactly how vehicles contribute to Tahoe’s water quality challenges,” said Laura Patten, natural resource director at Keep Tahoe Blue. “With that knowledge, we will continue to create solutions that protect this national treasure and Keep Tahoe Blue.” ...” [Read more from Tahoe Daily Tribune.](#)

The Colorado River Basin has operated in the red for most of the 21st century. Experts call for broad water cuts, now.

“People are still using more water than the Colorado River Basin can supply, and it’s shrinking the water savings account for 40 million people, according to a new analysis from basin water experts. The basin states, including Colorado, need to cut their uses now, the experts said. Water stored in Lake Mead and Lake Powell, the basin’s two largest reservoirs, could fall to less than 4 million acre-feet of available water if the river’s flows and water demands are repeated next year, according to a report released Thursday by a team of Colorado River water experts. The two reservoirs have a combined capacity of 58.48 million acre-feet, about 92% of the reservoir storage capacity for the entire Colorado River Basin. “If no immediate action is taken to reduce water use, our already-thin buffer of storage in Lake Powell and Lake Mead could drop to just 9% of the levels with which we started the 21st century,” the authors said in a [joint statement Thursday](#). ...” [Read more from the Colorado Sun.](#)

The Interior Department, War Department and Indian Policy, 1865-1887 - fulltext.pdf

<https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1074&context=historydiss>

History Bits

- 1869 Sep 20** Camp Ruby in White Pine Countw was abandoned by the US Army.
- 1874 Sep 16** The Carson Index asked why the Nevada congressional delegation had not been able to obtain money for Nevadans who “furnished money, rations, animals and arms” for the 1860m War by whites against the Pyramid Lake tribe.
- 1904 Sep 21** Nez Perce **Chief Joseph** died in Washinton.
- 1911 Sep 15** A week after the “discovery” of **Ishi**, reportedly last Yahi survivor, California federal officials said they would not negotiatea treaty with him.
- 1924 Sep 20** George Talbot, federal court master hearing a Truckee River water rights case, entered finding that water rihts of Reno and Spaeks were jnior to those of the Fallon federal irrigation project.
- 1934 Sep 15** The US Public Works Administration announced an acceleration of plans to construct or improve tribal hospitals around the nation, including at the Western Shoshone agency in Nevada.
- 1934 Sep 17** Alida Bowler came to RSIC to explain the Wheeler-Howard Act.
- 1964 Sep 19** President Lyndon Johnson signed two bills passed by Congress: the Multiple Use Act (MUA) and the Public Sales Act (PSA). The MUA gave the Secretary of the Interior the power to withdraw land from the public domain for “multiple use”.

*Please remember that thought these factoids are presented for your reading enjoyment, they hint at more stories to be told.....by you. Additionally, I hope this will incentivize readers to start a similar chronology for their commnity. If you are not that ambitious, just send me five (or more) facts/dates from the history of your community that you think all should know.
sdc*

BE EMPOWERED * BE IN POWER

Map for Sale

Scarce Oklahoma promotional issued in advance of the 1893 Cherokee Strip land run

A very scarce 1893 pamphlet and map issued by the Missouri Pacific Railway, promoting settlement in the newly-created Oklahoma Territory in general and the Cherokee Strip in particular. Issued just in advance of the Cherokee Strip land run of September 16, 1893. As of the early 1890s the Missouri Pacific Railway operated lines throughout the [...]

View Details



GRAHAM GREENE FUNERAL!
KEVIN COSTNER TRIBUTE IS STUNNING!