

Journal #6099

American bison - one of the greatest conservation stories

UNR receives 3.7+ M to enhance rural, tribal and street medicine training

USDA reopining some 2,100 foccices to help farmers access \$38B in aid

LOC - world's largest library, offering access to the creative record of United States and world

Declining academic standards and rising distractions are causing a sharp drop in US literacy.

Makai Zuniga cleared to be sworn in as a licensed attorney in the State of Nevada!!

A quarter-century of game-changing inventions.

Java Man,' the first Homo erectus discovered, is finally going home

Airboat to harvest wild rice stirs up criminal charges, controversy

Why the San Manuel tribe is going back to its original name

Photo essay: Improving snowpack data, the old-fashioned way

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ECO-CLEAN's beach-cleaning robot wraps 2025 with 23 cleanups

Fight over water intensifies as Colorado River dries up

Arizona opinion: Why Colorado River states must confront the digital water boom

Utah Supreme Court rejects Colorado River water pipeline project

Congress members question Pentagon's delay in 'forever chemical' cleanup

Administration announces plan to boost beef producers, supply

Trump Reopns Alaska's Arctic Coastal Plain to Oil Drilling

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

Inventing habitats: A reconciliation approach to urban ecology

Leech Lake Band will get federal disaster assistance for June derecho

Sandoval outlines over a dozen big plans for UNR at State of the University

\$1.6B Nevada Film Tax Credit: Boon or Burden?

Check out WCSD Superintendent Joe Ernst as he discusses Nevada education

Just for fun



Here's a look at American bison one of the greatest conservation stories

Bison are a symbol of our American identity much like Bald Eagles

By [Kurt Snibbe](#) | ksnibbe@scng.com | Orange County Register
Oh, give me a home ...

With Indigenous Peoples' Day Monday, October 13, we look at the herds of bison many tribes relied on that were nearly wiped out.

Year and Population

1800 – 5 million

1875 – 1 million

1880 – 395,000

1890 – 20,000

1895 – Less than 1,000

1919 – 12,521

1983 – 50,000

Today, Department of Labor lands currently support 17 bison herds in 12 states, for a total of approximately 10,000 bison over 4.6 million acres. Private bison owners held about 360,000 bison.

Conservation success

Less than 100 years ago, the American bison was teetering on the verge of extinction. By the beginning of the 20th century, the species' numbers fell from herds of roughly four million to less than 1,000 individuals. The impact on Native Americans was devastating.

In 1905, William Hornaday, Theodore Roosevelt, and others formed the American Bison Society (ABS) to help save bison from extinction — the first national effort to save an American wildlife species. Hornaday, the first president of the Wildlife Conservation Society, saw how the animal was decimated and wrote, "The Extinction of the American Bison" in 1889. His efforts began to rally support for the animal and the first protective legislation was enacted in 1894.

The American bison was named the national mammal of the United States on May 9, 2016.

Bison facts

A few details about North America's largest mammal:

Bison or buffalo? Bison belong to the Bovidae family, which includes a lot of hoofed animals and some are buffaloes. Technically, buffalo species are only in Asia and Africa.

Weight: Males up to 2,000 pounds, females weigh up to 1,000 pounds.

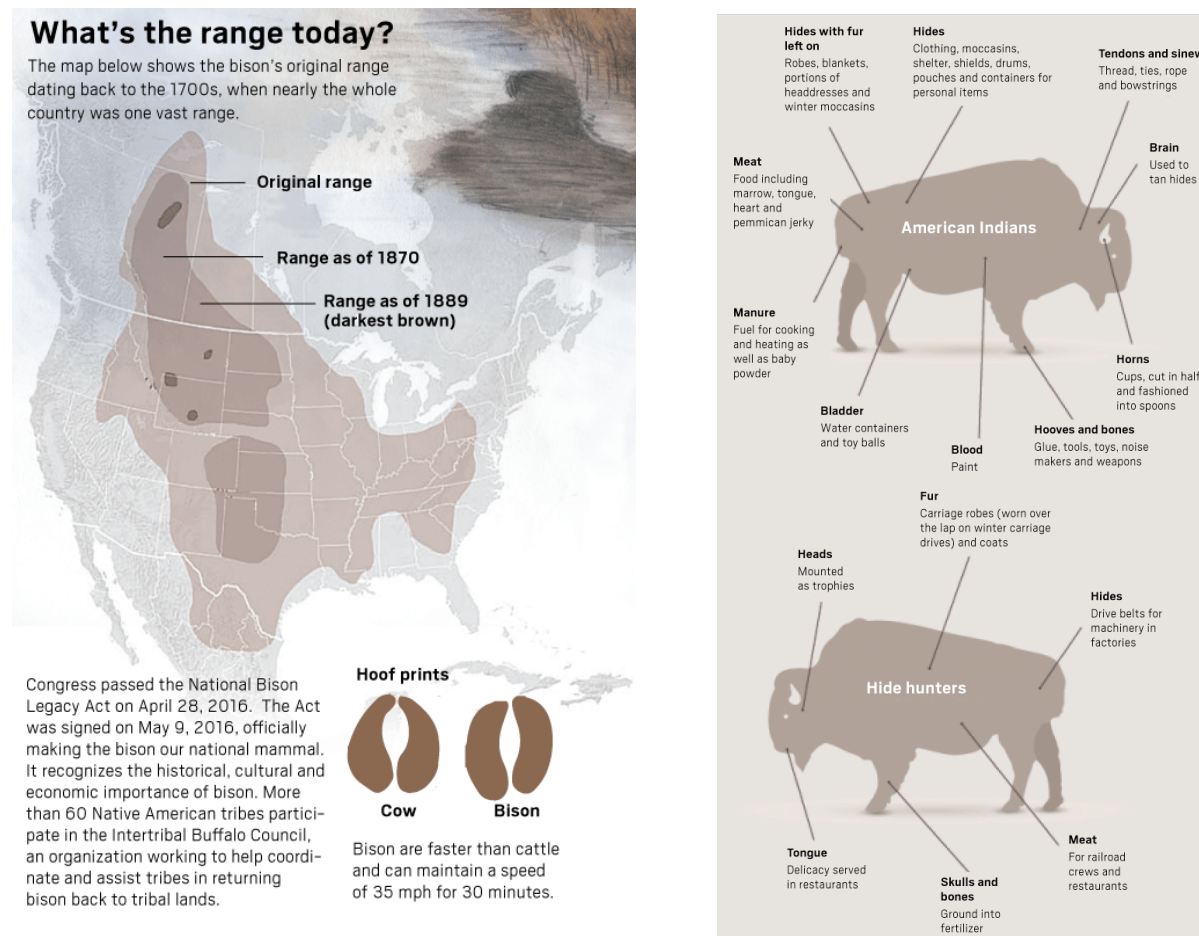
Height: Males can stand 6 feet tall, females reach 4-5 feet tall.

Calves: They are nicknamed “red dogs” because their hides are reddish in color when born. They can weight 30-70 pounds at birth.

Lifespan: The average lifespan is 10-20 years.

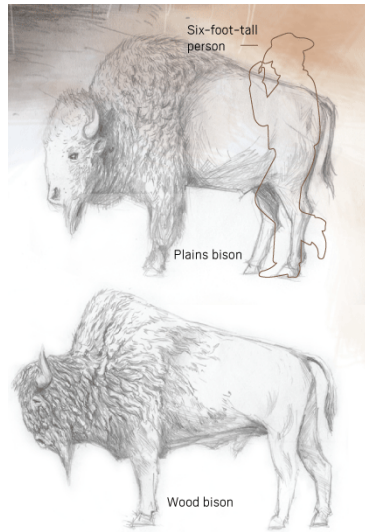
Senses: Bison are nearsighted but have excellent senses of smell and hearing.

Ancient bison: *Bison antiquus*, was taller, had longer horns, and was 25% more massive than living American bison (*Bison bison*). It was roughly 7.5 feet tall and 15 feet long, weighing approximately 3,500 pounds.



Yellowstone National Park is the only place in the U.S. where bison have continuously lived since prehistoric times.

What's a “red dog”? It's a baby bison. Bison calves tend to be born from late March through May and are orange-red in color.



Home on the range

Just like cows and elk, bison have four stomachs. Their four-chambered, ruminant digestive system allows for the absorption of cellulose – a fibrous plant material that is hard to break down.

It takes about 80 hours for grass to pass through their digestive systems.

You can learn much more about bison on the National Park Service site [here](#).

How different cultures used the bison in the 1800s

As great changes came to the West, circumstances led to the near-extinction of the bison.

High-powered rifles were efficient tools to kill large numbers of animals from a distance. Mass markets arose for various parts of the bison, and railroads enabled transportation of these raw materials to markets in the east. Professional hide hunters were very successful, driving the bison to the point of extinction by the early 1880s. Due to the efforts of a handful of concerned individuals, small numbers of bison were preserved in Yellowstone National Park, in 1872, the park protected its remaining two dozen bison.

Sources: National Park Service, Archpark.org, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Top illustrations by JEFF GOERTZEN, staff artist

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**New pathways to care:** UNR Med has been awarded more than \$3.7 million to expand rural, tribal and street medicine training, including a new family medicine residency in Fallon -- [learn how funding expands training](#).

**USDA is reopening some 2,100 offices to help farmers access \$3B in aid despite the ongoing shutdown**

The Agriculture Department will reopen about 2,100 county offices all across the country on Thursday, despite the ongoing government shutdown to help farmers and ranchers get access to \$3 billion of aid from existing programs. [Read more.](#)

**The Library of Congress is the world's largest library**, offering access to the creative record of the United States — and extensive materials from around the world — both on-site and online. It is the main research arm of the U.S. Congress and the home of the U.S. Copyright Office. Explore collections, reference services and other programs and plan a visit at [loc.gov](#), access the official site for U.S. federal legislative information at [congress.gov](#) and register creative works of authorship at [copyright.gov](#).

**The Atlantic | Idrees Kahloon.** Declining academic standards and rising distractions are causing a sharp drop in US literacy. What can be done? ([More](#))

**Makai Zuniga**

Friends and fam, it is official, I have been cleared to be sworn in as a licensed attorney in the State of Nevada!! Although I passed the bar examination earlier this month, I have been awaiting anxiously for the rest of my bar application to be cleared by the State Bar. Yesterday this review was completed, and I am now good to go!

But I just wanted to say that I saw everyone's wonderful words of endearment and encouragement in recent weeks, and now that I am official, I just wanted to say thank you! All of

your support and love has been greatly appreciated



Time to lock in!



Pro tip: read EACH character and fitness question CAREFULLY (I may or may not accidentally



forgot to report that I do indeed have student loans)

A quarter-century of [game-changing inventions](#).

**Java Man,' the first Homo erectus discovered, is finally going home**

Excavated with colonial labor and shipped to the Netherlands, the famous fossil is being repatriated to Indonesia along with 28,000 other fossils.

[https://www.nationalgeographic.com/history/article/java-man-repatriated-indonesia-netherlands-homo-erectus?rid=C38947501E68571D7AA5496FBC02C266&cmpid=org=ngp::mc=crm-email::src=ngp::cmp=editorial::add=Daily\\_NL\\_Thursday\\_Discovery\\_20251023](https://www.nationalgeographic.com/history/article/java-man-repatriated-indonesia-netherlands-homo-erectus?rid=C38947501E68571D7AA5496FBC02C266&cmpid=org=ngp::mc=crm-email::src=ngp::cmp=editorial::add=Daily_NL_Thursday_Discovery_20251023)

**Airboat to harvest wild rice stirs up criminal charges, controversy**



[https://www.startribune.com/white-earth-wild-rice-harvest-with-airboat-stirs-anger-debate/601483123?utm\\_source=newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=north\\_report&utm\\_term=Duluth?utm\\_source=gift\\_email](https://www.startribune.com/white-earth-wild-rice-harvest-with-airboat-stirs-anger-debate/601483123?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=north_report&utm_term=Duluth?utm_source=gift_email)

## Why the San Manuel tribe is going back to its original name

The move to Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation reclaims the tribe's ancestral name.



**Assemblyman James Ramos, along with his son James Ramos Jr. and Trevor Mathews** sing traditional bird songs to a local class at California's First Cultures: A Celebration at Crafton Hills (Waa't) in Yucaipa in Nov 2023, hosted by the Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation. (File photo by Anjali Sharif-Paul, The Sun/SCNG)

## Ruby Valley Treaty Gathering

[https://elkodaily.com/news/local/video\\_7ebda37c-c4d3-5408-99e6-d56b4c063459.html~](https://elkodaily.com/news/local/video_7ebda37c-c4d3-5408-99e6-d56b4c063459.html~)

**4TH ANNUAL  
SACRED MOUNTAIN  
POWOW**

**FORT BIOWELL, CA OCTOBER 24, 25, 26**

**DRUG AND ALCOHOL FREE EVENT 2025 PUBLIC WELCOME - FREE ADMISSION**

**HOST DRUM : MILE POST 30 - HOGBACK, NM**

**COMPETITION DANCING**  
HAND DRUM SINGING CONTEST

**ALL VENDORS, DRUMS,  
AND DANCERS WANTED!**

**HEAD WOMAN: CHESNEY SAMPSON, PAIUTE/SHOSHONE - RENO, NV**  
**HEAD MAN: TRISTAN IKE, TE MOAK WESTERN SHOSHONE - ELKO, NV**

**HEAD TEEN GIRL: ANIKA MCCAULEY, PAIUTE/WASHOE/SHOSHONE - SPARKS, NV**  
**HEAD TEEN BOY: CHEEKS THOMAS, PAIUTE/KICKAPOO - WADSWORTH, NV**

**ARENA DIRECTOR: JACK WILLIAMS, NAVAJO-RENO, NV** **TABULATOR: ANITA TALANCON, PAIUTE-RENO, NV**  
**MC: ANTHONY QUINELLE, GRAND RONDE/KLAMATH - OREGON**

**RED DRESS SPECIAL**  
**NORTHERN MEN'S TRADITIONAL SPECIAL**  
**JINGLE DRESS SPECIAL**  
**TINY TOTS!**

**GRAND ENTRY TIMES:**  
**FRIDAY 10/24 - 7:00 P.M.**  
**SATURDAY 10/25 - NOON**  
**DINNER BREAK 5:00 P.M. - 6:30 P.M.**  
**SUNDAY 10/26 - NOON**

**VENMO DONATIONS MAY GO TO: @POWWOWFUND25**

**Contact Info:**  
**Loyette Meza**  
**530-640-9200 onehorse2013@gmail.com**

**Contact Info:**  
**Meldrick One Horse**  
**530-640-2927 onehorse7@gmail.com**

## Photo essay: Improving snowpack data, the old-fashioned way



A Kennedy Meadows' packer leads the California Department of Water Resources' Division of Flood Management, and GEI Environmental and Architectural Historian out after renovating a dilapidated snow pillow weather station. Photo taken October 10, 2025. Nick Shockey / DWR "DWR's Division of Flood Operations, the California Conservation Corps, and GEI Environmental Consultants embarked on a five day, 38-mile roundtrip mission to renovate an old snow pillow station in the Emigrant Wilderness of the Stanislaus National Forest. The remote location in a designated wilderness area required a team to access the site through primitive means on horseback and use mules to transport the equipment. The team removed decommissioned equipment and installed a new Hinge Fold Tilt-Pole that works with the existing Horse Meadow snow pillow that transmits snowpack data to the statewide monitoring network. The Hinge Fold Tilt-Pole has a more robust and stable platform to withstand the harsh mountain elements, requires less maintenance, provides higher reliability, and features a climb-less system that means increased safety for the next generations of workers. View the [photo gallery](#) as the team rides into the sunset on this important mission."

### **Sewage spilled into Lake Tahoe. California woman says it nearly cost her life**

"A 24-year-old woman nearly died after she swallowed water tainted with sewage flowing from a pipe that dumped about 85,000 gallons of raw waste into Lake Tahoe's azure waters, according to documents and the victim. The woman, who requested anonymity to protect her medical privacy, enjoyed wakeboarding and surfing near Carnelian Bay and Dollar Point on a trip with family friends, from July 19-21, 2024. But she soon began to feel sick, remained unconscious for



days and hospitalized for weeks. She still has not recovered and lost much of her memory after the trip, the woman stated. “In the beginning, it was awful,” the woman wrote. “I have been told they did not think I would live.” ... ” [Read more from the Sacramento Bee.](#)

### **ECO-CLEAN’s beach-cleaning robot wraps 2025 with 23 cleanups**

“With the summer season wrapped and the shores beginning to quiet, ECO-CLEAN Solutions is proud to share its biggest season yet. This year included 23 cleanups across 14 highly-impacted beaches around Lake Tahoe. At the heart of each cleanup is a simple mission: protect the lake we all love by removing what is often out of sight but top of mind—buried litter and microplastic pollution that traditional methods often miss. What began as a grassroots effort in 2022 has grown into a movement powered by innovation, community partnerships, and the belief that Tahoe’s world-renowned beauty is worth fighting for. With each mile of shoreline cleaned and every buried piece of litter removed, ECO-CLEAN is helping ensure this place stays as breathtaking for future generations as it is today. ... ” [Read more from the Sierra Sun.](#)

### **Fight over water intensifies as Colorado River dries up**



“What was once a mighty river flowing from Colorado through the Grand Canyon all the way down to the Gulf of California in Mexico has been reduced to a trickle that barely reaches the ocean. Experts warn the river basin is at a breaking point, jeopardizing water security for major cities such as Los Angeles and Denver, harming endangered fish species, and putting some of the largest food producers in the US at risk. Lakes Mead and Powell, the river’s largest reservoirs, are critically low, a product of prolonged drought and rising temperatures. If water levels fall further, hydropower generation at the Hoover and Glen Canyon dams could be curtailed, threatening energy supply and recreation. “The ultimate cause of the problem in the Colorado River is a warming climate,” Jack Schmidt, director of the Center for Colorado River Studies at Utah State University, told DW. “But the immediate or proximate cause of the entire crisis is our inability to quickly reduce our expenses to match our dwindling income,” added Schmidt. In other words: overuse. ... ” [Read more from DW.](#)



### **Arizona opinion: Why Colorado River states must confront the digital water boom**

Rusty Childress, a nature photographer, writes, “Next month, the seven Colorado River Basin states — Arizona, California, Nevada, Utah, Colorado, New Mexico, and Wyoming — are set to finalize a new framework for sharing a shrinking resource. Billed as a modern compact for a hotter, drier century, it will shape how the West survives in an age of scarcity. Yet amid debates over drought, equity, and cutbacks, one rapidly expanding demand remains almost invisible: the immense water consumption of artificial intelligence and the data centers that sustain it. Across the Basin, massive server farms are rising on desert outskirts and industrial parks — from Goodyear and Mesa to Las Vegas and northern Utah. These facilities form the digital backbone of the AI era, training vast models and storing the world’s data. But their environmental cost is steep. A single data center can consume millions of gallons of water per day for cooling — drawn from the same aquifers, canals, and river-fed systems that sustain farms, families, and wildlife. ...” [Read more from the Arizona Daily Star.](#)

### **Utah Supreme Court rejects Colorado River water pipeline project**

“The Utah Supreme Court has rejected a project that proposes to take water from the Colorado River system in Utah, pump it hundreds of miles across Wyoming into Colorado. In a unanimous decision, the state’s top court sided with the Utah State Engineer, who rejected Water Horse Resources application to take 55,000 acre-feet of water from the Green River, a tributary of the Colorado River, and pump it to the Fort Collins, Colo., area. In a very technical ruling, Justice Diana Hagen wrote that Upper Colorado agreements do not pre-empt Utah laws governing water exports and the company hasn’t shown enough that water taken can be put to beneficial use in Colorado. ...” [Read more from Fox 13.](#)

### **Congress members question Pentagon’s delay in ‘forever chemical’ cleanup**

“Three dozen members of Congress, including two Republicans, asked Wednesday that Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth explain why the Pentagon has pushed back its cleanup of “forever chemical” contamination at nearly 140 military sites nationwide. [The New York Times reported](#) last month that the Department of Defense had delayed its cleanup efforts of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, known as PFAS, which are used in firefighting foam at military installations across the country. The chemicals are linked to serious diseases including cancer. The delays extended the timelines for cleanup of contaminated water and soil by an average of five years, and in some cases by almost a decade. ...” [Read more from the New York Times.](#)

### **Administration announces plan to boost beef producers, supply**

“The Trump administration has announced a set of policy initiatives that it says will strengthen the U.S. beef industry by reducing red tape regarding the use of public lands; making money available to producers; and ensuring “product of USA” labeling is applied only to meat born, raised and slaughtered in the United States. “America’s food supply chain is a national security priority for the Trump Administration. We are committed to ensuring the American people have an affordable source of protein and that America’s ranchers have a strong economic environment where they can continue to operate for generations to come,” Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins said Wednesday. ...” [Read more from the Capitol Press.](#)



## Trump Reopens Alaska's Arctic Coastal Plain to Oil Drilling

The move reverses a Biden administration decision and opens the entire coastal plain of Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to drilling.

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### **Inventing habitats: A reconciliation approach to urban ecology**



Peña Blanca Lake Santa Cruz County Arizona

Ruxandra Guidi writes, "In Tucson, Arizona, where I live, a remarkable ecological movement has been slowly and quietly building for decades now. Instead of focusing solely on restoring

degraded habitat, it encourages Westerners to reimagine and reconnect with their local landscapes — beginning by accepting them on their own imperfect terms. It was catalyzed by the 1960s environmental movement and the resulting '70s and '80s conservation and ecological restoration efforts. Today, however, instead of using the word “restoration” to discuss an urban stretch of a riparian corridor, we talk about “reconciliation.” “Reconciliation ecology,” a term coined in 2003, aims to increase biodiversity in human-dominated landscapes. Think of it as conservation for the Anthropocene. Angelantonio Breault, a fourth-generation Tucsonan, grew up near the top of the region’s floodplain “thinking it was a ditch.” But when he started studying ecology and visiting the Santa Cruz River on Sundays “to look for birds and wildflowers,” he began thinking about stewardship, and how he was developing a personal connection to the river even as he learned from it. And so he created the Reconciliación en el Río Santa Cruz community initiative. It differed from past environmental campaigns in that it was concerned less with restoring the landscape than with reimagining how we humans engage with each other and the land. ...” [Read more from High Country News.](#)

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### **Leech Lake Band will get federal disaster assistance for June derecho**

[https://www.startribune.com/leech-lake-band-will-get-federal-disaster-assistance-for-june-derecho/601504271?utm\\_source=newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=north\\_report&utm\\_term=Duluth?utm\\_source=email](https://www.startribune.com/leech-lake-band-will-get-federal-disaster-assistance-for-june-derecho/601504271?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=north_report&utm_term=Duluth?utm_source=email)

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### **Sandoval outlines over a dozen big plans for UNR at State of the University**

([rgj.com](http://rgj.com)) — During the State of the University address, UNR President Brian Sandoval unveiled ambitious plans for the university, including a new hotel and expanded online programs. These initiatives aim to enhance connectivity with downtown **Reno** and improve educational access for local residents.

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**\$1.6B Nevada Film Tax Credit: Boon or Burden?** ([thisisreno.com](http://thisisreno.com)) — Reno faces significant challenges with a proposed \$1.6 billion film tax credit that primarily benefits Southern Nevada. This funding could instead support local needs like renewable energy and public services, crucial for the city's future.

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**Check out WCSD Superintendent Joe Ernst as he discusses Nevada education on IndyTalks with @TheNVIndy... (X: [WashoeSchools](#))**

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**Just for fun: <https://www.yahoo.com/lifestyle/articles/18th-birthday-parents-finally-told-123103340.html>**

**[Sorry for delay; got hacked so you know the complications of getting back up!](#)**