

Journal #6129 from sdc 12.5.25

Iguanas likely crossed the Pacific millions of years ago on a record-setting rafting trip

In the Fight Against Fascism, Libraries Should Be Defended — Not Defunded

AI and Workforce Development

How a sperm bank for cheetahs might save them

Mother Jones seeks content contributors to project exploring health/disability complexities

Franklin the Turtle

The 25 most powerful ideas of the 21st century (so far)

Davidson Academy students tackling e-waste pollution

Republicans left tribes out of their \$50B rural fund.

Everyone hates data centers now

The real Models of Sustainability in Brazil Are to be Found Outside COP30

At COP30, Nations Are Still Sharply Divided Over the Future of Fossil Fuels

Trump Transportation Department's Deregulation Blitz Puts Public Safety at Risk

AI is Changing the Labor Landscape

The California lab at the center of AI race

California's Indigenous communities fight fires with fire

Policing the Amazon

Tens of Thousands Join Indigenous-Led Protest at COP30 Demanding Urgent Action

Watch a stunning display of Northern Lights over South Dakota

Humans arrived in Americas earlier than previously thought, co-existed with mastodons

American D-Day veteran Charles Shay dies at 101 in Normandy

Charles Curtis, of the Kaw Tribe, Vice-President of the USA

11.29.24 - A YEAR LATER - SO HOW DID THAT GO?

Updates on Running Native



[In the Fight Against Fascism, Libraries Should Be Defended – Not Defunded](#) | Kelly Hayes | Organizing My Thoughts

AI & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT - IN A NUTSHELL

Anthropic CEO Dario Amodei sparked a wave of press coverage this year when he speculated that AI would eliminate half of entry-level white-collar jobs within 1-5 years.

And he's not the only one making these claims.

Despite these statements from CEOs and the resulting media narrative, recent research suggests that "the broader labor market has not experienced a discernible disruption since ChatGPT's release."

Nonetheless, policymakers and working people are feeling uncertain about an AI-driven future and are seeking appropriate policy responses. What can we do to address the issues we face now and alleviate our concerns about the future well-being of our workforce?

Our latest paper, "[AI & Workforce Development: Building a Secure, Equitable Future for Workers](#)," explores lessons from 3 main approaches to workforce development in the face of changing economies and technologies. [These were our main takeaways](#).

[Read on](#)

How a sperm bank for cheetahs might one day save them

The world's fastest land animal might be on the brink of extinction in the future and need artificial reproduction to save it. The sperm bank at the Cheetah Conservation Fund in Namibia is [a "frozen zoo" of cheetahs](#). It would be utilized in a worst-case scenario for the big cats, whose numbers have dropped alarmingly in the wild over the last 50 years.

Hello, my name is Julia Métraux, a disability reporter at *Mother Jones*.

It's amazing how, with scientific advancements, more people with disabilities and chronic health conditions are living to old age. I, for one, am extremely grateful to Dr. Anthony Fauci and his team from the 1970s [for their efforts](#) to transform vasculitis, which I have had, from a fatal condition into a chronic one. Now I will hopefully get to grow old!

But there are many complexities to staying independent when you already have health problems, whether or not they're degenerative.

I'm working on a project to explore these complexities, where I will profile three aging Americans 50 and older with complex health conditions and disabilities about how they're taking care of their health and remaining independent. And I'd appreciate your help.

Are you interested in participating in this series? If so, [please fill out this brief Google Form](#)—noting that I will be using your name in the piece—and I may be in touch. —Julia Métraux

- **Children's books: Franklin the Turtle in tiff with Trump administration**

[The 25 most powerful ideas of the 21st century \(so far\)](https://www.sciencefocus.com/future-technology/experts-pick-the-25-most-significant-breakthroughs-of-the-21st-century)

<https://www.sciencefocus.com/future-technology/experts-pick-the-25-most-significant-breakthroughs-of-the-21st-century>



"Follow your dreams—ideally in a field that will still require humans when you graduate."

Davidson Academy students tackling e-waste pollution (kolotv.com) — Students at Reno's Davidson Academy are leading an e-waste drive that's already collected about 700 pounds of old electronics and batteries to keep toxic materials out of local landfills and water. Partnering with Sparks-based Redwood Materials, they're recycling devices into new battery minerals and planning to expand the program by involving more businesses and community groups.

~~~~~

**Republicans left tribes out of their \$50B rural fund.** Now it's up to states to share: Some states, [including Idaho](#), Nevada, [and Oregon](#), are also considering setting aside 3% to 10% of their federal payouts to distribute among tribes. Washington proposed setting aside \$20 million per year. Federally recognized tribes have direct relationships with the U.S. government, but state governments also allocate resources to tribes and can create policies that support tribal priorities. States and tribes share [concerns about the effect](#) that the massive GOP budget bill, which President Donald Trump signed into law in July, will have on the U.S. health system. ([KFF Health News](#))

## Everyone hates data centers now

As a senior writer covering climate and energy for *WIRED*, it feels like almost all anyone wants to talk to me about these days is data centers. There's more than enough aspects of that topic to keep an environment and tech journalist busy—especially when it comes to the centers' prodigious [energy and water](#) needs.

I've been struck recently by the growing intensity of local opposition—and how hatred of data centers is crossing cultural, political, and generational lines. As the AI revolution races on and companies pour billions into their buildouts, public opposition to data center development is increasingly the face of resistance to the technology itself. What began a few years ago as standard complaints about noise and zoning has blossomed into legitimate concerns about high electricity bills, water scarcity, tax breaks for Big Tech—and the question of whether we need data centers at all.

Amid my reporting on xAI's presence in Memphis, where Elon Musk's company installed unpermitted gas turbines in a majority-Black neighborhood, our [TikTok](#) showing visuals of the pollution went viral. This past summer, as I dug into an AI moratorium—the blueprint for a new executive order expected in the next few days—that was proposed and ultimately rejected by Republicans lawmakers as they crafted the so-called Big Beautiful Bill, I was surprised to see Rep. Thomas Massie (R-Ky.) [expressing concerns](#) over how such a moratorium might stomp on local zoning rules.

My [latest piece](#) covers a new report from Data Center Watch, a group run by the AI intelligence firm 10a Labs, showing that bipartisan opposition to data centers seems to have exploded in the second quarter of 2025. The report came just a week after Election Day, when data center disputes loomed large in races in states like Virginia and Georgia, both of which have seen extreme tech buildouts. I spoke to two state officials, one of whom says his “coalition of data center reform-minded legislators has just grown to a very large number.”

If there's a data center proposed for your town, I'd love to hear from you. Feel free to reach out by [email](#) or [Signal](#).

—Molly Taft

*Tribes may be approached to site data centers because of available land. This involves very careful scrutiny. Additionally a data center near/adjacent to a res needs to be studied as data centers need tons of water to operated, indicating substantial “raiding” of any subsurface acquifers/groundwater which leads to subsidience. sdc*

### The Real Models for Sustainability in Brazil Are to Be Found Outside COP30

These Amazonian communities don't count on Brazil or UN conferences to protect them. They defend themselves.

PETER GELDERLOOS | TRUTHOUT

## At COP30, Nations Are Still Sharply Divided Over the Future of Fossil Fuels

| Amy Goodman & Nermeen Shaikh | Democracy Now![Trump Transportation Department's Deregulation Blitz Puts Public Safety at Risk](#) Jesse Coburn | ProPublica

## AI & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

AI is changing the labor landscape.

While U.S. tech leaders look to upskilling to improve employees' gaps in important tech skills, previous cycles of labor disruption have shown that a sole focus on reskilling, retraining, and workforce development has been far from sufficient to address the impact of technology-induced shifts in the labor market.

So what else can we do? Check out [TechEquity's new paper](#) to find out how we can approach workforce development in the modern tech economy.

[Read on](#)

### The California lab at centre of AI race

The TPUs, of which Ironwood is the latest version, are part of Mr Pichai's strategy of owning the entire AI supply chain.

The question lingering over the AI hype is whether it is a bubble at risk of bursting - and, if so, with what consequences. Markets are beginning to distinguish between firms that rely on complicated deals to access the chips that power their AI, and the tech giants, such as Google, Microsoft and Amazon, which can fund investment from their own pockets.

**Faisal Islam**, economics editor

Google's ultra-private CEO Sundar Pichai is showing me around Googleplex, its California headquarters. He is most excited about a laboratory hidden away at the back of the campus behind some trees. This is where the invention that Google believes is its secret weapon is being developed.

Known as a Tensor Processing Unit, it will one day power every AI query that goes through Google, says Mr Pichai. This makes it potentially one of the most important objects in the world economy right now. The lab where they are tested is the size of a five-a-side football pitch with a mesh of multi-coloured wires and deep blue blinking lights.

- **Trust issues:** Mr Pichai said that **AI models are "prone to errors"** and urged people to use them alongside other tools.

- **Thirsty tech:** Backed by billions of dollars, the growth of AI data centres in India **confronts a looming water challenge.**

[Keep reading](#)



## **California's Indigenous communities fight fires with fire. (WNET)**

[Find out more](#)

## **Policing the Amazon**

Faced with violence, indigenous people have set up their own unarmed guard.

## **Tens of Thousands Join Indigenous-Led Protest at COP30 Demanding Urgent Action** | Amy Goodman | Democracy Now

**Watch a stunning display** of the Northern Lights over South Dakota. Last week, a severe geomagnetic storm created Aurora Borealis light shows, with others visible as far south as Florida. Nasa says the Sun is currently at the peak of its 11-year cycle, which could lead to more severe geomagnetic storms, causing more dramatic displays in the night skies.

## **Humans arrived in Americas earlier than previously thought, co-existed with mastodons, researchers believe**

Published: Dec. 20, 2024 This combination of illustrations provided by researchers in 2024 shows large animals which once roamed prehistoric North and South America. Top row from left, a glyptodon, a lestodon, and a horse. Bottom row from left, a mastodon, a saber-toothed cat and a toxodon. Sloths weren't always slow-moving, furry tree-dwellers. Their prehistoric ancestors were huge — up to 4 tons — and when startled, they brandished immense claws. For a long time, scientists believed the first

Read in [OregonLive.com](https://apple.news/ApSxTnwd3Sz2jJ9Ik9mElGg): <https://apple.news/ApSxTnwd3Sz2jJ9Ik9mElGg>

# Cal Academy Adds Over 100 New Species to the Library of Life in 2024



Photo: Cori Pittman/California Academy of Sciences

Researchers at the California Academy of Sciences have unveiled a list of all the new animal, plant and fungi species they added to the Library of Life in 2024.

The new species include a pygmy pipehorse camouflaged in sponges found off the coast of South Africa, an edible and endangered Oaxacan dahlia that looks like a succulent, and 136 other fishes, leaf bugs, worms, sea slugs, spiders, ghost sharks and more.

These discoveries expand our understanding of Earth's biodiversity. Below, KQED has compiled a list of some of the most eye-catching new plants and critters.

Photo: Cori Pittman/California Academy of Sciences

**Read**  
**More**

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/blogs/national-museum-of-natural-history/2021/01/26/how-arctic-anthropologists-are-expanding-narratives-about-north/>

- **Nevada gold mining venture selected for \$95M solar project.** After being awarded a federal grant to help decarbonize the mining industry, Nevada Gold Mines hopes to build two on-site solar panel and battery systems in Humboldt and Lander counties. ([Read more here](#))

NWF scholarships



**FIGHTING DRUG TRAFFICKING ON TRIBAL LANDS:** Sen. **Tina Smith** is working across the aisle with Sen. **Steve Daines**, R-Mont., on the Protection for Reservation Occupants Against Trafficking and Evasive Communications Today (PROTECT) Act, a bill that aims to fight drug trafficking in tribal communities.

“For years, Tribal leaders in Minnesota have raised the alarm that drug traffickers are exploiting complex legal jurisdiction on Tribal land, making Native communities some of the most harmed by the opioid and fentanyl epidemics,” the Minnesota Democrat said in a statement. “The *PROTECT* Act would help Tribes fight back against these drug traffickers. This proposal is bipartisan and common sense, and it respects and upholds Tribes’ inherent sovereignty and right to protect their people.”

The bill would expand a program that allows tribes to prosecute non-native offenders for crimes related to drugs and guns. The bill would also allow tribal courts to carry out warrants for electronic material similar to state courts, so that they can prosecute traffickers under what they call a Special Tribal Criminal Jurisdiction and incarcerate them through the Bureau of Prisons Tribal Prisoner Program.

According to their offices, Native Americans are more likely to die of overdoses compared with other demographics and more likely to fall victim to violent crime.

**APPLAUSE FROM TRIBES:** Tribes including the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians and Fort Peck Assiniboine & Sioux Tribes applauded the lawmakers for introducing the bill.

## **Indigenous language used to name prehistoric fossil**

[https://enewspaper.eastbaytimes.com/infinity/article\\_popover\\_share.aspx?guid=266cbe7a-f8e1-49ae-9bec-9e45c831a96c&share=true](https://enewspaper.eastbaytimes.com/infinity/article_popover_share.aspx?guid=266cbe7a-f8e1-49ae-9bec-9e45c831a96c&share=true)

## **Pilot program giving inmates free daily phone calls deemed success, despite cost**

Extract: “It was reported that the population in general felt happier, less stressed, and with a greater sense of well-being. Having daily interaction with loved ones improved daily functioning, quality of life, and stability for everyone at the facility.”

[https://doc.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/docnv.gov/content/Meetings/2024/SB%20234%20Report%20on%20Phone%20Pilot%20at%20FMWCC.pdf?utm\\_source=ActiveCampaign&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_content=Civics%20Center%3A%20Prison%20phone%20pilot%20program%20a%20success%2C%20California%20sets%20stage%20to%20take%20on%20Trump&utm\\_campaign=Civics%20Center%2020241209](https://doc.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/docnv.gov/content/Meetings/2024/SB%20234%20Report%20on%20Phone%20Pilot%20at%20FMWCC.pdf?utm_source=ActiveCampaign&utm_medium=email&utm_content=Civics%20Center%3A%20Prison%20phone%20pilot%20program%20a%20success%2C%20California%20sets%20stage%20to%20take%20on%20Trump&utm_campaign=Civics%20Center%2020241209)

In a first for the Bay Area, the region has a finalized plan to protect the more than 400 miles of bayshore from the chaos that sea level rise could unleash — waterlogged freeways, submerged neighborhoods, inundated airports and sunken train lines.

However, for the effort to succeed, more than 50 cities and counties that ring the San Francisco Bay need to get on board and follow the guidance.

**Why this matters:** The San Francisco Bay accounts for a third of California’s coastline, and state regulators expect it to experience “two-thirds of the state’s total economic damage from sea-level rise.” They estimate it will cost \$110 billion to construct all the seawalls, levees, marshes and other adaptation projects to protect the 400 miles of bay shoreline. But they believe it would cost the region far more — \$230 billion — if it did nothing.

[Read More](#)



## Native American D-Day veteran Charles Shay dies at 101 in Normandy



By Reuters    December 3, 2025

*Charles Norman Shay, 94, a Penobscot Native American Indian WWII veteran, poses as he attends an interview with Reuters in Saint-Laurent-sur-Mer, near Omaha Beach, France, May 18, 2019. Picture taken May 18, 2019. REUTERS/Christian Hartmann/File Photo*

PARIS, Dec 3 (Reuters) - Charles Norman Shay, a Native American veteran who was a 19-year-old U.S. Army medic when he landed off the Normandy coast on D-Day and helped save lives, died at age 101 on Wednesday.

Shay died at his home near Caen in France's Normandy region, his carer Marie-Pascale Legrand said.

Born on June 27, 1924, on the Penobscot Indian Island Reservation in Maine, Shay was among some 500 Native Americans who took part in the June 6, 1944 landings.

The assault marked a decisive stage in the liberation of Europe from German forces in World War Two.

As a U.S. Army medic, he ran across the beach dozens of times, dragging men out of the surf and patching up their wounds under heavy fire — actions for which he was awarded a Silver Star, three Bronze Stars, and France's Legion d'Honneur.

He moved to Normandy in 2017 and became a familiar figure at annual commemorations, insisting he was no hero, only a soldier who did his duty. "We lost many men," he recalled [in a 2019 interview](#) marking the 75th anniversary of D-Day. "I had to blank it all off so I could concentrate on my mission."

"Normandy lost today one of its heroes and a keeper of memory," the Normandy Region said on X.

In later years, Shay worked for recognition of the role played by Native Americans during the war. His efforts bore fruit when a memorial was erected to the Native Americans who fought on Omaha Beach at Saint-Laurent-sur-Mer. In Native folklore they are known as the boys from Turtle Island, so it features a large granite turtle.

Shay will be buried there, near the sands where history changed course, local French media said.

~~~~~



Wikipedia Contents on Charles Curtis, Kaw, VP of the USA

- [Early life and education](#)
- [Marriage and family](#)
- [House of Representatives \(1893–1907\)](#)
- [Senate \(1907–1913, 1915–1929\)](#)
- [Vice presidency \(1929–1933\)](#)
- [Post-vice presidency \(1933–1936\)](#)
- [Legacy and honors](#)
- [Books](#)
- [See also](#)
- [Notes](#)
- [References](#)
- [Further reading](#)

- [External links](#)

Charles Curtis (January 25, 1860 – February 8, 1936) was the 31st [vice president of the United States](#) from 1929 to 1933 under President [Herbert Hoover](#). He was the [Senate Majority Leader](#) from 1924 to 1929. An [enrolled](#) member of the [Kaw Nation](#) born in the [Kansas Territory](#), Curtis was the [first Native American](#) to serve in the [United States Congress](#), where he served in the [United States House of Representatives](#) and [Senate](#) before becoming Senate Majority Leader. Curtis also was the first and only Native American and first multiracial person to serve as vice president.

~~~~~

## 11.29.24 - A YEAR LATER - SO HOW DID THAT GO?

### [Justice Department Announces Tribal Consultations to Consider Legislative Proposals to Preserve Tribal Sovereignty and Address the Balance of Jurisdiction in Indian Country](#)

~~~~~

Sharing Remaining Native at DCTV for our Oscar-Qualifying Theatrical Run

last week was an unforgettable experience, bringing together incredible partners, runners, supporters, and audiences for this milestone moment in NYC. Each screening and event was a reminder of why we continue to do this work – to share Ku and his family's story and see the outpouring of support, whether online or in person. As a first-time director, I couldn't imagine a more meaningful acknowledgement.

Thank you to everyone who showed up, listened, asked questions, and held space for us after the credits.

Thank you to everyone who put in miles, cheered, and took a moment to honor the land we gathered on.

And thank you to Ku Stevens and The Stevens family for the opportunity to show the power of truth, hope, and healing through your stories. It continues to move us towards a future of worth fighting for.

Niawen, Paige Bethmann

Highlights of the week

NiaweSpecial guests: Kali Reis, Shailene Woodley, Sky Hopinka, Kutoven Stevens, Tom Paul, Monika Navarro, Kristin Feeley, Andrea Meditch, Hud Oberly, Cleo TataBele, Ms. Josephine, Murielle Tarrant, Patricia Tarrant, Jeff Benjamin, Sutton King, and Tracy Rector!

400 Total Attendees for our Theatrical release

125 Runners came out to our 2 Community Runs with DeFine New York Running Club and Run Like a Native

30 Community Partners

12 Decolonial Thanksgiving actions supported

250lbs of non-perishable goods collected and donated

News

BAFTA BREAKTHROUGH

Director Paige Bethmann, has been selected as a BAFTA Breakthrough, highlighting her as one of documentary film's exciting new voices.

[Read the Announcement](#)

Remaining Native is proud to announce we have been nominated for the Cinema Eye Honors Debut Feature Film.

[Read the Announcement](#)

OSCAR QUALIFIED

Remaining Native is now Oscar Qualified and is available on the Academy Screening Room.

[Share the Exciting News On Social!](#)

HYPERALLERGIC

Check out this recent review of Remaining Native in Hyperallergic, in which Rhea Nayyar dives deeper into how "Running Is Resistance in "Remaining Native."

[Read the Full Article](#)

Also featured in RUNNERS WORLD

Remaining Native is still available for free for in-person community screenings through December 31st, thanks to the Indigenous Impact Alliance. Get your request in to host a screening now.

[Visit The Indigenous Impact Alliance](#)

