

Journal #6169 from sdc 1.30.26

No one owns our Arctic land, we share it, say Greenland's Inuit

Court Allows Alaska Energy Exploration to Proceed

Kava is a recreational and ceremonial drink native to the Pacific Islands

T Admin will "review nation's wildlife reguges and fish hatcheries for those that don't align w/ fed goal

BLM approves massive power line between Utah and east central Nevada

Native Americans fear ICE and try to prove they belong in the US

For Minneapolis's Native Americans, a New Fight Echoes a Bitter History

Happy Birthday, Great Basin!

Check out California Reveal ([california reveal.com](http://california.reveal.com))

Sound familiar? Man's inhumanity to man has a continuous story

President signs HR 4323 and HR 6938

Much more about Colorado River negotiations

Artificial intelligence and California's water

This L.A. startup uses SpaceX tech to cool data centers with less power and no water

Wintu people say proposed reforms to a state list of tribes is erasure, threatens their homelands

Feds to rewrite Klamath River endangered species rules

Save the Date - Fifth Annual Missing and Murderd Indigenous People Awareness Conference



No one owns our Arctic land, we share it, say Greenland's Inuit

https://www.reuters.com/investigates/special-report/usa-trump-greenland-inuit/?utm_source=firefox-newtab-en-us

[Court Allows Alaska Energy Exploration to Proceed](#)

01/29/2026 07:00 AM EST

The U.S. District Court for the District of Alaska rejected an attempt to halt a project exploring federal oil and gas resources in Alaska's National Petroleum Reserve.

Kava is a recreational and ceremonial drink native to the Pacific Islands. (Aleza Freeman)

By Aleza Freeman

Kava is a recreational and ceremonial drink native to the Pacific Islands. Kava (or awa) has been consumed for centuries in Polynesia, Micronesia, and Melanesia due to its psychoactive properties. A blend of crushed kava root strained in water tastes a bit like soil and mushrooms.

It isn't kava's taste, however, that has drawn interest in this plant, but its natural sedative properties that instantly relaxes your mind and muscles while enhancing your overall well-being.

Along with attracting the younger generation, which [doesn't drink alcohol socially](#) like generations before it, kava is popular with the sobriety and recovery community.

[Discover local Kava spots](#)

The Trump administration says it will "review" the nation's wildlife refuges and fish hatcheries for those that no longer align with federal goals. More from [The Hill](#).

[POLITICO Pro](#) writes that the Bureau of Land Management has approved a massive power line, once planned to carry renewable energy and now touted as a necessary upgrade for an overstressed regional power grid, between Utah and east central Nevada.

Native Americans fear ICE and try to prove they belong in the US | AP News

Date: January 30, 2026 at 9:59:18 AM PST

<https://apnews.com/article/native-american-tribe-immigration-ice-minneapolis->

[id-7ea8ef784039d908135f22bf312f20d2](https://apnews.com/article/native-american-tribe-immigration-ice-minneapolis-id-7ea8ef784039d908135f22bf312f20d2)

For Minneapolis's Native Americans, a New Fight Echoes a Bitter History

<https://www.nytimes.com/2026/01/28/us/minneapolis-native-americans.html?smid=nytcore-ios-share>

Happy anniversary, Great Basin! — Great Basin National Park is celebrating its 40th anniversary with a monthly [virtual speaker series](#). Learn how packrat nests provide insight into the park's climate history, a diverse alliance of rural Nevadans won a battle in the water wars of the West and more through the series.

"Toadally" messy situation — The Center for Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe are pushing back against a lawsuit filed by the geothermal company Ormat seeking to remove the Dixie Valley toad from federal Endangered Species Act protections. The two groups are seeking permission from a federal judge to be able to join the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in defending the toads against Ormat's lawsuit.

Dixie Valley toads live in a single hot spring-fed wetland of just a few hundred acres in Churchill County. Independent scientists commissioned by the wildlife agency agreed the geothermal project could cause the toads to go extinct; they were protected under the Endangered Species Act in 2022.

Friend and foe — CBD is also suing the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to protect the Amargosa toad and the Oasis Valley speckled dace (a type of fish), whose aquatic habitats could be depleted by groundwater pumping for nearby gold mines, according to the center.

The Amargosa toad and the Oasis Valley speckled dace only live in a small number of springs along the Amargosa River near Beatty, where AngloGold Ashanti, one of the world's largest gold mining companies, has multiple projects under permitting or exploration.

Members of the center have been working to protect the toad since 1994. In 2025, the service found that protections for the fish and toad may be warranted but failed to act within the one-year deadline.

From California Reveal ([california reveal.com](http://california-reveal.com))

[Moving Images](#)

Title: Round Valley in the 1920's **Created Date:** February 11th, 2000

Creator: Bauer, William J., Jr. **Media Type:** Moving Image

Contributing Organization: Cal Poly Humboldt

Title: Seeing the People & the Trees

Created Date: February 6th, 1998

Creator: Lewis, David Rich

Contributing Organization: Cal Poly Humboldt

Sound familiar? Man's inhumanity to man has a continuous story.

[Stuff Women Have to Deal With](#) [Dec 23](#)

Dublin, 1963. A 16-year-old girl walks home from school when a van pulls up beside her. Two nuns step out. They grab her arms and force her inside.

Her crime? She's pretty. Too pretty. "A temptation to men."



She's taken to a large gray building with bars on the windows. The nuns cut her hair short. Take her clothes. Give her a uniform. Tell her she's a sinner. Tell her she'll work here now. To atone.

She wouldn't leave for 14 years. Her name was Mary. And she was one of over 10,000 women imprisoned in Ireland's Magdalene Laundries church-run institutions that destroyed lives under the guise of saving souls.

I learned about the Magdalene Laundries during a medical ethics seminar. The professor showed us photos of mass graves 796 children's bodies found in a septic tank at one mother and baby home. She said: "This is what happens when society punishes women for sex, pregnancy, and their own bodies."

I thought she was exaggerating. Then I learned the truth.

Ireland, 1922-1996. The Magdalene Laundries were institutions run by the Catholic Church, supposedly to "rehabilitate" fallen women. But "fallen" was defined however the Church wanted.

You were sent there if you were:

- Pregnant and unmarried
- Pretty and "tempting men to sin"
- Raped (yes, rape victims were sent there for being "impure")
- Developmentally disabled
- Orphaned with no family
- Accused of flirting
- Rebellious toward your parents

Basically, if you were a girl, and someone decided you were "trouble," you disappeared into the laundries.

Many were literally kidnapped off the streets by priests or nuns. Parents would sign girls over "temporarily" then never see them again. Police would round up girls from dance halls. Social workers handed over pregnant teenagers.

Once inside, you became a slave. The women worked 12-16 hour days in commercial laundries, washing linens for hotels, hospitals, and the military. No pay. Brutal conditions. Scalding water. Chemical burns. Physical abuse. They were called by numbers, not names. Their heads were shaved. They were told they were sinners, whores, dirty.

If you were pregnant when you arrived, they kept you until you gave birth. Then they took your baby.

No consent. No choice. Just gone. The babies were sold to wealthy Catholic families usually in America through forced adoption. Mothers were told their children died. Children were told their mothers abandoned them. Both were lies. If you tried to escape, you were beaten. Locked in solitary confinement. Starved. Humiliated publicly.

One survivor said: *"They told us we were lucky to be there. That we'd be on the streets otherwise, selling our bodies. They said we should be grateful for their mercy."*

This went on for 74 years. Seventy-four. The last Magdalene Laundry closed in 1996. **Nineteen ninety-six.** Not centuries ago. A generation ago. When survivors finally started speaking out in the early 2000s, Ireland was forced to confront its history. Investigations were launched. Records were unsealed.

What they found was horrific. Mass graves filled with women's bodies many with no death certificates, no records, no explanations. At the Bon Secours Mother and Baby Home in Tuam, investigators found 796 babies and children buried in a septic tank. Ages ranged from 35 weeks gestation to 3 years old.

Survivors testified about beatings, sexual abuse by priests, starvation, psychological torture. Women who'd spent decades imprisoned for the "crime" of being raped. Girls who'd been locked up at 13 and released at 40, having lost their entire lives.

Over 10,000 women went through the laundries. Thousands never left.

2013. Irish Prime Minister Enda Kenny issued a formal apology on behalf of the state. He said: *"For your shame, our collective shame. For the failure of both Church and State to protect you. For the hurt, the trauma, the isolation, the unyielding sense of loss. We are deeply sorry and we seek your forgiveness."* But apologies don't give you back your stolen child. They don't return the 30 years you spent washing sheets in silence. They don't erase the trauma of being told you're worthless because you got pregnant.

One survivor responded: *"They're sorry now that the world is watching. But where were they when we were screaming for help behind those walls?"*

Here's what haunts me most about this story:

These women weren't imprisoned by a government. They were imprisoned by society's hatred of female sexuality and pregnancy outside marriage.

Girls were locked up for being pretty. For flirting. For being raped. For getting pregnant. For existing in a body that society decided was shameful. And everyone knew. The police knew. The government knew. Families knew. Communities knew.

And they did nothing. For 74 years. Because punishing "fallen women" felt more important than basic human dignity.

This isn't ancient history. The last laundry closed when I was a kid. There are survivors alive today women in their 60s, 70s, 80s still searching for the babies that were stolen from them.

There are adoptees in America just now learning their mothers didn't abandon them they were imprisoned and forced to give them up.

There are mass graves still being excavated. When I hear people talk about "protecting life" or "traditional values" or "preventing sin," I think about the Magdalene Laundries.

I think about 10,000 women enslaved for being pregnant, pretty, or raped.

I think about 796 babies in a septic tank.

I think about what happens when society punishes women for their bodies instead of supporting them.

Ireland eventually apologized. Eventually paid reparations. Eventually acknowledged the horror.

But 10,000 women already paid the price. And thousands never lived to see that apology.

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On Friday, January 23, 2026, the President signed into law:

H.R. 4323, the "Trafficking Survivors Relief Act," which establishes a process to allow human trafficking victims to file motions to vacate their convictions and expunge their arrest records for certain criminal offenses committed as a direct result of their being trafficked; and H.R. 6938, the "Commerce, Justice, Science; Energy and Water Development; and Interior and Environment Appropriations Act, 2026," which makes consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes.

## Colorado River states meet Friday in DC with federal deadline looming, litigation



**threat** growing

“The governors of six of the seven of the Colorado River Basin states plan to meet Friday in Washington, D.C., in an attempt to break a stalemate in Colorado River water negotiations. Interior Secretary Doug Burgum has invited all of the governors and their negotiators to meet in the nation’s capital as states approach a federal deadline to reach a voluntary agreement to replace river operating guidelines that will expire at the end of 2026. The governors of Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming and Nevada are set to attend. California Gov. Gavin Newsom can’t attend “due to a longstanding family commitment,” according to spokesman Anthony Martinez, but California Natural Resources Secretary Wade Crowfoot plans to attend the meeting in his place. The Bureau of Reclamation — which manages water in the West under the Interior Department — initially gave states until Nov. 11 to submit a preliminary agreement for a plan to replace the guidelines. ... ” [Read more from the Arizona Mirror.](#)

### **Fiery speeches and calls for compromise: What Colorado River negotiators are saying on eve of DC summit**

“Governors in the Colorado River basin and their negotiators are meeting with Interior Secretary Doug Burgum in Washington on Friday to try and break a yearslong impasse among states over how to share the dwindling waterway. On the eve of the high-stakes summit, negotiators from both the upper and lower river basins are not sounding confident they can reach an agreement before a fast-approaching Feb. 14 deadline. “It depends on the day that you ask me,” Colorado’s negotiator, Becky Mitchell, said Tuesday when asked by KUNC News if she thinks the states are heading toward a court battle. “But I will tell you the level of commitment that we have, both within Colorado and the upper basin, is strong to try to find some way to make a deal. There’s some things that we can’t give on.” ... ” [Read more from KUNC.](#)

**EXPLORE MORE COVERAGE:**

- [Can Interior Secretary Doug Burgum make the Colorado River states finally agree?](#), from Deseret News
- [Arizona Gov. Katie Hobbs confident in path forward ahead of Colorado River meeting](#), from KTAR
- [ADWR Director briefs State House committee on progress toward “the new paradigm” for Colorado River operations](#), from the Arizona DWR
- [Governor Hobbs statement on upcoming Colorado meeting](#)
- [Colorado River water cuts would be ‘devastating’ to Central Arizona Project, leaders say](#), from KJZZ
- [Colorado Committed to Solutions Ahead of Colorado River Talks](#), statement by Colorado Governor Polis
- [Governors Dive Into an Impasse Over Colorado River Water Use](#), from the New York Times
- [Fate of Colorado River hangs in balance as political battle brews](#), from the Washington Post

### **Lawmakers advance plan to beef up Arizona’s Colorado River Litigation fund**

“A bipartisan bill to beef up Arizona’s Colorado River Litigation fund advanced Thursday at the state Capitol. Lawmakers created the fund last year and put in \$1 million. It will be used for legal costs in the event that Arizona ends up in court. Another \$2 million of existing funds for the Arizona Department of Water Resources were also consolidated for the litigation last year, according to Gov. Katie Hobbs’ spokesperson, Liliana Soto. The seven basin states that use the river are in negotiations on a new water sharing agreement. As one of the Lower Basin states, Arizona is expected to take significant cuts. ... ” [Read more from KJZZ.](#)

### **Arizona, Colorado building river litigation war chests**

“Arizona and Colorado officials are building war chests for possible future litigation over Colorado River water rights even as the states try to negotiate an agreement on river management to keep the dispute out of court. The Central Arizona Project now plans to spend up to \$6 million a year for two years on possible litigation to protect its imperiled Colorado River supplies that serve residents of the Tucson and Phoenix areas as well as farmers. Colorado officials have already started hiring additional lawyers to prepare for future lawsuits that the state’s attorney general says are likely inevitable. On Friday, Jan. 30, U.S. Interior Secretary Doug Burgum is scheduled to meet with governors or their representatives from all seven Colorado River Basin states, in a last-ditch effort to secure an agreement to curb longstanding overuse of river water. The hope of Arizona Gov. Katie Hobbs and others who will attend is to at least move closer to a deal and thereby avoid expensive, time-consuming litigation that all parties say they don’t want. ... ” [Read more from the Las Vegas Sun.](#)

### **Congressman David Schweikert (R-Ariz.) introduces Equal Access to the Colorado River Act to protect Arizona in future shortages**

“This month, Congressman David Schweikert (R-Ariz.) introduced H.R. 7078, the Equal Access to the Colorado River Act, to ensure Arizona is treated fairly during Colorado River shortages by requiring proportional cutbacks across the Lower Basin states based on their original legal

apportionments. This bill amends the Colorado River Basin Project Act to ensure that, during times of drought or reduced availability of mainstem Colorado River water, the Lower Basin States, Arizona, California, and Nevada, share water cutbacks proportionally based on their original legal apportionments. The Colorado River Basin Act was introduced in 1968 and represented a significant investment in Arizona’s water infrastructure. Notably, this act provided the resources for wide-ranging water infrastructure development and significant regional water plan development in the lower basin of the Colorado River. Specifically, Section 1521 created the Central Arizona Project, which led to the development of water infrastructure connecting rural, water-deficient areas to the Colorado River. Today, Central. Arizona Project extends 336 miles. ...” [Read more from Congressman David Schweikert.](#)

### **Lake Mead’s projected record low gets even lower**

“New federal projections for Southern Nevada’s main water source were released Friday and paint an even more dismal picture amid a tight interstate negotiation over the future of the American West. The Bureau of Reclamation estimated in its most probable scenario that Lake Mead, the nation’s largest reservoir, will fall to 1,036.5 feet above sea level in November 2027. That’s about 5 feet lower than the level that the reservoir fell to in 2022, when experts sounded alarm bells about desperately needed conservation and solutions to [the Colorado River’s overuse problem](#). It’s about 2 feet below the lowest level that [forecasters predicted in November](#), as well. ...” [Read more from the Las Vegas Review-Journal.](#)

**SEE ALSO:** [ABC15 takes a closer look at the Hoover Dam as water levels remain critically low](#), from Channel 15



**Sunny skies, go away — bring the snow instead!**

*Looking southeast across the dam at Rye Patch Reservoir, with a little snow on the Humboldt Range on Jan. 14, 2026. (Nick Stewart/The Nevada Independent)*

## **Artificial intelligence and California's water**

“It can be hard to escape the hype over artificial intelligence (AI) right now, especially if you live in California. Is it going to transform society for the better or destroy the world as we know it? And, critical to those of us working on water issues, what do these advances mean for efficient water use—and our jobs? Through a series of blog posts, we will explore how California might leverage AI to better manage our water resources, while mitigating the risks of this rapidly evolving technology. AI isn't new to California water, but recent advances may be changing the game. AI refers to computers performing tasks that typically involve human intelligence, such as reasoning, problem solving, and learning. While AI has exploded in the last few years, some water managers have been using early AI since the 1980s. ... ” [Read more from the PPIC.](#)

## **This L.A. startup uses SpaceX tech to cool data centers with less power and no water**

“As the artificial intelligence industry heats up, Karman Industries is trying to cool it down. The Signal Hill startup says it has developed a cooling system that uses SpaceX rocket engine technology to rein in the environmental impact of data centers, chilling them with less space, less power and no water. It recently raised \$20 million and expects to start building its first compressors in Long Beach later this year. “Our high-level thesis is we could build the best compressor out there using the latest and greatest technology,” said David Tearse, chief executive of Karman. “We want to reduce that electrical consumption of cooling so that you have the most efficient way to cool these chips.” ... ” [Read more from the LA Times.](#) | [Read via AOL News.](#)

**SEE ALSO:** [Microsoft Pledged to Save Water. In the A.I. Era, It Expects Water Use to Soar.](#), from the New York Times

## **Tribal consultation: Wintu people say proposed reforms to a state list of tribes is erasure, threatens their homelands**

“As a Wintu cultural monitor, Shawna Wilson says she always carries her hard hat, clipboard, and tribal ID card in her vehicle because she never knows when she might have to step into her role and stop a construction project. ... “It can be difficult to navigate when you're dealing with foremen who don't want to listen or slow down their work,” said Wilson, a member of the Wintu Tribe of Northern California. “But it's important we speak up for our lands and ancestors.” Sometimes her Tribe is left in the dark simply due to poor communication, but Wilson said sometimes public officials falsely believe they don't have to consult with her Tribe because the Wintu are federally unrecognized. Wilson and several California tribal leaders say excluding non-recognized tribes, something which currently violates state law, could soon become encoded into California regulations, much to their alarm. [A state commission](#) is currently evaluating a proposal that would remove unrecognized tribes, including the Wintu, from an important list agencies use to determine which tribes to consult. ... ” [Read the full story at the Shasta Scout.](#)

## **Feds to rewrite Klamath River endangered species rules**

“Federal water managers are reopening endangered species and water-sharing rules in the Klamath Basin as salmon return to newly free-flowing stretches of the river and as the Trump administration pushes agencies to maximize water deliveries. What happened: The Bureau of Reclamation formally asked federal fisheries agencies last week to help rewrite the endangered species rules that govern its dams and pumps that deliver water from the Klamath River on the

California-Oregon border to farms and wildlife refuges in both states, Adam Nickels, the bureau's acting California regional director, told a Reno-based conference of federal and local water managers Wednesday. Alan Heck, the bureau's Klamath Basin manager, told the conference attendees that he expected the new guidelines to represent a "fairly large shift in the way we do business" following President Donald Trump's [executive order](#) to maximize water supply last year and [an assessment](#) earlier this month of endangered species protections in the region. ... " [Read more from Politico Pro](#) (sorry, subscription required).

# SAVE THE DATE



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**MORE INFORMATION WILL BE PROVIDED AT A LATER DATE**

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