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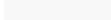
California

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Voice behind beloved Jackie and Shadow eagle cam dies

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USA TODAY

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Jackie and Shadow lose eggs after raven attack. See livestream video.

Beloved bald eagles, Jackie and Shadow, have lost their first eggs of the season after a raven pecked and broke the eggs.

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DeeperDive ETA

The woman behind a popular California bald eagle camera that monitors Jackie and Shadow has died, a nonprofit that works to preserve their habitat announced.

Sandy Steers was the executive director of Friends of Big Bear Valley, an environmental-education nonprofit organization well known for their live camera and social media posts of the eagle couple. Their mission is to protect and preserve the amazing natural local surroundings through environmental education and advocacy.

Big Bear Valley is part of the San Bernardino National Forest, about 95 miles from Los Angeles.

"It is with heavy hearts and great sadness to let our Friends of Big Bear Valley eagle family know that Sandy Steers passed away on the evening of Feb. 11, 2026," the group said in a Facebook post the same day.



See celebrity Big Bear bald eagles Jackie and Shadow through the years
The Friends of Big Bear Valley's Nest Cam captured the joyous new additions at the nest in the San Bernardino Mountains overlooking Big Bear Lake.

In an emailed statement to USA TODAY, the group described Steers as "kind, caring, calming and healing."

"People love her and she is missed dearly. Our team is heartbroken."

Steers died from cancer, the organization said. She'd beaten cancer 30 years ago, but was diagnosed with it again later in life.



Friends of Big Bear Valley Executive Director Sandy Steers died on Feb. 11, the environmental-education nonprofit organization announced in a social media post. The group monitors the beloved California bald eagle couple Jackie and Shadow Friends of Big Bear Valley.

She had served as the organization's executive director for roughly 25 years.

The Daily Press, part of the USA TODAY Network, also shared news of her passing.

Sandy Steers' legacy

"Sandy Steers truly exemplifies the spirit of the outdoors through her efforts to conserve the natural environment while helping to enhance and expand opportunities for outdoor recreation in California," Barbara Steinberg, a member of the Outdoor Writers Association of California, wrote in 2023, while nominating Steers for Outdoor Californian of the Year.

"Her efforts to preserve nesting sites for Big Bear Lake bald eagles and open space in the region including helping to save a rare pebble plain and a threatened paintbrush flower which is listed on the federal and the state endangered list, and only exists in Big Bear Valley."

The nomination added that Steers had established eco-tourism in the Valley, helping people understand that they can support the local economy by promoting and protecting the natural surroundings rather than destroying them for commercial gain.

The group also puts together educational programs for classrooms that teach children about wildlife and nature.

Steers began the Jackie and Shadow camera for the U.S. Forest Service. The first camera was installed in 2015, Friends of Big Bear Valley told USA TODAY. Steers had loved Jackie since the bird was a chick and wanted to know what was happening inside her nest.

"Her vision was to share it with others as a public benefit, free for all to see and connect with nature," the organization said. "She told amazing stories that helped people understand what was happening and relate to the trials, tribulations and successes felt by Jackie and Shadow in their daily lives."

What's happening with Jackie and Shadow this year?

Friends of Big Bear Valley shared on Jan. 30 in a Facebook post that Jackie and Shadow had lost their eggs after a raven attack. The ordeal was caught on camera.

The pair might lay a 2nd clutch of eggs, the group said, since the eggs were laid early in the season.

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