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The Real Thanksgiving Story

Thankfully, the Thanksgiving holiday has become one of heart-warming stories. Because Thanksgiving sure didn't start off happy.

According to Ramona Peters, the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe's Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, quoted in the Indian Country Today Media **Network**, President Lincoln promoted the celebration of a happy meal between the Pilgrims and Indians to create a feeling of harmony and bring together the country after the Civil War.

But there was nothing harmonious about how the Thanksgiving holiday came about—the massacre of an entire Indian tribe. In 1636, when a murdered man was discovered in a boat in Plymouth, English Major John Mason and his soldiers blamed the Pequot Indians.

They then killed 400 of them in retribution, including women and children.

The Governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, William Newell, pro- claimed: *“From that day forth, shall be a day of celebration and thanks giving for subduing the Pequots.”* Not quite the kind of thankfulness story we read about in grammar school nor great for sharing over turkey and pumpkin pie.

So now you know the truth. However, we can still give thanks for our blessings and share a peaceful day of Thanksgiving with our families, relatives and friends.

From Reno News & Review

Dr. G. Richard Scott teaches at the University of Nevada, Reno, where he specializes in physical and dental anthropology and skeletal biology. He recently gave a lecture at the Donner Memorial State Park Visitor Center.

The talk is related to the book *An Archaeology of Desperation*, right? What else can you tell me?

Well, I was visiting the museum this summer with some friends. Anyone who comes to Reno, I always take to the Alder Creek site and the Donner Museum. And I just mentioned to someone behind the desk that I was involved in the 2004 excavation and if they ever wanted me to give a talk about that, I would be glad to do it. ... I will put Donner Party cannibalism into a larger world context as well.

I don't immediately think of the Donner Party when I think cannibalism. I jump to, like, shipwrecks.

There are all kinds of circumstances where you find cannibalism. In some cultures, it's institutionalized and perfectly acceptable behavior. Of course, in Europe it wasn't so much. There was a little bit of kind of symbolic cannibalism, where they might eat just a little bit of a deceased relative—but nothing like we see in Mesoamerica or the South Pacific, where the consumption of human flesh was done on a rather significant scale.

With the Donner Party, I guess they call it survival cannibalism, but I have my reservations considering they killed two Native Americans. But they also ate, like, their boots and stuff, right?

They ate everything. They had bison hides that they used on the lean-tos. And they boiled those hides and basically got some kind of pasty mass that they would consume. ... A lot of the authors ... have said it was really more for filling their gut than for nutrition. Insofar as the two Native Americans are concerned, Jeri, you're absolutely right. It was survival cannibalism—except for that instance. You know what? That was like a mid-19th century view of the world, which was very Eurocentric. And people who were not Europeans were viewed as expendable.

When people fail to acknowledge that, it shocks me.

No kidding, especially since the Natives were trying to help them. That's so disgusting. They were trying to help them. And that was their pay in return.

In 2004, the news was the dig at Alder Creek didn't turn up signs of cannibalism. Was that wrong?

OK. Now, this is the thing about the cannibalism of the Donner Party. We were definitely looking for direct evidence. And we did not find the smoking gun. What we found were thousands of bone fragments. ... Basically, they're breaking bone up—they're boiling it so long that it would break up into small fragments. And the reason they were boiling it is that bone is one-third collagen, which is a consumable protein. Of course, the marrow would go fairly quickly. [Researcher] Gwen Robbins ... was able to identify horse, bear, oxen and, really sadly, dog. There was a dog, and apparently the dog was one of the last things to go. They probably killed the dog. This is my theory as to why we didn't find any bones of humans. ... When we were doing the excavation, Lochie Donner [Paige] came by and was elated, "You found no evidence for cannibalism." In a literal sense, that's true. We didn't find any bone that was human. From the historical narratives, there's hardly any question that cannibalism took place.

Circus Riders

Lone Wolf. Lewiston, Me., Nov. 15. Lone Wolf, Wild West rider and performer, formerly with the 101 Ranch, Buffalo Bill, Young Buffalo, Sparks and other shows, died November 7 from burns when his clothing caught fire while sleeping on a couch at his home from a lighted cigarette which he held in his hand. Mr. Wolf was of a Pawnee tribe of Indians and was educated at Carlisle. He possessed artistic ability and several of his paintings were exhibited at the State Fair. He is survived by a widow, Caroline Lone Wolf, and a four-year old daughter, who will reside at Auburn, Me., Mrs. Wolf's former home. *Billboard*, November 23, 1918, p. 26. Information should be checked with additional sources Can you add information? [Email](#) your documented information for this/these person(s).

Charles Miner, "Flat Barnum." is one of the most unique characters in circus business and few who follow the "white tents" are better known. He enjoys the distinction of having been the first and only colored principal bareback rider in the world. "Flat" was born in Chicago, April 10, 1847, when that busy mart of commerce was but a village, and first saw the light of day at the place now known as Grand Crossing. His mother was a full-blooded Cherokee Indian, while his father was a true son of Ham, who formerly resided in the vicinity of Raleigh, N. C. At the age of 6 years "Flat" was adopted by Travini, the then famous proprietor of Travini's Arabian Circus, a boat show. During the succeeding thirteen years he visited, with Travini, nearly every portion of the globe, including in his travels Australia, South America, New Zealand, China, and the West Indies, and it was during this time that he learned to be a bare-back and hurdle rider. "Flat" left the Travini Circus after his long apprenticeship and joined the Barnum Show, where he remained for a number of years. With that show he acted as "trapper" in the pad-room and assistant to several of the world-famed riders. A horse under his charge was sure to enter the ring in fine fettle and the trappings spotless. Time came when "Flat" joined the Sells Bros.' Circus and with them he remained twenty-two years, during which time he was engaged principally in "breaking" horses. For two seasons he handled the trick horses with Al. G. Field's Minstrels, and in the spring of 1900 joined the William Sells and James H. Gray Show, and the excellent condition of the ring-stock, under his care, created no end of favorable comment wherever the show visited. "Flat Barnum" has witnessed the introduction of all of the innovations of modern circus business, and his fund of reminiscent tales is seemingly exhaustless. It is a rich treat indeed to hear him recount, in his own inimitable way, his many and varied experiences in this and foreign lands. Hour after hour has the writer sat and listened to his stories, with an indescribable relish. Although well advanced in years, "Flat" still retains a vigorous physique, he has lived close to nature and has shunned the vices that raise such havoc with a man's constitution. His eyes are as bright as a boy's and his spirits are ever cheerful. He is strong in his attachments and faithful to his friends. Beneath his black skin beats a noble heart. May he live to a ripe old age, his future pathway be strewn with naught but pleasant memories and his declining

hours filled with sunshine and gladness. - From "Art Souvenir of the Tour of 1900." The Great William Sells & James H. Gray's United Shows. Information should be checked with additional sources Can you add information? [Email](#) your documented information for this/these person(s).

Churchill County Museum and Archive

CCMA acts as the archive for Churchill County and the City of Fallon. In addition to official records, the collections contain early newspapers, research files, tens of thousands of images, over 100 oral histories recorded by the Museum Association in the 1980s and 1990s, as well as a library of local and regional history resources. We recommend you contact our [research curator](#) in advance so that we may prepare for your visit.

[Anne Willie-Susan](#) added **2 new photos.**

My Northern Paiute Grandpa was **James Xavier Willie**, our last name but prior to that it was Dutchman Creek as my ancestors camped at the old Dutchman Creek mines in Nevada as a result, the non-Indians gave them that last name. Prior to that, I am not sure, but Willie was given to us when the Indian Agents in the early days could not pronounce the Paiute names so they gave the native families English sir names. My grandpa was Tribal Chairman of the Walker River Paiute Tribe in the early 1930s and traveled back to Washington, D.C. to get the Weber Reservoir project in place for the ranchers and to ensure Walker Lake received its water to be maintained. I found pictures of my gramps during the Washington, D.C. trip as well as him posing for my Mom/Dad's wedding, he looked sharp. He retired as a federal employee and a strict but awesome grandpa. He was killed by a crazed gunman when he was 72 years old in 1967, it was the first time I seen men cry so hard (my dad and uncles). I loved my gramps, he was strict with us grandkids, but he had a heart of gold...



Oregon and Washington Join 20 Countries to Phase Out Coal by 2030

https://www.ecowatch.com/oregon-washington-coal-2509999815.html?utm_source=EcoWatch+List&utm_campaign=87cd8035f9-

[EMAIL_CAMPAIGN&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_49c7d43dc9-87cd8035f9-85895669*](mailto:EMAIL_CAMPAIGN&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_49c7d43dc9-87cd8035f9-85895669)

World's Biggest Investment Fund Considers Divesting From Fossil Fuels

[https://www.ecowatch.com/investment-fund-divests-norway-2510263326.html?](https://www.ecowatch.com/investment-fund-divests-norway-2510263326.html?utm_source=EcoWatch+List&utm_campaign=87cd8035f9-)

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Holloman Air Force Base near Alamogordo, New Mexico is proposing to expand its Special Use Airspace to encompass airspace over the Gila and Aldo Leopold Wilderness Areas and other portions of the Gila National Forest.

This expansion will allow Holloman AFB to fly supersonic F-16 fighter jets over designated wilderness and residential areas and to fly as low as

500 feet above ground level, disturbing wildlife and the quiet and solitude of America's first Wilderness.

[Help us protect](#) the Gila Wilderness by telling Holloman Air Force Base not to select Alternative 2 for their expansion.

The Department of Defense owns over 3.6 million acres of lands in New Mexico. The use of airspace over protected public lands expands the DOD's reach and increases the militarization of our border region.

Everyone, from humans to wolves, needs quiet spaces under quiet skies. [Tell Holloman Air Force Base: leave our skies alone.](#)

For the wild, Greg Dyson, Wild Places Program Director, WildEarth Guardians

gdyson@wildearthguardians.org

Explorer who vanished searching for headhunters is found By Fox News 11.16.17

A famed explorer who went missing while attempting to film a documentary about a remote tribe in Papua New Guinea has been spotted near an airstrip, [his agent told the BBC on Thursday.](#)

Jo Sarsby stated that an evacuation was being planned to rescue Benedict Allen, 57, who set out alone in the jungle three weeks ago to make a documentary with neither a satellite phone nor a GPS in an effort to find a tribe of headhunting indigenous people he'd discovered roughly 30 years ago.

"Confirmation on exact location coordinates are now being confirmed in order to arrange evacuation as soon as possible," she said.

She said Allen was “safe, well and healthy,” and she’d received an update through Keith Copley, coordinating director for New Tribe Mission in Papua New Guinea. Copley informed Sarsby that Allen was seen 20 miles northwest of Porgera.

The explorer’s family was fearing the worst after he missed his pickup out of the jungle, and he missed a flight to Hong Kong to deliver a speech at the Royal Geographical Society on Tuesday.

“He never caught the plane and that is very out of character for him really because he has it all organized,” his older sister Katie Pestille [told the Daily Mail](#). “He was going with a local guide to a remote part of Papua New Guinea to try to track down this tribe that he had been with 20 or 30 years ago to reconnect with them. I have not heard from him in about three weeks and I was expecting something from him on Sunday or Monday and then I got an email from my sister-in-law yesterday saying he had not got on his flight.”

[According to the Telegraph](#), Allen, a father of three, was attempting to track down the Yaifo tribe, one of the few left on Earth not to have regular contact with the outside world.

“Last time, the Yaifo ‘greeted’ me with a terrifying show of strength, an energetic dance featuring their bows and arrows,” he said in a September blog post outlining his plans. “On this occasion who knows if the Yaifo will do the same, or run off, or be wearing jeans and T-shirts traded eons ago from the old mission station.”

Before setting off on his journey, Allen tweeted a message to the world suggesting they not worry about his whereabouts.

“Marching off to Heathrow. I may be some time (don’t try to rescue me, please – where I’m going in PNG you won’t ever find me you know...)”

This isn’t the first time Allen went missing in the wild. The explorer, whose career spans six TV series for the BBC, was previously out of communication for three months. At one point, he even



had to eat his own dog in order to survive.

History Snippets and Articles

Nov 13 in 1951 Patsy Charlie, a 110 year old Shoshone believed to be the oldest Nevadan, died in Wells; in 1972 there was an unusual scene in the state capital—rural Senator Warren Monroe, a champion of mining, called for controls on mining to protect against problems like cyanide leaking into the Owyhee River near Mountain City (probably a reference to Rio Tinto mining) while Washoe County Senator Thomas Wilson, an environmentalist, urged caution

Nov 11 in **1890** a Native American with Carver's wild west show, Red Cloud, arrived from Europe where he met with a U.S. military officer and told him that both Carver and William Cody mistreated the Indians in their shows; in **1941** the Sky Ranch, a private airport on the Pyramid Lake highway about ten miles north of Sparks, began operation

Nov 9 in **1883** the *Nevada State Journal* carried an optimistic report on the four year old Carlisle school for Native Americans in Pennsylvania, though it was full of patronizing language ("it is evident that some Indians can become thoroughly civilized")

Nov 3 in **1923** a group of Native Americans were scattered and two arrested by white game warden Frank Middleton for hunting deer in their ancestral lands of Ruby Valley; in **1964** the Washoe Project (designed for the Truckee and lower Carson rivers to develop water supplies to meet additional needs by conserving runoff through construction of three dams and reservoirs and by saving water previously lost to "non-beneficial" uses and to use storage to regulate flows for flood control, fishery improvement, and power production) embodied in ballot measure 2 and voted on only by property owners in Washoe, Churchill, and Ormsby counties and portions of Storey, Douglas, and Lyon counties, was approved over the objections of the Pyramid Lake tribe and recreational users, who believed there were not enough protections for their needs

Nov 2 in **2008** the *New York Times* reported that as a result of higher fuel prices, commercial shipping on the 338-mile Erie Canal was staging a comeback: "The canal still remains the most fuel-efficient way to ship goods between the East Coast and the upper Midwest. One gallon of diesel pulls one ton of cargo 59 miles by truck, 202 miles by train and 514 miles by canal barge, [Canal director Carmella] Mantello said. A single barge can carry 3,000 tons, enough to replace 100 trucks."

Oct 28 in **1916** with U.S. troops still in Mexico, U.S. Senator Key Pittman of Nevada—who represented a state that came into the union after being stolen from Mexico—said the U.S. had no interest in gaining new land: "We do not want to acquire territory populated with people that can not assimilate with us and become good American citizens. I do not believe you should care to mix your blood with that of the Mexicans."; pyramid lake mining company

Oct 4 in **1957** in Los Angeles in the criminal libel trial against the scandal magazine *Confidential*, singer/actress Dorothy Dandridge testified to deny the magazine's report that she had sex in the woods with white band leader Daniel Terry at Lake Tahoe, saying that Tahoe was so racially restricted that she was rarely able to leave her hotel room, much less be seen in a car with a white man: "I worked nights and slept in the afternoon. ... I couldn't have been seen with Mr. Terry in a prejudiced place like Lake Tahoe."

Oct 2 in **1887** Dr. Rodney Richardson of Delaware arrived at the Pyramid Lake reservation to take up his duties as tribal agency physician; in **1931** Nevada tribes were expected to earn \$22,500 (more than \$237,000 in 2003 dollars, \$335,181.62 in 2012 dollars, \$356,525.82 in **2016** dollars) for the 1931 pine nut crop, shipping upwards of 1,500 sacks from Reno alone

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**Saul Bellow** (Nobel Prize-winning author). Bellow stayed at the Pyramid Lake Guest Ranch at the same time Arthur Miller was there for a divorce. Bellow was divorcing his wife Anita Goshkin to marry Sondra Tschachbasov in 1956. See the [transcript of an interview with Jean Cullen](#). Bellow's short story "Yellow House" was based on people he met at Pyramid Lake.

**Arthur Miller** (playwright, best known for the play *The Crucible* and the film *The Misfits*). Miller divorced Mary Miller in Reno in 1956. He married film actress Marilyn Monroe three weeks after receiving his divorce. Miller stayed at the Pyramid Lake Guest Ranch at the same time Saul Bellow was serving his residency period. His short story "The Misfits," published in *Esquire*, was based on people he met while staying at Pyramid Lake ([photo](#)).

**John von Neumann** (Hungarian-born mathematician and physicist). Princeton University professor van Neumann has been called one of the greatest mathematicians of the twentieth century. He was divorced by his first wife Mariette in Reno in 1937. Mariette spent her six weeks at the Pyramid Lake Ranch.

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jamestown massacres -- 3/24/15

Today's selection -- from *Fields of Blood* by Karen Armstrong. When the Virginia Company established the colony of Jamestown in America in 1607, its mission was both to provide supplies to England and to bring Christianity to Native...

american mountain men -- 3/12/15

Today's encore selection -- from *Blood and Thunder: The Epic Story of Kit Carson and the Conquest of the American West* by Hampton Sides. The expansiveness and fierce independence of the American character comes in part...

silver and seville -- 3/04/15

Today's selection -- from *War and Gold* by Kwasi Kwarteng. As the Europeans conquered the New World, it was silver, much more than gold, that they brought back with them to flood European markets. Between 1503 and 1660, they brought 16,000...

methodists and the isolation of the frontier -- 2/09/15

Today's selection -- from *What Hath God Wrought* by Daniel Walker Howe. By 1850, the Methodist church had grown from obscurity to become the largest denomination in America and one of the largest institutions of any kind in its day --...

chaos in the west -- 12/3/14

In today's selection -- from *Empire of Liberty* by Gordon S. Wood. After the Revolutionary War, wealthy Americans used debt to buy up huge tracts of land, speculating and hoping to make new fortunes by selling that land to settlers...

the american revolution started in 1763 -- 6/24/14

Today's selection -- from *The American West* by Anne M. Butler and Michael J. Lansing.
Adventurous citizens in the thirteen original British colonies in America had long gone west in search of new land. It was a continuation of the...

Caesar Bowlegs gained recognition among the Seminole Indians and freedmen during the late 19th century. Bowlegs was born around 1843 in the Seminole Nation, which is Oklahoma today. He was a slave of Eliza Bowlegs and his parents. Very little else is known about his childhood. During the Civil War, Bowlegs rode north to Kansas [...]

[Read More](#)

Sample of picture archives at UNLV Special Collections

- [Single Item Accession Photograph Collection PH-00171](#) ... 16 slides of the Elks Helldorado Parade-Las Vegas, 1954. 0112 ... (J.K. Hiller photograph, 1873) 0274 Indians in dancing costumes, July 4, 1889. 0275 ...
- [Leon Rockwell Photograph Collection PH-00008](#) ... miles S.W. of Searchlight 0126 Indians at Kyote Springs" (neg.) ... Leon and Earl Rockwell, 1st Helldorado (1934) 0211 Leon and Mother Rockwell, ...
- [John C. Olsen Photograph Collection PH-00320](#) Helldorado Celebration 0001 Helldorado Celebration-Old ... Vegas. Covered wagon. 0016 Moapa Indians marching in the Helldorado Parade. (5-15-52) 0017 ...
- [Nye County, Nevada Photograph Collection PH-00221](#) ... saddle horse, Diamond, carried the Helldorado Queen in the parade ... have been constructed by the Indians. Left to right: Ruth Ellerbrook; unidentified; ...
- [Victor Kunkel Photograph Collection, Victor PH-00072](#) ... the "Lake" 0081 Bathing beauty Helldorado float 1943 0082 Helldorado ... (Photo by Ben Wittick) 0097 Indians in camp [somewhere in Arizona]. (Photo ...
- [Tom and Erma Godbey Photograph Collection PH-00262](#) ... (?), Ralph Hornsworth." 0009 First Helldorado Parade 1934. Tom Godbey ... & Bugle Corps dressed as Indians. 0010 Sons of American Legion Orchestra. ...
- [Edwards, Elbert Photograph Collection PH-00214](#) ... Vegas High School staff observe Helldorado - - 1935. (Also ... missionary and peacemaker among the Indians. 0499 John G. Taylor. He built a ranching ...
- [Chandler Photograph Collection PH-00330](#) ... Chandler Store float in the Helldorado Parade, Las Vegas, Nev. ... Las Vegas, Nev. (n.d.) 0010 Indians on horseback ride in the Helldorado Parade ...
- [Binion's Horseshoe Photograph Collection PH-00318](#) ... 1968. 0066 Elks 36th annual Helldorado Rodeo. (c. 1970s) Bareback ... Reno, complete with cowboys and Indians. Driver in white hat most likely Chill ...
- [Gwendolyn Woolley Photographs PH-00035](#) ... Locomotive Engineers at the first Helldorado Parade in Las Vegas, Nevada. Later Las Vegas 0001 Ladies Society of Brotherhood of Firemen and Locomotive ...

And from the Bancroft:

[Portrait File of The Bancroft Library bulk circa 1860-circa 1960](#)

Contributing Institution: UC Berkeley::Bancroft Library

Collection Number: BANC PIC 1905.00002--POR

Description: Portraits of identified individuals and groups. Primarily individuals and families associated with the history of the San Francisco Bay Area, California, or the American West, including pioneers, artists, literary figures, community leaders, elected officials, scholars, etc. Also includes individuals outside ... [Read More](#)

And another look at history:

The first official Pentecostal church in Nevada was the Glad Tidings Assemblies of God Church of Reno, organized in 1921. Its humble beginnings were common to many early Pentecostal churches. The congregants first met in a home, then in a tent, moved to a second-floor rental at Fourth and Virginia streets, from there to a rented facility at 541 N. Sierra, and finally settled at Bell Street near Fifth. The congregation chose Rev. J. D. Wells, who served as pastor until 1924. He subsequently devoted himself to evangelization of Native Americans and through his writings contributed to the Assemblies of God mission in Battle Mountain. Rural Pentecostal Nevadans were active elsewhere in establishing churches on Shoshone and Paiute Indian reservations. The Native American congregations remained numerically small (never numbering more than 5 percent of the reservation population), but their churches were active in addressing problems of alcoholism and unemployment.

By the early 1930s Pentecostal churches appeared in Nevada's isolated Great Basin communities. Itinerant ministers held tent meetings and, if interest persisted, organized a church that, often as not, first met in a saloon or storefront. Rev. C. E. Persing organized Calvary Pentecostal Tabernacle at 190 South East Street in Fallon, where he served from 1931 to 1935. In modern times the Pentecostal presence in Fallon included two Church of God in Christ congregations and another independent gathering. Shortly after its humble beginnings, Anchor Tabernacle in Elko received the pastoral services of Clyde V. Hammond and his wife. She had three times the ministerial experience of her husband and consequently conducted most of the preaching. It was officially organized in 1936 and settled the following year at 633 Railroad Street. In 2009, there were three Pentecostal churches in Elko, all with different organizational affiliations.

Pentecostal pastors almost always had two jobs because the fledgling congregations were too small to provide a full-time income. Church members in rural Nevada were typically working class people. They might be miners, ranchers, farmhands, grocery store clerks, homemakers, schoolteachers, or gas station attendants. Loneliness and isolation were common complaints because the churches were so small and remote. Consequently, outlying communities gathered annually in places like Lamoille Canyon outside Elko for week-long camp meetings.

While it was not uncommon for husband-and-wife teams to serve as co-pastors in rural churches, occasionally a woman pastored a local congregation unassisted. One single female pastor was Gladys Rushing, who epitomized several Pentecostal women in ministry in Nevada. For over thirty-five years, up to 2007, Reverend Rushing led churches in rural towns like Silver Springs and Battle Mountain, and she also ministered among Native Americans and served as an Associate Pastor in the Assemblies of God Church in Reno. While Rushing was active in ministry, her husband was employed as a heavy equipment operator. She acknowledged being shunned at times by other community ministers because she was a woman. Once, at a high school graduation ceremony in Battle Mountain, some male ministers from the region refused to sit on the platform with her. She took her place there nevertheless!

Northern Nevada churches organized since the 1950s comprised numerous independent groups such as the Potter's House, Airport Christian Fellowship, Word of Faith Rhema Church, and the non-Trinitarian "Jesus Name" (sometimes referenced as "Jesus Only") Pentecostals, as well as those affiliated with the nationally organized Assemblies of God, Church of God, Apostolic, Church of God, Cleveland, Tennessee, Church of the Foursquare Gospel, and the historically African-American Church of God in Christ.

And at CSU:

[PDF]Indian-White Relationships in Northern California Books ... - CSU, Chico

www.csuchico.edu/lbib/spc/bleyhl/Bleyhl_books.pdf

Indians occurred when two men, Turner and Gay, *shot* a Shasta Indian near the September 1851: Davis, Lieutenant *Nelson* H. 2d Inf., Co. Here, a passage by the daughter of Chief *Winnemucca* may be found that describes her tribe Page 37: Population as of 1920 - Present population to 1921 Annual Report of ...m

The Pocahontas Archive - Bibliography

<http://digital.lib.lehigh.edu/trial/pocahontas/bib.php>



Native American Leader Recognized for Environmental Activism

[Play Audio in Browser Window](#)

CARSON CITY, Nev. – The Nevada Indian Commission has honored a local Native American activist in the Las Vegas area for her work in support of Gold Butte National Monument. Comments from Fawn Douglas, recipient of the Nevada American Indian Community Leader award.

Just in time for Thanksgiving, the Nevada Indian Commission has honored Native Americans who've made a significant contribution to the state.

This year Nevada's American Indian Leader of the Year award went to Fawn Douglas, an artist and activist with the Las Vegas Paiute Tribe. Douglas has been a big part of the push to designate Gold Butte as a national monument and now is working to save it in the face of a leaked proposal by the Trump administration to shrink the boundaries.

"We fought long and hard for several years to get that designation," she says. "And that was the voices of Nevadans. Not only our people but Nevadans as a whole."

President Trump reportedly is planning to make an announcement about the future of Gold Butte and several other monuments in early December.

One month ago, Douglas delivered a petition - with more than 90,000 signatures - to Sen. Dean Heller's office asking him to support Gold Butte as is. She also led a series of public meetings on the monument.

Douglas, along with the Native American Student Association at UNLV, pushed for years to have the City of Las Vegas recognize the second Monday in October as Indigenous People's Day, something that came to pass last month.

"They said that Columbus Day is not an official holiday here in Las Vegas so there's nothing to replace," she adds. "But they wanted to recognize the cultural diversity and the indigenous peoples of this area."

Douglas would like to see the State of Nevada recognize Indigenous People's Day. A bill to make it happen faltered last session over a proposed compromise to move it to August 9, which is international Indigenous People's Day
