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Endangered Species Are Casualties of Trump's Border Wall

Trump's Pardons of Rod Blagojevich and Others Are Meant to Convince America Corruption Is OK

Oklahoma's Tribes Unite Against a Common Foe: Their Cherokee Governor

California tribe donates \$9M to UNLV Hospitality, Law schools

Snapshots of language loss/revitalization: Paiute classes at the University and Stewart Indian School

Professional Educator's Assistance & Recognition (PEAR) Scholarship

Pine nuts, the climate crisis, tribal culture, and your 'chic' salad

Water Shorts

Virtual Presidential Libraries Road Trip

Saturday

Here Are The Winners Of The 2019 International Landscape Photographer Of The Year Contest

How Technology Is Changing the Future of Higher Education

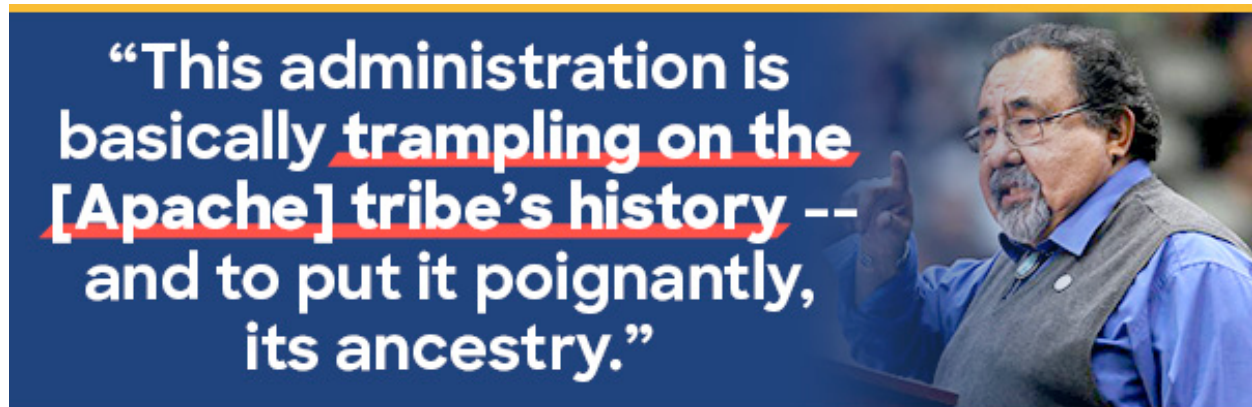
Rural caucusing comes to Pyramid Lake Jr/High School and on to Schurz

Grace I. Frazier (Perry)

**Photographs of
Native
Americans**



Raúl Grijalva is speaking out:



Endangered Species Are Casualties of Trump's Border Wall

Garet Bleir, Sierra Club

Bleir writes: "As new border wall construction rips through some of the most biologically diverse desert lands in North America, it is putting nearly 100 endangered species at increased risk."

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But nothing for Leonard Peltier.....

Trump's Pardons of Rod Blagojevich and Others Are Meant to Convince America Corruption Is OK

Barbara McQuade, NBC News

McQuade writes: "If actions speak louder than words, then President Donald Trump's granting of pardons Tuesday was deafening." [READ MORE](#) about "celebrity felons"

Oklahoma's Tribes Unite Against a Common Foe: Their Cherokee Governor

By SIMON ROMERO and GRAHAM LEE BREWER

Kevin Stitt's demands for more money from Native American casinos have sparked a bitter feud with economically powerful tribes — including his own.

California tribe donates \$9M to UNLV Hospitality, Law schools

The San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, a partner with the Las Vegas Raiders and the Vegas Golden Knights, hope to help develop a tribal gaming curriculum at UNLV.

Snapshots of language loss and revitalization: Paiute classes at the University and Stewart Indian School

Ignacio Montoya

Professional Educator's Assistance & Recognition (PEAR) Scholarship

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Pine nuts, the climate crisis, tribal culture, and your ‘chic’ salad

By [Jeniffer Solis](#) February 12, 2020



Schurz Elementary School students picking pine nuts from cones at the Annual Pinenut Festival Powwow on the Walker River Paiute Tribe reservation in September, 2019. (Photo courtesy of Walker River Paiute Tribe).

Eaten a fashionable salad sprinkled with pine nuts lately?

They’re awfully tasty.

Pine nuts are also susceptible to commercial over-harvesting which, when combined with the impacts of the climate crisis, are becoming more scarce, and threatening cultural traditions of Nevada’s indigenous peoples.

Ryan Boone is an enrolled member of the Walker River Paiute Tribe, but he grew up in Las Vegas, about 300 miles away from the tribe’s reservation.

Last year Boone skipped days of classes at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas to drive to the reservation and participate in his tribe’s annual pine nut festival.

“I always tell people it’s that it’s so much different to walk on dirt and grass rather than asphalt and concrete,” said Boone, a 20-year old computational physics major and the president of the UNLV Native American Student Association.

Ryan Boone, 20, left, enrolled member of the Walker River Paiute Tribe. (Photo: Jeniffer Solis) Tribal members from various nations across the country come together at what they call a blessed event where indigenous people gather pinyon pine nuts and celebrate the harvest with pow wows and talent shows.

Every September Boone’s family travels from Ohio and elsewhere to gather for the festival.

It's something of a family reunion and spiritual return to his culture, Boone said.

He's never tasted pine nuts that have not come from his reservation, said Boone. But he fears that an increase in commercial harvesting for pine nuts combined with the climate crisis will someday force him to buy them from a store.

"This country has done so much devastation to our people," Boone said. "When we lose these pine nuts we lose a part of our culture. It always comes down to money and profit."

Consumption – and commercial harvesting – rising fast

Pinyon pines are especially sensitive to heat and drought — and Nevada is experiencing more of both in recent years and pinyon territories further south have seen massive die-offs because of it. Fewer trees mean Indigenous gatherers are facing escalating competition with commercial harvesters and other private collectors.

Pine nuts are not domestically cultivated like other crops. Pinyon trees are typically found on public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) or the U.S. Forest Service, which also set harvesting regulations.

The Forest Service and BLM issue commercial harvesting permits every year to businesses on available parcels. In 2016, the Bureau of Land Management issued 11 permits for about a total of 127,000 pounds of pine nuts. In 2017 it was 12 permits for about 215,750 pounds of pine nuts. None were awarded in 2018 due to a lack of available pine nuts— likely due to smaller snow caps that season — and in 2019 only 5 permits for around 33,000 pounds were awarded.

Pine nut consumption has almost doubled in the last decade, selling for up to \$40 per pound, according to the [Agricultural Marketing Resource Center](#).

Some research says a healthy piñon forest [can generate](#) \$4,000 to \$10,000 per acre, when one acre of forest produces 250 pounds of nuts. Other research shows pine nuts are nearly impossible to [cultivate successfully](#) because of the time they take to grow and the limited environment they can grow in.

Two firms have accounted for a large portion of the BLM pine nuts permits, [Wholesale Pine Nuts](#) and Leany Pine Nuts. The companies did not respond to requests for comment.

A harvest that can take decades to replace

Many of those permits awarded throughout the years were for the Battle Mountain range in Nevada, part of which traverse near the Walker River Walker Tribe.

"Our people are starting to see more and more damage from other people ransacking our areas and being able to come in and pillage the whole area," said Amber Torres, chair of the Walker River Paiute Tribe. "Our people are crying out to stop selling the permits for the trees and pine nuts."

“It’s very disrespectful,” Torres said. “A lot of our tribe takes pride in being able to go out and do this, but the more people cut down our sacred areas, cultural areas, our prayer areas and continue to desecrate the area, it won’t be there any longer for future generations.”

Pinyon groves can take decades to re-establish — sometimes as long as 50 to 100 years, according to the BLM. They grow just a few inches a year, and pine nuts take two years to mature for harvest, Torres said over-harvesting threatens the health of the forest.

“Imagine someone who has no vested interest in those trees or what they produce every year or being fragile with them or doing anything in a cultural or traditional way,” Torres said of commercial harvesters. “They’re going to cut and damage those limbs and do anything to get those cones.”

Climate disruption also hurts traditional pine nut hunting, said Stacey Montooth, an enrolled member of the Walker River Paiute Tribe and the executive director of the Nevada Indian Commission, further threatening the traditional staple.



Pine nuts separated from cones. (Photo courtesy of Walker River Paiute Tribe)

“Certainly climate change is impacting the traditional pine nut hunting that our people do,” Montooth said. “It is such an ancient pastime, and with climate change the resources are definitely more scarce.”

In the last decade professional harvesters have capitalized on the harvest and sale of pine nuts, creating even more scarcity of the grain, said Montooth.

“It’s become extremely chic or vogue to go to fancy restaurants and have pine nuts on your salads,” Montooth said. “What has sustained our people for thousands and thousands of years is now a hot commodity.”

‘They just fried ... They shriveled up’

In March, the Nevada Indian Commission will host the Traditional Ecological Knowledge Summit, where scientists and environmentalists will join with tribal communities to figure out how to care for areas affected by climate change and other threats.

Elders of the Walker River Paiute Tribe not long ago traveled to an area they believed the harvest would be plentiful after good signs in May, only to find the sun had baked the pinecones.

“They just fried,” said Torres. “They shriveled up, and pine nuts were scarce that year. And our biggest thing is what are we going to have to do? Our traditional areas are being ransacked by everyone else prior to tribes getting out there. What are we going to have to do? Are we going to have to go to a store and purchase these?”

In response to tribal complaints, the Forest Service and BLM started a communication plan in 2016 as a way to inform tribes on parcels that were open for auction. The BLM does not actively track the thousands of pounds collected each year, saying it would be too time consuming.

Coreen Francis, BLM’s lead forester in Nevada, said in reality, the agency doesn’t keep track of the available pine nuts or whether they are dwindling when issuing permits.

“The only indicator of that is what gets sold at the auction each year,” said Francis. “We don’t have an inventory that covers the whole landscape of how much cones are produced. It’s just such a vast landscape that there is no way to inventory that each year.”

The BLM gives public notification of auction sites and gathers feedback and input on the units available. Once parcels are awarded tribes are also notified of permits given, said Francis. Every contract and harvest is monitored, and among the requirements for permit holders, all cultural sites or artifacts are to be avoided and preserved.

“We do not issue any commercial permits out of our Carson City office,” Francis said. “There’s a lot more personal collectors and so we don’t throw in commercial permitting in the mix there to alleviate any tribal concerns of over-harvesting in the part of the state where there’s high density collection.”

But the personal connection to the crop and the practice of collecting it complicates the presence of commercial harvesters for some tribes.

“That is something sacred and traditional for our culture and our people,” Torres said. “The biggest thing is that these commercial pickers, or people that are allowed to go up to our pine nuts hills and desecrate our areas, don’t understand how they are supposed to treat the area and how they are supposed to leave the area.”

“They are breaking limbs, they are taking more than need be, almost for greed because it’s commercial,” said Torres. “They are making money off this and not taking into account the medicine we have out there. The animals that habitat the area.”

But not all tribes are alike. Most of the permits awarded by the BLM Ely District, part of which overlaps with the Ely Shoshone Tribe, a smaller tribe of about 300 residents in Northern Nevada.

“If we felt in any way that it infringed on our opportunities to pick, or that BLM did not allow us to have communication with the pickers, I think we would have a problem with the harvesters. But so far I have not seen that,” said Diana Bucknar, chair of the Ely Shoshone Tribe.

Harvesting pine nuts is less of a cultural fixture for the Ely Shoshone Tribe. It's grueling work, Bucknar said, and because of an agreement with the harvesters, a percentage of what is picked is given to the tribe.

In the dryer more arid parts of Nevada, near the Walker River Paiute tribe, Torres said she sees the damage done to trees from commercial harvesters and climate change and worries about the future of the pine trees in other parts of Nevada.

"We want this tradition to continue," Torres said. "We want to pass this knowledge to the next seven generations so they will continue to provide for our people."



Jeniffer Solis

Reporter | Jeniffer was born and raised in Las Vegas, Nevada where she attended the University of Nevada, Las Vegas before graduating in 2017 with a B.A in Journalism and Media Studies. While at UNLV she was a senior staff writer for the student newspaper, the UNLV Scarlet and Gray Free Press, and a news reporter for KUNV 91.5 FM, covering everything from the Route 91 shooting to UNLV housing. She has also contributed to the UNLV News Center and worked as a production engineer for several KUNV broadcasts before joining the Nevada Current. She's an Aries.

Water Shorts

The Washington state senate banned any new permits for water bottling operations in the state, asserting that "any use of water for the commercial production of bottled water is deemed to be detrimental to the public welfare and the public interest." Washington is the first U.S. state to impose such a restriction. [The Guardian](#)

[Federal PFAS Legislation – the NDAA and Beyond](#)

By National Law Review, 2/18/20

Congress continues to grapple with how it should legislate in response to human health and environmental concerns related to per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). Of the dozens of bills proposed in 2019 to address PFAS, only the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) passed both chambers, becoming law when the president signed the act on Dec. 20, 2019.

[Avoiding Crisis: Preparing for the Proposed Lead and Copper Rule Revisions](#)

[By Water Finance & Management, 2/18/2020](#)

In October 2019, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released its long-awaited proposed revisions to the existing Lead and Copper Rule (LCR). The proposal would update the original 1991 rule, change the current standards and add several new responsibilities for water utilities across the country. The changes will place rigorous and costly new demands on water systems, and many are questioning how they can best prepare for the changes ahead.

[Nearly Half the Country Working on PFAS Rules as EPA Drags Feet](#)

By Bloomberg Environment, 2/19/2020

More states are stepping up to protect people from drinking water contaminated with "forever chemicals" in the absence of federal enforcement. Twenty-three states are writing their own guidance, regulations, or legislation that would address drinking water contaminated with per-

and polyfluoroalkyl substances, also known as PFAS. The family of thousands of chemicals, once used in Teflon and Scotchgard, may cause liver tissue damage, immune system or thyroid problems and increased cholesterol levels, according to the Environmental Protection Agency. The substances require massive amounts of energy to fully break down, enabling them to persist in the environment, seemingly “forever.”

[Green groups plan to sue over Trump rollback of Obama waterway protections](#)

By The Hill, 2/18/2020

A coalition of environmental groups informed the Trump administration Tuesday that it would sue over a major rollback of water protections designed to replace the Obama-era Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) rule. “Trump’s despicable giveaway to polluters will wipe out countless wetlands and streams and speed the extinction of endangered wildlife across the country,” Brett Hartl, government affairs director at the Center for Biological Diversity, said in a statement. “Even as we’re fighting this in court, the polluters will rush to fill in wetlands and turn our waterways into industrial toilets.”

Over 80 cities, counties, special districts, and Native American tribes have applied for climate change planning grants under the California Resilience Challenge, offering a unique glimpse of the myriad ways climate change is threatening communities and infrastructure across the state. The California Resilience Challenge is a statewide effort funded by a diverse array of businesses, utilities, and environmental organizations managed by the Bay Area Council. The Challenge’s Advisory Committee and Board of Directors are currently reviewing the proposals, with winning grants scheduled to be announced early April. To learn more about the California Resilience Challenge or to engage with the Council’s Committee on Water & Climate Resilience, [please contact Vice President Adrian Covert.](#)

Saturday.....

[Rural caucusing comes to Pyramid Lake Jr/High School](#)

The caucus location for many living on the Pyramid Lake Paiute Indian Reservation was the junior and high school in Nixon. But others had to travel a lot farther. As did those living in Wadsworth and Hungry Valley. kolotv.com

[Elveda Martinez](#) At the Caucus on Saturday you (*were*) will be able to complete a resolution form that identifies an issue(s) that you want to be a part of the County platform and the state platform. What is important to you? Health care, education, climate change, elder services, social security, renewable energy, child care, etc. It would be great if you brought your typed issues with you; they can be attached to the form. This is a way to get your issues out front. This is an important part of the Caucus process.

For caucus day the tribal sites are (*were*) as follows:

1. WASHOE HOUSING AUTHORITY BUILDING in GARDNERVILLE
2. HUMAN DEVELOPMENT CENTER in OWYHEE
3. WALKER RIVER PAIUTE TRIBE COMMUNITY CENTER in Schurz
4. PYRAMID LAKE JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL
5. DUCKWATER ELEMENTARY in Duckwater

Tribes need to contact their county clerks to request a precinct location on their reservations. It's important to do what you have to to make it easier for your tribal members to vote in this Presidential election.



Believe it or not, this is NOT a Malotte

[Here Are The Winners Of The 2019 International Landscape Photographer Of The Year Contest \(30 Pics\)](#)

[The International Landscape Photographer of the Year contest has just announced its 2019 winners, and their pics are the perfect reminders of just how diverse and beautiful our Mother Earth really is.](#) [boredpanda.com](#)

We're two weeks into our **virtual [Presidential Libraries Road Trip](#)** and today we've reached California. What records will you find to tag and transcribe at the Richard Nixon Library? 111 Citizen Archivists have enhanced 1,989 pages with tags and transcriptions. How many pages will you tag and transcribe in our last six days?

[Get started transcribing!](#)

New to the citizen archivist program? [Learn how to register and get started](#)

Questions or comments? Email us at catalog@nara.gov.

[How Technology Is Changing the Future of Higher Education](#)

By JON MARCUS

Labs test artificial intelligence, virtual reality and other innovations that could improve learning and lower costs for Generation Z and beyond.



Grace I. Frazier (Perry) Tuesday, April 10th, 1923 - Wednesday, February 19th, 2020

AKWESASNE – Grace I. Frazier, 96, mother of Akwesasne resident, Carol Lazore, passed away Wednesday evening, February 19, 2020 at the Alice Center in Malone.

Grace, a member of the Paiute Tribe, was born April 10, 1923 was born in Bridgeport, California on the Paiute Territory, the daughter of the late James and Cordelia (Tom) Perry. After the unexpected death of her mother, she was raised by her aunt, Molly Perry. She attended Stewart Indian School in Carson City, Nevada.

Grace cleaned homes for Tony Evans and worked for the US Fish and Wildlife Service at their fish hatchery in Pyramid Lake, Nevada. She also was a cook for at time at a Dude Ranch in Sutcliff, Nevada. Grace was a skilled craftswoman, especially with buckskins. She was well-known for her moccasins and gloves made of buckskin and took exceptional pride in her beadwork on the moccasins and gloves along with the jewelry she made. She also was very skilled in making Paiute styled cradle boards. She proudly sold her goods throughout her territory. She moved to Akwesasne in 2014 to be with her daughter and son-in-law. She was a member of the St. Regis Mohawk Senior Citizens and the Akwesasne Death Benefits Group.

Grace is survived by her children, Carol and Glenn Lazore of Akwesasne; Levi Frazier, Jr. of Nixon, Nevada; and Mary Ann Frazier of Wadsworth, Nevada; her grandchildren, John and Michael Lee Lazore, Kathy and Roxanne Frazier, and Gordon Wadsworth, II; and 10 great grandchildren.

She was predeceased by her husband, Levi Frazier in August 1973; two sons, John Leroy Frazier and Douglas Eugene Frazier in infancy; a grandson, Adam Lazore in 1994; her sister, Lena Perry Sturgeon; and her brother, John Perry.

There will be no local calling hours or funeral services. Her cremated remains will be buried in her home territory of Bridgeport, California.