

## ***Journal #4905      from sdc      3.22.21***

*Donner Party and the Washoe*

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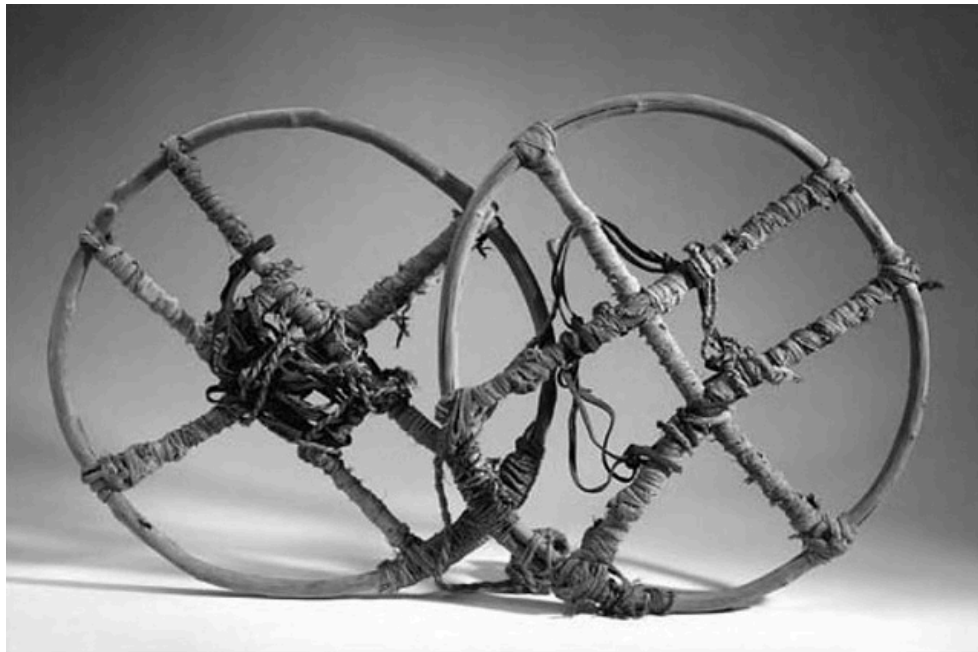
*Cecil, the Serpent*

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*Time to remove Custer's name from South Dakota map*

*Nevada*

*Senators Announce \$10.1 Million for Nevada Tribes' Housing*



*The Washoe used snowshoes fashioned from bent hardwood and animal sinew, similar to these. American Museum of Natural History, via "An Archaeology of Desperation"*

The familiar story of the Donner Party is one of misfortune, madness, and profound isolation. **But archaeologists have come to believe that the Midwestern migrants who became trapped in the northern Sierra during the winter of 1846-47 were not alone.**

While October snowfall represented a catastrophe for the pioneers' wagon train as they crossed the mountains, it would have been wholly ordinary to members of the local Washoe tribe, whose way of life had been adapted to the Lake Tahoe region for thousands of years.

During the warm months, the natives gathered stores of pine nuts, roots, and dried rabbit meat. In the winters, they wore cloaks of rabbit fur, ice fished, and huddled in willow huts with central fire pits. Three winters before the arrival of the Donner Party, the frontiersman John Fremont recorded an encounter with the Washoe. As his men struggled through deep snow, he wrote, “circling around us on snow-shoes and skimming along like birds.” The tribesmen returned later with an offering of pine nuts.

According to Indigenous histories, Washoe scouts kept close track of strangers in their territory. The migrants, among the few whites they had ever seen, would have aroused intense interest. But Donner testimonies mentioned only a few encounters. In one, William Eddy, a carriage maker from Illinois, fatally shot a Washoe man who had fired arrows into their oxen. In another, a tribesman emerged from the wilderness and offered the foreigners a handful of edible roots.

But those almost certainly weren't the only encounters. The 2011 book “[An Archaeology of Desperation](#)” introduced historical accounts overlooked in the popular telling of the Donner story: those passed down to the great-great-grandchildren of Washoe members present during the Donner encounters.

Numerous times, according to the oral histories, Washoe scouts brought the stranded migrants food — including a deer carcass, fish, and wild potatoes — but were met with hostility. On one occasion, an offering of fish was refused. On at least three others, the Washoe approached the Donner camps with food only to be met by gunshots, leaving one man dead.



*Washoe Indians at Lake Tahoe, circa 1860-1870. [Society of California Pioneers](#)*

When a scout saw the white people cannibalizing their dead, the tribe was said to retreat, afraid

they too might be killed and eaten. From then on, the Washoe referred to the migrants as “not people.”

Of roughly 80 pioneers who set out for California from Missouri, only half survived. Their apparent distrust of the Sierra natives, even as starvation loomed, likely came from their experiences on the trail, historians say. During the three weeks before their arrival in Washoe country, members of the migrant train reported being shot at and robbed of horses and cattle. But native histories, supported by archaeological evidence, suggest the Washoe tried to help them, [wrote](#) Julie Schablitsky, an archaeologist who performed excavations at the Donner site in the early 2000s.

Once the migrant camps were deserted, tribal members returned to burn and bury objects left behind in a bid to drive away unwelcome spirits. But the Donner Party was only a harbinger of what was to come. Gold was discovered down the mountain range a year later. Before long the region was swarmed by prospectors, and the Washoes' way of life was put on a path toward oblivion.

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#### U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders

**We owe the Native American people a debt that can never be repaid.** The Native American people have been lied to, their treaties violated, and their views ignored on issues that impact their communities time and time again.

The American Rescue Plan prioritizes tribal health care and economic support for tribal governments and contains a record level of federal assistance for Native populations. This is a step toward a new kind of relationship between our government and the Native American community.

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#### **In case you missed it: IndyTalks: Can (and should) mining pay more in taxes?**

The Recording By The Nevada Independent Staff

[https://thenevadaindependent.com/article/indytalks-can-and-should-mining-pay-more-in-taxes?utm\\_source=The+Nevada+Independent&utm\\_campaign=85f044116a-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2021\\_03\\_15\\_02\\_39\\_COPY\\_01&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_15592b5f76-85f044116a-432210490](https://thenevadaindependent.com/article/indytalks-can-and-should-mining-pay-more-in-taxes?utm_source=The+Nevada+Independent&utm_campaign=85f044116a-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2021_03_15_02_39_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_15592b5f76-85f044116a-432210490)

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#### **Extract: The NV Democratic Party has some work to do, whoever's running By**

"Indigenous organizers contributed to record turnout of Native American voters in Nevada through largely unpaid efforts, but the turnout paled in comparison to the potential for the Native Vote in the Battle-born Ste. Vine Deloria, in 1969, [wrote](#) that “some 26 tribes, mainly Paiutes and Shoshones, live in Nevada. If these tribes were ever to form a strong political or economic alliance, they would exert tremendous influence within the state. The Nevadan Indian population is fairly young and the possibility of its developing a strong Indian swing vote as it comes of age is excellent.” That remains the case. The population of voting-age Indigenous people in Nevada is more than enough to swing elections in every single election cycle. The Nevada State Democratic Party should develop a Native Vote Fund, mirroring

the Native Organizing Fund of the Northeast Arizona Native Democrats, and fundraise specifically to hire Indigenous field organizers working in tribal communities. "

"Prioritizing field outreach to Indigenous people would expand the Native Vote and move toward addressing the decades of state party neglect of the state's original peoples, while also substantially expanding the Nevada Democrats' operations in rural Nevada at a time when the rurals are growing increasingly dark shades of Republican red. The majority of sovereign tribal land is located in rural Nevada. County Democratic parties have vested interests in the Native Vote, but because rural Democrats are underrepresented in state party decision-making, the need to prioritize power building in Indian Country is also sidelined. If Democrats wish to stave off the further development of a Republican red firewall that insulates and radicalizes rural Nevadans, the state party should and must invest in Indigenous organizers working in rural counties."

**<https://www.nevadacurrent.com/2021/03/10/the-nv-democratic-party-has-some-work-to-do-whoever-running-it/>**

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**You're Invited to Conservation Lobby Week!**  
**March 22nd through March 25th**

We wanted to make sure you knew about this wonderful opportunity to get involved with environmental legislation this 2021 Nevada Legislative Session!

As you probably know by now, our legislative session is underway!  
And typically, every legislative session, community members take a bus trip to Carson City to meet with their legislators to discuss conservation issues in Nevada.

Since the Nevada Legislature is closed to the public, the Nevada Conservation League's [biennial Conservation Lobby Week will happen virtually this year!](#) This way, folks can attend after work hours from the safety of their homes.

Conservation Lobby Week is set to take place from **Monday, March 22nd, to Thursday, March 25th. Each night we will begin at 5:30pm and end at 7:00pm.**

Each night will feature a new environmental topic and special guest speakers. Throughout the week, community members will meet with their legislators in small group settings to advocate for environmental policies.

**[Click here to register for this event!](#)**

Feel free to join us on any, or all of the nightly events! We will update you about the schedule and special guest speakers as we go.

We hope to see you there!



*Mindy Natt, a Yurok tribal member, and her son attended an opening celebration for the new tower, seen in the background. The Yurok Tribe*

**One outcome of the federal government's pandemic assistance: Extract: The NV Democratic Party has some work to do, whoever's running** . The Yurok Tribe used \$2.1 million from the federal CARES Act to install a 150-foot internet tower in a remote corner of its reservation, which straddles forested lands along the Klamath River. Tribal leaders [said](#) the service would be life-changing, allowing remote work, medical visits, and schooling. [North Coast Journal](#) | [Eureka Times-Standard](#)

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"Since the horse made its way to western Montana, the Salish and Kootenai Indians reportedly used the island to pasture horses to keep them from being stolen by other tribes, such as the



neighboring Blackfeet."

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[Alion Science and Technology](#) ·

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**[Ed Harry](#)**

So proud of my oldest son Cody today, it was match day so I came out to the ranch to be with Charlotte and get the good news!! Cody will be in residency in Santa Rosa, Ca. at the Kaiser Permanente. Good job Dr. Cody Harry.



[National Native American Heritage Month](#)





[earthjustice.org](http://earthjustice.org)

[Tribes Defend Minnesota Waterways From Dangerous Line 3 Pipeline](#)

[Representing the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians, the White Earth Band of Ojibwe, Honor the Earth, and Sierra Club, Earthjustice is fighting the pipeline in federal court.](#)

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[Ilahee Spirit Runners](#)

[#protectthackerpass](#) [#RespectTheSacred](#) [#LandBack](#) [#RightfulStewards](#)

[Protect Thacker Pass](#)

On Friday, March 19, members of the Fort McDermitt Paiute Shoshone tribe and other indigenous folks finished a 273 mile prayer walk at Thacker Pass. The prayer walk concluded with ceremony and prayers for Thacker Pass and all exploited lands around the world. Many members of the Fort McDermitt Paiute Shoshone tribe oppose the proposed Thacker Pass open pit lithium mine and feel like they were never offered adequate consultation about the mine. Local folks are also concerned about man camps and the inevitable violence against women that



follows mining projects such as these.

[newsweek.com](http://newsweek.com)

[Full list of 172 Republicans who opposed the Violence Against Women Act](#)

[Lawmakers approved reauthorization of the bill in a 244-172 vote on Wednesday night.](#)

## Don't Be A Sheep, Control Your Destiny At Shepherd School

- Understanding that International Women's Day means to celebrate women's achievements makes it hard to know where to place the launch of [Spain's first female shepherding school](#) on the timeline of accomplishments.
- The website for the School for Shepherdesses of the 21st Century is intriguing, if not quite relatable. It's definitely aimed at rural women, or urban women who'd just as soon move to the country. It uses concepts like "empowering rural women is crucial," and it's "necessary to dignify the work of rural women." But the part about women taking "a step forward to become rural entrepreneurs" might take a little more explaining.
- The website says that "in this training the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals converge, [and] the strategies of the European Union and the Bioeconomy are integrated as a way to achieve healthy ecosystems." It talks about pastoralism needing "the opportunity to adapt to new technologies" in order to achieve a "dynamic and connected rural world...."
- There's a simpler explanation. The population across more than half of Spain's surface area has been steadily whittled away by urbanization. Many more women than men have abandoned rural areas, leaving behind an aging population and villages that were "being masculinized," according to Linda Diaz of the Spanish Association Against Depopulation. "It's a step backwards."
- Susana Pacheco, the driving force behind the new school headquartered in the northern region of Cantabria, puts it this way: "There are other shepherd schools that women can attend. But the difference is that we've thought this through from the perspective of women. That's why we're talking about work-life balance, creating networks of mutual support and collaboration."
- The nine-month shepherding course includes 500 hours of online training and one weekend a month of hands-on instruction. It's a crash course in small-scale, sustainable farming, carefully mapped out in 17 modules. The course will blend traditions that stretch back millennia --- like the use of indigenous species of livestock --- with the latest advances in technology, such as the use of drones to track roaming livestock.
- Threading through the course is the idea of work/life balance: women can bring their children to hands-on training sessions in ventures such as beekeeping, cheesemaking, and sustainable tourism, allowing women to diversify their income, even escape an abusive relationship.
- "Women have always worked in rural environments but oftentimes they work intensely with little recognition," Pacheco said. "We see this school as social transformation project -- we want to empower women and dignify this work." Once registration got started, 265 applications came pouring in, from which 30 students will be selected for the first session. "It's clear that we're meeting a need that exists in society." Now we get it. (Guardian)

This IGA in Montreal has it's own produce section on the rooftop of its 25,000 sqft building. 30 different vegetables are grown, as well as flowers and 8 bee hives which produce 600 jars of honey a year. We need MORE of this!



**GROCERY STORE  
GROWS ITS VEGGIES  
ON THE ROOF!**

**For those following the "New Towns in the Desert" initiative of Gov. Sisolack**

[https://innovationzonefacts.com/?](https://innovationzonefacts.com/?utm_source=The%20Nevada%20Independent&utm_campaign=85f044116a-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2021_03_15_02_39_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_15592b5f76-85f044116a-432210490)

[utm\\_source=The%20Nevada%20Independent&utm\\_campaign=85f044116a-](https://innovationzonefacts.com/?utm_source=The%20Nevada%20Independent&utm_campaign=85f044116a-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2021_03_15_02_39_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_15592b5f76-85f044116a-432210490)

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**Sunshine Week is Ending: A celebration of all things transparent**

*Opportunities for you to better understand your government, share a declassified laugh, or brush up on your own public records skills.*

First up is a roundup you won't want to miss: [Foilies 2021, recognizing the year's worst in government transparency](#). We're excited to partner with the Electronic Frontier Foundation this year to roundup some of the most outrageous redactions, absurd reasoning, and other obstacles to openness agencies around the United States put up — as well as a number of times persistent requesters overcome the odds to get their documents. Plus, how can you say no to this face?

And if you're more interested in local issues, we've got you covered as well with [our 50 state guides to each public records law](#) as well as examples of successful requests, average response times, and more!

Nevada Public Records Act [N.R.S. 239.010](#) Passed in 1911, Updated in 1990, Updated in 2000  
<https://www.muckrock.com/place/united-states-of-america/nevada/> (Simply insert your state instead

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*“The humanities teach us the value, even for business, of criticism and dissent. When there's a culture of going along to get along, where whistleblowers are discouraged, bad things happen and businesses implode.” -- [Martha Nussbaum](#)*

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The Schools and Libraries portion of the Universal Service Fund is known as E-Rate. The program was part of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, and set up by the



Federal Communications Commission (FCC). The purpose was to help connect schools and libraries everywhere to telecommunications services, including what was then a burgeoning Internet. It was particularly focused on getting service to rural, underserved, and poorer communities at a variable discounted rate, depending on the cost of services and level of poverty.

All telecom customers pay a small fee on every phone bill into a fund that provides subsidies for the neediest schools. In return, telecom companies are required to charge what the law calls the "lowest corresponding price," or LCP, defined as no more than what similar customers pay. E-Rate has delivered telecom companies billions of dollars in revenue. However, the carriers are responsible for certifying that they are in compliance with the law. And because the program relies on companies to self-certify that they are offering the low prices required, government watchdogs say [E-Rate is vulnerable to fraud and abuse](#).

Theodore Marcus began working at AT&T as an in-house lawyer in 2000, part of a team that managed the company's federal policy positions and represented AT&T to regulators at the FCC. His duties included reviewing whether the telecom giant was overcharging schools and libraries for Internet and telephone service.

In 2008, Marcus attended a meeting in Dallas about the E-Rate program. AT&T officials distributed a 61-page training document for employees working on E-Rate --- with no mention of any of the LCP requirements. That same year, a Wisconsin consultant named Todd Heath --- who helped school districts figure out if they had overpaid for services and, if so, win refunds --- noticed some of his clients were paying far more than others for essentially the same services. Heath filed a federal lawsuit against Wisconsin Bell, a division of AT&T.

Marcus was made the company's "legal point person" on its response to Heath's lawsuit and other E-Rate issues. Over time he came to believe the company wasn't charging low prices as required by law, and had misled the US attorney's office about its compliance with the rules. In 2009 he conducted an internal investigation and learned AT&T employees working for years on E-Rate deals for schools and libraries had no knowledge of a lowest-price rule. Two longtime sales managers had never even heard the term "lowest corresponding price."

For the next two years, Marcus tried to get his supervisors and AT&T's legal department to take his concerns seriously. When he was rebuffed, he left in 2011 and turned all his documentation over to the lawyer suing the company.

Federal regulators have done little to enforce E-Rate rules despite growing evidence of fraud and abuse. The closest they came was in 2016 when the FCC issued an enforcement action against AT&T for charging two Orlando area public school districts six times what it charged other public schools in Florida. Then Trump became president, and his new FCC chairman, Ajit Pai, buried the action.

Now in 2021, AT&T is accusing Marcus of "shocking" legal misconduct and trying to persuade a federal judge to dismiss Heath's sweeping lawsuit because of it. The future of the case will

depend in part on whether the court views Marcus as a whistleblower trying to right a wrong, or a corporate lawyer violating his duty to his former employer. (WaPo, \$)

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### **Education Department Rolls Back Trump Student Debt Policies (NPR)**

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**Once called crazy, Indonesian eco-warrior turns arid hills green** Heru Asprihanto

[https://currently.att.yahoo.com/att/once-called-crazy-indonesian-eco-070224138.html?.tsrc=daily\\_mail&uh\\_test=1\\_11](https://currently.att.yahoo.com/att/once-called-crazy-indonesian-eco-070224138.html?.tsrc=daily_mail&uh_test=1_11)

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Drift off as actress Keke Palmer

tells you a bedtime story about the first dreamcatcher that is sure to help you have sweet dreams of your own: <https://buff.ly/3cklpAL>

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### **Mary Gibson**

Dibos want gold, water, lithium, air. They are destroying our homelands and destroying our planet without a care in the world. When does the madness stop?



[sierranevadaally.org](http://sierranevadaally.org)

[Spring Valley swamp cedars - more than trees for Western Shoshone | The Sierra Nevada Ally](#)  
[The Western Shoshone have occupied the Spring Valley region of eastern Nevada since ice last covered the land some 15,000 years ago. "There's a lot of water there, in the valley bottom," said Rupert Steele chairman of the Goshute Tribe. "It's got animals coming in, waterfowl, fish, everyth...](#)



[carsonnow.org](http://carsonnow.org)

[Nevada Lore Series: Walker Lake's famed sea monster, Cecil the Serpent](#)  
[Legend tells of a terrifying monster that is supposed to reside in the depths of Walker Lake who has been sighted for centuries. For years, Cecil even had his own float in the Nevada Day Parade.](#)



[newsweek.com](https://www.newsweek.com)

[Full list of 172 Republicans who opposed the Violence Against Women Act](#)  
[Lawmakers approved reauthorization of the bill in a 244-172 vote on Wednesday night.](#)

[aberdeennews.com](https://www.aberdeennews.com)

**Lawrence: Time to remove Custer's name from South Dakota map**

Should Custer State Park be renamed? How about Custer County and the city of Custer?[https://www.aberdeennews.com/news/opinion/columnists/lawrence-time-to-remove-custer-s-name-from-south-dakota-map/article\\_ea3ec6ce-81b4-11eb-9f98-277961004e85.html?fbclid=IwAR0Jh1oHg45dURl6Lo49oo8gzsQSOM-Q8tqnHIwef1IoN-YaWRjMtQdHocY](https://www.aberdeennews.com/news/opinion/columnists/lawrence-time-to-remove-custer-s-name-from-south-dakota-map/article_ea3ec6ce-81b4-11eb-9f98-277961004e85.html?fbclid=IwAR0Jh1oHg45dURl6Lo49oo8gzsQSOM-Q8tqnHIwef1IoN-YaWRjMtQdHocY)



[distinctlymontana.com](https://www.distinctlymontana.com)

[Gorgeous studio portrait of Spotted Hawk, a Cheyenne Indian](#)

[The photo's estimated date puts it within close range of the Wounded Knee Massacre, and an especially trying time for the Cheyenne and all Native Americans.](#)

[Nevada Senators Announce \\$10.1 Million for Nevada Tribes' Housing](#)