

Journal #6119 from sdc 11.21.25

Belly Button Rock

Book Club: How Much Do You Want to Know?

Washoe Tribe to reclaim over 10,000 acres with \$5.5M grant

Casino workers' union rallies support for contentious Sky River campaign

Authentication of unbroken 10,000 year+ Native lineage, closely related to the Fallon PaiuteShoshone

Know your Constitution!

Wild Hart


Lakota Spirit

Sacramento OKs Coyote Creek solar project despite tribal backlash

an unforgettable journey on a boat that travels the sea without any modern navigational tools

Scientists Sequenced the DNA of the 'Last Neanderthal'—and It Alters Human History



 Belly Button rock off Ironwood Rd and Curnow Canyon Rd in beautiful Palomino Valley, North Reno. —Fauna T.

Washoe Tribe to reclaim over 10,000 acres with \$5.5M grant

November 21, 2025



California Wildlife Conservation Board grants \$5.5 million to Wášiw-šiw Land Trust for purchase of 10,274 acres of Washoe ancestral land in Sierra Nevada. Project marks milestone in tribal land return and conservation.

[Read more... BOOK CLUB: How much truth do you want to know?](#)

This Wednesday, we'll talk about the risks and rewards of uncovering the past with "We Survived the Night" author Julian Brave NoiseCat

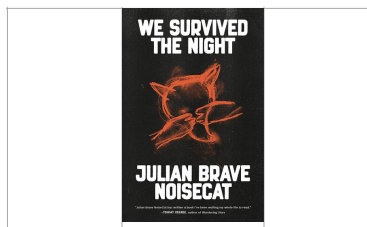


I just rewatched the acclaimed documentary *Sugarcane* in preparation for speaking with this month's Ink Book Club guest, Julian Brave NoiseCat, author of *We Survived the Night*. NoiseCat has said that when his friend Emily Kassie initially approached him to co-direct the film with her, he was dubious. For one, he'd just signed a book contract but hadn't yet figured out how to start writing it. There was also the fact that he'd never even made a TikTok before, let alone a full-length movie. His biggest concern, though, was that what they might uncover in the course of their research could reopen long-buried wounds.

NoiseCat also realized that in writing a book, he could keep his distance. "Writers don't have to live our stories," he observed in a [recent Lit Hub essay](#). But if he were to collaborate on the film, he would be in the thick of it, side by side with survivors and family members as new revelations surfaced. "How much truth do I really want to know?" he asked himself. Ultimately, he decided it was crucial to bear witness.

When NoiseCat was growing up, his mother, Alex, made sure he spent time on the Canadian reservation where his father had been raised, so he would be exposed to the Secwepemc community's traditions and culture, and most essentially, to his father's family. But he'd been raised in Oakland, California, the son of a white woman. After graduating from high school, he attended Columbia University, won a fellowship to study at Oxford, and then went on to work on the Green New Deal as a climate activist, which brought him into the company of many movers and shakers. He yearned to get closer to his Indigenous roots, and work on the film would entail spending time back on the reservation, where many of his relatives still lived. Making the film — and getting to know the ways of his father's people — unlocked something in NoiseCat. "I started to live a much more Indigenous life than I had before," he observes.

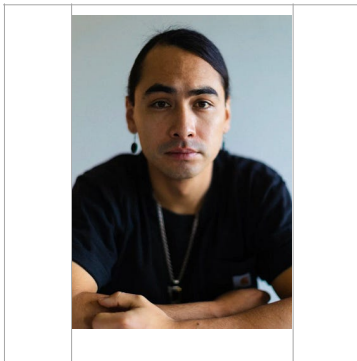
NoiseCat and the rest of the *Sugarcane* film crew spent more than 100 days in and around Williams Lake and shot over one thousand hours of film there.



NoiseCat's immersion in Indigenous life also led him to envision how *We Survived the Night* should be structured. He decided to draw on traditional Coyote narratives, in which the creation story is told through the exploits of the trickster figure and ancestor to NoiseCat's people, interweaving myth, history, and memoir. The first chapter would be titled "In the Beginning," and subsequent sections would be organized around Coyote's four-day, four-night ceremonial fast, and also intentionally echo the Book of Genesis.

In reading the book and watching the documentary, we witness a father and son reuniting against all odds. There is a lot of tragedy, a lot of sadness, and many long-buried truths excavated. The First People of North America have been exposed to unspeakable and continuing exploitation and erasure. But in NoiseCat's work, the lasting impact of Coyote's trickster gene is evident. Or, as he has said of the film he co-created: "It's really a reverse Western buddy stoner roadtrip tragicomedy."

We Survived the Night immerses the reader, too, in the history, culture, and traditions of North America's First People. The characters we're introduced to in the course of NoiseCat's journey begin to feel as familiar as our own friends and relatives. His book adds dimension, texture, and deeper context to our continent's story, whether offering portraits of ways of life reclaimed after attempts to extinguish them, or providing a new perspective on narratives we thought we knew, as in the chapter, "Lost Colonists."



https://the.ink/p/book-club-how-much-truth-do-you-want?utm_campaign=email-post&r=1spl43&utm_source=substack&utm_medium=email

Casino workers' union rallies support for contentious Sky River campaign

Sac Bee, ANNIKA MERRILEES: "The hotel and casino workers' union rallied in Elk Grove, Tuesday, in an attempt to galvanize support for a contentious organizing campaign at the nearby Sky River Casino.

The organizing effort has escalated into a prolonged legal dispute between the union, Unite Here Local 49, and the Wilton Rancheria, which opened Sky River in 2022. More than 100 casino workers and union allies gathered at Old Town Plaza in Elk Grove Tuesday evening, and called on Sky River to recognize the union as its workers' representative. During the rally, a group of union organizers and allies delivered worker-signed petitions to the Wilton Rancheria's offices nearby."

Suppressed Histories Archives

Authentication of an unbroken 10,000 year+ Native lineage, closely related to the Fallon Paiute-Shoshone, in the Great Basin.

"For decades, the dominant narrative in American archaeology held that the first humans to arrive on the continent were eventually replaced by unrelated populations. That view is now under intense scrutiny following new evidence from a 10,700-year-old mummy discovered in Spirit Cave, Nevada.

"Recent genetic analysis confirms that the individual, long considered a member of a now-extinct population, shares a direct biological lineage with contemporary Native American tribes, particularly the Fallon Paiute-Shoshone. The discovery not only challenges a century of anthropological assumptions but also validates Indigenous oral histories that have long asserted continuous occupation of the region.

"The findings, published in *American Antiquity*, draw on a combination of archaeological, radiocarbon, and genomic data to show an unbroken human presence in the Great Basin for more than 10,000 years. It's a sweeping reinterpretation of prehistory—one with legal, scientific, and cultural consequences.

"The remains, known as the Spirit Cave Mummy, were first excavated in 1940 and initially estimated to be around 2,000 years old. They were placed in storage after a brief public display. In 1997, radiocarbon dating conducted by the University of California, Riverside recalibrated the mummy's age to 10,700 years, making it the oldest naturally mummified human ever found in North America.

"This revelation coincided with a formal repatriation claim under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), a federal law enacted in 1990 to return human remains and sacred objects to Indigenous communities. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) initially denied the request, arguing that the remains were too ancient to demonstrate cultural affiliation with any living group.

"That stance was dismantled in 2018 when a team led by Eske Willerslev, a geneticist at the University of Copenhagen, conducted whole-genome sequencing on the remains. Published in *Science*, the study confirmed a direct genetic link between the Spirit Cave Mummy and modern Native American populations, including Northern Paiute groups.

"The DNA results showed what the tribe had always maintained—that they are the direct descendants of the individual buried in Spirit Cave," Willerslev said in a statement with the study.

"To place the discovery in broader context, researchers conducted a large-scale archaeological analysis across Nevada's Lahontan Basin, incorporating over 480 radiocarbon dates and thousands of projectile point samples. The study, led by archaeologist David Hurst Thomas of the American Museum of Natural History, used resilience theory to examine how early populations adapted to shifting climate conditions, such as prolonged droughts and changing lake levels.

"Contrary to earlier models that assumed population replacement during climate events like the Late Holocene Dry Period, the data supports a model of demographic continuity. For instance, radiocarbon distributions show a repeated pattern of east–west movement within the basin, corresponding to local hydrological variability, rather than abandonment or disappearance.

"A related analysis in *Nature Ecology & Evolution* supports this view, arguing that hunter-gatherer populations in North America showed surprising resilience to environmental stress, often reorganizing rather than collapsing. In the Lahontan Basin, settlement patterns reflect deliberate shifts rather than demographic collapse.

"For the Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe, the Spirit Cave Mummy—whom they call The Storyteller—has always been more than an archaeological subject. According to tribal oral history, their people have lived in the region since time immemorial. That perspective was long sidelined by scientific frameworks that prioritized material evidence over Indigenous knowledge systems.

"The path to repatriation was both costly and fraught. The tribe spent more than \$300,000 over two decades in legal fees and research consultations to build their case. In 2016, after the genetic evidence was made public, the BLM reversed its position, and the remains were returned to the tribe for reburial in 2018. The process was governed under federal law and finalized through a NAGPRA Review Committee recommendation.

"The science finally caught up with what we've always known," said Len George, former chairman of the Fallon Paiute-Shoshone. "We knew he was one of ours."

"The cultural stakes were significant. Many Paiute consider discussing or handling the dead a serious spiritual violation. The tribe's eventual agreement to permit destructive DNA testing—which involves removing material from human remains—was made only after extensive internal debate and consultation with spiritual leaders.

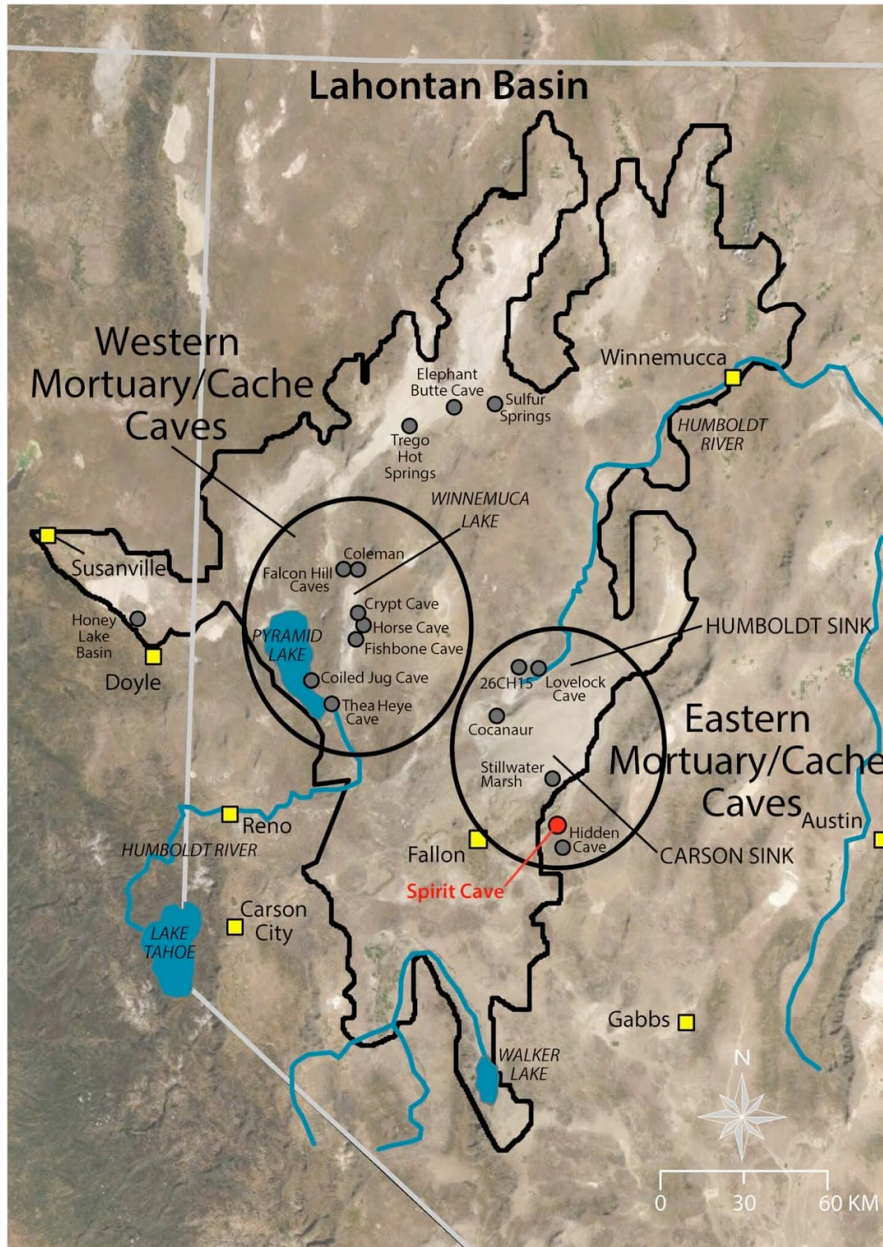
"The Spirit Cave case has sparked a methodological shift in how archaeologists approach long-term human presence. The use of resilience theory, combined with Bayesian modeling of radiocarbon data and genomic sequencing, offers a way to move beyond traditional "phase-based" chronologies. Instead of interpreting cultural change as a series of abrupt replacements, researchers are now looking at continuity through transformation.

"At the center of this new approach is the understanding that material culture, genetics, and language do not always align neatly—a principle emphasized in recent work by *The Society for American Archaeology* and supported by genomic studies of early human migration in the Americas.

"And while the Spirit Cave Mummy may have been buried over 10,000 years ago, his story continues to shape scientific discourse and legal policy today. For Indigenous communities, that story also reaffirms something more fundamental: ancestry is not just a matter of DNA, but of place, memory, and belonging."

<https://indiandefencereview.com/the-worlds-oldest-mummy../>

Map shows the Lahontan Basin and key sites. Vertical line is California border with Nevada. Some fool put a picture of an Egyptian mummy atop the article.



News Flash: Legislature rejected the Movie Tax Bill on 11/19/25

Know your Constitution!

Has anyone determined if Film Tax credits are allowed in the Nevada State Constitution?

Every year around Nevada Day, members of the Nevada Judicial Historical Society go to the Nevada State Archives and discuss sections of the Nevada Constitution, why they were written and what they mean.

Here is the text of **Section 9 in Article 8.**

Gifts or Loans of Public Money to Certain Corporations Prohibited

The State shall not donate or loan money, or its credit, subscribe to or be, interested in the Stock of any company, association, or corporation, except corporations formed for educational or charitable purposes.[1]

Someone should ask the Attorney General or the Legislative Counsel Legal Division.

Sincerely, **Jeff Kintop, Vice Chair**, NV Judicial Historical Society

jeff.kintop@att.net [775-636-0808](tel:775-636-0808)

“We need history, not to tell us what happened or to explain the past, but to make the past alive so that it can explain us and make a future possible.” *Alan Bloom*

Wild Heart .

You won’t believe this, but in one Swedish city... wild crows are literally cleaning up human trash. And not because someone forced them — but because they learned how to earn a snack



from it.

It starts with a simple machine. A crow drops a cigarette butt inside, and out comes a tiny food reward. That’s it. No lecture. No training collar. Just a clever loop between a brilliant bird and a very human problem. And honestly, it’s embarrassing how fast they understood the system. While we struggle to stop littering, these birds figured out a recycling incentive program in



minutes.

But here’s the twist: this isn’t some cute party trick. Sweden throws away more than a billion cigarette butts a year. Those filters leak toxins into soil and waterways. And somehow, it’s the



crows — not the smokers — stepping up to fix it.

It makes you pause. If wild animals are cleaning up after us, maybe the problem isn’t their intelligence... but our habits.

Sometimes nature doesn’t just adapt. It calls us out.

[#Sweden](#) [#Innovation](#) [#EnvironmentalSolutions](#) [#WildlifeBehavior](#) [#UrbanCleanup](#)

Lakota Spirit ·

HUNKPAPA LAKOTA WICASA WAKAN

(From Oceti Sakowin fb pg)

Joseph Flying Bye -

Kangi Hotanka (Crow with a Loud Voice) was a pejuta wicasa (medicine man), akicita (decorated war veteran), from the Hunkpapa Lakota of the Standing Rock Reservation.

Joe Flying Bye spent much of his early years helping his blind grandfather prepare medicines and pray over sick people.

He would often lead his grandfather into town and listen to the old men talk of battles and life on the open plains.

His grandmother would also tell him creation stories at night and in these ways he became a keeper of traditional knowledge and culture. Besides his work holy man, Joseph Flying Bye was an accomplished pipe maker, singer, traditional pow-wow dancer, and bead worker. He enjoyed his many visitors from all over the world and if you stopped by his house you would often find him working on a beaded staff or carving a pipe stone or stem.

He would stop and tell you a story (usually a humorous one as it was traditional to start with light conversation before talking about the more serious matters that he would advise on), and during the course of your visit one or two other people might stop by with gifts of thanks or just to say hello. Lakota was Joe Flying Bye's first language and it was rare that you would hear him speak English in a public address.

He felt that in order for the Lakota culture to stay alive the people must speak their own language as a community.

He was very concerned that the younger people were not interested in learning their own language.

He knew that when they got older they would be looking for these things and we would need some elders to speak directly to them in their own language and frame of mind rather than getting information from historians after the fact.

Along with Pete Catches Sr, Joe helped bring back the Sundance to the Standing Rock reservation in the 1970's.

-CENTER RECORDS

“The Greatest thing that we need to do is to remember the Great Spirit, God, every day and every night,” Flying Bye asserts, “

Every chance we get, we need to pray that the Family will stand.”

“Every chance we get, we need to honor our relatives, to talk with our relatives,” he states, “We need to learn our language and our ways and be happy with that.

” PUTTING THE MOCCASINS BACK ON.

“When you pray, you end the prayer with all my relations, not only your human relations, but your animal relations.

” Further, “

That is the power that the Grandfathers are talking about, but there are no Grandfathers they are all in the spirit realm, and so our young people get lost.”

Putting the moccasins back on, literally and figuratively, represents a return to the culture and traditions because,

“we have to go back to our own ways of life because we are on the wrong ways of life, we are walking the wrong directions.”

The antidote to spiritual and societal sickness is to “go back to the ways of life that we used to walk, we need to live with the values we had, this doesn’t mean living in tipis and going back to hunting buffalo but to come together in a more traditional and spiritual way like we used to.”

“I pray to Grandfather to help us.

I pray with the sacred things that I am talking about.

He will answer me, Sun Dreamer will help.

My prayers will be answered,” Flying Bye reflects.

He encourages us to pray since,

“If you do these things, if you remember these things, then you will have life. Always remember to say a prayer.”

Channeling the wisdom of his Grandfather Flying Running, Flying Bye called to the youth to return to the culture to return to that “good way of life”.

“Put your moccasins back on.”

“Think about it.

Then you can honor your relatives and know where you come from.”

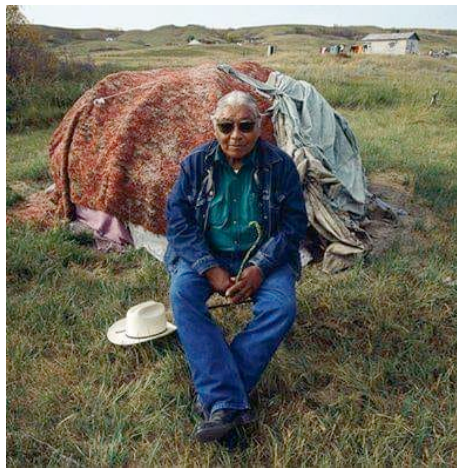
“In this modern time you have to do your best yourself.

That’s your answer to “What is life?

” You must do it yourself, your doing, your thinking.

The answers to the meaning of life are inside you.”

JOE FLYING



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[Sacramento OKs Coyote Creek solar project despite tribal backlash](#)

**Sac Bee, CHAEWON CHUNG:** "Malissa Tayaba, vice chairperson of the Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians, stepped forward from her seat Tuesday afternoon and stood before the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors and more than 150 speakers waiting their turn to deliver testimony on what has become one of the county’s most controversial solar projects.

“My tribe, along with other tribes in the region with ancestral connections to this location, voiced our concerns a multitude of times, to no avail,” Tayaba said.”

[an unforgettable journey on a boat that travels the sea without any modern navigational tools](#), exploring the revival of Polynesian wayfinding and why ancient knowledge might be exactly what we need in a warming world.



Mālama Honua is a Hawaiian principle that invites us all to take pride in caring for the planet we call home. (Photo by Paul Nicklen)

<https://link.katiecouric.com/view/668cf76b7b52115c9f043db4pd5uz.2df/1d95d128>

### **Scientists Sequenced the DNA of the ‘Last Neanderthal’ —and It Alters Human History**

Discover new clues about how our ancient relatives disappeared from time.

<https://www.popularmechanics.com/science/archaeology/a69457323/dna-last-neanderthal-sequenced/>

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*“A library is a temple unabridged with priceless treasure. Librarians are the majesties who loan the jewels of measure. They welcome to the kingdom the young and old of reapers and reign among the riches as the wondrous fortune keepers. “* Pam Munoz Ryan