



INDIAN VOICES

OUR 30TH YEAR

MULTI-CULTURAL NEWS GLOBAL NETWORK

MARCH 2016

Native Warriors on the Move

Dennis Banks Leads the People on The Longest Walk, Feb 13- July 15

A spiritual ceremony was held at the Barona Reservation to prepare for a 3000-mile walk to Washington DC, with planned stops at reservations along the path. The walkers have a mission. In the words of Dennis Banks, "Our aim is to cross this continent on foot, seeking cultural and spiritual solutions to ending drug abuse and domestic violence. We intend to talk to Indian people along the way to gather solutions. Washington is the final stop because it represents a government who created the

problem of drugs and violence that plague us. They are the ones who did this to us. We are trying to fix it. They took so much from us. It's time to give back."

Natives Out of Rehab ... Leaders In

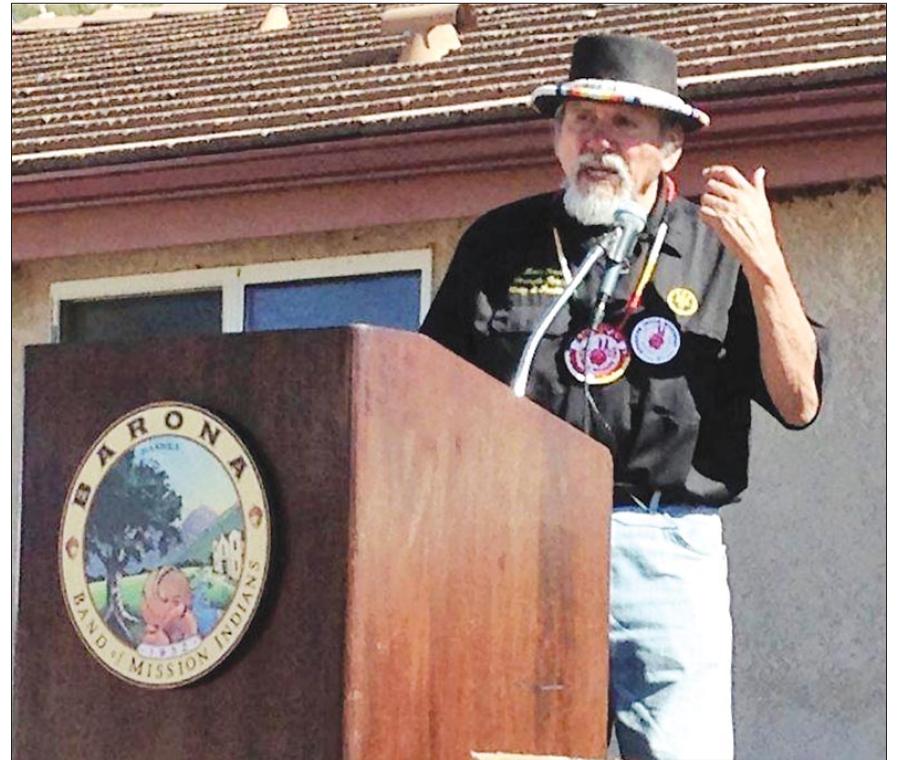
It was a beautiful beginning, hosted by the Barona Reservation, with women and children in traditional clothes and regalia, food, inspiring talks, dancing, and music.

Anthony Pico spoke intently about his passion to educate the mainstream about the agony suffered by a culture due to ignorance regarding cultural and associated trauma and the mentality of young people who choose the destructive way.

He and others shared how hard it is to get off the catastrophic path and how awful it is for the people left behind when a young person chooses to kill him or herself.

The second day of the walk took place on the beach at Kellogg Park. Where once the ancestors set canoes in search for food from the ocean. This time, walking warriors left for the next stop in the journey the San Pasqual Reservation.

The Longest Walk is a cultural, educational



Dennis Banks is a Native American leader, teacher, lecturer, activist, and author. He is an Anishinabe, Ojibwa, born on Leech Lake Indian Reservation in northern Minnesota. In 1968 he co-founded the American Indian Movement (AIM), to protect the traditional ways of Indian people and to engage in legal cases protecting treaty rights of Natives-such as hunting and fishing, trapping, and wild ricing.

Photo: Norrie Robbins

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Remembering Evelyn Mary LaBrake

Kumeyaay Native, Tribal Elder, Former Sycuan Tribal Secretary, Mother, Sister, Aunt, Grandmother, Great-Grandmother and Loving Friend

Evelyn Mary LaBrake, Sycuan tribal elder and former secretary of the Sycuan Tribe, passed away on February 22, 2016. She was 79 years old.

Ms. LaBrake is survived by her nine children Michael, Jacqueline, Robert (Dominic), Jamie, Ricci, Kathy, Tina, Antone and Julie. Evelyn is also survived by her brother Henry Murphy as well as twenty-eight grandchildren and thirty-five great grandchildren, nieces and nephews. Evelyn was the granddaughter of Solomon Paipa, an original allottee of the Sycuan Indian Reservation.

Evelyn was born on December 22, 1936 at Mercy Hospital in San Diego to parents Louis Murphy and Martha Paipa. She and her brother Hank grew up on the Sycuan Indian Reservation. Evelyn was recognized for being steadfast and passionate in her beliefs and as a defender

of tribal sovereignty, tribal government gaming, and advancing the causes of Native Americans.

Evelyn was a firm believer in hard work and did so all her life. Evelyn spent over twenty years as a machinist for Whittaker Survival Systems.

As a former secretary and councilwoman of the Sycuan Tribe from the 1960's through the 1980's, Evelyn helped bring many improvements to the tribes water, housing and community building needs. Evelyn also placed great emphasis on tribal self-determination and sovereignty. Her efforts included the tribes Articles of Association of 1972, and many other critical tribal government documents. Evelyn was a driving force when the tribe embarked on the first form of tribal government gaming in the nation with the opening of the Sycuan Bingo



Palace in 1983.

"Evelyn LaBrake, Hank Murphy and Anna Sandoval essentially built the modern day foundation of Sycuan's government and infrastructure. Before the financial success of tribal government gaming, Evelyn spent many long hours traveling between Sycuan, Riverside and Sacramento to lobby on behalf of the tribe and to do whatever it took to create better opportunities for future generations. She

SEE **Evelyn Mary LaBrake**, page 2

In Loving Memory of Gerardo (Lalo) Rodriguez Brave Hero Founder of 82nd Honor Guard

Gerardo (Lala) Rodriguez, Leopard Apache was born in Laredo, TX on March 18th 1934 to Enritueta and Gerardo Rodriguez both from Laredo,



TY. He was the second of three children his older brother Alex and his younger sister Rachael were five years apart. He went in to the service at the age of 15. He was blind in one eye. He became a paratrooper jumping out of an airplane trying to help another paratrooper when his chute did not



open and when they landed the other paratrooper fell on his back. That is how he became 100 disabled. He broke two vertebra. He was in the hospital for a long while.



He was married at the age of 20 and had eight children by his first wife of nine years.

In 1968 he met his second wife Gloria on a blind date and proposed on the third date.

They were married on July 4th 1968. They had two daughters making a total of 10 children ... 5 boys, 5 girls, one set of twins. He

had total 30 grandchildren 65 great grand children plus a great great grand son. He also started the 82nd Honor Guard. He was inspired to bring honor to his brother-in-law who passed away without receiving full honors. He decided to start the 82nd Honor Guard for the men and women in the service. Attention is given to the homeless veterans and all who deserve recognition. The last days of his life he enjoyed watering the plants and enjoying himself at home. Thanks to Al Gonzalez who kept him in touch with everything in 82nd Honor Guard.

Thanks to Adam Abel Rodriguez who took him to the meeting to the AIWAN once month. He was very happy with all that. He passed away at the age of 82.

Native Warriors

Continued from page 1

expedition and demonstration of unity and community within our cultural mandala. In many ways the Walk is similar to the Tarahumara runners in Mexico whose primary obligation is spiritual and are misfits in the Capitalist world.

They regard work as necessary for survival but lacking intrinsic moral merit of its own, and secondary to spiritual obligations and other matters of the soul. Their traditional economy is conducted by means of barter, not cash; they have a word for sharing that doesn't translate directly into Spanish or English: "kórima". There is no thank you for donations or gifts. as kórima implies the obligation to distribute wealth for the benefit of everyone.

Dennis Banks and his followers represent one of the most violated people on the planet a people who have been ignored and abused by the ruling elite. He and his followers are making sure that their plight comes out of the shadows of hidden and forbidden history into the light of contemporary consciousness. In addition to raising awareness the walk is leaving a valuable organizing networking trail.

This walk is distinguished in its power to emphasize and refine communication with the ruling class in order to create a sustainable path toward a solution to cultural genocide.

(photos of first leg of walk pg 8)

Evelyn Mary LaBrake

Continued from page 1

was an active participant in our general membership meetings as recently as this month. All Sycuan is today, is from the hard work of her and her contemporaries." shares Cody Martinez, current Sycuan Tribal Chairman and grandson of Ms. LaBrake

Evelyn had a very large family with over seventy descendants from her alone. She enjoyed spending time watching her grandchildren and great grandchildren play various sports and always loved to

celebrate birthdays. She took special pride in the resurgence of cultural values expressed by her family.

She was preceded in death by her aunts Ruth Paipa Murillo and Juanita Chappo Ramirez; nephew Christopher Murphy, granddaughters Jasmine Pham and Destiny Rose Muse; and godson Orlando Sandoval, Sr.

An all-night wake took place with a rosary at 7:00 p.m. on March 2 at Sycuan's Church of the Immaculate Conception. She was buried on Thursday, March 3 at the Sycuan cemetery on the Sycuan Indian Reservation.



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Email: rdavis4973@aol.com
Website: www.indianvoices.net
Editorial Board: Rose Davis

Editor:	Rose Davis	Writer:	Jaclyn Bissonette
Social Media Administrator:	Yvonne-Cher Skye	Entertainment Writer/	
Outside Support:	Mel Vernon	Photographer LA/SD:	Rochelle Porter
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Writer:	Roy Cook	Graphic Artist:	Elaine Hall
Writer:	Marc Snelling	Staff Photographer:	Abel Jacome
Writer:	Scott Andrews		

Endeavor Media Group
André Haynes
Lakeside Business Suites
2620 Regatta Dr., Ste. 102
Las Vegas, NV 89128
(702) 902-2844 • Fax: (702) 902-2845
andre@EMGnv.com
www.EMGnv.com

111 South 35th St.
San Diego, CA 92113
(619) 234-4753
(619) 534-2435 (cell)
Fax: (619) 512-4534

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IT IS TIME TO BREAK THE CYCLE!

A Celebration of Love and Life Revival of the Movement

It was San Diego old school at a get together of community folks who came out to exercise their first amendment

people was animated and upbeat. They are thoughtful people locking arms to move past the doom and gloom

perpetuated by the corporate controlled media.

An exuberant Rev. Shane Harris, heir apparent to his mentor Rev. Al Sharpton, warmed up the crowd for the senior Reverend, fresh off the plane from New



York on his way to protest the Oscars in Hollywood. He stopped off in San Diego to invigorate and consolidate his signature organization National Action Network, working to make sure that it sticks to the wall in San Diego. Shane Harris is a key player in this effort. A home grown young political activist with a strong commitment to social change,



adores Rev. Sharpton and his movement. Rev. Harris has so impressed Rev. Sharpton that he has elevated the young Reverend within the ranks of his organization. Holding hands with Rev. Sharpton and other ministers in attendance Shane Harris was anointed right there in the pulpit. The young reverend who was a newborn when National Action Network was established in 1991 is now the San Diego NAN president.

In keeping with tradition there were speeches. Rev. Al Sharpton's sermon was not a one size fits all theme. One could expect Rev. Sharpton's lecture to come with a warning label "This message is not for the faint hearted, medicated masses, complacent, status quo loving, cautious or timid."



rights, caucus and share in democracy. February 27th at the United Domestic Workers office 4855 Seminole Drive in San Diego the passion of the 60's melded with 21st century mindset

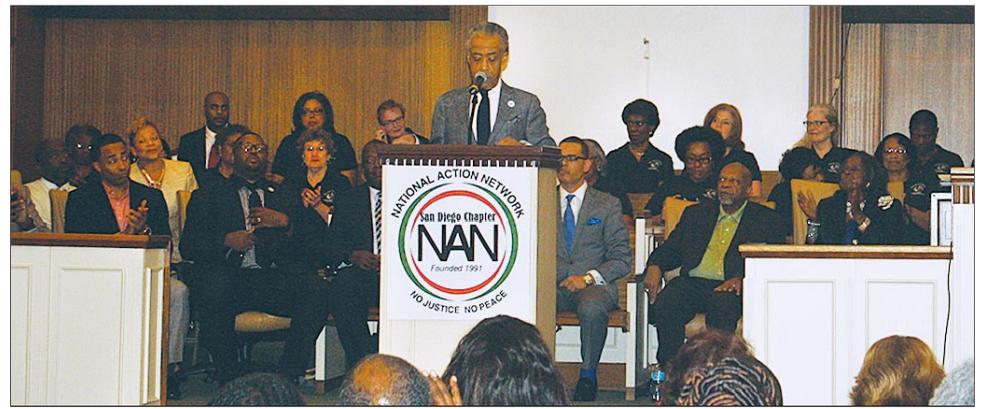
Pews full of change agents filled the church. It was diversity in bold caps.

A cross section of the San Diego community representing politically savvy activists in solidarity with their visions, merged with a general public thirsty for some soul healing medicine.

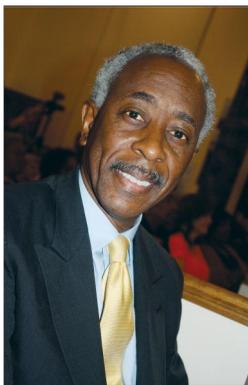
The omnipresent media captured elected and aspiring officials drawn to the political watering hole in the belly of the church. A large contingent of pastors from the community chaperoned the proceedings

The program began with applause and appreciation for the assembled politicians who have demonstrated a commitment to the people's quest for self determination. Councilwoman Myrtle Cole greeted the gathering with a buoyant message of hope and unity, fortifying the 4th Districts political affinity group.

Anticipation was in the air. The collective mood of the



He paints a picture of an America viewed from the window of the voiceless, undeserved and abused portion of our society. His observations



entertaining evening with inspirational singing and an excellent theater

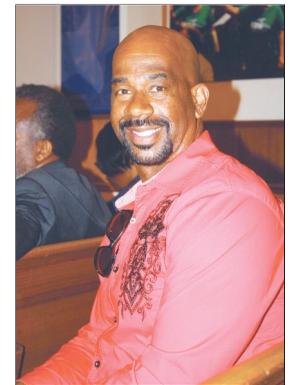
resonate with the compassionate spirit driven "No Justice No Peace" soldiers as well as those seeking a safe passage through the turbulent current political waters.

Political correctness and issues aside, it was an

performance by a local mime troop.

All in all it was a great community celebration of love and life. Judging from the subliminal campaigning surrounding the event it was also a

vibrant stage for those infected by the political virus surrounding us.



"Celebrate Love. Celebrate Life."
~John Trudell (February 15, 1946 - December 8, 2015)

Preserving Herman Baca Archives



Seated (L to R) Barbara Zaragoza (SD Free Press) Lynda Classen (UCSD Special Collections) Herman Baca (CCR President). Standing (back) - Oscar Portillo (Community Member)

On February 23, 2016 a tour was given to Rose Davis, Publisher *Indian Voices* and Barbara Zaragoza, Co-Editor of the *San Diego Free Press*. In presenting and reviewing the Herman Baca Chicano Archives documentation, Ms. Classen (with Herman Baca present) gave Ms. Davis and Ms. Zaragoza a brief history of both the documentation and UCSD's acquisition of the Herman Baca historical archives. At a sit down meeting (after the tour) a round table question & answer was held to discuss both the Herman Baca Archives and the need to begin exploring other ethnic groups histories and archives by UCSD and other institutions. Herman Baca explained that his goal since retiring was, "To leave the most concise archives for the general community, and especially the Chicano community." Baca explained, "To me it is extremely important because of the historical fact that in the not to distant future Chicanos will comprise the majority population in California, the U.S. Southwest and Chicanos and Latinos will be the largest minority in the U.S."

James Crow III (Grandson of Old Jim Crow) - a.k.a. the New Jim Crow!



by Dr. Willie P. Blair

On a nice, balmy summer evening a wee bit over 50 years ago in my little hometown of Knoxville, Tennessee a happenstance

event occurred that propelled this once proud Southern Confederate city into the middle of the broiling Civil Rights Movement that was now sweeping across the lower latitudes of this great nation. An event that could very well be classified as a precursor of what occurred about two years ago in Ferguson, Missouri. Why say happenstance? Because it was only "supposed" to be a normal, ordinary R&B concert at the town's famed Civic Coliseum featuring legendary King of Soul "Mr. James (Maceo -Hit Me) Brown!" You know, just a little hip twisting, shimmering screaming - pre-Michael Jackson gliding across the stage by the original "Moon-Walker" before several thousand screaming mostly "Negro/Colored fans" (called at the time) who sought a much needed temporary escape from such everyday indignities as riding on the back of one of the loudly clanking buses of the KTL (Knoxville Transit Lines) or being only able to get first class medical treatment - not in their city mind you - but having to scarf up transportation to the big "Federal Government Hospital almost 30 miles away in Oak Ridge, Tn. where the Hiroshima Atomic Bomb was manufactured; or only being able to go to "their" tax-paying public supported

Chilhowee Park only (one day) out of the year on the - 8th of August (which was the Tennessee Emancipation Proclamation equivalent of the more well known Texas influenced Juneteenth) celebration here in San Diego! But hearkening back to my happenstance event. On this evening when the James Brown event concluded around close to Mid-night - the King of Soul was signing autographs and pictures just like one of his fellow colleagues had done previously 2 weeks earlier after his own concert that lasted to about 2:00 o'clock in the morning (A fellow named Elvis Pressley).

Mr. Brown, was told by several police officers to shut down his autograph signing and leave the premises. At which Mr. Brown politely requested of the police to allow him about 10 more minutes to thank his fans. Well, the King of Soul was not given a second warning. And that being the case, he and several of his fans were savagely beaten and dragged into (already on the scene) Paddy Wagons - which were always nearby whenever there was a Black performer or any Black event of large size for that matter occurring in Knoxville!

But did I say that was the end of the story and with a reference to Ferguson, Missouri of recent (fame/infamy)? Ah, yes - back to the King of Soul, Mr. Brown - who, after being bailed out of jail, went back to his own deep south state of Georgia. But later returning to Knoxville a month later with his bevy of lawyers - and \$25, 000.00 which is very expensive at the time) and purchased an old defunct radio station and formed as the new station (WJBE - Station James Brown Enterprises)! And through his station WJBE - launched several massive

voter education and registration drives in Knoxville that challenged and help to defeat or to obliterate scores of segregationist laws and racist acts that were perpetrated "out in the open" against Black People! Which we now see thankfully happening in Ferguson as Black people there are now going to the voting booths with a renewed vengeance to bring about new change and dignity in this little Mid-western town!

In summation of my article this month - what happened to Mr. James Brown in Knoxville on one summer evening in 1965 was greatly influenced by a legal - but unjust - system known as Jim Crow.

However, because of such landmark Civil Rights Acts as the 1964, 1965, and 1966 bills being passed into federal law - thousands of Jim Crow laws are either dead or now lying on a death bed gasping for air!

But for what "is still" happening in America as witnessed by the horrific and tragic events that occurred in Ferguson, Missouri and other cities across the nation just recently - is that the Grandson of ole Jim Crow - James Crow III (a.k.a the New Jim Crow) - is reaching out and saying "Grandfather you taught me well - and I will take the baton from here!"

Well let's find out how that procession (The New Jim Crow) i.e., the ongoing attempt to "nullify and interposition" Black families and individuals, is still alive and well - during the February 20th BAPAC General Membership meeting that will be held at the Neighborhood House Association located at 841 So. 41st Street - San Diego, CA. 92113. We hope to see you there!

Helping Women Help Themselves: Micro-Business Seminars at San Diego County Library

San Diego County Library (SDCL) is pleased to welcome back Helping Women Help Themselves (HWHT) for its 2016 series of free micro-business seminars. HWHT is a non-profit organization that provides education and ongoing business support to women who are currently operating or thinking about starting their own micro-business. More than 500 people attended the seminars at SDCL in 2015, and this year, the organization has updated its presentation with additional content related to owning and operating a successful small business.

Beginning in March, the two-hour seminars will be held on Saturdays at select San Diego County Library branches:

- Saturday, March 19: 10 a.m.-12 p.m., Poway, 13137 Poway Road
- Saturday, April 2: 10 a.m.-12 p.m., Vista, 700 Eucalyptus Avenue
- Saturday, May 14: 10 a.m.-12 p.m., Encinitas, 540 Cornish Drive
- Saturday, June 11: 10 a.m.-12 p.m., Bonita-Sunnyside, 4375 Bonita Road
- Saturday, August 6: 10 a.m.-12 p.m., • Saturday, August 27: 10 a.m.-12 p.m., Encinitas, 540 Cornish Drive
- Saturday, September 10: 10 a.m.-12 p.m., Vista, 700 Eucalyptus Avenue
- Saturday, September 24: 10 a.m.-12 p.m., Poway, 13137 Poway Road

In addition to the seminar, participants will receive a free copy of A Practical Guide for Creating a Successful Small Business, which will provide an overview of topics such as knowing your resources, developing a strategy, getting the correct permits, and much more. Participants will also have access to ongoing business support, including one-on-one business consultation on a wide range of business topics.

"The logo development, the advice, the general support and belief in what I am doing has been amazing," said Autumn B., a resident of Encinitas who attended a previous seminar.

To register for the seminars or to learn more about the seminar details, visit www.hwht.org or contact the participating library location. For more information on San Diego County Library, visit www.sdcl.org.



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AALEMAN & ASSOCIATES

Henry Mendibles Associate

220 Sage Road
El Cajon, CA 92012
Email treefuzz@cox.net
619-593-1754

Elke W. Chenevey
Vice President
Financial Advisor

619/699-3707 (office)
619/758-3619 (fax)
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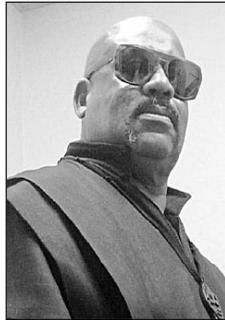
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Black Path Commentary: Critical Analysis on Culture, Community, & Struggle

In Honor of Dr. Francis Cress Welsing: Woman, Scholar, Warrior, Standing Worthy before History and Heaven



by Min. Tukufu Kalonji

In the context of February marking Black History Month I and March as Black history Month II with its focus on Black women, I write this commentary in honor of Dr.

Fancies Cress Welsing. With her recent transition to the realm of our Ancestors (1935-2016), it is our obligation to be rightfully respectful; in that we take time out to give reverence to her life, legacy, and the lessons she gave us. Dr. Cress Welsing was a sister, soldier, and activist-scholar who dedicated her life's work to our rescue, recovery, and

liberation.

Making her mark as a psychiatrist, teacher, author, Dr. Cress Welsing boldly engaged the behavioral sciences in a discourse of resistance and struggle to examine white supremacy as a psychosocial and emotional disorder of the white man rooted in his inferiority complex. In her seminal works "*The Cress Theory of Color-Confrontation and Racism (White Supremacy)*"; she broke new ground with a new and enlightening theory of what white supremacy and why it manifest the way it does in such horrific ways upon Black Folk. Building and expanding her theory through ongoing research, lectures, public discussion, practice as a psychiatrist, et al, she raised critical questions and concerns, which required rigorous

analysis and interpretation, consequently her work later resulted her writing a major text titled *The Isis Papers: The Keys to the Colors*.

Dr. Cress Welsing theorized, argued, and worked out in a practice of revolutionary struggle that overturned the established orders position of Black folk being a pathological and pathogenic people. In contrast, she elevated the discourse turning the tables on the ruling race and class by conducting analysis and interpretation of the white man and all his psycho-emotional, and socially dysfunctional and destructive behavior. At the core her theory and analysis is an assumption that is evidenced based in the historical record of accomplishment of devastation initiated and sustained by Europeans against Africans. She further contends that white supremacy is an irrational and sociopathic disorder rooted in white folk's sense of inferiority. Dr. Cress Welsing goes on to argue that whites lack of the ability to produce melanin; causes white folk to have a fear of genetic annihilation. This irrational fear

ultimately manifest as racism, i.e. and ideology and institutional arrangement of oppressive, dominating, and destructive forces with Black folk as its main target and victims of this destruction. Consequently, her teachings for Afro Americans is for us to protect, defend, heal and develop ourselves as a definitive cultural community through the learning, embracing and internalizing the best of Black views, values, and subsequent practice of those values in a regimen of self conscious resistance, rescue and reconstruction.

In closing, let us raise up the name Dr. Francis Cress Welsing, an ancestor who we will remember and honor for her life of leadership on our behalf as a people. Moreover, may the good she brought to the world last forever as she resides in Amenta (heaven) with the ancestors, the creators, standing worthy before history and heaven; assuming any form she chooses as she guides in our continuance of our struggle for liberation and higher level of human life.

Min. Tukufu Kalonji is Founder of Kawaida African Ministries, For info contact @ tkalonji@hotmail.com

The Treaty of 1866 150th Sesquicentennial Commemorative Celebration!

Plans are underway for the 1866 Treaty commemorative event as this year marks the 150th Sesquicentennial anniversary of the Emancipated Freedmen of the Five Civilized Tribes as outlined in the ratified Treaty of 1866. This historic 150th Sesquicentennial commemorative event will commence on Friday, June 24, 2016, at 6:00 PM at the historic Skirvin Hotel in downtown Oklahoma City, with a mix and mingle, presenters, and an elegant plated dinner will be served at 6:45 PM. Living history interpreter, Mr. Wallace C. Moore is the keynote speaker for this event, his presentation is titled "The Life and Times of Cow Tom," the presentation depicts the account of the signing of the Treaty of 1866, and the role a free man of color called Cow Tom played in the conclusion of the Treaty. Mr. Moore was born and raised in Seminole County, Oklahoma. After twenty-seven years of service with

the United States Army, he retired with the rank of Sergeant Major. He is a historian, with a special interest in the history made by African-Americans during the Indian War time period.

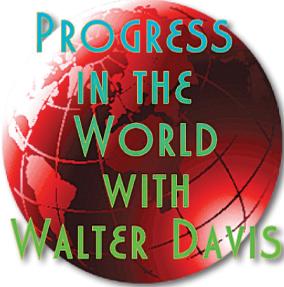
Mr. Moore's presentation style is a mixture of lecture, conference, and demonstrations. He always dresses in Period correct attire to match the subject being talked about. Wallace has performed for audiences across the United States. He spent one week at Epcot Center at Disney World at the Oklahoma Experience telling the stories of the Buffalo Soldiers. Freedmen or Black Indians were emancipated after the Civil War by a treaty signed in 1866 between the United States and the various Tribal Nations. The Treaties of 1866 guaranteed that the Freedmen and their descendants would have rights as native citizens, including rights to land and national funds (The language of the 5 tribes

treaties vary per nation, google INDIAN AFFAIRS: LAWS AND TREATIES for the full language). While the emancipation of the Freedmen/Black Indians is worthy of a grand celebration and has been celebrated throughout the Creek nation, and other tribal nations for many years; as captured in the attached flyer and the interview by Creek Freedmen Aaron Grayson. The emancipation celebration included a parade, crowning of a queen, games, and good food.

Sadly in the 21st century, those same treaties that were once celebrated and held in such high regard are no longer being honored by the 5 tribes. The treaties were implemented to guarantee equal protection and inclusion for all tribal citizens whether it be full blood, mixed blood, or freedmen. These reconstruction era treaties would become the basis of social, political, and legal controversy, framing debates about tribal belonging and citizenship well into the 21 century. Treaty signers of the 1866 Creek treaty such as Cow Mikko "Cow Tom", Harry Island and others are to be honored and commemorated for the role

that they played in securing equal protection for the Freedmen. In as much, on June 24, 2016, the Muscogee Creek Indian Freedmen Band will celebrate the contributions made by Freedmen as many served in political office, as interpreters, treaty signers and negotiated on the behalf of the entire Creek Nation. Tickets for this grand affair are \$50.00 per person and \$90.00 for couples. Official members/supporter will receive a 5% discount. Dress attire: Semi-formal or formal dress with a black tie option.

Visit the MCIFB's website at www.1866creekfreedmen.com often as plans are unveiled for another exciting event for 2016. Click on the link below to purchase your ticket(s) at www.eventbrite.com. The 150th Sesquicentennial anniversary of the Emancipated Freedmen of the Five Civilized Tribes as outlined in the ratified Treaty of 1866. Or you may mail your payment to P.O. Box 6366*Moore, OK* 73153. For additional information contact contactus@1866creekfreedmen.com or 405-414-0366 or 405-204-0023.



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Native American Artist

TR Whitefox

Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma

760-638-0580

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To improve the quality of life of those who recognize themselves and choose to be recognized by others as "Indigenous Peoples of Color of the Americas" and in support of The American Indian Rights and Resources Organization (AIRRO).

William Katz on UN Panel to Discuss Indigenous, African and Black Indian Reactions to Colonialism

Indian Voices News, Rose Davis

President and CEO Ava Gabrielle Wise of the United Nations NGO, the United States Sustainable Development Corporation has announced March 23 she will convene three experts for an UN panel to discuss a more authentic narrative of descendants of colonialism and enslavement. An official event of the United Nations 60th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women, it is entitled "Understanding the Role of National Identity in Global Politics," and "will expand UN discourses seeking to uncover the hidden history of African, Indigenous and Black Indian descendants of colonialism and enslavement in the United States."

Her three authorities are William Loren Katz, author of Black Indians and 40 other books, African American Studies Professor Jeffrey O.G. Ogbar, author of Black Power: Radical Politics and American Identity and other books, and journalist Monifa Bandle international human rights activist. They will address UN delegates and other

George Monroe- Legendary Driver

by Earl Heath

In early America there were many African Americans who contributed to the foundation of the country and several big events that we know of today. The California Gold Rush had many contributors including one George Monroe.

Monroe came to the Bay area as an 11 year-old from Georgia 1855. As he grew into manhood he developed a talent of training and riding horses. At age 22, he took a job driving for the A.H. Washburn and Company stage line into Yosemite. That stage line carried passengers and bank drafts for Wells, Fargo & Co.'s Express into Yosemite Valley.

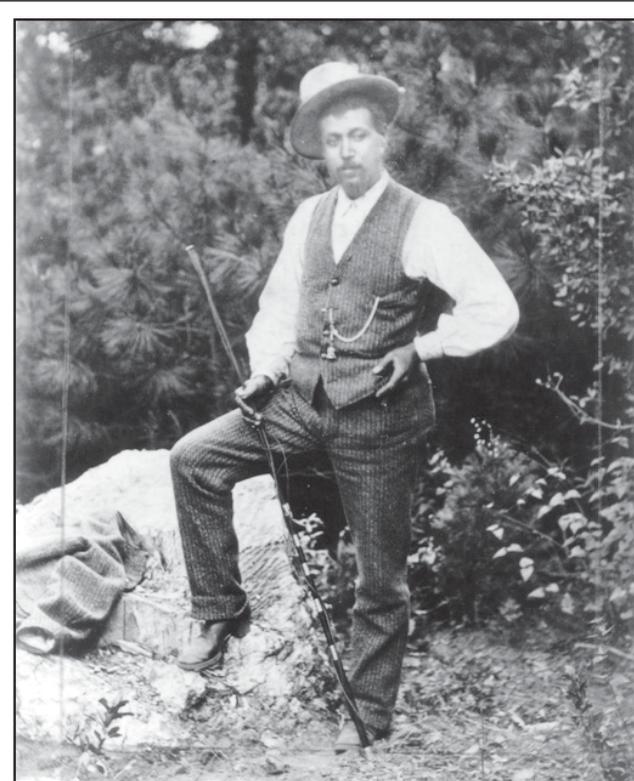
It took great skills to navigate the horses around hairpin turns on hills in one of the toughest terrains in the west. Henry Wells and William Fargo were founders of the Wells Fargo Bank and major players during the gold rush era. Monroe expertly navigated the treacherous cliff-side roads into the

invited guests at the International Social Justice Commission Building in Manhattan.

Panel convener and President Wise notified Mr. Katz he would lead off the discussion "due to your extraordinary body of work on the deeply rooted relationship between indigenous people and those of African descent from the colonization of the United States."

Mr. Katz is well known to readers of INDIAN VOICES through his articles on the Black Indian alliances that battled foreign invasions of the Americas since 1492. He will also speak of his 14 years experience as a public school teacher directed to follow a U.S. history curriculum based on distortions, omissions and assumptions that promoted concepts of white supremacy.

Professor of Black Studies Ogbar is the author of Black Power: Radical Politics and American Identity and other books and articles. Journalist Monifa Bandle will discuss the continued effect of that narrative on the daily lives of African and Indigenous descendants of colonialism and enslavement in the



"The best all-round reinsman in the West."

Wells Fargo Archives

Valley and became the best driver around. The express company was well known and to work for them you had to have self-reliance and be of upstanding character. They saw Monroe as that kind of man. He also gained a reputation as "The best all around reinsman in the west".

In 1879, the celebrated Monroe was asked to carry a fellow celebrity into

Yosemite Ulysess S. Grant-18th President of the United States. Grant's schedule took him and Mrs. Grant down the dangerous, 26-mile route.

General Grant chose to sit next to the driver, a place of honor in those days. An expert horseman in his own right, Grant's assessment of Monroe's skills would make or break his reputation as a stagecoach driver.

Monroe did his magic and Grant was duly impressed: "He would throw those six animals from one side to the other," the President marveled, "to avoid a stone or a chuckhole as if they were a single horse."

Word had got out and by 1879 Monroe had driven two more Presidents to Yosemite:

James A. Garfield and Rutherford B. Hayes, as well as General William T. Sherman.

He worked for Wells Fargo some 20 years and most as a driver. He met an untimely demise in 1886 when a stage overturned and mortally injured him. Ironically, Monroe was not the driver, but a passenger.

United States.

Professor Ogbar and journalist Monifa Bandle will focus on the serious and lasting consequences of colonialism and enslavement on the daily lives of African and Indigenous descendants in the United States.

There is limited seating but it is free for those who wish register through this link:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/color-me-black-understanding-the-role-of-national-identity-in-global-politics-tickets-20765168177>

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Interview with Miss Denver March

by Dr. Dawn Karima

Q) Congratulations! You are truly a beauty, inside and out! Please tell us about yourself? What do you want us to know about you?

A: Thank you so much! I'd like to start off by stating I am the Miss Denver March Powwow princess for 2015-2016. I'm pretty much what you see on the outside. I try my best to show kindness to others and stay involved with my tribe.

Q) What is your tribal heritage and affiliation? For those who might not know a lot about your tribe, what would you want them to know about your people?

A: I am Comanche, Osage, Otoe-Missouria, and Arapaho. A little fun fact about my bloodline is that all these tribes that I am, I'm descendant from every last chief of these tribes. The Comanches were "lords of the plains" because they really did roam throughout



all of the plains. We were split off from the Shoshones and became who we are today. Osage people were woodlands people and were moved to Oklahoma, as well as the Otoe people. Arapaho's came from the north and then were forced

down.

Q) Culture and tradition is so important! What are some ways that you incorporate your tribal lifeways into your life?

A: I take part in the Native American Church with my maternal grandparents, Oliver and Theresa Littlecook. My faith is entirely revolved around that. Although, I do say Catholic prayers every time before I eat. It was just in the way I was brought up. I cherish every single bit of it and I am thankful for it.

Q) What do powwows mean to you? Why do you think powwows are important?

A: Powwows, to me, are a celebration of our heritage.. it symbolizes our strength as Native Americans. Native American people have been through an overwhelming amount of hurt but we still managed to make it to this day. We survived and this is our way of displaying that pride.

Q) What was it like when you heard the announcement that you won? Has your life changed since then? If so, how?

A: It has changed me mentally as well as physically. I had to get myself in shape to last all throughout grand entry and it was not easy! Mentally, I was so nervous about all of this and then I was sat down with family and they encouraged me, uplifted me so now I have so much confidence. It is amazing how much one thing can change you and your outlook on life for the better. I've seen things and it only makes me want to be a better person.

Q) What are some of the experiences that you are having as a titleholder? We'd enjoy hearing some of your stories!!

A: I've traveled out of country to Manchester, England, which was such an incredible experience. A special thank you to Miss Grace and Diane for that once in a lifetime opportunity.

I do have a funny story to share.. I was at Hunting Moon Powwow, during the evening session I was handing out flyers to all the spectators and dancers in the stands. An elder lady approached me and asked for a flyer, we had a nice conversation about her family and

SEE **Miss Denver March**, page 11

San Diego Independent Media Center Hosts Film and Discussion on Diné Relocation at Big Mountain

by Brad Werner and Cris Garcia

"From Big Mountain to Palestine, relocation is genocide!" sings Klee Benally, Diné activist, filmmaker and former member of the indigenous punk band Blackfire, in his song 'An Act of Liberation.'

Benally refers to two of numerous politically and economically motivated displacements of people in recent memory. For one, the Nabka, 700,000 Palestinians were forced to leave their villages in 1948 to make way for the creation of the state of Israel.

The other was the topic of a screening and discussion of the 1985 documentary film *Broken Rainbow*, hosted by the San Diego Independent Media Center at the Metate Infoshop on January 29. The film

details the historical context, events leading up to, and human and environmental impact of the forced relocation of 14,000 Diné people from the Black Mesa area, beginning in 1974, to permit expansion of the operations of Peabody Coal.

A picture of the genocide is drawn in *Broken Rainbow* using the stories of elders and families who were relocated, included Klee Benally's family. Following the initial wave of colonization, Kit Carson directed the burning of Diné crops, slaughtering of livestock and murdering of people. In 1864, the 8000 survivors were forced to walk more than 450 miles across New Mexico – the Long Walk – to concentration camps (later studied by Nazis) where they were held for four years with no shelter and

inadequate provisions. Because of the expense of the camps and resistance, most Diné were allowed to return to their ancestral homelands, interspersed with their traditional neighbors, the Hopi. One-hundred years of boarding schools, white settlers, the arbitrary drawing of boundary lines, discovery of vast mineral wealth in the region (coal, uranium, oil, gas, ...), seizure of livestock and co-optation of tribal leadership then set the stage for Diné relocation.

The discussion following the film highlighted continued government efforts to displace remaining families at Big Mountain, the human and environmental impact of this genocide, continued resistance to relocation and the centrality of struggles for land.

The San Diego Independent Media Center was founded in 2001 as a part of a global network of Indymedia centers – a volunteer collective to tell the stories of people struggling against injustice and oppression and for autonomy. Inspired by the Zapatista movement, the first

Indymedia Center was founded in 1999 as a means for anti-globalization activists protesting the World Trade Organization meeting to tell their own stories, unfiltered by corporate media bias, and quickly spread to hundreds of Centers across the globe. Co-optation of the concept by Facebook, Twitter, etc. has weakened the Indymedia movement, but some strong Centers remain. San Diego Indymedia volunteers view themselves not as neutral observers, but rather as active participants in struggles against oppression. The most basic injustices involve stolen lands and cultural genocide; the most powerful resistance centers around indigenous struggles, which form a pivotal role in San Diego Indymedia's efforts. San Diego Indymedia's web site offers open publishing of stories and events to the community.

For more information about San Diego Indymedia, visit <http://sandiego.indymedia.org>
Brad Werner and Cris Garcia are volunteers with the San Diego Independent Media Center.

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This web site is dedicated to the promotion and preservation of the Kumeyaay culture. **Kumeyaay.com** tells the story from the Kumeyaay perspective, and is the premiere source for Kumeyaay Indian information.

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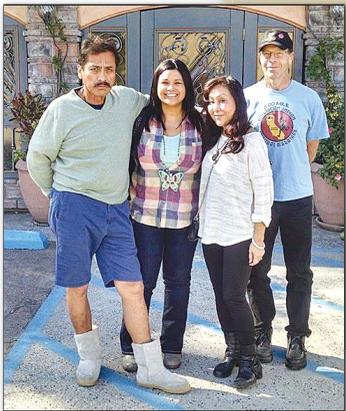
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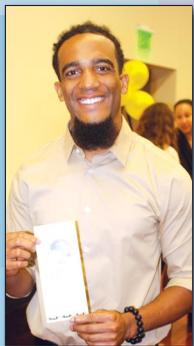
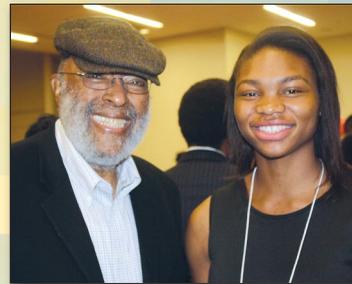
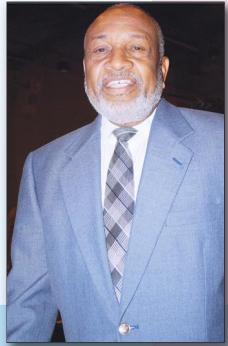
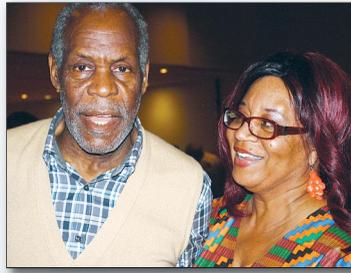
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Idle No More and "Indian Voices" Stands in Solidarity with the People of Honduras

Honduran Indigenous, environmental rights campaigner and co-founder of the National Council of Popular and Indigenous Organizations of Honduras (COPINH), Berta Cáceres was assassinated in her La Esperanza home. Telesur correspondent, Gilda Silvestruci confirmed that the Honduran leader was killed at 0100 local central standard time, on Thursday March 3rd.

Idle No More organizers stand in solidarity with the family of Berta Cáceres, the Lenca people, and the people of Honduras. We extend our

deepest condolences for the irreplaceable loss that is felt worldwide.

For years Berta and her family have faced threats of brutal violence while hundreds of her comrades have also been murdered in Honduras defending their territory and rights. Honduras is one of the deadliest places for Indigenous and Environmental activists, and they continue to stand up against one of Central America's biggest hydropower projects, in spite the continued threats of violence from US funded police forces and privately hired security guards.

Idle No More

The San Patricios: Mexico's Fighting Irish

by Mark R. Day

In 1846, thousands of immigrants, mostly Irish, joined the US army and were sent with Gen. Zachary Taylor's army to invade Mexico in what some historians have called a war of Manifest Destiny.

Dubious about why they were fighting a Catholic country, and fed up with mistreatment from their Anglo-Protestant officers, hundreds of Irish and other immigrants deserted Taylor's army and joined forces with Mexico. Led by Captain John Riley of County Galway, they called themselves the St. Patrick's Battalion---in Spanish, the San Patricios.

They fought bravely in most of the campaigns of the two-year conflict, but their efforts failed to stem the yankee onslaught. Soon the US Army occupied the halls of Montezuma, and Mexico eventually surrendered, ceding nearly half its territory to the United States.

Toward the end of the conflict, at the Battle of Churubusco, 83 San Patricios were captured, and 72 were court martialed. Of this number, 50 were sentenced to be hanged and 16 were flogged and branded on their cheeks with the letter "D" for deserter.

To this day, many US historians regard these men as traitors, but Mexicans see them as heroes, honoring them every Sept. 12 with a special commemoration. In 1993, the Irish began their own ceremony to honor them in Clifden, Galway, Riley's hometown that takes place every year.

Some historians, relying on court martial testimony, portray the San Patricios as confused and bewildered young men who drank heavily and later regretted their choices. Other analysts wonder what could have motivated a group of drunken adventurers to don the enemy's uniform and fight to the death.

"The San Patricios were alienated both from American society as well as the US Army," says Professor Kirby Miller of the University of Missouri, an expert on Irish immigration. "They

realized that the army was not fighting a war of liberty, but one of conquest against fellow Catholics such as themselves."

Riley has hardly an unfocused rebel. As an Irishman and Catholic he was undoubtedly appalled and shocked at the behavior of the Texas Rangers and other volunteers who Gen. Taylor admittedly could not control. Among their crimes were murder, rape, robbery and the desecration of Catholic churches.

While held prisoner in Mexico City, Riley wrote to a friend in Michigan: "Be not deceived by a nation that is at war with Mexico, for a friendlier and more hospitable people than the Mexicans there exists not on the face of the earth."

Riley's attitude could serve as a role model in today's multicultural society. In fact, the parallels between the Irish immigrants of the 1840's and today's newcomers from Mexico and Central America should be obvious. Historically, both groups have suffered domination from oppressors who sought to destroy their religion and culture.

Both groups have braved dangerous journeys to arrive in America. The Irish crossed rough seas in "coffin ships" laden with diseased and starving passengers, while their Latin counterparts continue to brave barren deserts and freezing mountains, not to mention the barbs of nativists who see them as economic and cultural threats to the so-called "character of America."

Moreover, both groups share communal and family values, a common spirituality and love for poetry, art, music and dance. Recently, this has led to collaborations such as an Irish-Mexican art exhibit that opened last year in Santa Monica, California, as well as plans for a joint mural project by Irish and Chican artists in San Francisco, a city with an active Irish-Mexican Association.

Mark R. Day is a journalist and documentary film maker. His award winning documentary, *The San Patricios*, is available on www.dayproductions.com

"I've been working on solidarity campaigns with peoples of Central America since I was 17, in other words, for the last 35 years. I joined social movements back then because of the horrific violence, torture, and massacres being rained on the people by those in power. There are many struggles on Earth right now, and in our hemisphere. Let us

not forget what has happened in Central America for so long, let us not forget how this is a hemispheric issue, let us honor Berta". Idle No More Activist, Praba Pilar

We support the call to organize solidarity actions at the embassies of Honduras around the world and we demand:

Spirit of the Barrio Luncheon March 18, 2016

Spirit of the Barrio provides a dialogue of the facts surrounding what is being done to address one of California's most important issues.

What: Spirit of the Barrio Luncheon, "A Discussion on California's Healthcare Workforce"

Featured Panelists: Kevin Barnett, DrPH, MCP, Senior Investigator, Public Health Institute, Chris Gordon, MD,

Director, Family Medicine Residency Training Program, Megan Hamreus, DO, Chief of Family Medicine, Scripps Mercy Hospital and Najwan Al Ani, MD, Resident Physician, Family Health Centers of San Diego

When: Friday, March 18, 2016

Where: 1809 National Ave.

San Diego, CA

Lunch: 11:30 to 1:00 p.m.

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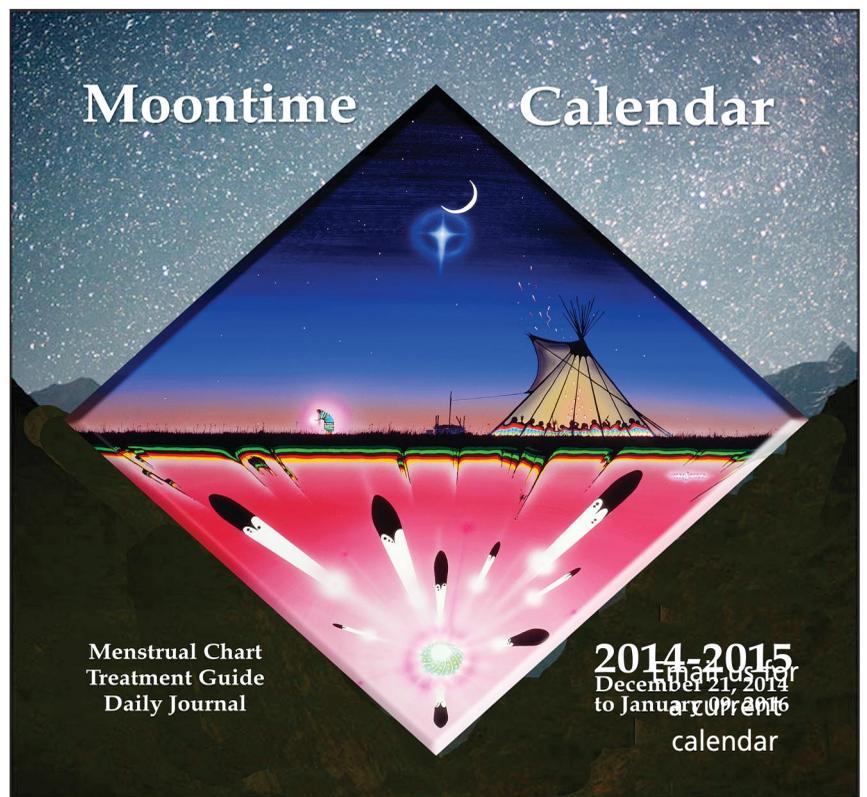
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Visit our Website: www.IndianVoices.net for more news and updates

Miss Denver March

Continued from page 7

toward the end of our conversation she told me I would be a nice wife for her son. I had no idea how to react and that was the most random thing to ever happen to me.

Q) What are some of the issues you are promoting during your reign? What is your platform? How are you raising awareness for it throughout your reign?

A: I didn't want to focus on just one thing because of the many issues our Indian people are facing. I noticed that our generation are dealing with depression and suicidal thoughts, and so I always talk to them and give them that uplifting spirit that they need.

Q) What's next after your reign?

A: I plan to take online courses and just get my basics done. I have not yet decided on what I wanted to pursue, but I am thinking along the lines of counseling younger people or assisting in dental work.

Q) What's the best advice you've ever received? What piece of advice are you glad that you DID NOT follow?

A: The best piece of advice I have ever received was from my grandma DeeDee Goodeagle, she always tells me that they are going to be people who have something against but you just dance. I don't focus on the negative advice, I don't ever try to remember anything negative.

Q) Do you see yourself as a role model to other Native Americans?

How does that make you feel? What do you hope others learn from your example?

A: I've been told a few times that I was a role model to the younger girls or other titleholders, but I just strive to always do the right thing and stay grounded. It does make me feel accomplished in a sort of way, because I feel like I am doing something that stands out — whatever it may be. I hope that others can learn that there is no competition in who has the better title or who dresses better, it all about our unity and the way we carry ourselves.

Q) What advice would you give someone just starting out in pageants and/or powwows? What do you wish you knew before you started?

A: My advice to those is to just remain positive and enjoy yourself all around, don't be shy to meet others and stay confident within yourself. People will notice the way you carry yourself if you continue to be positive and only say nice things. I wish I had known about the amount of attention I'd receive, but then again.. my title itself is something people always watch out for.

Q) Anything else you'd like to share with us?

A: I like to invite everyone out to Denver March Powwow this year! It is the last weekend of March, we have a lot of amazing specials in store for this year's powwow and I can't wait to see it all unfold. Thank you so much for interviewing me!

Thanks so much for your consideration and for your time. We wish you all the best! Blessings!

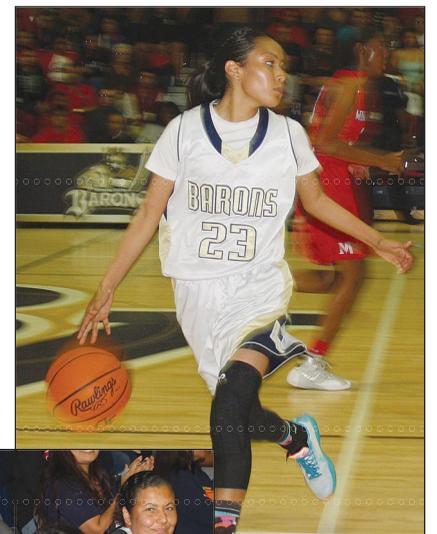


Cool Kids Corner

Pinky (Zirin), call me 619-534-2435 or email me Coolkidscorner@gmail.com

I had a nice time watching an exciting basketball game with my new friend Shyla Latone who is a Basketball Star Point Guard at Bonita Vista High School in Chula Vista.

It was a close game but our side won by two points. I am glad we won.



Here are some pictures of me and my Mom with Shyla and her family.

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Tijuana Tourism



A sculpture with a story. Seven local artists teamed up to paint the previous all white "Tijuana Señorita" a work of Armando Munoz Garcia who had an idea to donate his artwork to the City but they rejected him because they didn't understand his concept so he built it on his own property near the airport. Several of his comrades decided they wanted to make it more colorful and

each took a section of the fair lady of Baja and threw some color on her. She's become one of Tijuana's most popular tourist attractions known locally as "La Mona".

A TV Network for Native Americans

Canada already has a similar cable outlet dedicated to indigenous peoples, and the U.S. is preparing to follow suit.

by Lenika Cruz

If there's one thing most television lovers and critics have come to agree on in the last few years, it's that the medium has become more racially diverse. If challenged by a skeptic on this subject, I'd cheerfully rattle off the names of great and popular shows currently on air starring and created by people of color. See? Progress!

And yet, maybe not so much. I can count the number of Native American characters—not even shows—that I've personally seen on TV in the last year on one hand. There's the Wamapoke Indian chief Ken Hotate, who appeared in the final season of Parks and Recreation, played by the wonderful Jonathan Joss, who is of Comanche and Apache

descent. There's the terrifying 1970s enforcer Hanzee Dent, a second-season Fargo fan favorite, played by Zahn McClarnon, who's of Hunkpapa heritage. And then there's the spoiled Manhattan socialite Jacqueline Voorhees from Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt, played by Jane Krakowski, who's Polish, French Canadian, and Scottish.

RELATED STORY

Which goes some way toward illustrating the need for an outlet like All Nations Network—a cable channel featuring TV programming created for and by native peoples that its creators hope to launch soon in the U.S., according to Variety. Though details are sparse at the moment, the channel will get some help from Aboriginal Peoples Television Network, a similar outlet that launched in Canada back in 1992 and that now serves 10 million households. The U.S. has seen other efforts to cater

to native peoples on TV—Red Nation Television Network is an online-only streaming service that dates back to before Hulu, and the PBS affiliate FNX: First Nations Experience launched in 2011 but is currently available only in Southern California and a few other areas. If a channel like All Nations Network succeeds, it would be a way for American Indians to do something as simple but crucial as making their own stories rather than waiting for mainstream TV to catch up.

So why doesn't the U.S. already have a widely available, dedicated TV channel for Native Americans? Heather Rae, a producer, filmmaker, and actress of Cherokee descent, told me that studio executives and financiers often balk at the idea of what they see as narrowly targeted content. "The perception is that Native Indians are a vanishing and near-extinct part of the [U.S.] population," she said. It's hard, in other words, to convince many distributors and carriers of the commercial viability of a project like All Nations Network.

Jim Thorpe All Indian Games Coming to North County



From July 17-22nd San Diego County will be hosting the annual Jim Thorpe All Indian Games. Exceptional athletes, both teams and individuals, will be arriving from all over the country for this fierce competition which will be played out in several North

basketball, cross country, football, golf, LaCrosse, soccer, softball, tennis, track & field, volleyball, wrestling and archery.

On February 19th a fun fundraising golfing event took place at the Soboba Country Club attended by sponsors including the Pauma, Rincon and Pala Bands, potential sponsors, coaches and a helpful staff of volunteers. Prizes were awarded to tournament players playing the Best Ball format. First place was awarded for a scorching score of eighteen(18) below par. Other prizes included longest drive sponsored by Krank and nearest to the pin. No one was lucky enough to score a hole-in-one which would have snared, among other offerings, a trip to the Master's in Augusta, Georgia this April.

Salud to Raymond J. Welch, council vice-chairman from the Barona Band, who walked off with the raffled bottle of Patron.

All entries to the games must be in by May 15, 2016.

For further information contact Gene Dixon at dixongene@yahoo.com or visit the website: allindiangames.com



County venues. Director Gene Dixon leads this



courageous undertaking which takes extraordinary organizational skills. Over a dozen sports will be contested including baseball,

Senior Housing Notice of Closed Waiting List

ST. JAMES PLAZA, low-income senior apts. in Imperial Beach, has closed its waiting list effective March 15, 2016 due to excessive length and will no longer be accepting applications for residency. A notice will be published when the list is reopened.

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Raven Knightshade

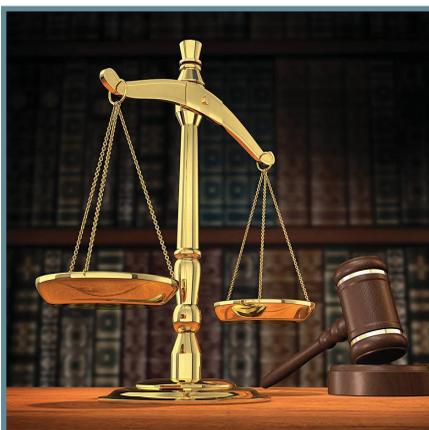
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NEWS from Las Vegas/Nevada
by Kena Adams

Las Vegas Paiute Tribe Breaks Ground For Medical Cannabis Dispensary In Downtown Las Vegas

Project Includes Cultivation/Production Facilities and Satellite Dispensary at Snow Mountain Reservation

LAS VEGAS, NV -- Today, the Las Vegas Paiute Tribe, a federally-recognized sovereign nation, announced plans for the development of a medical cannabis dispensary at the Las Vegas Paiute Indian Colony in downtown Las Vegas, with a cultivation/production facility and satellite dispensary at the Snow Mountain Indian Reservation in northwest Las Vegas.

The project is a joint venture between the Tribe and Ultra Health, an Arizona-based company specializing in healthcare cannabis products, with cultivation, production and retail centers currently in operation in New Mexico and Arizona. Ultra Health has also been

the industry leader working with Native American Tribes to maximize the economic and cultural opportunities that the emerging cannabis industry can provide.

Over the past few years, several states have legalized the use of cannabis for medical purposes and, more than two years ago, the state of Nevada joined them. In August of 2013, the U.S. Department of Justice issued a policy statement that provided guidance to U.S. attorneys on how to accommodate state's rights within the federal framework. In October of 2014, a subsequent policy statement was issued that extended the same guidance to sovereign nations in Indian Country.

"In essence, the 2014 memorandum granted sovereign governments like ours the right to determine their own destiny with regard to medical cannabis," said

Benny Tso, chairman of the Las Vegas Paiute Tribal Council. "Along with several other Tribes in the southwest, we began to explore what those opportunities might be, particularly because the people of Nevada and the state legislature have authorized the legal distribution and use of cannabis for medical purposes."

The Tribal Council spent more than a year evaluating whether the Tribe should participate in the new industry. "We met with experts in the field, toured several facilities throughout our region, consulted legal authorities and talked with local government officials to get feedback, advice and information," Tso said. "After that due diligence, we brought the information back to our membership who overwhelmingly voted to move forward."

The Main Street facility will include a 4,000-square-foot downtown retail dispensary and a 1,160-square-foot exhibition space. The Snow Mountain campus will include three cultivation greenhouses for a total of 84,000 square feet, a 10,000-square-foot production center and a 3,024-square-foot retail dispensary. Construction of the project, with an estimated \$5 million price tag, is

expected to be completed in six to nine months. The facilities are expected to employ more than 50 workers upon opening and grow to more than 100 employees in the first year.

"Ultra Health is proud to have been selected by the Tribe to be its partner in this venture," said Duke Rodriguez, President and CEO. "They have insisted that every element, from structural design to landscaping and technological innovation, be of the highest quality so that it will be a model for other Indian nations interested in pursuing similar economic development programs."

As part of the Tribe's commitment to environmental responsibility, the cultivation facilities will be constructed with advanced clean greenhouse technologies that reduce the demand for electricity, eliminate the use of pesticides and conserve water through cutting-edge technology.

"We are proud of our heritage as the original caretakers of this land, and this project fits precisely within our own cultural background," said Tso. "It is about caring for the earth, caring for our people and our neighbors, and creating long-term sustainability. As a nation, it's what we stand for."

Bismarck, ND – On January 20, 2016, seven Native Americans from North Dakota filed suit under the Voting Rights Act and the U.S. and North Dakota Constitutions challenging North Dakota's recently enacted voter ID law on the grounds it disproportionately burdens Native Americans and denies qualified voters the right to vote.

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1st Annual Bike the Pioneer Trail Event

The Harrison House and the City of Las Vegas announce the 1st Annual - Harrison House & City of Las Vegas Bike the Pioneer Trail Event. The event will start at the Springs Preserve at 11:00 on Sunday, March 13th. We'll cruise through Las Vegas Historic West Side past historic buildings like the Harrison House (where Sammy Davis Jr. and Pearl Bailey stayed), as well as the Benny Binion home, and the Moulin Rouge. Places that tell Las Vegas' real story! We'll have Metro support, Tour Marshals, and Tour Support to make our journey 100% fun and enjoyable. Our

tour will terminate at the Tenaya Creek Brewery on 831 W Bonanza Rd, Las Vegas, NV 89106 for an event After-Party from 12:00-3:00. Live music provided by the Kold Kats. Come ride with us, see Las Vegas' Historic Sights, and enjoy a great day. At the After-Party, we'll feature a raffle of some great stuff featuring a 3 month membership of Las Vegas' Foundation Room! A \$10 registration fee will get you an event T-shirt and other cool stuff! Water is provided by LVVWA.

Register on-line today! Registration/info for the event is at - <http://www.bikethepioneertrail.com/>

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This conference has been held in the USA for the past 70 years for Indians and non-Indians to grow spiritually. This year the conference will be in San Jose, CA July 20-23rd. Donations needed! There is a need for sponsorship for the youth to attend. We need help to provide for these youth with Indian heritage. Many cultural activities are in the planning stages for the event.

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Preserving Sacred Sights

For generations, sacred sites and cultural objects of the First Americans, Native Americans, have suffered under looters, private developers and even the federal government itself. These sites include ceremonial areas, burial areas and cemeteries and other spiritual landmarks of American Indians, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians.

While the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act protects sacred objects and human remains on federal lands and in publicly funded

museums, it does not protect cultural resources on vast amounts of privately owned lands. Tribes have actually spent precious resources to protect some areas such as Bear Butte in South Dakota from the encroaching Sturgis Motorcycle Rally.

Although some protections are in place, more work needs to be done. While federal law puts forth a process by which to return items and protects federal lands, the federal government does not devote adequate prosecutorial resources to bring criminal cases against

perpetrators and there are no civil causes of action under the laws. For those cultural resources on federal lands, there are not enough resources devoted to patrolling and protecting those areas from looters and desecration and vandalism. In Nevada, I have heard from Southern Paiute tribal leaders and elders that they would like to see more protections for areas such as Gold Butte and Gypsum Cave, much like the protections I worked hard for at Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area, Basin and Range National Monument and Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument.

Recently, I have been appalled at the treatment of cultural resources by the illegal occupiers at the Malheur National

Wildlife Refuge near Burns, Oregon. Armed militia members took over the refuge, handled sacred artifacts in federal protection and left behind a “trench of human feces” near important cultural areas. When the investigations have concluded, I hope that there is justice for the Burns Paiutes when those responsible for this travesty are held accountable for any and all crimes that were committed.

The actions at Malheur show that we need to be better at understanding and respecting Native American cultures, history and traditions. For far too long, native people have suffered a long history of willful ignorance. We must follow the law but also have a basic level of respect and reverence for the First Americans.

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