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INDIAN VOICES

OUR 27TH YEAR

MULTI-CULTURAL NEWS GLOBAL NETWORK

AUGUST 2013

THUNDER FROM THE FOURTH ESTATE IN THE FOURTH DISTRICT

Myrtle Cole a Servant to Our Community

by Rose Davis

"The people are the eyes, ears, hearts and soul of this community and its government. And they deserve transparent, responsive and compassionate government." So says Myrtle Cole during her acceptance as the newly elected Fourth District Councilwoman.

Our last election launched a new day in San Diego's Fourth District. After a stunning display of democratic citizen action, Myrtle Cole emerged victorious in a special election to take the seat of Tony Young who left in January to head the local chapter of the American Red Cross.

"I am so grateful to the voters for the trust that they have placed with me and I promise to work hard every day to live up

to that trust," she stated. "I'm honored to be taking the oath of office today," she said. "I am enthusiastic and eager about rolling up my sleeves and getting to work for Council District 4 residents and all citizens of San Diego.

By all indications Myrtle Cole is determined to keep her word. The council woman adjusted her busy schedule to fit in an impromptu interview.

Myrtle Cole has an age defying Peter Pan presence. Youthful by any definition she is animated and thoughtful about her words.

Being an elected official is new to her but she has a long resumé working in and around the San Diego political arena. Her experience has provided her with an

SEE **Myrtle Cole**, page 3



Newly elected Fourth District Councilwoman Myrtle Mae Cole eager to move San Diego forward.

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K-9 Warrior: Special Operations Forces Tribute

by Roy Cook

Recently an official memorial, July 27, 2013 at 10 am. the first tribute in the nation specifically honoring SOF dogs, a life size statue of a Belgian Malinois was dedicated. During Sgt. Maj. Chuck Yerry's several tours of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan with the Special Operations Forces (SOF), dogs were almost always on his team. "I saw them do things that saved lives every day, like avoid an ambush or detect explosives," says Yerry.

Most retired military dogs are adopted by their handler or another working-dog agency. But what about those that don't make it home? After being assigned to an SOF kennel at Fort Bragg in 2009, Yerry began to keep track of the dogs that died in war zones around the world. To date, the number of SOF dogs killed in action stands at 58.

Also, in Iraq, Sgt. Maj. Chris Moyer's tour his canine soldier companion, Valco, was killed while on patrol in Iraq by a sniper.

Historically, grave markers and individual memorials were paid for by SOF

handlers, but Yerry and others believed these four-legged warriors also deserved official recognition. So in May 2010, SM Yerry, along with a small group of military and civilian advocates, began raising money and lobbying for a memorial, eventually forming the nonprofit SOF K9 Memorial Foundation in 2012. This past spring, the group announced that an official memorial, the first in the nation specifically honoring SOF dogs, a life size statue of a Belgian Malinois with combat vest, would be placed at the Airborne and Special Operations Museum in Fayetteville, N.C., near Fort Bragg.



Literary agent decries Filner 'witch hunt'

by John Wilkens

Two weeks ago, noted literary agent Sandy Dijkstra, a longtime supporter of Mayor Bob Filner, sent him a note, advising him to step down amid mounting accusations of sexual misconduct.

Tuesday afternoon she reversed course, decrying what she called "a Scarlet Letter witch hunt" to drive him from office.

"He deserves the chance to clean up his act and be the mayor we thought we elected," she said.

In an email sent Tuesday afternoon to friends, and in a subsequent interview with U-T San Diego, she said she's grown increasingly alarmed at the nature and tone of the allegations directed at Filner.

In particular, she said, she was "sickened" by a Steve Breen editorial cartoon in Sunday's U-T. It showed a leering Filner looking at a copy of Playboy magazine tucked into a sexual-harassment workbook. Dijkstra called it anti-Semitic and "a vile caricature right out of Hitler's playbook."



Sandy Dijkstra

Photo: Charlie Neuman

Breen's response: "Allegations of anti-Semitism with regard to the Filner caricatures are ridiculous. Every person and every face has distinct features. Cartoonists exaggerate those features

SEE **Witch Hunt**, page 5

Kwahup to San Diego's Indian Country

Discover an abundance of Native culture in one of California's loveliest regions

by Deborah Utacia Krol,
Salinan Native publications

SAN DIEGO, CA – Millions of visitors flock to San Diego each year to

discover an abundance of Native culture in one of California's loveliest regions. In fact, San Diego County boasts the largest number of reservations in a single U.S. county-18.

The major cultural groups in the region are the Kumeyaay (or Diegueño) and the Cupeño (or Cupa) peoples, as well as the Luiseño and Cahuilla. From



Barona Cultural Center & Museum

enjoy sun, surf and the city's famous zoo and wild animal park. But those who venture a little farther afield will

fabulous casinos and resorts to tiny cultural centers, plus an annual schedule of powwows and festivals, visitors will find plenty of Native happenings to keep their itineraries filled.

The largest tribe in San Diego is the mighty Kumeyaay Nation. With 18 communities spanning California and Mexico, 12 in San Diego County alone, the Kumeyaay tribes offer visitors a rich

SEE **Kwahup**, page 3

Open Letter to the NAACP From: All People For Justice

As United States citizens concerned about the preservation of Equal/Civil - Constitutional Rights and Social Justice, we join together to appeal to the National Association of Colored People to come to the aid and assistance of Mayor Bob Filner who is being assailed by economic and political forces in San Diego.

We request you issue a statement that San Diego Mayor Bob Filner:

- Continue his treatment as promised
- Be afforded due process
- Continue in his elected capacity to work for neighborhoods

He has admitted that his approach and actions were not proper and were disrespectful, and has apologized for his actions of the past. Mayor Filner's fifty-year history of fighting for civil rights, standing for justice, freedom and equal treatment for Blacks, woman and all people epitomizes the mission of the NAACP. He marched with the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Bob Filner has championed the democratic process that is the root of our civilization and the foundation of the NAACP.

We are not condoning sexual harassment. We do recognize that Bob Filner's fight is our fight for the greater good of humanity.

The mission of the National

Association for the Advancement of Colored People is to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights of all persons.

We strongly ask for the NAACP to step up to the plate in support of Mayor Bob Filner.

*Respectfully,
All People For Justice,*

• Bishop George D. McKinney

• Abdur-Rahim Hameed
President - National Black Contractors Association

• Eleanora I. Robbins, PhD
Dept. Geological Sciences
San Diego State University

• Abel Rodriguez
Juaneno Band of Mission Indians
Acjacimen

• Scott Andrews
President, Save Everyone's Access
SEA

• Enrique Morones
Founder Boarder Angels

• Rose Davis
Founder-Publisher *Indian Voices*



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Myrtle Cole

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awareness and savvy on par with the most skilled and polished political operative. Her volunteerism and natural affinity for the people and projects has provided her with valuable grassroots political capital. She rattles off a litany of politicians that she has either worked for or assisted in some significant way. The fact that she is completely at home in her council office is because she has been there before.

Myrtle Mae Cole inherited a strong work ethic and concern for humanity from her parents who were from Kentucky. San Diego became the temporary home for her father when he joined the Navy.

After military duty her father began plans to start a family. He explored the southwest in search of the best community to start the next chapter in his life. He decided against San Diego and settled instead in Tucson, AZ.

Myrtle Cole started life with her brother and sister in this small town in Arizona with wholesome family values, during a gentle period in our country's history. She is a reflection of that time and their values. Tucson's rich and diverse demographics made for amiable relations between ethnicities. "We were a mixed community and although we were minorities not much interest or thought was given to our differences. There was a lot of community and civic activities that I involved myself in."

Over achieving is natural and second nature to Myrtle Cole. She attended Tucson High School where she excelled academically and athletically. Being the first comes easily to her. She became a head cheerleader and was the first woman of color to become Homecoming Queen.

Eager to continue her education she attended University of Arizona Nogales where she majored in Interior Design. Since then she's earned her masters in Public Administration.

She was briefly married to her high school sweetheart, and they moved to California. She states matter of factly. "It was a relationship that was not meant to

be and it only lasted for a year." She found herself back in Arizona.

It was during the time of Affirmative Action.

The Tucson Police Department was recruiting women and minorities. Her friend decided to join up and was soon talking Myrtle into also joining. "I was dead set against the idea and totally not interested." Her friend truly enjoyed the job, explaining that the people were wonderful to work with and that it was a great experience. She finally won Myrtle over, launching her into a career as a police officer.

She looks back at her police experience fondly. "I truly enjoyed the job. It was the Tucson summer heat that forced me to turn in my badge." It was 104 degrees and the traffic lights at an intersection had gone out. My duty was to stand in the middle of the intersection and direct traffic in full uniform which included a heavy military style cap. After nearly passing out from the heat I decided that this was not for me.

The Tucson Police Department lost an officer and San Diego gained a dynamic, independent, forward looking woman who would become the first woman of color to sit on the city council. She is her own person who greets you with a hug.

The responsibility that the Councilwoman and her desire and intention to provide for the Fourth District is evident when she speaks of the needs of the community. She is adamant when she lists the services that District Four lacks and her desire and intention provide them. High on here list are grocery stores and restaurants. She is aware of the uphill struggle we face to overcome the obstacles that are at the root causes for this deficiency. The negative image that the District has in the minds of many people is a problem that she says must be addressed.

Myrtle Cole cannot hide the fact that she is a spiritual person. Her calm demeanor exudes an inner peace. Her affiliation and connection with the army of Ministers that populate the Fourth District is testimony to the strength of the Fourth District.

Myrtle Mae Cole and her followers are good medicine for all of San Diego.

Kwahup

Continued from page 2

cultural heritage spanning thousands of years.

KwaHup-or come in-to Kumeyaay country with a trip to the Barona Museum (619/443-7003, ext. 219). Located on the Barona reservation near Lakeside, the museum houses a large collection of Kumeyaay artifacts, some dating as far back as 8,000 B.C. "These elegant artifacts show the artistry and skill of Barona's ancient Native American ancestors," notes tribal member Beaver Curo. Interactive displays, listening alcoves and dioramas provide a window into traditional Kumeyaay life, song and custom.

The Barona Powwow is held here every Labor Day Weekend. Like other tribal gatherings in the area, the Barona Powwow spotlights southern California tribal dance and song alongside the pan-Indian powwow tradition. Bird singers perform their timeless songs to the rhythm of the men's gourds, while women and men alike gracefully glide like eagles and hawks soaring through the air. Don't miss the peone games; this ancient gambling game is played with white and black bones, blankets and steely nerves, and it frequently lasts the night.

Mission Trails Regional Park, eight miles northeast of downtown San Diego, features 5,800 acres of Native culture. Start at the Visitor and Interpretive Center, then follow the trails that lead to ancient village sites. Cowles Mountain, within the park, is the site of a restored Kumeyaay observatory, where painstakingly arranged stones point the viewer's eye toward the city's highest peak. Peer along the stones at sunrise during the winter solstice to see the light of the rising sun balanced on the peak.

The county's newest attraction is the Kumeyaay-Ipai Interpretive Center. Located in Poway at the former Silver Lake Archaeological Site, the center lovingly preserves its corner of the Pauwai Valley as the Kumeyaay people knew it

before the Europeans came. Trails wind around grinding rock stations, ramadas and a traditional Kumeyaay willow-branch house on the five-acre property. Dedicated in June 2002, the center plans to build its museum soon.

In the north lies the sleepy community of Pala. Today the Cupeños (Cupa), or Kuupangaxwichem, "people who slept here," live here with their Luiseño neighbors as the Pala Band of Mission Indians.

Despite being one of the tiniest tribes in California, the Cupeños keep their language and culture alive. The Cupa Cultural Center (760/742-1590, www.palaindians.com) houses many Cupeño artifacts, and is the home of Cupa Days. The gathering, held the first weekend in May, commemorates the tribe's forced journey from their lush, spring-fed homeland to Pala Mission.

If you're in area in the second week of September, come to the county's biggest Native event, the Sycuan Powwow (619/445-7776, www.sycuan.com), held on the Sycuan Reservation, east of the city off I-8. With a huge prize purse, and hundreds of dancers and drum groups from across the continent, Sycuan has become synonymous with the genre. Arlene Galvan, who headlines the organizing committee, says that last year's powwow was the best ever, with "wonderful bird dancing" and the ever-present peone games.

In San Diego's Old Town, visit Shumup Ko Hup (619/297-1930). This Native-owned cooperative store, whose name means "dream come true," features a variety of baskets, jewelry and other items handcrafted by Kumeyaay artisans. Come experience the rich heritage of San Diego's Indian Country!

Details: Many of San Diego's tribes host gatherings and other events open to the public; however, it's best to call ahead before attending any tribal gathering. Visit www.kumeyaay.com for contact information on the Kumeyaay communities and their events.

Inter Tribal Sports

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August 17, 2013
10:00 am – 3:00pm

Santa Ysabel Gathering Grounds
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92070

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www.intertribalsports.org
10:00 am – 10:30 am -
Blessing/Welcome/Signup
10:30 am- 12:00 noon - Morning
Session
Track A: Tule Boat Making/ Language
(limited space)

Track B: Archery Workshop
(limited space)
Track C: Traditional Arts & Crafts
12:00pm- 1:00pm - Lunch Deep Pit
Bar BQ
1:00pm-1:00 pm - Continued Morning
Session
Track A - Tule Boat Riding
Track B - Archery Tournament
Track C - Traditional Arts & Crafts
2:3pm- 3:00pm - Closing

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Marching Against Monsanto and the Corporate Oligarchy

by James Bartoli

The recent flood of bad press about Monsanto's toxic seeds, its squelching of independent science, and its blatant corruption of politics, has been dizzying. May 25th, over two million people around the world joined a local 'March Against Monsanto' (MAM) to express their outrage at corporate subversion of 'good government' and Monsanto's lead position atop a de facto 'foodopoly'. They shrugged off corporate media anesthetics and demanded they no longer be made guinea pigs without consent by government-supported refusal to label foods containing GMOs (genetically modified organisms).

Inside the USA, large numbers are alarmed by the corporate-government revolving door -- especially concerning Monsanto. Outside the USA, particularly in the Global South, opposition is rooted in smallholder struggles for food sovereignty and against US government "science diplomacy." A recent Food & Water Watch report used official cables from Wikileaks to demonstrate the 'bipartisan' continuity of using Washington's geopolitical muscle to advance agrichemical companies' interests abroad. Mainstream media inattention to such corruption

reflects the extent of corporate fusion with state power and the implosion of 'democracy'.

Closer ties between the chemical industry and US militarism developed rapidly after WWI on the initiative of the US Chemical Warfare Service, then interested in allaying public opposition to chemical warfare by developing a peacetime agrichemical industry. Monsanto and other chemical companies were firmly within the 'military-industrial' complex by the end of WWII, having reapplied chemical warfare from human to agricultural 'pests' on a global scale. Militarism's merger with the food system deepened an obscene degree in the 21st century. Monsanto's ability to direct government policy and willingness to hire mercenaries to spy on dissenters is mirrored by government subservience to a criminal banking elite and corporate media support of the federally coordinated suppression of dissent.

Foodopolists claim extending industrialized agriculture is necessary to feed the world's projected population growth. However, increased production is not the problem. They conveniently ignore that current global yields already meet this projected demand, while inequality ensures its mal-distribution. Also

ignored is industrialized agriculture's unsustainable dependence on mining non-renewable resources from already stressed and finite ecosystems. Agroecological methods and food sovereignty offer the only sustainable alternative vision, something notably recognized by the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food.

From the Declaration of Nyéléni, issued by over 500 representatives from over 80 countries: "Food sovereignty is different from food security in both approach and politics. Food security does not distinguish where food comes from, or the conditions under which it is produced and distributed. National food security targets are often met by sourcing food produced under environmentally destructive and exploitative conditions, and supported by subsidies and policies that destroy local food producers but benefit agribusiness corporations. Food sovereignty emphasizes ecologically appropriate production, distribution and consumption, social-economic justice and local food systems as ways to tackle hunger and poverty and guarantee sustainable food security for all peoples. It advocates trade and investment that serve the collective aspirations of society. It promotes community control of pro-

ductive resources; agrarian reform and tenure security for small-scale producers; agroecology; biodiversity; local knowledge; the rights of peasants, women, indigenous peoples and workers; social protection and climate justice."

Although MAM has not raised food sovereignty, we may all benefit coming together in the streets, expanding the discussions, and engaging with the larger global movement. In a growing discussion, centering less privileged voices, we may consider long-term solutions giving global equity and sustainability equal importance alongside health and safety. A locally rooted yet internationally connected sustainable food system is already nascent around the world -- one that, federated together across artificial borders, may replace industrial agriculture. For this better world to grow, however, we must support existing groups doing good work and create our own groups to liberate more spaces -- scaling-out sustainable food systems horizontally rather than scaling-up, vertically. Then, we may feed the world, improve health AND build democracy.

Adapted from a longer article published in The Growing Discussion About Food http://www.inmotionmagazine.com/gdaf_vol1/gdaf_vol1_3.pdf



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NARF Files Complaint in Federal District Court to Protect the Civil Rights of Veronica Brown

Supporters issue Statement of Support to stop violation of Veronica's civil rights by South Carolina courts

Yesterday, the Native American Rights Fund filed a complaint in the United States District Court in South Carolina to protect the civil rights of Veronica Brown, a citizen of the Cherokee Nation who has been denied due process in the South Carolina courts. The filing comes after the South Carolina Supreme Court issued two controversial orders to the state's family court on July 17 and 24, calling for the removal of Veronica from her father and a transfer of her to the adoptive couple without a hearing of best interest.

The lawsuit was supported in a national statement released July 31 by a

broad coalition of civil rights, child welfare, adoption advocates, legal authorities, tribal governments, and Native American advocacy groups. These groups and individuals joined with the National Congress of American Indians, Native American Rights Fund, and National Indian Child Welfare Association in releasing the national statement of support for Veronica's civil rights, and the rights of all children, to a hearing of best interest.

The litigation was filed on behalf of Veronica, by Angel Smith, an attorney appointed as counsel for the child by the courts of the Cherokee Nation, in U.S. District Court in South Carolina, and asks the Court to determine whether Veronica has a constitutionally protected right to a meaningful hearing in the state courts to determine what is in her best

interests. Furthermore, the litigation asserts that Veronica, as an "Indian child" under the Indian Child Welfare Act, has a federally protected right to have the state courts fully consider and appropriately weigh her best interests as an Indian child. Daniel E. Martin, Jr., the judge for the family court system of South Carolina, is named as the defendant in the suit.

According to the filing, Veronica "doubtless has a liberty interest in remaining with her father and such an interest justifies at a minimum a plenary hearing on her current status, her relationships with others and her genuine need for stability . . . Despite the finding of the family court and the implicit assumption by the Supreme Court of South Carolina that [Veronica's] best interest would be served by being with her father, two years later the court now determines, despite the passage of time and [Veronica's] stage of development at age four, that her 'best' interests will now be served by being removed from him and given back to the adoptive couple. Again, this order is without any consideration to the present circumstances, psychological and emotional well-being, and future impact on [Veronica]. This is an arbitrary result, depriving [Veronica] of any opportunity to be heard on her own behalf, irrespective of the competing interests of the adult litigants in her young life."



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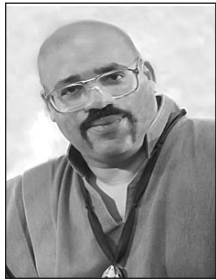


Merrill Lynch

Black Path Commentary: Critical Analysis on Culture, Community, & Struggle

A Year in Review: Reflections & Reinforcement of the Good Word

by Min. Tukufu Kalonji



Habari Gani (Swahili for what's the news?), to all of our family, friends and supporters of **Indian Voices** news. We want to take this month to recognize and give our respect of the varied ways in

which you have in our first year of Black Path Commentaries been a support to the efforts of **Indian Voices**. We extend our deepest gratitude for the multifaceted way in which you have been part of the **Indian Voices** family. Whether as a subscriber, advertiser, reader, resource for a story et al, it has been a warm and wonderful relationship. We have in a humble and consistent way strived and struggled to give you a culturally centered contextual view of critical issues from an Afrocentric perspective. We sought to achieve this via this column, as well as the multicultural viewpoints of other writers, their stories, events that we cover, highlighted organizations who are moving in struggle to do as our missions statement asserts and that is,

To advance and promote a supportive system of information sharing grounded in Native Indigenous values and traditions while developing pioneering efforts to build bridges with emerging grassroots coalitions of labor and community groups in order to create a sustainable economic environment.

Indian Voices news is the inspiration and innovation of our sister, Ms. Rose Davis. For twenty-eight years, imbued with the spirit of her ancestors, Indian and African alike, she is one who lives her life to the fullest in the interest of strengthening family, community, and culture. Having a love of community that radiates like the sun over the Nile River at midday, she is hereby commended for all of her efforts, which for the majority of the life of **Indian Voices** news; she has managed primarily single handedly with the help of only a few friends, and family members.

Over the last twelve months, we provided a Black perspective on critical issues ranging from examining the emotional well being of our community, the death penalty and other political concerns impacting our communities, environmental concerns the legacy of heroes

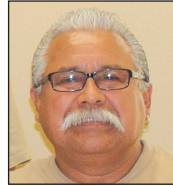
and heroines both throughout our history and those living amongst us, Ameirkkka's hypocrisy in its self congratulatory holidays that are only celebrations for the established order and their Klan, as well as providing positrons as to why we should celebrate ourselves within our own culturally centered celebrations, and finally, a look at the unholy alliance of corporations that fuel the nation's most severe health crisis while their only goal is to make a profit.

Given the above reasons, and Ms. Davis's role in bringing a multicultural media project without the conservative or leftwing slant typical of the mainstream papers in our community, it is essential that we the community whom she serves continues our support of **Indian Voices**. Thus on behalf of **Indian Voices**, I am requesting all who find in value this newspaper to please make a donation of whatever you can on a monthly basis to Rose Davis to assist in offsetting the cost of the printing and production of the paper. It can be a \$1, \$5, \$20 or whatever you can realistically find in your heart and mind that you can afford to help Ms. Davis sustain and continue **Indian Voices** News. For donations, please Mail check or money order to:

Indian Voices
c/o Rose Davis
111 South 35th Street
San Diego, CA 92113

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

American Indian Traditional Vendors Circle



by Adam Rodriguez

Welcome to the Vendors Circle. I am happy to announce and introduce this new unique column to **Indian Voices**.

Vending on the Pow Wow trail is an exciting and culturally enriching experience. This column is designed to keep us all connected in order to share information network and assist each other.

We will have a Calendar of events so that we can stay on top of activities that are coming up. Additionally we will share information regarding our

American Indian Veterans Association and other organizations involving our members.

I will personally reach out to each of you for information and input.

As we grow and evolve I encourage each of you to join in with your ideas and suggestions. We can share opinions:

- Where the best deals are for purchasing vehicles
- Recommended suppliers
- Recommended hotel and motels
- Vendor of the Year

- Supplier of the Year
- Best Pop Ups, Chairs etc
- Classified Ads
- Pow Wow's and Cultural

Gatherings

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It's All Power to the Imagination.
This will be your resource and watering hole.

AIVA Upcoming Events /News
Bingo 8/10/2013 Pala Reservation
1PM start time. Administration Building AIVA Bingo will be on a monthly basis. Look forward to upcoming dates.

AIVA meeting 9/6/2013 10AM at Rincon IHC

IHC/VA Mobile Registration for "Direct Health Services"

AIVA Honor Guard Provided "Burial Honors" for Veteran Leroy Miranda Sr./USMC on 8/9/2013 in Hemet

AIVA is looking for additional volunteers for Color Guard, Honor Guard.

Contact: Virgil Osuna 760-765-2822



Witch Hunt

Continued from page 2

because that's what a caricature is and that's what a cartoonist does."

Dijkstra said she's known Filner for 30 years, since both taught at San Diego State University. She's held three fundraisers for him over the years, most recently in the mayoral race. She called him "a person who, until very recently, was viewed by many of us as an outstanding citizen."

When Irene McCormack Jackson, Filner's former communications director, came forward with allegations of sexual harassment, Dijkstra said she found her

credible. She joined the chorus of those urging Filner to step aside.

"Clearly, charges against Bob Filner have been presented which, if true, paint a very un-pretty picture of the man's seemingly unfortunate conception of gender relations," Dijkstra wrote in the Tuesday email to friends. "No question."

But some of the subsequent accusations by other women, she said, are "truly dubious. He touched me on the cheek? He asked me out? This is dissolving into a farce."

Dijkstra said she now believes "instead of calling for his removal, we should urge him to apologize to any woman whose privacy and professional life he

has compromised, and to get on with the task of shaping San Diego into a socially progressive city."

She said the if mayor, currently getting behavioral treatment at an undisclosed clinic, "comes back and he hasn't learned his lesson, then he should step down."

A native New Yorker, Dijkstra is known as a relentless, sometimes abrasive negotiator on behalf of the authors she represents. Her roster includes Amy Tan, Lisa See and Pulitzer Prize winning historian Eric Foner.

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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).

Weeks before my trip to Tulsa I met a new friend Jaisey Bates. Jaisey is a very talented Native American playwright. She shared with me the music of Mr. Bill Neal Elk Whistle. Listening to the music of Bill Neal Elk Whistle, I felt the spirit of the ancestors; I knew meeting Jaisey was no coincidence, but an affirmation that my journey to my ancestral roots was just beginning.

Journey to a Place Called Home ... Muscogee Nation

by Toni Scott

Our plane landed smoothly and safely, my Uncle and I exited the plane excitedly looking forward to our journey. Stepping out of the airport, the smell of Oklahoma enveloped me. Though it had been many years since I visited, the scent was familiar and refreshing.

Rarely does one receive an invitation like the one extended to my Uncle and myself, to explore our ancestry, and to be fortunate enough to find documentation supporting it.

Eli Grayson, our host, our Creek brother, was there to greet us at the airport. Eli is the inspiration at the heart of our journey. He invited us, opened his home and heart and was there to help us navigate our way to through our

Native American studies and immersion into our long lost culture.

Eli's home was welcoming and to an artist like myself, starved for native history. His home offered a hearth of Creek treasures to explore, from magnificently carved flutes to masterfully created bows and arrows, images of Muscogee Meko's, to books of Native American history.

People who were raised knowing who they are and where they come from are among the fortunate. It's hard to explain what it's like to be without the comfort and natural confidence that comes with that knowledge. Raised without it, the search for identity and security becomes a central issue.

America is a unique place, a melting pot, and a place of opportunity and contradiction. A place where great ideas and freedom collide with a history of enslavement and genocide. America is "Mi Familia", good, bad and ugly, home and hearth, hunger and pain, but also hope. Hope is what my Uncle and I journeyed to Tulsa for, hope to find our history, our family, and ourselves.

The Muscogee Creek Festival did not disappoint, it fulfilled that hope and hunger in tall order. We met artists, watched parades, participated in stomp dances, viewed ancient artifacts, read books, met scholars and Meko's (Chiefs). We heard the language of our people, listened to master musicians play ancient songs that resonated deeply in our soul, learned of our history and traditions, and witnessed our people, a strong people, care for each other, welcoming home the lost and unhesitatingly inviting us into their hearts.

The journey to a place called home became a journey of healing, of inclusion, of identity, of empowerment. The knowledge of our Creek culture became manna.

This journey to the Creek Nation compliments my ongoing art series entitled "Bloodlines" and deepened its roots. Originally, "Bloodlines" was born from a quest to know myself, a search for identity; it evolved into a search to know my family, my culture, my race and my country.

The subject extended and became more than a line of descent, it became a story of kinship, shared experiences, shared history and a quest to serve humanity. Social and civic responsibility

propelled it further into exploring how it could be used as a tool to heal, to educate and to build bridges of understanding and compassion.

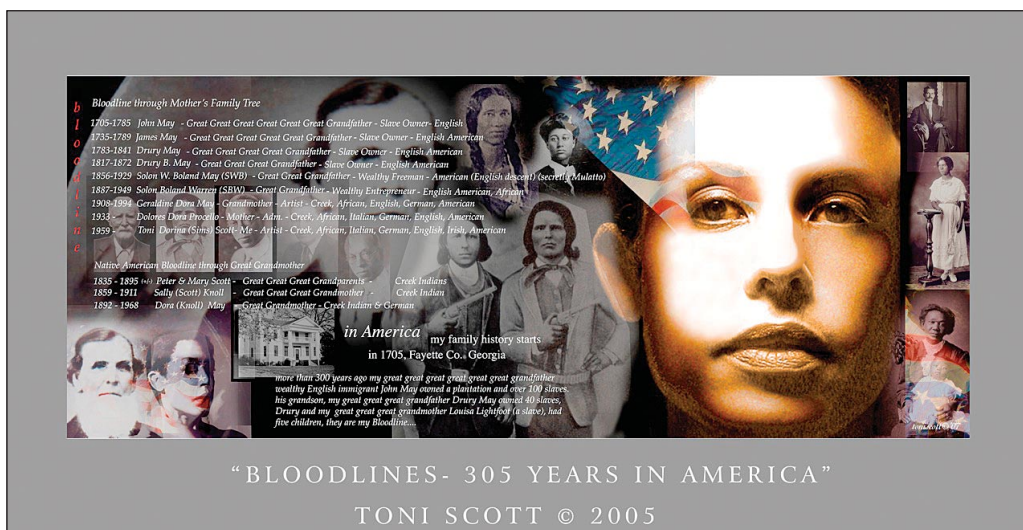
My three-year solo exhibit at the California African American museum, the inaugural exhibit in the Gallery of Discovery, featured the full "Bloodlines" installation. It first debuted at the Pounder Kone Gallery in Los Angeles, an installation made possible through the support and artistic vision of CCH Pounder. CCH planted the seed, "turn it into an installation" take all the media in which you work and tell a story. And so, "Bloodlines" was born and grew into a show that addressed the brutality and dehumanization of slavery, the genocide of the Native American people, and the complex personal and social history of this nation.

Identity is still at the heart, complimented now with personal stories of family, and heroic stories of survival. Frayed remnants, incomplete but meaty enough to draw strength from and build connections. Stories shared by my Father of his Mother Callie, a woman who gave unconditionally, who loved her family deeply and was self sacrificing. And my Father's Grandmother Fine, later renamed Fannie, an indentured slave who reclaimed her life and later saved my Father and his brothers from being sent to an orphanage.



African Americans who advanced under the severest of conditions, to Native American ancestral history, genocide and the thriving history of my tribe, the Creeks, and my township Tuskegee. I am proud to share that I am Muscogee Creek Nation Citizen. Thanks to the sacrifices made by my Uncle Richard Procello over long years of research, we now have 438 years of documented history, predating the founding of America.

In summary, "Journey to A Place Called Home" my experience at the Muscogee Creek Nation and festival, imparted exactly that, a place of belonging, a place where love and security embraced me, a place of identify resolution and a place that has extended my roots with the firm knowledge of more than 10,000 years of history.



Stories on my maternal family continued to make connections, stories that included European pioneers, colonialists, and slave owners; also African slaves,



A Tale of Two Seminole Counties

by Phil Fixico

Some coincidences can't be ignored, like February the 26th, in both Florida's and Oklahoma's Seminole Counties. What does this date and these counties have in common. Trayvon Martin was killed on February 26th, 2012, in Seminole County, Florida. He was born on Feb. 5th, 1995, not in Seminole County, but that, is where his young life would tragically be ended.

My grandfather Pompey Bruner Fixico, on Feb. 14th, 1894, a hundred and one years before Trayvon's birth, was born in Seminole County, Oklahoma. Eighty-seven years before Trayvon Martin's death at the hands of an armed killer, who felt entitled to take Trayvon's life, a similar scenario would end Pompey Bruner Fixico's life on Feb. 26th, 1925, by someone else, who also didn't hesitate. Pompey was a good deal older than Trayvon, he was 31 yrs. old and a WW I Vet who had served his country in France during the War. He left a wife and four children, all younger than Trayvon's 17 years, who by many, would be considered a child in a young man's body. Pompey's death took place, not far from the site of the "worst racial violence in American History", "The Tulsa Race Riot". The Riot had occurred 4 years earlier in 1921. Pompey Bruner's (his father was Caesar Bruner) Draft Registration Card lists, his place of employment, in 1917, as the Brady Hotel, in Tulsa, Ok. It was owned by Mr.



Tate Brady, the Grand Wizard of Oklahoma's Ku Klux Klan, in that area. Grand Wizard Brady was reported to have had a hand in the, "Tulsa Race Riot".

Florida's history contains, the infamous, "Fort Negro Massacre" of 1817, it was brought on by Gen. Andrew Jackson's, Slave hunting excursion into Spanish owned Florida. He sent U.S. Army and Navy forces including Creek allies to destroy "Fort Negro", which was a free -Black settlement. When Jackson's forces attacked, it was occupied by approximately 320 inhabitants, mostly Seminole Maroon women and children including about 30 Choctaw Indians. A U.S. ship positioned in the Appalachicola River, heated a cannon ball and fired it over the fort's, 15 ft. high and 18 ft. thick walls and it landed in the defender's ammunition dump, causing an explosion, heard many miles away and that killed about 270 victims. Some of these people could have been Pompey's Blood relatives. I don't know Trayvon's genealogy, however, I'm sure that his ancestors have similar historical incidents to report.

While many readers are somewhat familiar with Trayvon Martin's Tragedy, I have supplied some important background, concerning my grandfather Pompey Bruner Fixico's death and the fact that Olin Webb as the perpetrator, in his case went free just as

George Zimmerman did in the Martin trial.

"Sunday afternoon the town of

Nathan Chasing Horse Meets Phil Fixico

Phil "Pompey Bruner" Fixico was honored to be chosen as the Black Indian/Seminole Maroon Descendant, who would be recorded along with, Nathan Chasing Horse on the "Congo Square Foundation Project".

In addition to Nathan Chasing Horse being an internationally known Actor and Activist, he is also recognized as "Chief Crazy Horse's" most well known



Nathan Chasing Horse

direct descendant. The album recorded in 2009 has become a "Classic", especially among those who appreciate the fact that Jazz began in New Orleans.

The "Congo Square Foundation Project", Produced by Fabian Jolivet was created to help the Musicians of New Orleans after the "Katrina Disaster. Phil Wilkes Fixico was a Percussionist/Harmonica/Washboard Player with the New Orleans "Legend", John Boudreaux and his "New Orleans All-Star Band" on the West Coast.



Seminole was disturbed by a shooting when Olin Webb, shot and killed Pompey Fixico, a Seminole by birth and roll". The rest of the, Seminole County News article, reveals the disposition of the case. Even though there were 4 eye-witnesses, who testified, the charges were dropped for lack of evidence. The Smithsonian Institution Researcher, (Dr. Kevin Mulroy) who discovered the article, conjectured that the defendant possibly went free because the witnesses, were Black or Indian and their testimony was not considered evidenced. A little over a year later, this was written, "A July 16th, 1926 discovery well near Seminole, Oklahoma, revealed the massive potential, of the oil producing formation the Wilcox-sand, and launched a drilling boom that will make Oklahoma one of today's leading producing states. The Fixico No. 1 well, penetrated the Wilcox

sand at 4,073 feet"(courtesy of the "A history of the greater Seminole Oil field"). As former Wewoka Detective Kevin Brinker, has said, that, Fixico Heirs of this family became "Vanished from the land". The oral history that I received was that Pompey Bruner Fixico's wife and four children fled Seminole County, Ok. They were warned by Pompey's best friend that "the whole family was to be exterminated". This is "hearsay", but the truth is that they became, "Seminole County Refugees" and fled to Witchita, Kansas. "Loyal Indians", Seminoles both Black and By-Blood had fled to Kansas during the Civil War.

Peace, Love and Truth,

Phil "Pompey Bruner" Fixico, Seminole Maroon Descendant, and California Semiroon Mico (Nation of One)

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"Let he who is without sin cast the first stone."**

Romans 14:10

You, then, why do you judge your brother or sister? Or why do you treat them with contempt? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat.

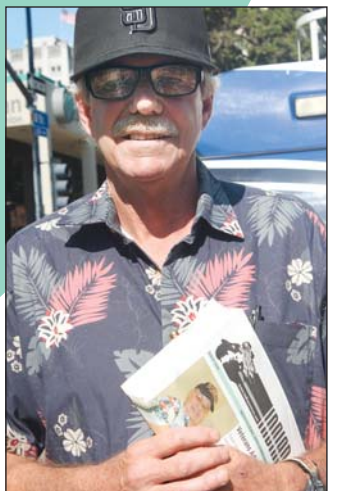
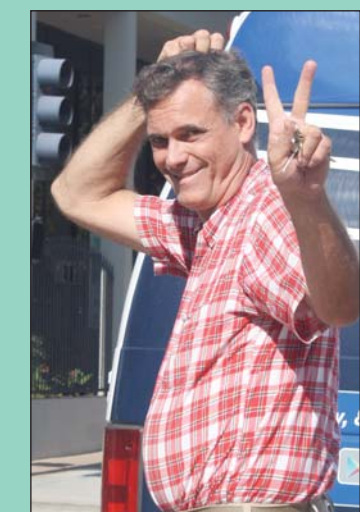


"For in the way you judge, you will be judged; and by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you ..."

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We must judge ourselves, and judge of our own acts, but not make our word a law to everybody. We must not judge rashly, nor pass judgment upon our brother. We must not make the worst of people. Here is a just reproof to those who quarrel with their brethren for small faults, while they allow themselves in greater ones. Some sins are as motes, while others are as beams; some as a gnat, others as a camel. Not that there is any sin little; if it be a mote, or splinter, it is in the eye; if a gnat, it is in

the throat; both are painful and dangerous, and we cannot be easy or well till they are got out. That which charity teaches us to call but a splinter in our brother's eye, true repentance and godly sorrow will teach us to call a beam in our own. It is as strange that a man can be in a sinful, miserable condition, and not be aware of it, as that a man should have a beam in his eye, and not consider it; but the god of this world blinds their minds. Here is a good rule for reprovers; first reform thyself.



You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge another, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things.



Do You Know Your New Health Care Rights?

Under Obamacare, children may now remain under their parents insurance through their 26th birthday. This new provision is changing lives for Californians like the Figueroa family.

Celisa Figueroa, 22, spends her days working full time at a coffee shop in San Diego to support herself and her two-year-old daughter. Still, she says without her mother's health insurance, she would not have been able to undergo a necessary dental procedure that would have set her back almost \$2000.

Celisa's mother, Christy, works as an administrative assistant at a local community college. "I have been blessed,"



she said, "because my family is protected by my health insurance." In addition to covering her two daughters, Figueroa's plan has also allowed other members of her family - six in total, including four daughters and her husband, to receive needed medical care.

In California alone, at least 435,000 young adults have benefited

from health care reform's new young adult insurance provision.

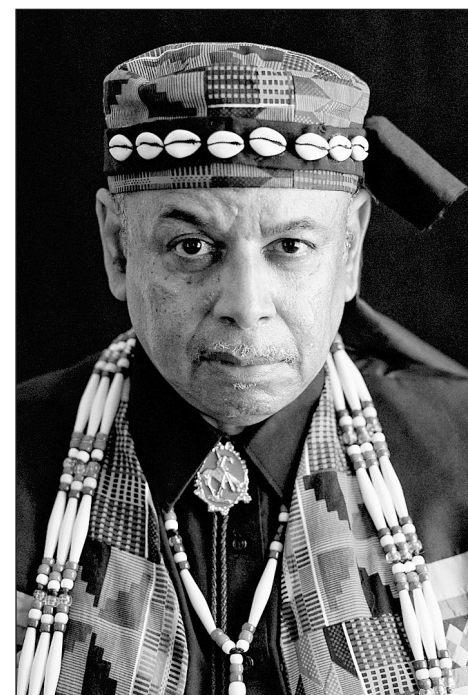
Is your child covered? To find out more visit: www.healthcare.gov



I DEDICATE, MY APPEARANCE IN THIS PHOTO, TO THE MEMORY OF BEAH RICHARDS - THE GREAT ACTRESS AND PHILOSOPHER. I WAS PROUD TO HAVE BEEN A MEMBER OF HER THEATER GROUP, "THE ACADEMY OF BEING".

BEAH WOULD TELL US, BEFORE WE WENT ON STAGE, IN A VERY COMMANDING VOICE: "REMEMBER ... YOU ARE PERFECT AS YOU ARE, LACKING NO ESSENTIAL ELEMENT ! NOW ... TAKE WINGS"

PHOTO by DANIEL MITCHELL: PHIL WILKES
FIXICO Storyteller/Musician/Seminole
Maroon Activist...



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Just Say No to the War on Drugs

Dear United States Citizens

The War on Drugs has been a costly failure – in terms of both lives and dollars wasted. Right now, nearly 4,000 people are locked up in California's overcrowded prisons because of drug possession for personal use.

Take action today: Urge your legislator to support a bill (SB 649) that rejects

these ineffective tactics in the War on Drugs.

The California Assembly will soon vote on SB 649, which would allow possession of small amounts of drugs for personal use to be charged as a misdemeanor rather than an automatic felony.

Passing SB 649 and revising the drug possession penalty would:

- Save up to \$160 million a year that could be used for rehabilitation, drug

treatment and solving serious crimes.

- Help alleviate over-crowding in our prisons and jails.

- Reduce the racial inequality in our criminal justice system. African-Americans and Latinos are arrested and sentenced disproportionately for low level drug offenses.

- Support reentry and safety. A felony is a barrier to the kinds of things – jobs, housing and education – that help people successfully re-enter the community and that keep communities safe.

Take action today to move California

away from failed tactics and toward a smarter approach to addressing crime and addiction.

Kevin Keenan, ACLU of San Diego & Imperial Counties

Abdi Soltani, ACLU of Northern California

Hector Villagra, ACLU of Southern California

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There was some discussion a while back on getting rid of mosquitos. While there's lots of products out there, here's one way to do it, have a stylish yard and keep the costs down too.

All you need is a package of Mason jars, some cotton string and some liquid citronella (find it in big jugs at any home-improvement store and even some grocery stores). Use a hammer

and nail to poke a hole in the top of the lid, then pour in the citronella, put the top on and drop in the wick. Allow the string about 10 minutes to soak up some oil, then place them around your backyard and light them!

Stealing Land Legally

For a long time an Indian was not presumed capable of initiating an action in a court of law, of owning property, or of giving testimony against whites in court. Nor could an Indian vote or leave his reservation. Indians were America's people without any defined rights whatsoever.

Then one day the white man discovered that the Indian tribes still owned some 135 million acres of land. To his

horror he learned that much of it was still very valuable. Some was good grazing land, some was farm land, some mining land, and some covered with timber.

Animals could be herded together on a piece of land, but they could not sell it. Therefore it took no time at all to discover that Indians were really people and should have the right to sell these lands. Land was the means of recognizing the Indian as a human being. It was the method whereby land could be stolen legally and not blatantly." Vine Deloria, Jr.

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From the inside AIM people are cleansing themselves, many have returned to the old traditional way of their tribe, away from the confused notions of a society that has made them Slaves of their oppressors.

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SELECT AGENT

Recognition of the First Special Service Force

by Roy Cook, SFA-75

H.R. 324 authorizes the Congressional Gold Medal to be awarded to the First Special Service Force in honor of their service during World War II. The medal will be given collectively to the First Special Strike Force, and a second medal will be struck and given to the Smithsonian Institution for public display and research. The bill also authorizes the Mint to strike bronze duplicates of the medal for sale. This would be a fine historical acquisition for any SFA unit.

This author wrote two reviews of original members of the FSSF: San Diego resident, Melchor Rillera, 101 years of age has been an inspiration for SFA-75 members. The First assignment for the Force was as a part of Amphibian Training Force 9 or "Corlett's Long Knives", in the Pacific Theater of Operations attacking the Japanese in the

Aleutian Islands. A separate invasion force fought a hard battle on the Island of Attu and by the time the 1st S.S.F. invaded the island of Kiska the Japanese had evacuated and the invasion became a training exercise. After the Aleutian Island campaign the Force was transferred to the Mediterranean Theatre of Operations to participate in the Italian Campaign.

Staff sergeant Melchor Rillera was promoted to Staff Sgt., his unit was classified and he didn't know where they were being sent until they were on board ship and told they were going to the Aleutians. He was assigned 12 men to find where the Japanese were attacking from so that the allies could land on the opposite side. He was awarded a Bronze Star for the Aleutian Island campaign. He was sent to Africa where he served with Gen. Patton and fought Rommel's 10th and 21st Panzer Divisions. In Feb. 1944 he arrived in Anzio.



It was in the Italian mountains that the FSSF reputation was won.

Also, Tommy Prince (D), Canadian Native American original member of the FSSF reflects the bi-Nation composition of the original Brigade. Tommy was promoted to Lance Corporal in February 1941. In September 1942 Prince returned to Canada and joined the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion, and was promoted to Sergeant. Shortly after joining this unit it merged with similar American units to form the elite First Special Service Force, later christened the Devil's Brigade by its enemies. Prince and the other men of this unit were chosen for their rugged outdoor backgrounds and received a rigorous training schedule, often under live fire. All members of this elite squad were trained to be paratroopers and received intense instruction in stealth tactics, hand-to-hand combat, the use of explo-



Tommy Prince (R) and his brother.

sives for demolition, amphibious warfare, rock climbing and mountain fighting, and as ski troops. Prince became a "Reconnaissance Sergeant", responsible for moving into forward positions and reporting on the movements of the enemy.

The First Special Service Force, with Tommy Prince also, was deployed in the only campaign of World War II fought on North American soil took place in the Aleutian Island chain that stretches for a thousand miles south and west from Alaska.

The First Special Service Force, also known as the "Devil's Brigade," was an elite American-Canadian joint-operations unit during WWII. It was also the first modern special operations force and was first activated in Montana in 1942. The First Special Service Force went on to serve with distinction in combat in Alaska, Italy and France, often succeeding where other units had failed, before being disbanded in December 1944.

The Congressional Gold Medal, along with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, is America's highest civilian honor. First awarded by Congress in 1776 to George Washington, the Congressional Gold Medal has been presented to notable figures that have left lasting marks on American culture and history, including military leaders, musicians, scientists, explorers, and many others.



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**"NATIVE FLUTE CIRCLE" 3:00 - 5:00PM**

Featuring: "Spiritual Storm" Native Flute & Drum  
Flute Circle is an open invite for all levels – Bring your flute.



Vendors Needed – Bring your own table, chairs and shade cover  
Authentic Native American Arts & Crafts (Beads, art, pottery, weaving, leather items etc...)  
**NO VENDOR FEES!** (no food vendors) Vendor donations for Raffle  
This will be a planned monthly event – visit "Spiritual Storm Flute & Drum" on Face Book for updates.  
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August 4 Protest in Richmond, California against Keystone XL pipeline ... Idle No More! — with Frankie Rivera.



An Apache guy, who had spent his whole life in the desert, goes to visit a friend who had moved to town. He'd never seen a train or the tracks they run on.

While standing in the middle of the railroad tracks one day, he hears this whistle -- Whooee da Whooee! -- but doesn't know what it is.

BAM!!, he's hit by the train and tossed to the side of the tracks. It was only a glancing blow, so he was lucky enough to live through it with a few broken bones and some bruises.

After weeks in the hospital recovering, he's at his friend's house attending a party one evening. While in the kitchen, he suddenly hears the teapot whistling. He grabs a baseball bat from the nearby closet and proceeds to batter and bash the teapot into an unrecognizable lump of metal. His friend, hearing the noise, rushes into the kitchen, sees what's happened and asks the Apache guy, "Why'd you bust up my teapot?" The desert man replies, "Shii' kiis", you gotta kill these things when they're small."

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*Clean Elections gets City Hall to pay attention to neighborhoods!  
Clean Elections makes elected officials accountable to voters, not donors  
Clean Elections means that the best candidates, not just the wealthiest candidates,  
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- Council candidates wishing to run "Clean", would have to collect 500 individual \$5 contributions for the Clean Money Fund, from registered voters.
- They would have to agree to accept no campaign money from donors.
- They would have to agree to spend no campaign money from their own pocket.
- They would receive public funding for their campaign - 7 1/2 cents per San Diego

resident or \$91,755 for the primary election. (2000 Census)

### Where would the money to fund Clean Elections come from?

The total cost of the Clean Elections program would be \$6 per year per San Diego City resident, capped at \$7.34 million per year and funded from the city budget.

*Voters in Maine, Arizona, Connecticut, and  
Albuquerque, New Mexico already have Clean Elections.*

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# NEVADA NEWS

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## Calvin Bundy Resists BLM Efforts to Remove His Cattle

by Keith Rogers, Las Vegas Review-Journal

Like a merry-go-round it can't get off, the Bureau of Land Management is back where it started 15 years ago, faced with forcibly rounding up Cliven Bundy's herd of more than 500 cattle from public land at Gold Butte.

U.S. District Judge Lloyd D. George recently ordered Bundy to remove his cattle from a large expanse of the Gold Butte range, 80 miles northeast of Las Vegas. The area includes land around Bunkerville covered by a 1998 court order after biologists determined that grazing there damages habitat for federally protected desert tortoises.

When Bundy didn't comply with the 1998 order, the BLM had authority to seize the herd but did not act until April 2012, when a roundup was planned and then abruptly suspended.

Bundy has said he would resist government efforts to remove his cattle from rangeland used by his family since 1877.

It's unclear what the BLM will do next. Officials at the BLM Southern Nevada District Office had no comment Thursday. A spokeswoman said District Manager Tim Smith was unavailable.

George set an Aug. 23 deadline for compliance, ruling that "the United States is entitled to seize and remove to impound any of Bundy's cattle for any

future trespasses."

Bundy said he won't budge but will appeal part of the ruling that deals with the Endangered Species Act.

"I'm going to bring my battle right back to where we were in 1998," Bundy, 67, said in a telephone interview Thursday.

"I'm not moving my cattle off," he said. "This is putting a lot of pressure on the county sheriff. Is he going to protect me or sit on the sidelines?"

U.S. attorneys representing the BLM and the National Park Service filed a complaint in federal court against Bundy in May 2012, about a month after the BLM aborted the roundup. The complaint sought an injunction to force Bundy to remove his cattle. George granted it July 9.

About a week before last year's planned roundup, Clark County Sheriff Doug Gillespie toured the Gold Butte range with Bundy. Afterward, Gillespie told the Review-Journal he had told Bundy that "these are federal lands" and BLM officials "can do what they want to do."

"I use my influence to make sure whatever is done is done by the law and No. 2, it is done peacefully," Gillespie said at the time.

After the roundup was suspended, an environmental group, the Center for

Biological Diversity, criticized the BLM and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for failing to protect tortoise habitat.

Reacting to George's statement, the group said "the court has provided the BLM with a clear and undisputed mandate to proceed ahead with what should have occurred over 12 years ago — to protect the rights of the American public by ending illegal grazing that has cost them hundreds of thousands of dollars while imperiling the protected desert tortoise," said Rob Mrowka, a Nevada-based ecologist for the Center for Biological Diversity. "The foot-dragging by the departments of Justice and the Interior has been nothing short of criminal in itself."

In his July ruling, George, the senior judge at U.S. District Court in Las Vegas, said Bundy's opposition based on the premise that the United States doesn't own the land is moot.

"The public lands in Nevada are the property of the United States because the United States has held title ... since 1848, when Mexico ceded the land the United States," George wrote.

The BLM canceled Bundy's permit for the Bunkerville allotment in 1994. But he continued to let his cattle graze on the vast, sage-dotted landscape — without paying the \$2-per-head, per-month fee.

## Archaeological Dig at Stewart Indian School

CARSON CITY, NV (AP) — A team of archaeologists, historic preservationists and students is combing the grounds of the historic Stewart Indian School in Carson City.

The excavation is a joint effort by the University of Nevada, Reno's Department of Anthropology, the Nevada Indian Commission and the Washoe Tribal Historic Preservation Office.

The 110-acre site has more than 50 buildings.

Sarah Cowie is an assistant professor of anthropology at UNR. She is directing the excavation, which will also serve as a summer field school to teach students about archaeology and historic preservation.

The Stewart Indian School was open for 90 years, from 1890-1980.

The excavation will be conducted Monday through Fridays, 9 a.m.-noon and 1-3 p.m., and is open to the public.

The team expects to conclude its work Aug. 13.

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NASA asked this elder Dine' guy to record a message to put on their newest S.E.T.I. satellite, along with messages from other cultures and languages. He records the message, the satellite is launched, and one day CNN broadcasts the messages being sent into outer space from the spacecraft. A huge belly laugh is heard coming from the entire northern portion of Arizona. When CNN asks why the people are laughing, a man from Chinle tells them, "The message says that if they are hearing this, to stay quiet and don't respond, because as soon as the white man knows where those aliens live, they'll come over for dinner, and end up NEVER going home!"

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# Silver State Hosts NCAI Conference

Last month the Silver State hosted the National Congress of American Indians Mid-Year meeting in Reno. I was pleased they selected Nevada to hold their meeting and enjoyed sending a personal greeting since I could not be there myself. The Nevada tribes – the Washoe, Shoshones and Paiutes - had a wonderful opportunity to share their culture and heritage with the 200 tribal nations that attended. NCAI is the oldest, largest and most representative American Indian and Alaska Native organization in the country. In line with the theme,

“Securing Our Future,” it is so important for tribal voices to come together and be heard in the halls of Congress as the United States continues to uphold its treaty and trust responsibilities toward Indian tribes. I was pleased that Secretary Sally Jewell was able to deliver her first address to Indian tribes in my home state and hit home about building tribal energy independence. I am so proud of the Moapa Band of Paiutes and K-Road developing the first commercial solar project on tribal lands. I also appreciate that the Office of

Indian Energy Policy and Programs within the Department of Energy took time to meet face to face with the Nevada tribes about their desires to develop renewable energy on their lands. In Nevada, we are fortunate to have ample wind and solar resources to create energy independence. Next month, I will be hosting the 6th Annual National Clean Energy Summit in Las Vegas, Nevada. Secretary Jewell and Secretary Ernest Moniz will join me there. I will continue to work on building tribal self-sufficiency as we break our dependence on oil and build a brighter future in Indian Country.

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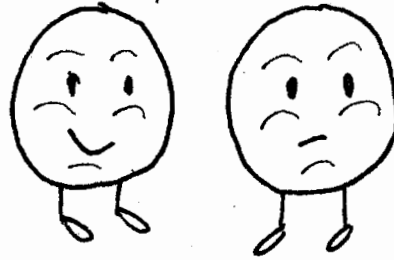
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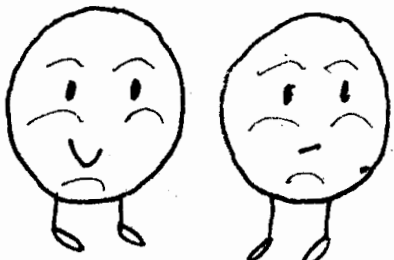
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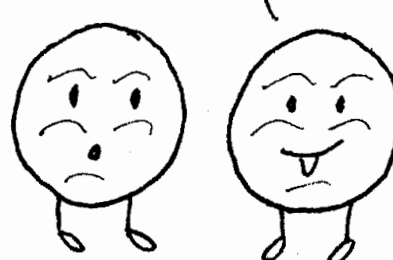


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