



INDIAN VOICES

OUR 35TH YEAR

MULTI-CULTURAL NEWS GLOBAL NETWORK

BLACK HISTORY MONTH - FEBRUARY 2021

America's Backbone Awakens

Dedicated to Preserving Our Legacy: A Brief History of SISCA and an Interview with Its President

by Windy Goodloe, SISCA secretary

"Why didn't I learn this in school?" is a phrase that we hear often when a person first learns about the Seminole Negro Indian Scouts. The story of these brave men often leaves people scratching their heads. They find it hard to believe that a story filled with so much action and adventure and conflict and triumph hasn't been made into one hundred movies, let alone one. As descendants, we've wondered why our history wasn't (and still isn't) taught in our local schools. It hasn't been for lack of trying. One of our most prominent members was a school teacher who dedicated her life to telling the story of her people to anyone who would listen, and if it wasn't for her, I probably wouldn't



Augusta "Gigi" Pines. SISCA president.

be writing this article right now.

The Seminole Indian Scouts Cemetery Association (SISCA) was founded in 1967 by Miss Charles Emily Wilson, who was a beloved educator. SISCA's mission is to preserve, promote, and maintain the

Seminole Indian Scouts Cemetery, which is located in Brackettville, Texas. The cemetery was founded in 1872, just two years after the formation of the Seminole Negro Indian Scouts.



Seminole Negro Indian Scouts. Photo was taken in the 1880s.

Once Seminole Negro Indian Scouts were mustered into service, they went on to serve as a detachment of the US Army from 1870 to 1914. During their forty-four years of service, these men served bravely and never lost a man in battle. As a matter of fact, four of the scouts were

Congressional Medal of Honor recipients. Their names were Pompey Factor, Adam Payne, Isaac Payne, and John Ward. All four of these men were buried in the Seminole Indian Scouts Cemetery, making it a historic landmark.

While the graves of the four Congressional Medal of Honor recipients draw many tourists, the cemetery is a very sacred place for the descendants of the Seminole Negro Indian Scouts. Many of our loved ones are buried there. It is their final

resting place, and it is the place that many of us plan to be buried one day.

Because we know that our ancestors were always seeking safety and freedom,

SEE *Legacy*, page 2

The San Diego Green New Deal Alliance Invites BIPOC Perspectives to Join the Movement for Climate Justice

Recognizing past, present, and future harm to Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) due to systemic racism and an extractive economy, the San Diego Green New Deal Alliance is building community power to fight for climate justice, and we invite you to be a part of it.

The Alliance is a large coalition of community members and organizations dedicated to ensuring the San Diego region achieves a zero carbon future in a way that prioritizes equity, and ensures a just transition for workers impacted by a green economy.

To achieve these bold but critically necessary goals, we have three strategies: Building a people-powered movement, ensuring decision-makers are climate champions, and fighting for policies that implement systemic change.

Central to our vision is creating a movement that inspires the participation from communities of color--which is why in 2019 the Alliance formed a Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) Working Group. The JEDI Working Group

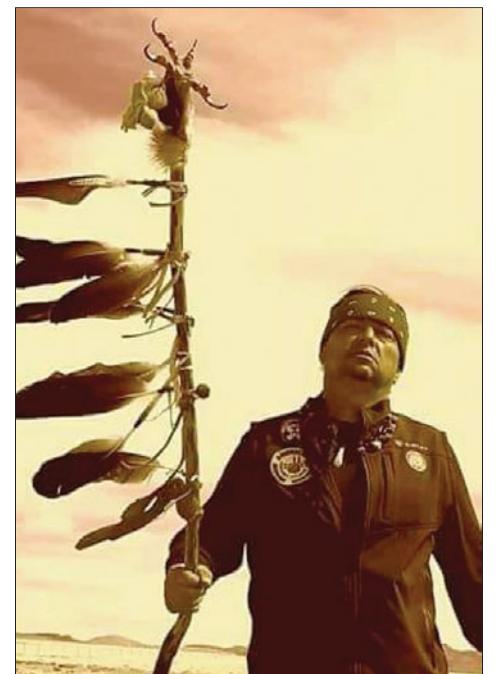
is seeking members of diverse communities--including indigenous communities--to work with and learn from, so they can ensure that their work is both inclusive of these communities and indeed prioritizes these communities so that they receive the resources, information, education, employment and business opportunities that are the outcomes of the Green New Deal, and that the policies the SDGND Alliance advocates for and the work they do put these "frontline" communities of concern at the front of the line to benefit from the green economy and other changes made for the purpose of saving this planet.

Community activist and member of the

Barona Band of Mission Indians, Bobby Wallace, has been a member of the San Diego Green New Deal Alliance since 2019, and invites you with this message, "Howka, friends, family, and mother earth warriors, the GND is the vanguard for climate action and will be the leader to reach the goal of 00.00 emissions by 2035. Please reach out to be part of the solution for mother earth."

Indian Voices will be following the San Diego Green New Deal Alliance closely and keeping you informed of the work they are doing.

Maleeka Marsden is the Chair of the San Diego Green New Deal Alliance



Bobby Wallace Barona Band Mission Indians

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Fulton County DA Opens Criminal Investigation into Trump Call

District Attorney Fani Willis sent a letter to multiple state officials to request documents relevant to an investigation be preserved.

The newly elected Fulton County District Attorney has moved to open an investigation into a phone call former president Donald Trump made to Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger in an alleged attempt to change the results of the 2020 Presidential Election.

D.A. Fani Willis has sent letters to multiple state officials, including Raffensperger, to preserve all documents that are relevant to “an investigation into attempts to influence the administration of the 2020 Georgia General Election.” Although the letter does not reference Trump by name, the Times received a copy and a state official confirmed the letter is related to his intervention.

The Grio reported Democrats pushed for the Federal Bureau of Investigation to follow-up on the phone call. According to the report, Democratic

Representatives Ted Lieu and Kathleen Rice issued a letter to FBI Director Christopher Wray to launch a criminal inquiry into the former president’s actions and demands.

“We ask you to open an immediate criminal investigation into the president,” they said in their letter. “The evidence of election fraud by Mr. Trump is now in broad daylight. Given the more than ample factual predicate, we are making a criminal referral to you to open an investigation into Mr. Trump.”

On the phone call, Trump asked Raffensperger to find the votes needed for him to be declared winner of the Southern state.

“There’s no way I lost Georgia. There’s no way. We won by hundreds of thousands of votes,” Trump said during the hour-long call. “The people of Georgia are angry. The people in the

country are angry. And there’s nothing wrong with saying, ‘you know, um, that you’ve recalculated.’”

Fani T. Willis, District Attorney



Fani Willis

Fani T. Willis is the District Attorney for Fulton County, Georgia, the state’s largest county and the home to over one million Georgians. It is home to most of the City of Atlanta, as well as many of the city’s suburban communities, including Sandy Springs, the City of South Fulton and several smaller communities north and south of Atlanta.

She is the first woman to serve in the position.

Fani took office on January 1, 2021, after ousting a longtime incumbent while campaigning on a commitment to both protect Fulton’s neighborhoods and reform Fulton’s criminal justice system by making it fairer, more transparent and focused on reducing crime by changing lives rather than just seeking retribution. She also promised the people of Fulton that she would restore integrity and

effectiveness to the office, and she has brought in a new team of highly experienced trial lawyers and civic leaders who are committed to making the Fulton County District Attorney’s office the best in the Southeast and one of the top local prosecutor’s offices in the United States.

Fani is a career trial lawyer with deep and broad prosecutorial experience. She has led over 100 jury trials and has prosecuted hundreds of murder cases. She has prosecuted many other serious crimes, including crimes against women and children. Fani is a proud Bison, graduating from Howard University in 1992. She came to Georgia to attend Emory University School of Law, graduating in 1996. She chose to make Fulton County her home, and she lives in the City of South Fulton, where she had the honor of serving as Chief Judge of the municipal court.

She is the proud mother of two daughters who are HBCU graduates and is herself the daughter of John Clifford Floyd III, a longtime civil rights activist and attorney in Washington, DC.

Legacy

Continued from page 1

we know that their lives weren’t always easy. Therefore, their struggles are never far from our minds. This is just one reason why telling the story of the Black Seminoles and keeping their legacy alive is so important to us. For instance, the year 2020 was a big milestone for history of the Seminole Negro Indian Scouts. It marked 150 years since the first men were mustered into service at Fort Duncan in Eagle Pass, Texas. Although our plans for a large celebration had to be cancelled because of the coronavirus, we took the festivities online and have enjoyed the opportunity to extend our observance.

Along with the cemetery, SISCA also maintains the Carver School Grounds, where two historic buildings are located. These two buildings were used as a school for Black Seminole students during segregation. Once segregation ended, the students began attending Brackett ISD. For the past forty years, the Carver School Grounds have been the location of our two big celebrations – Juneteenth (June 19/Emancipation Day) and Seminole Days (celebrated the third weekend in September).

In 2015, the Seminole Negro Indian Scouts Museum was founded. The founding of our museum was a special event for us. It was actually founded on April 25, which was the same day that Pompey Factor, Isaac Payne, and John Ward received the Congressional Medal of Honor in 1875. Even though it is very small and humble, it is the space where we get to tell our story in a new and interesting way.

It is imperative that we acknowledge that we wouldn’t have achieved most of our goals without intelligent and compassionate leadership.

Augusta Pines has been president of SISCA since 2013. Under her leadership, SISCA has flourished, both online and offline. Ms. Pines’ motivation has always been to “make Miss Charles proud.” With this in mind, Augusta Pines continues to lead SISCA into the future while highlighting the past.

Q: What has your relationship with SISCA been like?

A: I have been a member of SISCA for a very long time. I became active because I enjoyed being around Miss Charles. I have so many memories of helping her the night before or the day of Juneteenth or Seminole Days. There were some years when we didn’t think anyone would show up, but we always prepared for a crowd. So my relationship with SISCA started because of my relationship with Miss Charles. I always wanted to be around her and help her because I respected her as my teacher and as a person who always seemed to want the best for everyone.

Q: How has your leadership helped SISCA?

A: I see myself as a motivator. I like to see people come together, so during Juneteenth and Seminole Days, I am always happy to see how all of our hard work paid off. I like seeing people discover more and more about their history. I enjoy being a part of an organization that helps people learn more about themselves.

Q: What do you hope for the future of SISCA?

A: I hope that SISCA keeps going forward in a positive way. I hope SISCA inspires Black Seminoles ... and everybody, really ... to become interested in their history. I think we can only get better and stronger. My goal is to continue teaching about our legacy and building on that legacy. We have a lot of work to do, but I think we have a lot of people who

are willing to do the work with us, and that makes me happy because I know that we have a lot of support. I always think about Miss Charles, and I wonder if she would be happy with our progress. I’d like to think that she would be.

For more information about the Seminole Indian Scouts Cemetery Association, please visit our website www.seminolecemeteryassociation.com or email us at seminolecemeteryassoc@gmail.com. You can also follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.



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

Editor:	Rose Davis	Writer:	Makeda Dread
Social Media Administrator:	Yvonne-Cher Skye	Writer:	Jaclyn Bissonette
Outside Support:	Mel Vernon	Entertainment Writer/	
LV Entertainment Writer:	Z. Z. Zorn	Photographer LA/SD:	Rochelle Porter
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Writer:	Kathleen Blavatt	Proofreader:	Mary Lou Finley
Writer:	Alastair Mulholland	Graphic Artist:	Elaine Hall
Writer:	Marc Snelling	Staff Photographer:	Abel Jacome

Kena Adams
Nevada Coordinator/Regional
Advertising Contact
1118 Chapman Dr
Las Vegas, NV 89104
indianvoicesnevada@gmail.com
702-624-9502

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

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BLM vs White Supremacist Coup Attempts

by Darwin Fishman, Ph.D.

I watched with horror and amazement while a predominantly White group of Trump supporters lay siege to one of the most secure buildings in the world on Wednesday, January 6, 2021. I was struck by the images of the Capitol of the United States of America being breached and I had a few deeply personal connecting points to this event.

The first key connecting point for me was the fact that the Capitol was breached at all, and I knew that could not happen by accident. I lived in the Washington DC Metropolitan area from 2000 to 2013 and I participated in many protests and actions in and around the Capitol area. It was very common to not only see a highly secure perimeter set up around the West Capitol area during protests that I was engaged in. The message was very clear that if anyone breached any of these established perimeters lethal force would be used against them. The actions I was involved in would be considered part of the Civil Rights and Social Justice movement that included a diverse group of activists. I even remember when the Nazis openly marched on the Capitol and I joined a much larger counter demonstration to give this hate group a warm DC welcome when they came into Union Station. I also remember how the District of Columbia Metropolitan Police Chief, Charles Ramsey, was leading a phalanx of officers as a security buffer between the Nazis that were marching and the thousands of counter protestors that came out. It was clear that law enforcement knew what type of action would occur with Nazis coming into town and they handled a very volatile and dangerous situation extremely well. Of course, when the Nazis tried to March on the actual Capitol they were met with an even larger show of force by the Capitol police and they, and us counter protestors, never breached any perimeter that day.

Given this personal experience with the security at the Capitol it is also very easy for me to ask the question of why

would the United States Capitol Police, a department that sees demonstrations, protest, and challenges to its security on an almost daily basis, seem to be so badly prepared and under staffed for this White Supremacist planned siege of the Capitol? Was this attack not a threat to our national security and our perceived sacred People's House? Is it only when people of color, people from the margins, people seeking true legal redress come to the Capitol that we need a security force to match this 'threat' for equal justice and protection under our Constitutional laws? Do planned White Supremacist coup attempts led by former and current military and law enforcement receive a free pass into the Capitol?

To fully address these questions I would like to share another personal experience I had on the West Coast. While I have lived in SD I also played a role in helping to establish the first Black Lives Matter chapter. I was even able to host the first large scale BLM organizing meeting and social at the Club Room in the Point Loma area apartment complex I lived in. We had an attempted breach of our event and I do think these breaches have significant connecting points. The mere fact that we put up a BLM banner in a predominantly wealthy white neighborhood was enough to invite white attacks. Our banner was ripped down multiple times and our actual meeting was attacked. One attempt to get into our meeting was so ugly I personally had to yell at the white man to stop and as I was attempting to physically restrain him others came over to help me. This white man apparently felt entitled to not only enter our invitation-only meeting, but he seemed to be trying to tell us that "All Lives Matter." We were able to repel this attack and continue with our event.

I do believe that white privilege extends from taking the Capitol when they see fit to taking over any Black space. It is a means to their ends and there is no moral code or sacred space that they cannot invade or manipulate for their own purposes. Whereas, our Black and Brown bodies are tightly controlled and we always risk severe

consequences for our actions, there are no equivalent standards for white people. We continue to see how European colonization plays out for us and we risk the January 6th failed coup being another missed collective wake up call. For those of us that live with these

lethal contradictions on a daily basis and resist these oppressive irrational forces in our lives, we also do need more people to support us in our struggle and recognize that the white people that continue to lead these breaches are the last breaths of a dying empire.

What Should Black People Expect from the Biden Administration in the Next 4 Years?

by Pastor Nathan Byrd

Black people can expect more of the same. Black people have been unwelcome citizens since the founding of the country. Things have certainly changed, yet the underlying guiding narrative is, for far too many, one that is indifferent to the rising voices of brown and Black people. Because of that, the competition for who controls the

narrative of the nation, Black people can expect more of the same. For example, I will continue to be called racial slurs on 30th Street. As a theologian I will watch colleagues assume that their theology is the authoritative interpretation of the faith. COVID will continue to affect Africans disproportionately more than other groups. Again, more of the same. Nonetheless, with Paul Robeson, here I stand.

The Ugly Underbelly of Corruption – The American People are Not Deadbeats

by Sherri Hernandez

On January 6, 2021, the day Congress was set to certify the election results, the Capital building was under seige by protestors who believe that the election was stolen through fraud. Thousands of Trump supporters lined the streets and hundreds infiltrated the Capital putting terror into the occupants inside.

Since that day the news has been inundated with analysis and questions of why these loyal followers would put out democracy at risk by these terrorist acts. They've been called, White Supremacists, Antifa, BLM, Trumpsters, Terrorists, Insurrectionists and more.

Why would so many average Americans, who claim embrace our democracy, who claim to be patriots, believe a lie? Why would they embrace the conspiracy theory that the election was rigged? Why would they believe that our leaders could embrace such a deep impacting corruption?

To answer that question we must look deeper into the areas that our media and leaders try to brush under the rug. We must look at the manipulation, by both

sides that is all around us. The signs are everywhere; food banks have long lines around the block the night before distribution. Tent cities line the streets of our busiest cities. People are being dragged out of their homes and apartments onto the streets for alleged unpaid mortgages and rent. Winter is upon us, we've been commanded to shelter in place, small businesses have lost their business, and as a consequence cannot pay their bills and we have empty housing all over this nation. Yet banks, servicers and landlords, continue to heartlessly remove families from their shelter and the public shelters are often out of room.

An Excerpt from the book, LISTEN, LIBERAL by Thomas Frank, the author states: "There was a time when average Americans knew whether we were going up or going down—because when the country prospered, its people prospered, too. But these days, things are different. From the middle of the Great Depression up to 1980, the lower 90 percent of the population, a group we might call "the American people," took home some 70 percent of the growth in the country's

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Native American Artist

TR Whitefox

Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma

760-638-0580

Email: redroxwhitefox@yahoo.com

Roll Number: KO4908

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Waiting on A Friend

by Kenneth G. White Jr.

In this sometimes cruel and fast paced world we often are waiting on a friend. That special person who is there for you no matter what. Someone who will listen, share, and communicate with you in a consistent non-judgmental loving way. Someone who you can openly express yourself to, love and respect, and feel good about each day.

When I was growing up, I had a lot of friends. But as I grew older, I realized that many individuals were really acquaintances who passed in and out of my life. We interacted, hung out, shared our lives intermittently and made memories but over time they moved on with their lives and I moved on with mine. Simple factors and life circumstances, indirectly or directly, caused friendship to wane. We graduated from high school or college and lost contact; moved to a distant location; they married; or chose another path that inadvertently separated them such as indulging in alcohol or drugs.

My original childhood circle of friends began to become fewer and fewer, as I grew older. These circumstances made me value those friends I still had left in my life more than ever. I went days, months and even years without hearing from any childhood, high school and college friends. I accepted it because I had no control over it. Life changes and time moved on. I am fortunate to have had two great friends, who have since passed away. Through basically trial and error, I realized my best friends over the years were in fact my own family. My mindset in earlier years was a cognitive separation – this is my family, and those are my friends. All along this perception was wrong and took me years to realize. Even though we may respectfully agree

and disagree on various issues and concerns, it became an unspoken truth my best friends were my family. We always have each other's backs as they say.

This realization of who truly is your friend then transcended into another mind-boggling awakening for me. I then transcended from the value of childhood friends to my siblings, to realizing I had two friends who were there all along, unwavering, filled with love, wanting the utmost best for me as a person in both my personal and professional life – my parents! I, along with others I would think, had perceived my parents as Mom and Dad yes, but not definitively as my so-called friends or peer group.

When one redefines parents as your best friends you are awakened to a whole new world of positive reality, grace and love. They put you on Mother Earth and gave you your life. They are never going to waiver in their love for you. It is no longer questioning their advice and guidance or exuding a rebellious or immature attitude of “me” against “them” or “I don't want to listen to them, I know better.” It becomes us – an unbreakable loving real friendship bond that is substantive and infinite in its essence and foundation. This child – parent level of bonding and friendship, becomes a learning experience far beyond academics and business so to speak, it become a family history lesson, a daily communication, an unspoken understanding, a gift from Creator, and a humble pride and connection between both you and your parents. Every day is a gift and life journey of learning and respect. For example, where did my Dad learn those Lakota songs he sings in ceremony so powerful? “Well Son, let me tell you a story about our Lakota relatives and the meaning of these songs.” Where did Mom learn how to pray to the Navajo deities and call their names out in our Navajo language? “Well Son, your Grandma and Grandpa taught me about our Creator. The story goes like this.”

These precious moments shared with your best friends are timeless and priceless. Nowadays as I wake up in the morning it means so much to me to have my Mom call me, hear her voice and simply say “Good morning Son.” Yes indeed, my best friend on the line, my rock and my foundation inspiring me to do my best through three simple words. Likewise, it is so precious beyond words to know my Dad is my guardian angel, always looking out for me and my family sitting at the right hand of Creator in heaven.

A further realization that comes to mind as one matures and understands this evolution of the definition of real love and friendship are the ancestral bloodline you came from through your grandparents. It is important to recognize that your Grandmother and Grandfather were your parent's mentors, teachers, spiritual connection and protectors as well. It is a profound immeasurable strength and source of perseverance, resilience, and pride to know that you as an Indigenous person came from hundreds of years of a sacred blood line of survivors of trauma and discrimination as experienced by your grandparents, but still are here through their grace, power and prayers. Their love was passed on from them to your parents, to you, to your children, to your grandchildren, and on to your great grandchildren. Feel the grace and power of this realization of how special it is to be indigenous through your unique sacred blood line and identity within yourself and among your beautiful Tribal connection going back and forward in thousands of years in time. You will live forward through your children forever. This grace and power have its own healing power, and regardless of your situation, you have it and can use it to heal yourself if you believe it.

Finally, in this line of progression of the bond of friendship comes the ultimate friend you have each day of your life – Our Creator. I am so thankful my parents gave me the spiritual understanding and foundation to realize His presence in my life. Dad used to say, “Son, the most special gift you can give yourself is a personal relationship with God.” An Indigenous elder once told me “You are only one grain of sand in all the land and oceans of this world. The human mind cannot understand or comprehend the enormity of Creator's love for you. Just accept Him and love Him unconditionally.” To put it in another way, some things just are in the Indian way.

I share these thoughts with you of my own life experience, respectfully knowing that many, through no fault of your own, may have not had the gift of a parent, or parents in your lives for whatever reason. You have my utmost respect and love, and I acknowledge these family circumstances do exist. Likewise, there are situations that exist where the child - parent relationship is not positive, again for whatever reason. But take note. I believe everyone has that special person or persons in their lives that stepped up in lieu of a parent(s), who lovingly and

unconditionally fulfilled that role for you and is in fact your best friend. A sibling, an auntie, an uncle, a wife or husband.

Again, in this sometimes cruel and fast paced world take pause, look at what you have, and be thankful. Listen and accept what your parents say with respect and an open receptive mind. Out of respect, do not argue with your parents. Value and cherish their guidance and advice. Do not discount their words or actions, which are shared with you through unconditional love, not confrontation or conflict. Realize they only want the best for you and your family now and in the future. Make time for them when you think you have no time at all. Share your good fortune with them – money, food, and other necessities we all need day to day. Pray for them. Most of all, love them unconditionally with all your heart and soul.

My dear Dad also used to say, “It's so simple, it's complicated.” Yes indeed, it is so simple – In reality, parents are your best friends, and you yourself make it complicated by including other inconsequential factors that do not recognize this priceless invaluable gift you have. We all are waiting on a friend, when all along that friend has been right in front of you.

This article is dedicated to the memory of Kenneth G. White Sr.



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NMLS #637220



AALEMAN & ASSOCIATES
Henry Mendibles Associate

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

Thank you INDIAN VOICES for allowing us to share about ILMG. We are under the Guardianship of Bishop Steven Smith aka Pastor who has been diligently serving the San Diego Community for several years. ILMG has experienced various hardships like the church being overrun by squatters, Pastor has had several bouts with his health, and complications with the Landlord. Though difficulties exist we are moving forward to seek funding for a new Church Building, table and chairs, a temporary Employment program for Homeless, and a housing, employment, and mental health services referral and care program. We continue to have service Sundays at 11am at 421 16th Street San Diego CA 92101. <https://gofund.me/256fd8a8>

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What Do New California Secretary of State Dr. Shirley Weber and Civil War Union General William Tecumseh Sherman have in Common These Days?

by Dr. Willie P. Blair



Thank you and I am glad that you asked! Two noteworthy major figures in the American historical archives of addressing the plight of Black people for at least the last 155 years.

But let's begin with Lt. General William T. Sherman, he of the famed Civil War epic "March To The Sea" campaign that included the 1865 sacking and torching of the great Southern city of Atlanta and any other civilian or military target that

had the dubious misfortune of appearing in the path of this most merciless warrior. And why does he appear so prominently in Dr. Blair's Black History Month edition of this great publication.

Well, I will give you a hint. Do you happen to know the true origin of the "40 Acres and a Mule" pre- Reparations era offer presented on behalf of the almost four million slaves that toiled endlessly and sometimes brutally on the Southern plantations and Northern industrial factories for almost 400 years? It was after all of the major battles of the Civil War had been long decided that General William T. Sherman figures prominently

Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe 40th Anniversary Message from Tribal Council Chair Greetings Jamestown S'Klallam Citizens

February 10 marks the 40th year since the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe was officially recognized by the US government as a sovereign Indian Nation.

I trust that all is well and that everyone made it through the holidays.

The COVID Pandemic has seriously challenged all of us, but now that the vaccines are arriving we have optimistic expectations with the strong commitment of newly confirmed President Biden to address the crisis and get back to normal. I share the view that in 2001, we overcome the challenge. It has required a lot of patience, trust and confidence. Meanwhile, this month we have a lot to celebrate. 40 years ago, the Jamestown leadership embarked on a journey to reestablish its relationship with the federal government.

This month is a time to of reflection for our Jamestown community. Our Economic Development Authority (9EDA) is continuing to grow and stabilize with the Jamestown Excavating, Storage operations, J-Net and providing the seed operation for our Tribal CDFI and now the Cedar Greens Cannabis business. Meanwhile our Jamestown

Seafood's continue to grow with expanding the oyster farm Pt. Whitney Hatchery and fish farming operations and plans for retail operation are underway. We keep expanding the diversification of our business portfolio.

President Biden has made many promises in his campaign including respect for our sovereignty treaty rights. Etc. and we intend on continuing our Self-Reliance journey leveraging those commitments. Our Tribe has never wanted to be dependent on federal programs, our vision is to maintain our independent, strong historical S'Klallam character.

Meanwhile, I trust you are staying safe and healthy in this crazy pandemic time. We are all doing everything we can to get the virus under control so we can get back to normal life ways.

I persist with my firm unwavering faith that we will continue our journey that never ends to a better future for our Jamestown people and the 7 generations to come. Working with new inclusive leadership in Washington. DC is a reason for encouragement.

Sincerely W. Ron Allen

in this month's edition. Forty Acres and a Mule had another name and true origin called "Special Field Order No. 15." These were military orders issued during the American Civil War on January 16, 1865 by General Sherman, Commander of the 1st Military Division of the United States Army. This military order provided for the confiscation of 400,000 acres of land formerly owned by fleeing white plantation owners, along the Atlantic coasts of South Carolina, Georgia and Florida and dividing it up into 40 acre parcels upon which were to be settled by formerly enslaved families and other blacks living in the area.

And soon later on, General Sherman in an oral agreement, mandated that all left over Army Mules, be assigned to each 40 acre parcel. General Sherman issued his orders four days after meeting in Savannah, Georgia with 20 local black ministers and lay leaders and U.S. Secretary of War, Edwin M. Stanton, Brig. General Rufus Saxton, an abolitionist from Massachusetts who had previously organized the recruitment of black soldiers for the Union Army was put in charge of implementing the order. The promise was the first systematic attempt to provide a form of reparations to newly freed slaves.

But unfortunately, President Abraham Lincoln was assassinated in April of 1865, and his successor, Andrew Johnson, a

Southern sympathizer, overturned the order in the fall of 1865, and returned the land along the South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida coasts to the planters who had originally owned the land and were the very same people who had declared war on the United States of America!



So, What Was 40 Acres and A Mule Worth In 1865?

You can begin with the cost of an acre in 1865, which was about \$10.00. Forty acres divided among a family of four comes to 10 acres per person, or about \$100.00 for each of the four million former slaves. Taking account of compounding interest and inflation, the 2021 present day value of Reparations would be about \$2.6 trillion dollars.

But, we did say earlier that there was something in common between California's brand new Secretary of State, Dr. Shirley N. Weber and Union General William Tecumseh Sherman didn't we? With General Sherman when it came to Reparations and 40 Acres and A Mule, we spoke of Special Field Order 15. In next month's issue of this publication we will discuss California's most eloquent and profound new Secretary of State and her version of the 1865 issued Special Field Order 15. Dr. Weber's version is known as AB 3121 - The Task Force To Study And Develop Reparation Proposals For African Americans.

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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).

Indian Voices is proud to be presenting an ongoing section on the history of the Seminole Negro Indian Scouts. The Seminole Negro Indian Scout Historical Society has given us permission to publish excerpts from a longer article, and original materials, which can be accessed on their website at SeminoleNegroIndianScouts.org

Origins of the Seminole Negro Indian Scouts

Written by Katarina "Kato" Wittich and Edited by Sarah N. Johnson

The Third Seminole War

The Third Seminole War (1855-1858) was an attempt by the government to remove those last Seminoles from Florida. It was brief, with no large battles, and ended without victory or treaty. Most of the remaining Seminoles agreed to go to the reservation in Indian Territory, and the rest retreated into the Everglades, where the soldiers could not pursue them successfully. They never officially surrendered, so the Seminole Wars were Indian Wars that were never won by the United States. They were also by far the most expensive and deadliest Indian Wars, with huge losses for the U.S. Military.

In Indian Territory, it rapidly became clear that the U.S. military and the government were unable or unwilling to

adequately protect the Seminole Negroes. The Creek Indians, on whose reservation the Seminoles had been placed, practiced "chattel slavery" in a manner very similar to that of whites and made frequent raids on the Seminole Negroes to capture members and sell them to southern plantation owners. There was no safety for the Seminole Negroes unless they abandoned their farms and camped on the Cherokee reservation where the soldiers from Fort Gibson could provide some protection. This meant they could not raise crops or provide for themselves and were dependent on military rations for survival.

Exodus to Mexico

In 1848, it became clear that the government would no longer stand by General Jesup's promise. Under pressure to resolve the situation of the Seminole Negroes, the U.S. Attorney General decided that the resettlement agreement had been based on faulty premises and that, by law, all the Seminole Negroes should revert to the enslaved status they had before Jesup's proposal. The military began arrangements to forcibly return the Seminole Negroes to their supposed "masters" and both Creek and Seminole Indians began to actively prosecute their claims to Seminole Negroes, often without any basis at all. Colonel Loomis, the commander at Fort Gibson described it this way: "A half-breed Creek goes to a Seminole & buys a title to a negro...no matter whether the Seminole has a shadow of a title himself...The half-breed sells his title to a white man; & they ... run the negro ... to the States". In other words, out of Indian Territory and into the hands of southern enslavers where it was impossible to trace the individual and they were lost forever.

There was no safety for the Seminole Negroes unless they abandoned their farms and camped on the Cherokee reservation at Fort Gibson, which meant they could not raise crops or provide for themselves and were dependent on military rations for survival. With the enslavers emboldened by the governments new position, Seminole Negroes were not even safe on the Fort, and raiders managed to steal them right under the noses of the military. The commanding officers were sometimes

able to track the enslavers and rescue the Seminole Negroes back, but many families were torn apart as members were sold away so rapidly that they could not be recovered.

By the end of 1849, two extraordinary men, Seminole Chief Coacoochee, otherwise known as Wild Cat, and Seminole Negro Chief John Horse, allies since their years of fighting together in the Seminole Wars, decided that conditions on the Creek reservation were unbearable. They jointly led their bands out of Indian Territory on an odyssey across the United States to Mexico, where slavery had been abolished since 1829.

Their goals were mutually supportive, so they created an alliance that was to change the future of both of their peoples. Wild Cat's intention was to form a coalition of several tribes who would live in freedom as military colonists for the Mexican government instead of in captivity on a reservation. John Horse wanted to find a home for his people where they could live and flourish in safety, away from slavery and predatory enslavers.

During their 20 years in Coahuila, Mexico (July 1850- July 1870), the Seminoles and the Seminole Negroes served as military colonists for the Mexican Government. John Horse and Wild Cat were both made officers in the Mexican Army, each commanding units made up of their own men, and were active in engagements against raiding Indians, bandits, internal rebellions and wars and the filibustering invasions by U.S. Rangers and slave raiders attempting to annex portions of Mexico to create a pro slavery state. They shared duties and land grants with a band of Kickapoo Indians who had come with them from Indian Territory.

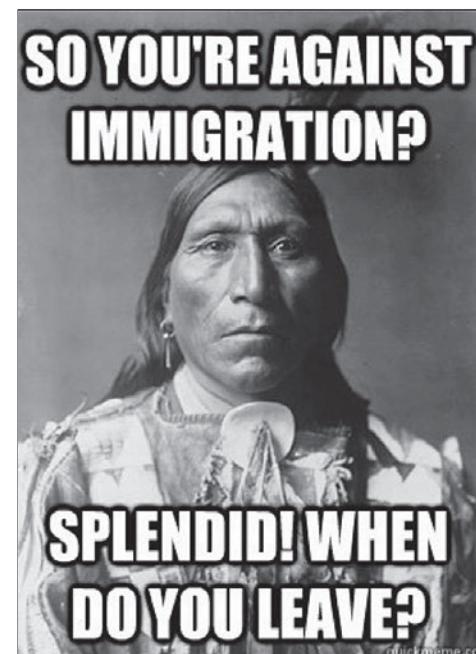
In 1857, Wild Cat and many of the Seminoles he led died of smallpox. The Seminole Negroes, who were referred to in Mexico as Mascogos, were not as hard hit and continued working as military colonists. Then during the Civil War, the Seminole Nation sided with the Confederacy and the remaining Seminoles in Mexico were called back to Oklahoma to fight against the Union and for slavery. Eventually civil unrest in Mexico and threats to their land grants made life for the Mascogos unstable. Their alliance with the Kickapoo had

become difficult after the original band of Kickapoo allies left and were replaced by a larger Kickapoo band who were adversarial and competitive over land and water rights.

After the Civil War, with slavery abolished and Radical Reconstruction in progress, it looked as if the U.S. government might begin to protect the rights of its black citizens. The Seminole Nation in Oklahoma was under the leadership of traditional Seminoles who honored their bonds with their black allies and encouraged their return to the Seminole reservation. Congress and the Bureau of Indian Affairs had begun to discuss allocating funds to attempt to persuade all "roving Indians" who were living on the Mexican side of the Rio Grande and raiding in Texas, to move onto reservations. This included the Mascogos (Seminole Negroes), the Seminoles, the Kickapoo, the Lipan Apaches, and others. The Mascogos, had now become aware that they might be welcomed back and given land in Indian Territory, and they decided to request safe passage and return to reclaim their land rights in the U.S. where conditions might be better for them than in Mexico.

To be continued next month with the return to the United States and the formation of the Seminole Negro Indian Scouts.

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



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THE GREAT LAW OF PEACE – NO SPIRITUAL SURRENDER

In case you have not noticed, the Ruling Elite has lost its way and consequently, the world is in a feverish malaise with nervous excitement. Our Democracy is wounded and vulnerable to opportunistic power mongers who are systematically plotting to destroy our Constitution and all that it represents.

It is incumbent upon all of us who are concerned and interested in curbing this imminent disaster to show support for pro-democracy protestors worldwide who are holding on to and fighting for the last vestiges of human freedom.

The Native community has an obligation to come together as Change Agents to educate the world of and shine a light on the hidden truth and history of the U.S Constitution, which embodies the ethos of this nation. The participants in upcoming Trade Talks in Europe need to be educated as well as all of our leaders and representatives. We must get comfortable with exercising our branch of the government WE THE PEOPLE

Popular belief in the United States is that the three bodies of government: Executive, Legislative, and Judicial, stem from democratic movements in Europe.

Over last half of the 20th century a number of American scholars have shown how the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, popularly known as the Six Nations of the Iroquois Confederacy, had a deeper influence on the new American government than Europe. Remember monarchs and religious institutions controlled most of Europe in the 18th century. Historians easily show how founding fathers like, Benjamin Franklin were absorbed by Native beliefs and indigenous intelligence “ It would be a strange thing if Six Nations of ignorant savages should be capable of forming a scheme for such an union, and be able to execute it in such a manner as that it has subsisted ages and appears indissoluble; and yet that a like union should be impracticable for ten or a dozen English colonies.” The ethos of this country is tied to the Native American

Because of the modern anxieties many Americans now feel and express, it should be our goal to show that governments like the Confederacy and the United States were created to promote plurality and peace. In these times it is important to remember our

past and present peacemakers thought our present and our future harmony. We must heed their words and sacrifices and bravely follow their lead.

Bring the Temperature Down

Obviously the mainstream media will not be helpful. It is up to us.

Let's not sleep through this assault. Let's follow the Ancestors instructions and breath life back into our Democracy while driving the pathogenic politicians into the darkness

NO SPIRITUAL SURRENDER

Native American Spirit Meets Covid 19

by Alastair Running Bear

I recently had the opportunity to interview Emerson, founder of Native.Inc, who has been organizing donation runs to Indian Country to alleviate some of the suffering brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic. While the White House balked and stalled, Emerson of the Navajo Nation and Daniela of the Mapuche Nation sprang into action in the warrior way. Their North American and South American indigenous unity in action is perhaps another manifestation of the prophecy of the Eagle and the Condor, signaling better times to come. Making monthly donation runs, through rain and snow, to Monument Valley and the surrounding areas since May of 2020, they have uplifted the spirits of native communities in need. And before returning to California, a self-imposed two-week quarantine is endured somewhere out there. Emerson is

preparing for the next trip to the Skull Valley Band of Goshute Indians. Over 250 families have benefited from the donations, which have ranged from winter clothing, food, and water, to face masks, cleaning supplies, and toys. Emerson gives thanks to many for their assistance with the runs, including: San Pasqual Fire Dept., City of Indio, the greater communities of Riverside, Los Angeles, San Diego, Victorville, San Jacinto, North Hollywood, Hesperia, and relatives from Morongo Reservation, Soboba Reservation, Pala Reservation, Pechanga Reservation, Rincon Reservation, La Jolla Reservation, Santa Ysabel Reservation, Viejas Reservation, Mountain Source Dispensary on the Santa Ysabel Reservation, Her Native Voice nonprofit of Los Angeles, and a special thanks to the Soboba Indian Youth Council.

Emerson became inspired to initiate these donation runs for many reasons.

SEE Emerson, page 12

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Celebrating Black Scientists

by Makeda Cheatom

The honorable Dr. Runoko Rashidi returns to WorldBeat Center this Wednesday, February 17th. Runoko Rashidi is an anthropologist and historian with a major focus on what he calls the Global African Presence that is, Africans outside of Africa before and after enslavement. He is the author or editor of more than eighteen books. As a traveler and researcher Dr. Rashidi has visited 120 countries. As a lecturer and presenter, he has spoken in sixty-five countries.

We chose to present Black Scientists because for 8 years we have been working with the Cornell Lab of Ornithology thanks to a grant by the National Science on a STEM Research Project. Our community-led research is designed to lift and share perspectives that have been historically absent from the sciences and have the potential to create a more equitable and inclusive field. We believe that our work will lead to more community ownership of, and



agency in, scientific research along with more creativity and access to STEM networks, programming, and research. Our current research project is a co-created research project on noise pollution and WorldBeat Center is one of the four participating sites leading the project and we are focusing on wellness through plant intelligence and biofeedback. Yes, we are studying the secret life of plants! We want more African-Americans and people of color represented in the

sciences. As African-Americans we do not have Oursstory accurately written in history books. I feel there's awareness and light coming through the cracks and to know the truth of our ancestors will set us all free. To me being here on this planet this long, this is nothing new. I have experienced racial injustice all of my life in the city I grew up in. It's important that are children know of our ancestors contributions. They should know that we had great mathematicians, botanists, biologists, chemists, scientists and inventors. This is why we are so excited about Ronoko Rashi's return for a virtual presentation on Black Scientists.

Everyone should learn Black History. I

WORLD BEAT CENTER

Black Oursstory Month is Dedicated to George Washington Carver



love history of the motherland I'm happy WBC has giving you history through music and now through

science. "A people without the knowledge of their past history, origin and culture is like a tree without roots." -Marcus Garvey
Happy Black Oursstory Month



This year Black History Month is dedicated to George Washington Carver. George Washington Carver was a world-famous chemist who made important agricultural discoveries and inventions. His research on peanuts, sweet potatoes, and other products helped poor southern farmers vary their crops and improve their diets. A monument showing Carver as a boy was the first national memorial erected in honor of an African American. Carver was born into slavery, the son of a slave woman named Mary, owned



by Moses Carver. During the American Civil War, the Carver farm was raided, and infant George and his mother were kidnapped and taken to Arkansas to be sold. Moses Carver was eventually able to track down young George but was unable to find Mary. Frail and sick, the motherless child was returned to his master's home and nursed back to health. With the complete abolition of slavery in the United States in 1865, George was no longer a slave. Nevertheless, he remained on the Carver plantation until he was about 10 or 12 years old, when he left to acquire an education. After a university in Kansas refused to admit him because he was Black, Carver matriculated at Simpson College, Indianola, Iowa, where he

studied piano and art, subsequently transferring to Iowa State Agricultural College (later Iowa State University), where he received a bachelor's degree in agricultural science in 1894 and a master of science degree in 1896. Carver left Iowa for Alabama in the fall of 1896 to direct the newly organized department of agriculture at the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute, a school headed by noted African American educator Booker T. Washington. At Tuskegee, Washington was trying to improve the lives of African Americans through education and the acquisition of useful skills rather than through political agitation; he stressed conciliation, compromise, and economic development as the paths for Black advancement in American society. Despite many offers elsewhere, Carver would remain at Tuskegee for the rest of his life.

NEW VIRTUAL SWAHILI CLASSES

WorldBeat Center is excited to announce our new Swahili language class for beginners led by Miswa! All ages are welcome. Classes begin on February 25th and will continue every Thursday at 1pm. Go to worldbeatcenter.org to register and we'll 'see' you on Zoom!

Miswa was born in Karungu Bay, a small fishing town along the shores of Kenya's Lake Victoria. The environment in which he grew up, along with the music of the Luo people, influenced his interests, his writing, and his poetry. His mother was instrumental in guiding his academic journey — with the little she earned she made sure to provide Miswa with the

weekly newspaper Daily Nation, which would go on to fuel his passion for writing and learning. Miswa attended college at the University of Nairobi where he studied Literature and Linguistics. He then went on to complete a Fulbright Fellowship at the University of Pittsburgh. While at Pittsburgh, Miswa taught Swahili to university students and members of the local community. He also presented to K-12 schools about Kenyan and African cultures. Miswa then pursued a Masters in International Studies with an emphasis on Governance and Global Justice at the University of San Francisco. While at USF,

he worked as a research assistant on African politics, food and social security, and land rights. He also conducted original research in Kenya about how Truth Commissions can complement the work of anti-corruption agencies. Miswa has recently relocated to San Diego and is now an Editorial Publisher for Ndalo, a community-based organization in Kenya which focuses on nutrition security in urban and rural Western Kenya. He is also a research analyst for The African Center for Strategic Progress. Miswa enjoys literature, documentaries, music, and nature.

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Family of Indian Mohawk Canyon the Honga Story

by Flora Seama, Clarence Gonzales

Gud'dav (long ago) to me as a child it seems like a long time ago when it wasn't probably in the 1950s or even before that time, before my gwa'wa and God'a which would be their parents time is probably as far as this story goes that tells about the "Honga" history.

What we were told was four great grandparents made "Mohawk" our family home. Our great grandparents used this place as their meeting or shall we say their dating place. My great grandfather was a simple man more like a rancher. He fell in love with a woman who was of the Paiute tribe and was a daughter to a chief of that tribe and were recognized and royalty of their tribe. The father of the great grandmother didn't accept my great grandfather, because he was a simple man and didn't think he could provide for his daughter. My great grandparents continued to meet in Mohawk, my great grandfather would hike seven or more miles to the river and cross to the other side which would be known as the state of Nevada. They met at the boundary and visited each other, until one day they decided to elope, so my great grandfather brought my great grandmother across the river to the Arizona side and made the homestead "Mohawk" and that is where they lived. Which is now known as the Honga homestead, a very special place that brings back history.

They had my grandfather Jacob Honga who married Jane Cooney-Honga and they spend most of their time in Mohawk, mostly during the summer months or when weather was good. In the winter months they came up to Peach Springs where they built a home and where their children lived. Our grandparents where medicine men and woman of the tribe, our grandfather was a medicinal healer and grandmother was joint/bone healer. Many members of our community came at all hours of the day and night and sometimes stayed for 5-7 days to receive medical help from my grandparents who used traditional song

and medicine to help the people.

My name is Flora Wellington-Selana one of the sibling group or grandchild of



the late Jacob and Jane Honga, as a young child my grandparents would take 3-4 of the grandchildren to "Mohawk" to be with them or even be of help to them. Four of us mainly that spend many years growing up in the Canyon.

My grandfather Jacob and his daughters; Rhoda which is my mom and aunties the late Leatha and Emily would go and help him with branding his cattle, it was fun to sit and watch the ladies chase the cows, throw them down and other would brand, my cousins Paul Honga, the late Rosita Walker and sister Salena would sit and cheer for our moms and aunty, we were young so we couldn't help, but it was fun watching and evenings during dinner time my grandfather would tell my grandma what happened and he would laugh at the girls and always had a prideful smile that they did a good job. This was usually the months of June to August. Then grandma would tell us a story about the stairs- "Seven Sisters" I loved listening to her stories.

I believe I was nine or ten years old when grandpa woke me up one morning and said granddaughter come with me today, so I got up grandma packed us lunch and we got in his old pick up truck and went down the road for maybe

five miles. He had poles in the back of the truck so he said get in the back and when I stop drop off a pole, so I did that and it wasn't bad, I still didn't know what we were doing, he didn't explain, just told me what to do. Then we got out after quarter mile and he said ok here, he handed me the end of barbed wire, he

gave me his gloves and said pull and go to the that pole, so I did, then he cut and we put up a line, it was very hard work and I wasn't strong, so when he would say pull, I would pull as hard as I could and I'd be laying on the ground pulling, he would laugh and this continued throughout the day, finally he said it's time to go home, when we go home my body hurt from head to toe, I had cuts on my

legs and hands and they hurt so bad, my grandma cleaned my wounds and said you will be fine in the morning. My grandpa sat and told grandma about our day at work and he laughed and laughed at how hard I tried. They were happy. Did this for it me it was months, but I'm sure it wasn't, he continued to take me everyday and we got the fence line up. I felt proud to help my grandpa.

My best days was during harvest time, when my grandmother and I would travel in the wagon to harvest pinons, squawberries and go shopping for condiments. It took a day to two days to get from where we lived to Frazier Wells to haul water, purchase condiments and visit with family. As we traveled along the way, grandma would set up camp, so we can go harvest sometimes spend two days harvesting, we always ran into other families that were camping out as well, so three to four families would get together, the women would cook, children would play and men would visit, dinner time we all ate together, the elders told stories or told about their day and it was always nice to hear what they had to say, they tell about the deer they saw, who they ran into, where there's good hunting or harvesting.

When grandma Jane felt we had enough we would continue on our trip,

visiting along the way, no one was in a hurry to get to and from, just enjoyed themselves visiting with one another, everyone shared what they had, so we never had to worry about not having enough, if someone should show up later there was always food for them. When we get to Frazier Wells at that time it was our sawmill a small community, so that is where we went to purchase condiments (flour, baking powder, sugar, potatoes, beans, coffee, salt) it's not much of a list of groceries, but those were the main things we needed, our family hunted if we needed meat, my grandmother harvested pinions to make stew and peanut butter, and the red berries of the squawberry bush was used to make juice, it was all good.

For fun it was hiking the mountains, we had a favorite place about two miles from the house we would hike to a cave where we would play, we packed lunch - dug a hole and placed our lunch in it and covered it for the day, the moisture and coldness of the ground kept our lunch cool and fresh. To this day the cave is still there with our drawings on the walls, some faded, but some is still there, the structure of the house is still there, our corral is half destroyed from flooding, but it's still there. So much memories I have growing up in the canyon. When I'm asked what is my favorite place and why? I always told about "Mohawk Canyon" is my favorite place and why? I had no boundaries my playground was no end in either direction- I can run, hike, walk, enjoy the eagle flying over us, horseback riding, climbing the trees anything I wanted to do, so long as I was home a dinnertime. I enjoyed rabbit hunting, for our big family, we had to bring home at least ten rabbits, skin them, clean them and give to grandma to prepare for dinner.

My memories are all I have now. My grandparents, most of my aunties, uncles have past on, there is just a few of us left, my sister Salena and Paul who have also experienced life in the Canyon. Today our children and grandchildren will not have that experience it's like lost treasure. . . . I haven't been to the homestead for four years now. The last time I was there, I felt the spirits of my grandparents who welcomed us and it felt so heartwarming.

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Corruption

Continued from page 3

income. Look at the same numbers beginning in 1997—from the beginning of the New Economy boom to the present—and you find that this same group, the American people, pocketed none of America's income growth at all. Their share of the good times was zero. The gains they harvested after all their hard work were nil. The upper 10 percent of the population—the country's financiers, managers, and professionals—ate the whole thing. The privileged are doing better than at any time since economic records began.”

There has been a serious tidal wave of wealth transfer in our country and the indisputable fallout of the middle class that it has left in its wake.

On January 8, 2021, there was another case slated to be reviewed before the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS). This little case was lost among the massive cases of voter fraud and sedition, this case reflects many of the reasons for mistrust among the population, this case and many others like it represent the pinnacle of the financial crisis and its significance to the loss of our middle-class.

In the midst of the panic that had hit Capital Hill on January 6th, this case before the Supreme Court was tossed aside without review or explanation. The case, *Hernandez vs. Pennymac et al*, was about a homeowner who had been removed from her home by an entity that had no legal right to her property, but had used their membership in MERS CORP, Inc., to assign the Deed of Trust to themselves. All this homeowner was asking was the opportunity to present her evidence at trial. This homeowner having won her 1st appeal at the California Appellate Court (case # B258583) has been consistently denied the ability to submit her documents into the record for review. A very simple review of the documents and chain of title could easily confirm the homeowners claims, however, the court rules against homeowners before cases can get to discovery, under 'color of law', rather than following the rule of law.

While our leaders and legislatures are well aware of the unjustified foreclosures that have taken place in this nation. In a

congressional hearing specifically regarding the financial crisis, many of those issues were brought before congress: they made settlements and concessions with WallStreet favoring the banks and lenders and homeowners were not invited to those negotiations.

Since the onslaught of the financial crisis, homeowners have been foreclosed upon by the thousands. Many homeowners walked away. Many homeowners went bankrupt....but others who have been in court for years, were wrongfully foreclosed upon, facilitated by a court system working under the color of law, and ignoring the rule of law.

Hundreds of families have been tossed out of their homes onto the streets by entities that do not hold title to their homes, nor do they hold the Deed of Trust. The ruthlessness with which American citizens have been removed is unprecedented in these United States.

Is it any wonder the faith of the American people in our system of government has slowly eroded into believing almost any conspiracy theory that would explain the theft from the American middle-class? Or the fact that the average American would be prosecuted for crimes that bankers have been rewarded for? Homeowners who have been locked into this foreclosure nightmare for the past 20 years can attest to the lack of justice.

One such homeowner, Sherry Hernandez, was one of the thousands of homeowners in the protest of May 2013. She was arrested sitting in the revolving doors at Covington and Burling. She has also been a victim of the Revolving Door policies.

The fallout from the mortgage crisis can be seen all around our nation, as the stock markets soar, the homeless population continues to grow. While homeowners like Sherry Hernandez and removed from their homes, the primary perpetrators, who ran Countrywide Home Loans are rewarded with new business ventures.

There has been a serious tidal wave of wealth transfer in our country and the indisputable fallout of the middle class that it has left in its wake.

The media comes into our homes each day, reciting theories and

Registrar Michael Vu Named County Assistant Chief Administrative Officer

by Tracy DeFore, County of San Diego Communications Office

A face familiar to many in election and media circles, Registrar of Voters Michael Vu is now taking on the responsibilities of Assistant Chief Administrative Officer for the County of San Diego.

Vu began his new role Jan. 8 after working for the County for nearly 14 years, the last eight as Registrar.

The Chief Administrative Office is responsible for implementing policy decisions from the Board of Supervisors. The office also manages day-to-day operations.

Chief Administrative Officer Helen Robbins-Meyer praised Vu for working tirelessly to engage the San Diego community in a way that represents County values.

“Not only has he enjoyed taking on new challenges, but he has been innovative and resourceful in responding to them,” said Robbins-Meyer. “For this, he has gained the respect and trust of many within our community, including community-based organizations,



County of San Diego Assistant Chief Administrative Officer Michael Vu

advocacy groups, elected officials and the media.”

“I am eager to contribute in any way to the goals of the County and to work with the Chief Administrative Officer and the Board of Supervisors on the most pressing issues that the County faces.” said Vu. “Having

dedicated myself to public service for 24 years in conducting elections, I am looking forward to bringing those experiences with me in this new role.”

As Vu takes on his new responsibilities, he will also continue to lead the Registrar of Voters particularly now that a special vacancy election is expected for the 79th Assembly District. Assistant Registrar Cynthia Paes will serve as the Acting Registrar.

Vu succeeds Tracy Sandoval as Assistant CAO. Sandoval left the County last October to become the Chief Executive Officer for the San Diego County Employees Retirement Association (SDCERA).

puzzlement as to why so many Americans would believe conspiracy theories, yet the very fact that they fail to address the massively growing homeless population, families losing their small business, while large corporate businesses are allowed to flourish, and the rampant inconsistencies of our leaders as they dictate one set of rules for the populace and fail to hold themselves to the same standards would give credence to the fear Americans have of the erosion of the America we love.

It is time to bring equal justice back to our courtrooms. The massive settlements and studies regarding the fraud perpetrated on the homeowners during the financial crisis, should have paved our way to that right. Yet trying to find lawyers to help homeowners fight for their cause has become another

struggle for litigants who have been syphoned from their income by the unscrupulous mortgaging system. Which is why more and more litigants have had to go to court without legal representation (pro se), opening the doors for legal guidance clinics that help litigants navigate the judicial system for themselves. One such legal clinic is called David vs. Goliath, a clinic dedicated to helping pro se litigants navigate the courtrooms to try to obtain justice in the current system.

In a follow-up article we will outline why so many litigants have had to resort to representing themselves over getting competent attorney assistance.

Additionally guidance and direction will be provided for assistance for those in need.



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or AFOC is the next generation nonprofit 501(c)(3).

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Adam Rodriguez Remembers His Father

Adam Rodriguez was born in Filmore, Ventura County, CA. Nov. 18, 1930.

From legend and my understanding, when he became old enough he joined his father (my grandfather) in traveling up and down the coast of California building small churches. The churches, which were made out of wood were fortified with bricks made out of adobe. My grandfather was an excellent craftsman making and working with adobe bricks.

He had a hand in constructing some of the first churches built in Southern California. After my father joined him they traveled and worked intensively in the area. Soon they traveled south and eventually made their home in Logan Heights, CA. in the land of the Great Kumeyaay Nation.

During this time before social programs were widely available survival depended on resourcefulness and an enterprising spirit, which were innate qualities in my father.

He would go downtown to gather vegetables and meat that the butchers discarded. He always provided for his family. As he got older he and his friends would get on a bus that used to service Logan and they would travel up north to pick garlic and other produce to make a little money. When he became old enough he and his friends from Logan volunteered to fight fires for extra money.

He and his friends were a tight group and they all joined the Army at the same time with the intention of becoming members of the Airborne. They were attracted to the Airborne uniform because the pants were tucked into their boots and resembled the way they way they wore their Zoot Suit pants.

He told me that when he would come home on leave he would have a new brother or sister. He told me that it was my Grandmother Hortensia (aka pretty grandma) who would introduce him to the expanding family.

Luckily most of the the guys that joined him in the service came back. They included Manuel Ruiz, Orelia



Adam Rodriguez embraces his parents Adam Rodriguez Sr. and his mother Stella May.

Ortez, Phil Peldio, Demtrio Lujan aka Uncle (Ding) my Nino. When they got out of the service they all got odd jobs. My Dad found a home in the flooring business and Uncle Manuel and Orelia became involved in the profession of concrete work. My Nino Ding became employed by Nassco.

After they got situated I joined my Dad and Manuel Ruiz in traveling to install flooring in in the churches my Grandfather built.

It was always an adventure. Cultural learning experience to hang out with the Elders. One example strands out in my memory on a trip to Avron, CA to complete and finish a job on a church that my Grandfather was building.

I was eight years old. The church was built high up in the remote mountains. I was looking around and I realized that there was no 7-11, Jack-in-the-Box, no nothing.

I reminded my Dad that we didn't bring any food and asked him what were we going to eat. He said "don't worry about it" as we drove above the clouds. We reached the church and I immediately started working. 12 noon rolled around and I asked when were we going to have lunch. He said don't worry about it, just keep working. No sooner did we finish and were picking up, the mess crew of four little guys brought in three picnic tables and said alright. Soon after they brought the tables three elderly ladies brought in three large pots of food. I was so hungry, they told me to serve myself first. I opened the first pot and

saw pig ears floating, the second pot had pig snouts and the third pot pig tails and the fourth pot pig feet.

The fifth pot had beans and tortillas I remember eating bean burritos. I was so happy that there were beans.

That where the term Uggga Food came from which me and my sister named it.

I worked during the summers with him. Father and Son. It was pretty uncomfortable from time to time. Needless to say we had parting of our ways but would always get back together. Eventually we got together and started a business called Best Floors and became

the biggest most popular carpet installation company in San Diego. For relaxation at the age of 60 we started Para shooting. This was an interesting period that provided many adventurous and exciting stories.

Through my Dad I became a lifetime member of The Hispanic AirBorn, the 82nd AirBorn as well as the American Indian Veterans Association.

So as we walked together toward his final journey on this earthly plain we switched spiritual roles. I was his Father and he was my Son ... My Hero my Friend, My Old Man.

Emerson

Continued from page 7

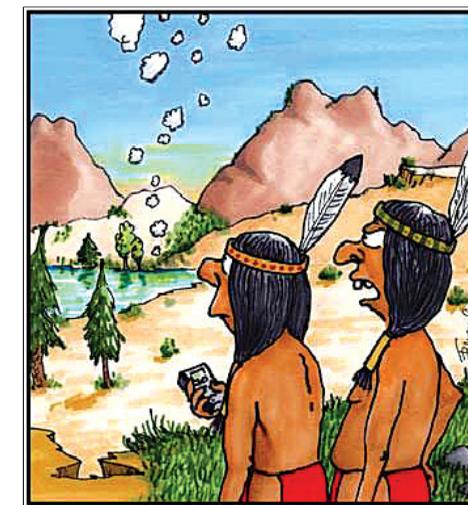
Partly it was his experience as a Marine, he relayed "we did a lot of humanitarian services for third world countries, and even though I don't see the military helping out our own people in desperate need now during this pandemic, I still can." He also recalled how, "these hands caused destruction and these eyes have seen destruction and it's a part of my life I can never erase, but serving my people is a way for me to pay back for the destruction." Emerson remembered how growing up on the reservation was a struggle and so felt especially compelled to do something during these even tougher times. He laments that since the lockdown, everything on the Navajo Reservation closes at 3 pm and nothing is open on the weekends. This causes many residents of the reservation to do their shopping outside of the reservation, further worsening the tribe's economy he adds. He reported that the lockdown has only worsened the already tragic rates of suicide, drug abuse, and crime on the reservation.

Maybe you have seen him selling his loud and original Native Inc gear at pow wows or you have enjoyed the tasty Indian Tacos that he makes on the side of the road near the entrance to the Pechanga Reservation, the proceeds of which are currently going toward the donation runs. The fact is that Emerson has been serving the native community since before the pandemic as a spirit runner for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Children, as a Water Protector, and a runner of the

Peace and Dignity Journey.

If you are looking to support or donate you can follow Emerson at Native.Inc on Instagram, where he is often posting about the progress of the trips. Emerson continues to find inspiration on the road through the courageous work of the native nurses who he sees out there every day administering Covid-19 tests. One elder's bravery stuck with him, "he was a 65 year old grandpa administering the tests, determined to help as many relatives as he could, despite his confidence that he would contract the virus."

Overall, the challenge of leadership is both moral and one of developing the characteristics that make us respected by one another. – Louis Farrakhan



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- Native music block Saturday mornings 7:30-10
- Rez Radio Reggae nightly 7-8p
- Old Time Radio shows from the 1930's, 40's and 50's nightly at midnight and Sunday afternoons.
- Rez Radio music mix of classic rock, country, soul, blues, native and reggae 20 hours daily.

Miracle in the Desert – Salton Sea RESTORATION

Desert Shores community is currently experiencing an accelerated drying because of the Salton Sea receding, this receding is due to diverted water sold to the City of San Diego, Recharging Coachella aquifers, and decreased farm usage because of to the Desert Shores size. Unless addressed soon, 32 acres of historic water channels will become another exposed playa liability. Without immediate intervention, current dust exposure will increase and become a detrimental hazard to the air quality of the area with the most direct impact on the Desert Shores residents. Tilapia breeding areas are being lost by the thousands due to the seas recession and migratory birds have declined in the area. It is our goal to achieve a dramatic

improvement of air quality for residents and our neighbors as well as resoter fish and bird habitat through this restoration prototype.

Agess Incorporated, Septhon Water Technology & EcoMedia Compass have partnered with a majority of Desert Shores landowners, and a others living adjacent and with the local Channel communities around the Salton Sea. Together, we herein propose a dust mitigation, habitat, quality of life and shoreline improvement strategy for the residents and surrounding population who are susceptible to serious dust hazards from the playa.

We invite you to learn more in upcoming issues of *Indian Voices*

Music Beer and Valentines Day

Breaking away from cabin fever at Rincon

The word got out that there was going to be a Beer Blast at the Rincon



Reservation Road Brewery to celebrate Valentines Day. It was great news for throngs of music lovers and fans of Rik Mazetti and his band. I KNOW JACK

The timing could not have been better for everyone experiencing Covid19 lockdown depression and incessant mind numbing political bellowing.

The Brewery was packed with fun loving friends, neighbors and strangers hungry to come together



and experience humanity after fasting on a lack of Pow Wow Gatherings and social contact.

It was a wonderful escape. From 4.pm to 8pm. After a temperature check at the door the fun loving human beings entered into a mask, social distancing , politically free world surrounded by the comfort of familiar indigenous hospitality. Frivolity, dancing and mingling filled the air. People were actually Happy. It was a Valentine's Day to remember. *Indian Voices* enjoyed the

opportunity to reconnect with indigenous intelligence. The American Experiment and the Great Law of Peace was alive and well floating down the road to freedom with Mustang Sally.



Buffalo Return to the Natives

BILLINGS, MT - In subzero temperatures on Wednesday morning, 35 Montana bison arrived at their new home

The bison were a gift from American Prairie Reserve in north-central Montana. The Rosebud Sioux Tribe's goal is to

grow the herd to 1,500 bison spread across 28,000 acres, which would make it the largest tribal-managed bison herd in the United States. Right now the



herd is composed of 134 bison. American Prairie has agreed to contribute up to 170 bison to support the tribe's efforts.

“When the buffalo are strong, we will be strong,” said Wizipan Little Elk, CEO of Rosebud Economic Development Corporation, which oversees the Wolakota Buffalo Range near Mission, South Dakota.

“We are doing our part to ensure the genetic health and longevity of our buffalo relatives,” Wizipan said in a post on the tribe's website.

The Great American Experiment Continues

The reinforcement team for **We The People** has been waiting in the wings for a cue to step onto center stage to Keep on Keepin on with the Great American Social Experiment. We have been bloodied and pounded but not defeated. The self-serving power mongers are on notice. The Soul of America is ready to wrest control back form the greedy forces who have

The Great American Experiment is coming out of a coma to reclaim our status as the shining beacon of

Democracy that has been our destiny. Crazy Horse and the Great Law of Peace are declaring that it is time to move on from the Bad News Bears status on the World stage and regain our rightful position as ambassadors of the indigenous intelligence that embodies the culture that is the life blood of



mesmerized, commercialized and distorted our reality. We will not stand idly by any longer being complacent and helpless to the forces that have curtailed our civic rights dumbed us down and diminished our reputation on the institutional global landscape.

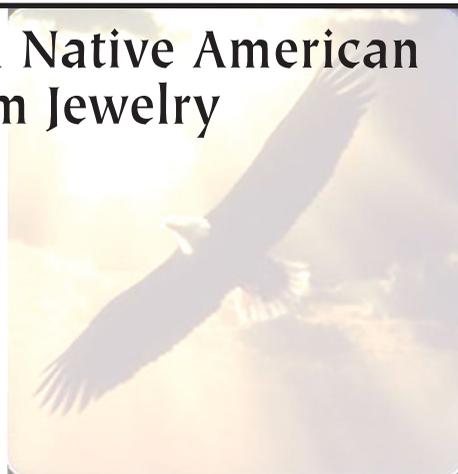
the Constitution and Democracy of America while shining a light for the future of all to see as we step off into the unknown.

Each on Teach one. We Can Do This, **We The People!**

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NEWS from Las Vegas/Nevada

Open for Business!

As the new year begins, we embrace the future by bringing new ideas to reality. The idea of a Native American chamber of commerce in Nevada Indian Country has been considered before. With that in mind Thomas Flores (Northern Paiute) and George Dunkhurst Jr (White Elk Apache) have brought that idea to reality by announcing the formation of the Nevada Native Intertribal Chamber of Commerce. This statewide native chamber will offer Native American business owners a wide range

of professional business assistance and services that most other state, city, local, and/or specialized chambers offer. The Intertribal Native Chamber of Commerce will also bring traditional native teachings, education and awareness into the community through pow wows, storytelling, specialized social assistance and cultural events. With the milestones politically for Indian Country we've seen in the last ten months we can add this to the list of needed services and representation long overdue. Any questions or information feel free to call Thomas the Southern Nevada District Director at (702) 504-6993.

Farewell Joe Neal "Westside Slugger"

We suffered a serious loss with the passing of the longest running US senator in Nevada history, Joe Neal. Senator Neal was 85 and the first African American Nevada senator in history and served for more than 3 decades. A true Social Justice Champion Joe fought for the less fortunate throughout his career. Many politicians and Nevada residents are very saddened by his death and have publicly spoken and shared pictures on various social media sites of the memories and history he made here in the Silver State. Blackrose Communications sends our deepest condolences to his family and friends.



Juneteenth 101 Podcast Lecture Series

The National Juneteenth Observance Foundation (NJOF), in partnership with several community-based institutions have developed an on-going weekly lecture series designed to teach/inform the Nation about All Things Juneteenth. The series is entitled, "JUNETEENTH HISTORY 101." The rather impressive team of partners include Jackson State University's History and Philosophy Department, Khafre, Inc., Local Organizing Committee, MS, SRF Photography, and hundreds of supporters who present the annual JUNETEENTH celebrations around the world.

WHAT IS JUNETEENTH?

Juneteenth is an annual observance to celebrate the date Union soldiers enforced the Emancipation Proclamation freeing all remaining enslaved people in Galveston, Texas, on June 19, 1865.

Texas was one of the last states in rebellion, following the end of the Civil War, to allow enslavement. Although the rumors of freedom were widespread prior to this, actual emancipation was not announced in the last few states practicing enslavement until the "black men with guns told US that we are free." They were the United States Colored Troops (USCT), who came, "like a storm pushing Jonah ... [was] the USCT push to Galveston." They along with General Gordon Granger issued General Order #3, on the "19th of June," in Galveston, Texas, almost two and a half years after President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation. Hence the name "JUNETEENTH." Juneteenth – also known as Freedom Day, Jubilee Day,

Liberation Day, and Emancipation Day. The plan is to make it an international holiday celebrating the emancipation of those who had been enslaved in the United States...and around the world! The producers and moderators of the weekly lecture series are Dr. C. Sade Turnipseed, a History Professor at JSU and the Executive Director of KHAFRE, Inc.; and, Bro. Kareem Muhammed, the Chair of the Greenville Mississippi-based Local Organizing Committee. The JUNETEENTH 101 lecture series features freedom and emancipation subject matter historians, festival producers, youth advocates and scholars specializing in all things Juneteenth. The lectures are free to all who are interested in expanding their knowledge about American history and the global fight for freedom and emancipation!

Here is your free pass to JUNETEENTH 101:

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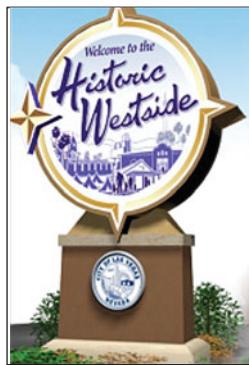
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The 2020 National Theme is Perfecting Unity. To bring all Americans together to celebrate our common bond of freedom through recognition, observance and historic preservation of Juneteenth in America.

www.NJOF.org
National Juneteenth Observance Foundation
communications@nationaljuneteenth.org
888.509.NJOF (6563) x 701
Deborah J. Evans
National Director of Communications
For all other inquiries to JUNETEENTH 101, please email Dr. Cassie.S.Turnipseed@jsums.edu.

ReVuE from the 7o2

Historic Westside News:



Happy Black History Month to all our loyal Indian Voices readers and supporters as we celebrate another year in Black History 2021. Even with the constant threat

to our people, earth and freedom, America is still the place I want to be. The Historic Westside is an intricate part of Southern Nevada history being the home of the first integrated casino in United States history, the beloved Moulin Rouge. Her spirit lives on thanks to City Councilman Cedric Crear and the City of Las Vegas. The original Moulin Rouge sign shines nightly at the Neon Museum's boneyard more than 50 years after its devastating demise. Just down the street where the Harrison House

sits, we reminisce on greats like Sammy Davis JR and Nat King Cole holding long conversations over coffee while bunking with our Ward 5 residents. The Historic westsides revitalization projects are gaining much needed momentum. Starting in January the Historic Westside will receive momentum signs which will be located on Martin Luther King Boulevard and the US 95 off ramps. As we celebrate Black History Month ReVuE from the 7o2 will continue to stand with the Historic Westside residents as we fight for racial and spiritual equality.

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Cannabis Music News

WORLD OF CANNABIS, ventures all out. When it comes to getting your story out. Our next article combines music, Cannabis and Sobriety.

The Music-World of Cannabis, would like to introduce you to Sober Junkie. SOBER JUNKIE, is an Artist/musician from the choctaw Indian Nation. He made his way in the music industry and Cannabis industry.

“Sober junkie, has features with the kottonmouth Kings and Bay area, Rapper “J diggs”.

Growing up with a father whom, was a struggling actor/performer. Addiction molded much of Sober Junkies life and took him to rock bottom. Cannabis and music were the two escapes that helped Sober junkie overcome his drug addiction. With his raspy, yet soulful voice you can hear a variety of music from Sober Junkie.

Sober Junkie, has a unique style. With a hard rock sound and his versatile musical blend that helps lend to his diverse tracks and the ability to have a song for everyone!

“His hard work, love, and support have transformed Sober junkie, into his current position. “

Sobriety “The kick kit “- Just isn’t a cannabis product. As a matter fact, cannabis is only the beginning of what this kit represents. This kit represents in our turn to give to traditional recovery methods. We are hoping to be the voice of the voiceless and talk for those who are

afraid to stand up for the use of natural medicine. These products will help you for the first 7 to 10 days but it’s what the kit represents after that with the education and the mentorship that’ll get you through the next Chapter of your life”.- Sober Junkie.

Today, nine years clean, Sober Junkie, is taking his music and changing the world with it! “Teach people about people, so people can love people.” This phrase can frequently be heard from Sober Junkie to help understand what he’s been put here to do.

“What that is, is to create the bridge between the people”.

The power of music is incredible it’s the universal language of love. When you get a chance. Connect, with his new album sacred land and take a journey with the Sober Junkie.

California care group, is the endorsement of the kit. California care group is a cannabis organization from Southern California. They own a variety of dispensaries throughout California. Not, to mention a kava bar in downtown Las Vegas, NV.

World of Cannabis, supports all who lend a hand to those who motivate and inspire. Medical marijuana is the future of our world. As our world changes, as we venture in the unknown future. We know one thing for certain is that we will eventually go back to the land and humble way of life. The all natural

medicines, organic stimulants. That help to get our bodies away from the alcohol and hard man made drugs. That destroy our minds and our bodies. We as man kind and Native Americans believe that natural medicine is and was our way of life. It’s a personal opinion on the subject of Medical Marijuana. Although, it is a

proven fact that “God put it here for you and me”. Like any other substance it can be abused. As Arizona joins the states already active with the recreational use law. Let’s be responsible as we adapt to our world as it changes- Clarence Gonzales (World of Cannabis/ RezconnectEnt & Promotions)

Tom Dreesen Speaks Life Experiences

by Pete Allman

Sitting over lunch pondering upon our meeting, Tom Dreesen shares his life experiences as a comedian and motivational speaker. The icon of comedy has traveled throughout the world, however his world-renowned name was made through working with Tim Reid as a biracial comedy duo.

A black and white comedy was quite unique during those years.

“I spent 13 years with Frank. He was like a father to me. Frank lived life his way to the very end. During that time in history we partied heavy until the wee hours of the morning. But Frank will always be remembered as taking care of his friends in need and those were not known.”

Dreesen’s appearances over his 50 years in showbusiness, on such shows as Johnny Carson-Tonight Show, Murder She Wrote, Colombo, Spaceballs and WKRP in Cincinnati enabled him to travel throughout the world, entertaining and uplifting audiences worldwide.

How did Tom Dreesen know he was meant to be an award-winning comedian? He recalls, “It was the day after I first performed on stage and got a laugh, that’s when it happened. I knew, I knew in that instant moment, what I wanted to do with the rest of my life.”

Dreesen grew up in the suburbs of Harvey, Illinois, the south suburbs of Chicago, where there were factories, shopping centers. It was a community of mixed Americans, Irish, Italian, Jewish, Polish, Spanish, and Black. Folks worked in the community, banked and shopped in the community. But as time passed with shopping centers moving to

the outskirts, the town died.

Tom grew up in poverty with 8 brothers and sisters, living in a rat- and roach-infested shack with alcoholic parents. “None of this I regret. It was the greatest thing that could have happened to me.” stated Dreesen.

Tom was right, as a young boy he shined shoes in taverns, set spins in bowling alleys, caddied in the summer and had a paper route. He disciplined himself throughout his life.

Today when Tom visits his hometown, he looks forward to seeing all those people he grew up with. Regardless of who those folks are, he’s always there to lend a helping hand. That has to do with perhaps with his belief in God and his appreciation of what life has brought him.

While enjoying a healthy lunch on a rather warm day at Jerry’s Deli, Dreesen shared his views on his new book, “Still Standing ... My Journey from Streets and Saloons to the Stage and Sinatra.” {AMAZON.COM}

“It’s about my life,” Dreesen says.

In closing, Dreesen gives us his aspect of performing comedy. “I do whatever comes naturally to me. It’s a conversation, not a presentation. Bottom line, it’s your job to make sure it’s not an act.”

He went on to say, “I also give motivational talks to corporations and colleges on perception, visualization, self-talk and developing a sense of humor.”

Pete Allman, “The Man on the Scene,” is based in Marina del Rey, California, concentrating on producing feature films, television projects, and commercials. Pete also has an office in Las Vegas, which he visits occasionally.



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Celebrity Scene News

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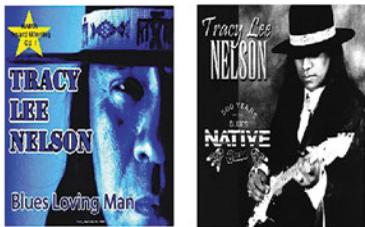
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