



INDIAN VOICES

OUR 36TH YEAR

MULTI-CULTURAL NEWS GLOBAL NETWORK

APRIL 2022

Journalists in the Cross Hairs The Global War on Information

Independent Media Sandy Close and the Force on Nature

All over the world, Journalists are being killed, intimidated, harassed, and imprisoned. According to the U.N. 55 journalists were killed in 2021. Eight journalists have been killed this year in Mexico alone. Access to the internet and social media is curtailed or reduced in many countries and disinformation and propaganda campaigns fill the platforms worldwide. In addition, public opinion about media and journalism are at an all-time low.

Unlike most Americans unaware or oblivious to these statistics. A rare breed on awakened humans have committed their lives to cultural story telling, otherwise known a journalism.

by Rose Davis

The Guardians of the Truth.

Sandy Close is one of these essential Guardians of the Truth tasked with force feeding a dull public healing knowledge and awareness

about mass incarceration, white supremacy, widening economic inequality a militarized form of global capitalism that disproportionately affects people of color and women worldwide. – and rely of silence and

erasure.

She started her career covering China and Vietnam as an editor of the Far Eastern Economic Review in the mid-1960s. She became editor of Pacific News Service in 1974 and was a pioneer in developing youth media. In 1996, she founded New America Media, the first and largest collaboration of ethnic news organizations. Her work has received several awards, including a MacArthur Foundation “Genius Award” and the 2011 Polk Award for Career Achievement. In 1996, a film she co-produced, Breathing Lessons, won an Academy Award for best short documentary. She founded Ethnic Media Services in 2017 to continue her work amplifying and elevating the voices of ethnic media. She is surrounded by a cadre of committed

staff and an animated support group.

The heated arena of the world stage has uncovered fractures of our society revealing , evidence of systematic injustice and other corruptions oppressing the people. Journalist are duty bound to let the citizens know in order to start new transformative conversations. Investigative reporters are critical to this task. Concern for ones safety and avoiding the media groups who serve as an arm of a violent power structure requires caution

Based on the observation by many scholars, no true vacuums exist in nature (on Earth) because the difference in pressure results in an immediate force that acts to correct the equilibrium. Nature abhors a vacuum, and in such a manner so too does the

SEE **Sandy Close**, page 15

Foreclosure Crisis Overlooked by Media

by Rose Davis in support of All Foreclosure Warriors

De Facto Segregation may have superficially ended in society but behind the scene the slow moving black snake is as busy as ever, as illegal foreclosures rage through the courts of America.

Thousands of upstanding, hard working honest citizens, as well as our most vulnerable are losing their homes illegally to unscrupulous lawyers , judges and bankers.

The inequities in our society are woefully unbalanced and lethal. While the courts criminally and fraudulently steal homes from our fellow citizens, politicians at the highest level commit felonies in front of our very eyes and are not made to even stand in the corner.



Foreclosure Fighting Sisters hold court.

This Cabal has camouflaged itself so skillfully in secret society legalese . they have created a Back Channel to communicate with each other, to the

determinant of the hapless, stressed out petitioner who is about to loose his home. It is incumbent on truth seeking journalists to expose this threat to our Democracy.

While a community of foreclosure victims gather regularly to strategize as to how to combat this situation , three courageous sisters who are victims of

this treacherous scheme have combined their energy, determination and anger to declare war on the unscrupulous fraudsters.

Brenda Orea, Gerry Watson and Barbara Bratto, who are from Riverside/San Bernadino have been on a road trip seeking support from those in power to assist them. On their way to Sacramento to lobby for their cause they stopped in San Diego to introduce themselves to the community and educate David Alvarez to their plight, which is where Indian Voices met up with them. At their side is Glenda Murphy, a high spirited Foreclosure Warrior who has an eye for paperwork



Fabtastic Fighting Foreclosure Sisters are joined by Ismael Rodriguez CEO Community Housing and David Alvarez, CA Assembly candidate.

and the determination to make sure proper procedure is followed in their campaign t o build solidarity, unity and movement to expose and dismantle this malignant growth threatening America.

It was a warm cordial and well attended gathering at the home of

SEE **Foreclosure**, page 2

In this issue...

- 1 Journalist in Cross Hairs Foreclosure Crisis
- 2 Kidnapped Journalist
- 3 \$ for Independent Media
- 4 Committee to Protect Journalists
- 5 Dr. Joseph Medicine Crow Center

- 6 CA Reparations
- 7 Return to the Great Law of Peace
- 8-9 Peache Perspective General Aviation Airport/Tribe
- 10 World Beat Center
- 10 Tribal Solar Story

- 11 Beyond Babel Media
- 11 On Town with Camille
- 12 GRIT
- 13 Fighting Fire with Fire
- 13 News from North Family of Indians

- 14 San Diego Black Arts Pandora Papers
- 15 Barsotti CNPA General Council Parenting from Prison Rotary Club
- 16 Pow Wow by the Sea

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'They Said They'd Mutilate And Kill Me,' Says Kidnapped Ukrainian Journalist

Russian soldiers tortured Oleh Baturin and threatened to harm his family. Now released, he talks about his terrifying eight-day ordeal

Observer reporter – Sun 3 Apr 2022

Around lunchtime on 12 March, Oleh Baturin, a Ukrainian journalist in the occupied region of Kherson, received a phone call from an unknown number. It was the activist Serhiy Tsygipa. "I really need to see you, I'm ready to get to Kakhovka," he said calmly. They agreed to meet at 5pm at the city's bus station.

Having warned his family where he was going and who he was meeting, Baturin, 43, who works at the independent newspaper Novyi Den (New Day), left his ID and phone at home and went to the meeting place. But Tsygipa was not there. It was a trap. As he turned to go home, he heard a van door slam and the clatter of feet heading towards him.

Over the next eight days, he said, he was held captive with little water, food or medicine. Sunday will mark two weeks since his release. Speaking to the Observer, he described how he was interrogated, tortured, threatened with mutilation and death, and told that his family would suffer. He had four ribs broken, he said.

"Get down on your knees, bitch!" the Russian soldiers said as they captured him, knocking him to the ground, twisting his arms back, and roughly handcuffing him. Hitting him below the knees and on the back with gun butts and kicks, they yelled: "What is your name? Where is your ID? Where is the phone?" After that, they threw him on the floor of the van.

"During the first interrogations, my hangmen said they were looking for me and that they wanted revenge on me as a journalist, for my professional activities," Baturin said in a speech to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) on Wednesday.

"They tortured me, threatened to mutilate me, threatened to kill me, asked a lot of stupid questions – who are the organisers of pro-Ukrainian rallies in the Kherson region, who runs Telegram channels, who have weapons, or do we have activists and independent journalists from Belarus?"

"The Russian invaders have only one goal – to break down the citizens of Ukraine, to intimidate them and to completely destroy independent journalism, to crush civil activists and journalists physically and psychologically," he added.

Under threat of being shot, he was forced to sign a document stating he would "cooperate with the federal authorities of the Russian federation".

That night, at Nova Kakhovka police station, he was beaten and chained to a radiator. By the next morning, his right hand swollen from the chains, he knew that he might die.

Baturin has always had a reputation as an uncompromising, courageous fighter against injustice, corruption and the violation of human rights.

Before his capture, he had spoken to colleagues who had closed their accounts and websites in response to Russia's new media laws (and the risk of up to 15 years in prison). Baturin was wondering what he would be accused of. But, he said, he was never given specific charges.

His first night and the following morning were the worst. He avoids details, simply saying they used physical violence and threatened to kill.

On the morning of 13 March, Baturin said he was driven, along with other detainees, in a civilian car playing Ukrainian music to Nova Kakhovka city hall. He was calm, although he was convinced they would put him up against a wall or take him into a field and shoot him. The only thing he was worried about was that his family could suffer.

After two hours, they arrived somewhere that sounded like a military training ground. He could hear a military speech and inside there was a strong medical smell. They were taken to a room where there was a sharp smell of alcohol, like a vodka factory, the aromas of food were mixed in, as if Russians had been drinking and eating here for days.

Then he heard Tsygipa's voice and realised that he, too, had been kidnapped and forced to call him by the Russians. Baturin feared that he would also be forced to call someone and lure them into a trap. For the first time he was able to use a toilet and he was given his second glass of water (his first was at 5pm the day before). He would not be fed until 45 hours after his arrest when he was given millet porridge with meat.

During fresh interrogations, which were more professional than the others, he was asked who organised the Kherson rallies, who ran the city's Telegram channels and if he knew any Belarusian journalists and activists who might be in Kherson. But over time, he felt like his information was not interesting to the Russians. They seemed to be playing interrogation, it was all a farce. "You're lucky, I'm a calm person," the FSB officer told him, adding that in other rooms they were pushing harder.

His right hand was shaking violently, he had to hold it with his left hand. As the psychologist later explained to him, the body was looking for a way to physically release stress.

In the succeeding days, he said the cells filled with new detainees – mostly

veterans who had fought in Donetsk and Luhansk. He could hear their cries as they were beaten daily, which was an additional torture.

His own interrogations became chaotic, conducted by different people at unpredictable times, he said. The guards made rounds in the evenings and asked: "Is everything all right?" If you didn't answer yes, they could break in and start beating you. The cell had a tap with water and a hole in the floor. No bedding, no towels, no toilet paper.

On 18 March, under the guise of a

Covid test, they took his DNA and fingerprints and entered them into a database. They also took his photo. Two days later, on 20 March, they told him: "Pack your things, we will take you home."

When he got home, he was glad to take a walk, breathe clean air, look at the Ukrainian flags and be reunited with his family. He couldn't sleep on the first night, but the next day, when friends came and he told them everything, he said he finally felt calm.

Foreclosure

Continued from page 1

Ismael Rodriguez a veteran soldier on the Foreclosure battlefield. and CEO of Community Housing a non-profit whose mission it is to help those battling the rigged system. He is calling out for the honorable Shirley Weber Secretary State and other high level officials for assistance. Armed with their vote the disenfranchised are ready for the fight.

Not only is the spirit of the people being tested but our very Democracy is under attack.

Finding a path forward is in the hands of the courageous and those who have the fight for equality baked into their American DNA Calling on the Collective Political Memory , The Foreclosure Sisters are harkening back to the Civil Rights Movement as they push to clear a path

for others to follow. With an eye continually focused on the Drinking Gourd they energetically and cheerfully employ their Indigenous intelligence, paying heed to the preaching of Dr. Cornell West. Their tenacity is bound for success as they will ultimately join forces with the supreme freedom fighters such as Cindy Brown whose ongoing fight with the unscrupulous is revealing how deeply tangled the system is. Others are eagerly looking to unify, build coalitions and develop an Indigenous media platform.

Nature abhors a vacuum. The Fantastic Foreclosure Sisters are working to close the vacuum. America is growing weary of waiting for a solution to the greed and that is drowning us. Loyal Americans joined by legions of committed journalists are walking the Path to Justice while the unscrupulous universe walks the Psychopath.



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SB 911, Which Creates \$50 Million Fund to Support Independent Media, Passes Through Key Committee in California Senate

by Sunita Sohrabji

SB 911, which would create a \$50 million fund to support independent media — including the ethnic media sector — passed through the California state Senate Governmental Organization committee March 29, on an 8-4 vote.

Specifically, SB 911 would create an 11-member state board — California Board for the Funding of Public Interest Media — which would administer a public fund to distribute \$50 million in grants to bona fide news organizations and reporters, over a five-year period.

The ethnic media sector is part of the bill, which also covers mainstream and non-profit media.

The bill, sponsored by Sen. Steve Glazer, D-Contra Costa and principal co-authors Sens. Ben Allen, D-Santa Monica and Josh Newman, D-Fullerton, now moves to the Senate Appropriations committee. California state Senator Steve Glazer, D-Contra Costa. (Photo courtesy of the senator's office)

Brittany Barsotti, general counsel for the California Newspaper Publishers Association, said that all bills with a budget of over \$250,000 get placed in the “suspense file” of the Senate Appropriations committee; legislative analysts determine the fiscal impact of the bill and make their recommendations to the committee.

Introducing his bill in committee, Glazer said 911 was an appropriate number for the legislation. “911 responds to an emergency. That emergency is the threat posed to our democracy by misinformation.

Our free speech, and our democracy are being overwhelmed by ‘Cheap Speech,’” said the senator, adding that the costs of “good old fashioned fact-based news” is not cheap.

“The result, unfortunately, is that cheap speech has become more widespread than free speech,” he said.

Glazer expressed his appreciation for the input he received from the California Newspaper Publishers Association, Ethnic Media Services, California Common Cause, and other organizations. Maya Chupkov, Media and Democracy Program Manager at California Common Cause, said at the hearing that her organization wants to see some amendments in the bill. “We hope to support it soon,” she said.

Glazer said the bill was a work in progress. “I hope to continue to engage in constructive conversations so that we can further refine the bill as we go forward.”

In California, there has been a 24 percent decline in newspapers, from 481 to 366, during the past 18 years. Circulation has dropped by nearly half,

from 13 million to 7.2 million. Nationally, more than 2,100 newspapers have folded during the past 15 years.

Sen. Bob Archuleta, D-Los Angeles commended Glazer for introducing the measure. “This bill will truly help the news industry. Every town used to have a local newspaper: this bill will bring that back.”

Sen. Jim Nielsen, R-Red Bluff, said he supported the “noble intent” of the bill. “I have watched newspapers die,” he said during the committee hearing.

Nielsen nevertheless voted no, saying he was wary of giving away power to the government, and expressed his concern that newspapers would be dependent on the government. Glazer countered Nielsen’s arguments, noting the independent board which will make the decisions on who receives funding. “We have purposely created a model that does not have government dictating who gets what.”

Sen. Andreas Borgeas, R-Fresno, offered a “friendly amendment,” stating the need for a “rigorous credentialing process” of media outlets receiving grants, including editor and peer-reviewed content. Glazer noted that editorial independence is built into the bill.

Journalists in the Cross Hairs - the War on Information

Ruslan Gurzhiy is the Editor-in-Chief of Slavic Sacramento, the most visited Russian-speaking news resource on the West Coast. He has spent two decades exploring the life of the Slavic diaspora in the United States and its relationship with foreign political, religious and business elites in Russia and Ukraine.



Carlos Martinez de la Serna is the Program Director of the Committee to Protect Journalists. Prior to CPJ, he worked as a reporter and digital journalist in the U.S., Spain, and Japan. cmserna@cpj.org



Jeremy Goldkorn is the Editor-in-Chief of SupChina and co-founder of the Sinica Podcast. Jeremy Goldkorn worked in China for 20 years as an editor and entrepreneur. jeremy@supchina.com



Ricardo Trotti is the Executive Director of the Interamerican Press Association. He was previously Director of Press Freedom, Director of the Press Institute, and Assistant Executive Director of the IAPA. rtrotti@sipiapa.org





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India

NEW DELHI, INDIA – Indian authorities should immediately reverse their decision to block journalist Rana Ayyub from traveling outside India, the Committee to Protect Journalists said Wednesday.

On Tuesday, immigration officials at the Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport in the western city of Mumbai stopped Ayyub, an investigative journalist and a Washington Post commentator who has frequently criticized the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party's policies and politics, and told her she was not allowed to travel to London, according to news reports and the journalist, who spoke with CPJ by messaging app.



Airport officials told Ayyub that she could not leave the country because she is the subject of a recently opened money laundering investigation and that the Enforcement Directorate of the Indian

finance ministry was sending her a summons to appear on April 1, 2022, Ayyub told CPJ. Ayyub received the emailed summons one hour before her flight departure.

“Preventing Rana Ayyub from traveling abroad is another incident in a growing list of unjustified and excessive actions taken by the Indian government against

the journalist,” said Steven Butler, CPJ’s Asia program coordinator, from Washington, D.C. “Indian authorities should immediately cease all forms of harassment and intimidation against Ayyub.”

The Enforcement Directorate froze Ayyub’s bank account in February and accused her of laundering money that she raised to help those affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Ayyub has denied the allegations and called it an attempt to intimidate her. The account also included income that Ayyub earned writing for *The Washington Post* and a newsletter on Substack, according to a Substack post by Ayyub.

Ayyub was flying to London to speak at an event about online violence against female journalists organized by the International Center for Journalists, a Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit, according to those news reports. Ayyub has been subjected to intense online trolling and received numerous threats, as CPJ has documented.

The Ministry of Home Affairs, which oversees the country’s immigration authorities, and the Enforcement Directorate did not immediately respond to CPJ’s request for comment sent via email.

Ethiopian Court Orders Journalist To Be Released On Bail

An Ethiopian court has ordered Ethiopian journalist Amir Aman Kiyaro to be released on bail after being imprisoned for four months without charges

by Andrew Meldrum Associated Press

CAPE TOWN, South Africa -- An Ethiopian court has ordered Ethiopian journalist Amir Aman Kiyaro to be released on bail after being imprisoned for four months without charges.

A judge in the capital, Addis Ababa, on Tuesday granted bail to Kiyaro while prosecutors determine whether or not to press charges against him. Kiyaro remained in custody while bail procedures were being followed before his expected release.

Kiyaro, 30, a video journalist accredited to The Associated Press, was detained on Nov. 28 in Addis Ababa under the country’s war-related state of emergency powers.

Kiyaro is accused of “serving the purposes” of what the government has classified a terrorist group by interviewing its officials, according to reports by Ethiopian state media, citing federal police. Local journalist Thomas

Engida was arrested at the same time and faces similar charges.

If the journalists are found guilty of violating Ethiopia’s anti-terrorism law or the state of emergency law, they could face sentences of seven to 15 years behind bars, federal police inspector Tesfaye Olani has told state media.

Despite the granting of bail after four months of police investigation and detention, it still remains uncertain whether prosecutors will proceed to press charges against Kiyaro. The state of emergency was lifted in February as the government cited changing conditions in the deadly conflict between Ethiopian forces and those of the northern Tigray region.

“We are pleased that journalist Amir Aman Kiyaro has been granted bail and we are eager for his release from prison after being detained in Ethiopia for more than 120 days,” Julie Pace, the AP’s executive editor, said in response to the bail order.

“However, the investigation against him remains ongoing, with no charges filed,” Pace said. “Amir is an independent journalist who has been targeted because of his work and we urge the Ethiopian authorities to drop their investigation.”

Media Alliance

Media Alliance was founded in 1976 by Bay Area media workers who wanted deeper connections with social justice movements and a communications system that worked in the interests of peace, justice and social responsibility.

Acting as mainstream media watchdogs while pointing engaged Americans toward valuable alternative fare, these groups have raised awareness that any democratic reform in the United States must include media reform.

Media Alliance’s project for its first two decades was system change from within the media field – reforming corporate journalism, through defending media workers’ rights, critiquing ‘bad’ journalism and celebrating the ‘good’, and training aspiring journalists (including those with little interest in

politics). Since 1996, MA has found its main constituencies amongst those marginalized within the media field and the broader field of power, communities seeking racial and economic justice and an effective public voice. Robert Hackett and Bill Carroll -Remaking Media: The Struggle To Democratize Public Communication

Thanks for making us think when we were numbed, making some noise when we were dumb, and making sure we never stopped believing in the potential of media that matters.

“Alternative narratives are getting established in the public imagination. Injustice, inequality, homelessness is not invisible and can’t be swept away. The police can attack with flash grenades but we all have to see that. That makes a difference”.

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The San Diego Urban Warriors are coming back together on April 24th to begin planning for our Fathers Day Juneteenth Celebration. We must honor love and celebrate men who against all odds relish for their positions of being a Daddy, head of the house and leaders in the community. The San Diego Black Art & Culture District invites everyone to come out and help plan a celebration to lift up the Black Father's and all men who operate in that title. Hit us up at SDUW.org for Father's Day Freedom Day and African Unity Day activities

Folt Unveils Dr. Joseph Medicine Crow Center for International and Public Affairs

Native American heritage was honored in a ceremony to rename the Center for International and Public Affairs.

by Seeran Ajemian, Adam Jasper and Kelsey Goldbach April 11, 2022

USC President Carol Folt, along with members from the USC Naming Committee, held a ceremony Monday to dedicate the Center for International and Public Affairs to its new namesake, Dr. Joseph Medicine Crow. The committee — composed of faculty, staff, students and alumni — chose to dedicate the building to Medicine Crow after community feedback led Folt to recommend the building be renamed.

Folt announced the Naming Committee's selection Nov. 18 after a year of deliberation of over 200 potential names.

"We brought the faculty, the staff, the

students and the alumni together, and so I didn't interfere with it. We really did want it to be community based rather than [just] me," Folt said. "When they were getting close to the end, they talked to me about a number of people. But by that point, honestly, everybody wanted Dr. Joseph Medicine Crow."

The University Park Campus building is now named after Dr. Medicine Crow, a USC alumnus who was the first member of the Apsáalooke (Crow) Nation to earn a master's degree.

Medicine Crow served for the U.S. Army's 103rd Infantry Division in World War II after finishing his doctorate at USC. He attained chieftaincy, completing the four tasks set by Crow military requirements, all of which involved risking his life.

The ceremony opened with a presentation of colors by the Indigenous Warriors Flag Group, a nonprofit organization made up of Indigenous Vietnam War Veterans.

Medicine Crow's son, Ronald Medicine



Dr. Joseph Medicine Crow's family joins USC community in dedicating the center.

Photo by Jason Goode

Crow, spoke at the event about his father.

"He is not one to lift his head up above everyone else, he is very humble. But he can be firm in the things he believes," Ronald said. "He did whatever he had to do to defend this great country of ours."

Junior Raegan Kirby, a religious studies major, said the dedication is crucial to both current and future Native American students and staff.

"Being able to see in print something with your identity on it is very, very

important," Kirby said. "For prospective students and staff, having that type of representation that's concrete on a building can be great as well. However, at the same time, I don't think that our efforts should stop there."

Kirby is a

member of the USC Native American Student Assembly, a nonprofit organization with the mission of "[voicing] the concerns and needs of the Native American student body at USC."

Ian Teller, a music industry graduate student, said he appreciated the selection of Medicine Crow.

"He sacrificed a lot for this country because he believed in the prosperity of our nation and also believed that Native people played an important role in that," Teller said.

California Reparations: Who Is It For?

by Clovis Honoré, "Indian Voices" Social Justice Editor

The California legislature passed Assembly Bill No. 3121: the Task Force to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African Americans bill. On September 30, 2020 Governor Gavin Newsom signed it into law. The Governor's press release described the new law as "a first-in-the-nation task force to study and make recommendations on reparations for slavery". The Task Force began its work on June 1, 2021.

Nearly a year later, on March 29, 2022 the Task Force voted to approve a motion that said that eligibility to any reparations determination relative to AB 3121 would be "determined by an individual being an African American descendant of a chattel enslaved person or the descendant of a free Black person living in the U.S. prior to the end of the 19th century."

And the firestorm has now begun.

Many of the community advocates and civil rights professionals who attended and testified at the Task Force hearing were incensed that the decision would exclude hundreds of thousands of Black Californians who have endured racism, discrimination and mass incarceration who are not the descendants of slaves, but who immigrated to the United States and California from Africa, the Caribbean

Islands or elsewhere in the world.

However, members of the Task Force who voted in favor of the motion explained that the legislation was specifically written to address the experiences of what some call ADOS - African Descendants of Slaves. The text of the legislation specifically states that the Task Force shall:

Study and develop reparation proposals for African Americans as a result of:

(A) The institution of slavery, including both the transatlantic and domestic "trade" that existed from 1565 in colonial Florida and from 1619 to 1865, inclusive, within the other colonies that became the United States, and that included the federal and state governments, that constitutionally and statutorily supported the institution of slavery.

(B) The de jure and de facto discrimination against freed slaves and their descendants from the end of the Civil War to the present, including economic, political, educational, and social discrimination.

Although the language in the bill expands to include the effects of the enslavement of Africans and others in the time after the end of slavery, up to current times, the decision of the Task Force to only include African Americans with ancestors who were affected by the impacts of American slavery up to 1900 would leave millions of Black people who immigrated to the United States after 1900 out of the equation, if this standard is adopted in other states, or by the federal government.

Of concern for reparations advocates is that whatever precedent is set in

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Let Us Return to The Great Law of Peace

by Rose Davis

Several centuries ago, a new kind of law was born in the Northeast of North America, or Turtle Island. The great Law of Peace-Kayanerenkowa — is a message of peace, power, and righteousness.

Native American influence on the origins of our government and constitution is a hidden and forbidden truth that has been held captive in the narrative of our history. History books would have you believe that the foundation of our country was a manifestation of the genius of the Founding Fathers who miraculously conjured up our nation's foundation out of thin air, or were influenced by European governments even though there was no democracy anywhere in Europe at that time.

When the Founding Fathers looked for examples of effective government and human liberty upon which to model a Constitution to unite the thirteen colonies, they found it in the government of the Iroquois Nation. In the 18th Century, the Iroquois League was the oldest, most highly evolved participatory democracy on Earth.

The U.S. Constitution is modeled in both principal and form on the Great

Law of Peace developed from the indigenous intelligence of the Native American tribe.

This is absolute and unequivocal.

In 1987, the United States Senate acknowledged that the Great Law of Peace of the Iroquois Nations served as a model for the Constitution of the United States.

(U.S. S. Con. Res. 76, 2 Dec. 1987).

Because the U.S. Constitution was a model for the charter of the United Nations, the Iroquois Great Law of Peace is also a basis of international law.

The Iroquois Confederacy gave rise to the first federal constitution on the American continent. That constitution, the Great Law of Peace (the Great Law), provided for federalism, separation of powers, equitable distribution of wealth. Accountability of elected officials, freedom of assembly, speech and religion, and a system of natural rights that influenced thinkers like Benjamin Franklin, Rousseau, and Engles. The most remarkable feature of the Great Law was its recognition of the status and suffrage accorded to women by the Iroquois Confederacy. The Great Law's clauses recognize the power and influence of woman in the Iroquois culture.

For decades, the Iroquois had urged the English colonists to unite together as one independent and free people.

George Washington, Ben Franklin and Thomas Jefferson met frequently with the Iroquois and made themselves very familiar with the Great Law of Peace.

Washington expressed "great excitement" over the two houses and Grand Counsel.

Several delegates from the Iroquois Confederacy attended the Continental Congress in 1776 as it wrote the Declaration of Independence and drafted the Constitution of the United States, modeling it on the Iroquois Constitution.

Three weeks later, the Declaration of Independence was signed, and the



The Iroquois urged the English colonists to unite together as one independent and free people. The Constitution of the Iroquois Confederacy states that chiefs consider the impact of their decisions on seven generations into the future.

United States of America was born.

Regrettably the parts of the Great Law of Peace that our founding fathers didn't incorporate were these:

The Seventh Generation principle: The Constitution of the Iroquois Confederacy states that chiefs consider the impact of their decisions on seven generations into the future.

The role of women: Clan mothers choose candidates [who are male] as sachems [political leaders]. The women maintain ownership of land and homes,

Reparations

Continued from page 5

California will have repercussions around the country if and when other states and, if it ever happens, the federal government take up the issue of reparations for African Americans. This calls into question what reparations may be considered, or not, for Jom Crow and the war in drugs/mass incarceration and other systemic processes, like housing discrimination, in which local, state and the federal governments had a hand.

An additional argument heard from the committee was that they are attempting to craft a process which can withstand legal review and pronouncement already issued by the United States Supreme Court that prohibit race-based solutions to previous racial discrimination.

Critics wonder why the year 1900 was chosen. There doesn't seem to be a good answer for this. The Emancipation

and exercise veto power over any council action that may result in war. The women can also impeach and expel any leader who conducts himself improperly or loses the confidence of the electorate; then the women choose a new leader.

One can only imagine how different our world would be today if our government had included these principles from the start.

As our society collectively evolves from the reptilian brain to a higher consciousness it is time to polish the lens of history to teach the truth of the origin of our incredible country, so that we can get on with this great American experiment, while embracing our brothers and sisters, being comfortable with the concept that Ancestors lives and therefore all lives matter.

At the table of the human family we can return to civility and manners, liberated with full knowledge of how we got to where we are now and with the confidence to navigate to the next evolutionary stage of humanity with minimum social collateral damage and tear gas.

We are blessed and fortunate to be in the orbit of the Great Kumeyaay Nation to pursue this journey.

Proclamation was issued by President Abraham Lincoln on September 22, 1862 and became law on January 1, 1863. The Civil War ended on May 9, 1865. The Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth amendments to the United States Constitution, were passed between 1865 and 1870. Reconstruction ended in 1877. This ushered in an unparalleled period of retrenchment into semi-slavery for most African Americans in the American south in particular.

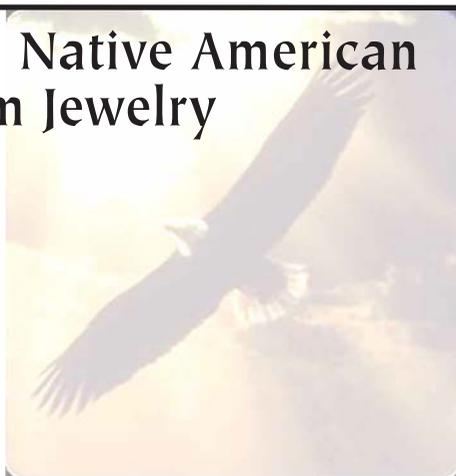
The landmark Supreme Court case of Plessy vs. Ferguson, which enshrined "separate but equal" as the law of the land was decided in 1896. This may seem to be a less arbitrary date to use to determine eligibility for reparations, but what's 4 years?

In any case the Task Force to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African Americans has its work cut out for it in the next year and a quarter, as the authority of the Task Force to pursue its mandate will expire July 1, 2023.

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Adam A. Rodriguez
Juaneno Band of Mission Indians
abelrodriguez93@yahoo.com



PERSPECTIVE from PEACHE

Photos Rochelle Porter



INDIAN GAMING TRADESHOW & CONVENTION

APRIL 19-22, 2022
ANAHEIM CONVENTION CENTER | ANAHEIM, CALIFORNIA



NATIONAL INDIAN GAMING ASSOCIATION

Cassius Marcellus Clay, Jr. was born on January 17, 1942 at Louisville General Hospital. He grew up and lived here at 3302 Grand Ave. with his parents, Odessa & Cassius Clay, Sr. and brother, Rudolph. All attended public schools that were mostly black, including Central High School.



Chairman Ernest L. Stevens, Jr., Faithkeeper Oren Lyons, Tododaho Sidney Hill

LESS THAN 2 WEEKS AWAY REGISTER TODAY!



National Gaming Association will be honoring Faith Keeper Oren Lyons on Tuesday, April 19 with the Muhammad Ali Award



General Aviation Airport & A Tribe

by Robert Betancourt Jr.

With the rise of midterm conservatives and Citizens United funding reelection campaigns;

Local populations get limited to their choices like a train, jobs.

The SOLUTION is forming a Council of local governments with a combined proposition to have local control of their area. One example is in Riverside County where a the local Airport that has existed from 1928 to now has been rezoned by two County Supervisor to LIGHT INDUSTRIAL as of 17 December 2020.

By forming a BOOSTER CLUB, an EN BANC of LOCAL Council of Governments to petition the Federal Aviation AGENCY to

return the airport back to local control including a new local proposition from the people to do action to return to local control as it was in 1935 prior to world war two.

The local people with the city of Hemet-San Jacinto - and the soboba Band of Luiseno Indians is petitioning the Federal Aviation Agency headquarters in the Orville Wright Building, Washington District of Columbia to access the 1.2 Billion dollar pot to improve airports by sending an Email 9-arp-bil-airports@faa.gov to Julieann Dwyer which in turn will open the door for a commuter rail to Perris, California connecting the Metro Rail. This action opens up an INTELLIGENT TRANSPORTATION GRANT which is part

of the Department of Energy, The train would restore parlor cars from the Southern California Railway Museum located at 2201 South A Street, Perris, California. The museum has an existing roundhouse and a repair pit. Two years ago in Hempstead, England a diesel locomotive was converted to electric with a battery which was on "Fully CHARGED" on YouTube in September 2019. This could be millions less as the same eighty pound rail would be used and the cantanerary (overhead wire) would only be at the stations.

Tribes could do the same thing and recreate an experience and help to improve the local airport, possibly forming "a FLIGHT" of Civil Air Patrol cadets with 3 Native American Veterans. This action since the Civil Air Patrol is an Air Force Auxiliary to further justify improving the airport.

Courage is not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it.

The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid, but he who conquers that fear.

– Nelson Mandela



For more news throughout the month visit our website: indianvoices.net

Pala Rez Radio

91.3 FM



www.RezRadio.FM

- Exclusive Southern California home of The Wolfman Jack Show, Tuesdays through Saturdays at 6pm
- National Native News M-F 10a and noon
- Native America Calling live at 10a M-F
- Pala Today local news and events M-F at noon
- 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.

BLUE MOUNTAIN TRIBE

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WORLD BEAT CENTER



by Makeda Cheatom

Make your backyard an ecosystem. You'll need to restore it back to health so it can breathe again. To make your backyard a sanctuary here are five steps that can help you create that chill and cool retreat. We spend most of our time indoors. You can create a sacred sanctuary in your backyard or even on your balcony.

First, start clearing out junk in your backyard, that's anything that would interrupt your backyard as a sacred space. You want a place where you can feel calm and at peace. Take time to evaluate what you would want in a sacred space that brings you peace and tranquility. You want a place where you can meditate and relax. We need a sacred spot in Babylon where we can touch the Earth and clear our stress. So clear out the space, improve the soil and manage the water. Provide a



space for wildlife including birds and butterflies.

Improve the soil by using organic mulch. It's very important to make your garden sanctuary sustainable. Mulch adds nutrients to the soil, conserves the soil's

moisture so you water less often, and eliminates erosion.

Water is essential for all life and it is sacred. Water is one of the most important elements of life on Earth. Water nourishes plants and provides a habitat for precious fauna so it's important for your sanctuary to use water responsibly and to use only as much as necessary. Please be careful not to add no pollutants like pesticides, herbicides or fertilizers.

Birds help control pest populations and add sound and beauty. Pollinators play a critical role in our ecosystem. Bees, butterflies, beetles and hummingbirds help keep insect populations in check and are responsible for most of our food supply because they help cross-pollinate plants.

A natural landscape consists of a layered community of plants working in harmony to support a large stable ecosystem. Tall canopy trees rise



above short trees, shrubs and perennials. Ground covers cover the soil.

Here are some of the best pollinator plants (don't use chemicals in your garden): Borge, lavender, butterfly weed, yarrow, salvias, and echinacea. Visit your

local nursery or farmers market to purchase your plants. If you are in San Diego, you can come to WorldBeat Center to pick up your seeds on Sunday, April 24th (check worldbeatcenter.org for the time or visit WorldBeat Center (2100 Park Blvd, 92101) Friday-Sunday from 11am-6pm.

Create a sanctuary where you can unwind and listen to the birds. The hawks by day and hoot owls by night. Have fun creating your sacred sanctuary. To learn more check out "Creating Sanctuary" by Jessi Bloom.

Happy Spring from WorldBeat Center's Healing Peace Sanctuary Garden!



Sunday, April 24th from 11AM to 6PM, join as we bring awareness to water issues and solutions for San Diego.

Come out and celebrate 33 years since we took the initiative to bring all cultures and families together to heal the world through music, art, dance and culture. This April is also 37 years since our non-profit, Prophet WorldBeat Productions founded!

WorldBeat's Multi-Cultural Earth Day will



feature guest water issues advocate speakers, local Reggae bands, and wellness activities in the garden such as a plant music concert and sound bowl sessions.

WorldBeat Center will showcase Native American Drumming by Tim Red Bird and the Red Warriors, Japanese Taiko by San Diego Taiko, African Drumming by Dramane and Friends and African Dance by Makida and Malaikas Kidogos, Middle Eastern Drum and Belly Dance, Brazilian Capoeira, and Brazilian Samba by Unidos de San Diego.

Plus there will be children's art activities by Maria Cruz and inside the



Nano Technology Exhibit thanks to the Rueben H Fleet Science Center and the Nanoscale Informal Science Education Network (NISE Network). Free event, for all families and all cultures!

PUMPKIN SOUP

Ingredients

- 1 fresh pumpkin or 2 cups of unsweetened pumpkin puree
- 2 cups coconut milk
- 5 cups water
- 2 potatoes, peeled
- 2 sprigs fresh thyme
- 6 leaves fresh sage
- 1 stick cinnamon bark
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 teaspoon black pepper

Directions

- Cut pumpkin in half, deseed and rub with coconut oil
- Place thyme sprigs and sage on both halves and wrap aluminum foil
- Place over open flame or in 350 degrees over and roast until flesh is tender
- Scoop flesh from the peel
- Bring the coconut milk and water to boil in large pot

- Add pumpkin and chopped potato to the pot with boiling coconut milk
- Let it simmer for a while with one stick of cinnamon bark and fresh sage leaves
- Puree in blender until smooth, finish with fresh olive oil and black pepper
- Serve in bowls with roasted almonds



Jamaican Sips, Bites, and Sweets

batter, careful to remove any excess

- Fry in two batches in 350 degree oil until golden brown and crispy
- Drain on towels to remove excess oil
- Squeeze fresh lime juice on fried okras just before serving

Jamaican Rasta culture does not use salt in food)

Directions

- Mix flour, corn starch, and baking powder together
- Whisk in water until it is a smooth and light batter
- Drench okras and fresh basil in

FRIED OKRA

Ingredients

- 20 large okras, quartered
- 1 cup flour, fine ground preferred
- 2 tablespoons cornstarch
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 1/4 cup sparkling water
- 5 leaves fresh basil
- 1 teaspoon of salt (optional,

WorldBeat Cultural Center and MLK Task Force Present

Pathways to Freedom in the Americas Exhibition

Shared Experiences between USA and Costa Rica, Mexico

Soft Opening Reception
Sunday, June 19th, 2-6pm

Exhibit Opening
Friday, July 1st, 6-8pm

Vicente Cuerrero
Second President of Mexico

2100 Park Blvd, San Diego, 92101 | worldbeatcenter.org

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2022 SAN DIEGO

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- Keynote Speakers
- Seed Exchange & more

Multi-Cultural Earth Day

Sunday, April 24th
11am - 6pm

WorldBeat Cultural Center
2100 Park Blvd, San Diego, 92101 | worldbeatcenter.org

Reflections: Light, Law, Love

by Caroline Myss

potent love is, we should all find loving others to be the easiest thing to do - and yet, loving others, making decisions motivated by love, empowering others, loving bigger than ourselves, and forgiving those who have hurt us - those are the most difficult challenges of life.

Choice is our greatest power - and each of us is born knowing that truth. While I have often heard people say that love is the greatest power in life, the truth is we must first make the decision to choose love. Love is the most mysterious, baffling, magnetic, healing and empowering expression of the life force we can experience. Given how

To learn more visit www.myss.com

ASCENDtials

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MORE DETAILS: 619-230-1190 | WORLDBEATCENTER.ORG

Navigating Uncertainty with Resilience: A Tribal Solar Accelerator Story

Family and community are undoubtedly important to the Campo Band of Mission Indians. Through these uncertain times, the ability to support and even gather with family and community is being affected. Not only because of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, but also because of repeated widespread power shutoffs. The brutal reality of going without electricity has become all too common. “It’s a part of life now,” says Tribal member, Angelita Anderson. While resilience and regeneration are in the Campo members’ heritage, these shutoffs have them thinking about renewable energy now more than ever.

“It’s so important because of the location and how often we get power outages,” says Campo’s Housing Director, Sandra Burkheimer. “It’s not just the lights but also water. A lot of people have wells and having backup batteries will help.” The Campo Housing Office’s mission is to help as many families as possible to secure and maintain housing. For Sandra, this also includes supporting families’ affordable, renewable energy goals. Sandra says the Tribe’s partnership with GRID Alternatives (GRID) over the last couple of years has helped a lot of families in her community to meet those goals. Through state funded programs such as Disadvantaged Communities-Single Family Solar Homes (DAC-SASH) and Self-Generated Incentive Program (SGIP), GRID has been able to

install solar for 19 Campo families, some of whom have also received battery storage.

“If I can also help families with their energy costs, that is a plus,” says Sandra. “Lowering the costs helps people who are struggling to afford housing, are facing homelessness, or are overcrowded in their homes. GRID has helped us make going solar a reality for those who need it most.” A lot of this work is made possible through GRID’s Tribal Solar Accelerator Fund (TSAF), a Tribal-led philanthropic program that provides new funding to Tribes to support their renewable energy projects, particularly in a way that engages broad tribal community participation.

Since 2019, GRID has worked with the Campo Band of Mission Indians to reach 19 Tribal families. GRID typically leverages state and federal incentives to make solar affordable for communities of concern. There are often challenges and limits to these funding sources, though, and that is where TSAF comes in—to provide unrestricted funding and assist in getting Tribal communities across the finish line. Through TSAF, GRID was able to install solar on 10 tribal homes for a total of 44.39 kilowatts. Each household is income-qualified with children and/or elderly family members. The new systems will generate significant energy cost savings per home. Additionally, the impact of the amount of kilowatts installed is equivalent to eliminating 633 tons of greenhouse gas



Members of the Campo Band of Mission Indians

and planting over 14,000 trees.

Sandra is a big proponent of solar at Campo because she recognizes the changing household dynamics of the families in her community. Stepping up as the head of her household, which includes small children and other family members, Sandra knows the importance of saving money. “Solar has been amazing, I haven’t had a bill that has been more than \$20 since it was installed. Sometimes, I even have credits.” With so many other uncertainties, not having to worry about her electric bill is a big relief for Sandra. She wants the same for other families. Folks are often skeptical because they always think there is a catch, that maybe the services are not actually no-cost. “As more people get it,

more people want it.” Sandra is excited about that and the opportunity to bring more relief to other Campo families.

At GRID, we share those same priorities of family and community. “I signed up for solar because the Tribe wanted to offer something to families who needed it,” says Angelita. “Not only to help with bills but to create better solutions to make the community more eco-friendly and introduce renewable energy.” Angelita and her family’s clean energy goal is not just about what is cheaper for their family, but also what is going to make a difference in their community. The family of six, including four children, makes it a point to pray together each night for the needs of everyone. Angelita knows so many in her rural community need help, and she empathizes with those concerned about the constant power shut offs. “Everybody needs a phone because we don’t have access to anything. We branch out via the web, that’s how we communicate. When the power goes out, we lose our only form of communication.” Angelita, who has been homeschooling her youngest since COVID started, is awaiting the possibility of more funding for battery storage to make her home more secure in the face of the outages. GRID Alternatives is grateful for community leaders like Angelita and Sandra and continues to advocate for the renewable energy needs of our Tribal partners and Tribal families. To learn more about our efforts and successes and how you can contribute to help these communities, please go to.

Journalists Forging a Post Babel Media Landscape

At the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists we want to inspire and cultivate a global community of reporters and readers who believe journalism can bring about positive change.

ICIJ is a unique organization. A U.S.-based nonprofit, we are both a small, resourceful newsroom with our own reporting team, as well as a global network of reporters and media organizations who work together to investigate the most important stories in the world.

Our network of trusted members encompasses 280 of the best investigative reporters from more than 100 countries and territories. We also partner with more than 100 media organizations, from the world’s most renowned outlets, including the BBC, the New York Times, the Guardian and the Asahi Shimbun, to small regional nonprofit investigative centers.

Drawing on the expertise and reach of our network, we collaborate on groundbreaking investigations that expose the truth and hold the powerful accountable, while also adhering to the

highest standards of fairness and accuracy.

The ICIJ core team is small, but ambitious. We want to empower our readers to engage with their local communities about issues of global importance, such as broken systems and abuses of power. And we want to do that by harnessing the enormous strength of our extensive network.

In addition to our U.S. staff, we have team members in Australia, France, Spain, Hungary, Serbia, Belgium and Ireland.

We are passionate about the power of journalism and provide the tools and guidance needed to successfully pull off

unprecedented reporting collaborations.

Over the years, ICIJ has released dozens of investigations – including the Pulitzer Prize-winning Panama Papers – and we have won many awards for our work.

ICIJ is fully funded by donations. You can read more about our supporters here, and explore the impact of our work here.

ICIJ encourages tips, leaks and story ideas from the public, whistleblowers, as well as from outstanding investigative journalists interested in collaborating with us. Please don’t hesitate to contact us with your ideas.

If you are a journalist and want to be considered for ICIJ membership please send us your CV and clips.

Gwendolyn Parada
Chairwoman

**LA POSTA BAND OF
MISSION INDIANS**

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by Camille Appling

Mana de San Diego Legacy Luncheon 2022

Mana de San Diego located in the Euclid Jacob Center at 404 Euclid Ave has been serving San Diego for over 30 years and has consistently provided exemplary service in areas like Business, Education, Science, Law and Politics.



This year we celebrated our legacy with the tremendous contributions by leadership like Lorena Gonzales Fletcher California Assemblywoman accompanied



by husband County Supervisor Nathan Fletcher, Nora Vargas Vice Chair of The San Diego County Board of Supervisors and Erica Pinto Chairman of Jamul



Indian Village. The women have been working steadfastly in humanitarian areas to reduce Homelessness, Increase Female Empowerment and Native Leadership in San Diego.

The Legacy Luncheon at the Jamul Indian Casino offered a beautiful spread of Charcuterie and lunch included Salmon, Steak and Vegetables. The luncheon was filled with flowers and major players including Manas first Hermanita and Recent President Venus Molina, Sofia Robitaille and District Attorney Summer Stephan's Assistant Yoli Apalategui Lugo.

MANA is currently working on several projects including their Hermanitas group which educates and prepares young women for college and employment, Tias the program after the girls complete the Hermanitas Program, Scholarships and Latina Success Leadership Program to assist in removing barriers in education and careers. Lastly please join us in welcoming in new President Claudia Cardenas Rempel. Manas.org

The CIRCLE

On March 12 2022, "T.H.E.C. I.R.C.L.E" (Training, Healing, Educating Community Inspiring, Resolution of Conflicts and Leadership Empowerment) Community Empowerment Center located at 5081

Logan Ave welcomed San Diego Youth and Leadership for a day of Marching and Powerful Discussion about what needs to

happen for the Future of San Diego Youth. The President of Epiphany Women In Focus, Rashida Hameed supports Community Members with Clothing, Health and Wellness Classes, Resume Support and Financial Literacy Training. During the March the children in attendance boldly carried signs demanding Concern and Protection for their future while chanting powerfully about Childrens Rights and Peace Building Advocacy. Some of the other attendees included District 4 City Council Member Monica Montgomery Steppe, Attorney and Community Advocate Carlton T Meyers Esq, many promising youth and Community Members. If interested in the center please come by or check us out at epiphanywomeninfocus.org.



San Diego American Indian Health Center to Host 2022 Pow Wow May 14 & 15

Two-Day Event draws thousands to Celebrate American Indian Heritage in San Diego

San Diego, CA – The San Diego American Indian Health Center (SDAIHC) will host the 34th annual Balboa Park Pow Wow on May 14 and 15, 2022, from 10:00am to 6:00pm, at the corner of Park Blvd. and President's Way, San Diego, CA.

The Pow Wow is a celebration and showcase of Native American culture and traditions. Native singers, drummers, and dancers in their beautiful regalia from throughout the Southwest will gather in Balboa Park to practice their traditions and you're invited to come and celebrate with us. Pow Wows are a spiritual experience for American Indians and an opportunity to preserve and pass on the customs and traditions which keep our Native heritage alive.

Randy Edmonds will serve as the event emcee, and each day, the Pow Wow will showcase traditional activities such as Kumeyaay Bird Singing, Gourd Dancing, Inter-Tribal Dancing, and Honoring of community leaders.

At the event this year we will be honoring Paul Cuero, Jr, former Chairman of the Campo Kumeyaay Nation, on Saturday at 3:00PM, for his service to the Kumeyaay Nation, the Native community on a state and national levels and his commitment to youth and preserving Kumeyaay traditions.

Randy Edmonds, a member of the Kiowa/Caddo Tribes of Oklahoma will be honored on Sunday at 3:00PM for his lifelong service to the Native community.

Mr. Edmonds has been a leader and instrumental in bringing much needed services in both Los Angeles and San Diego areas. He is a spiritual leader and advisor and is always "there" for those who need him. He is also the winner of an Emmy for voicing John Legend's animated feature "Crow: The Legend"!

San Diego American Indian Health Center promotes excellence in health care with respect for custom and tradition with the goal to reduce the significant health disparities San Diego's Urban American Indian and under-served populations by improving the excellence of care, resulting in increased life expectancy and improved quality of life. We are a community health center who welcomes and offers services to everyone in need of quality care.

This event is made possible with the help of the Pow Wow Committee: Ana Jacome, Abel Jacome, Tina Morales, Shurene Premo, Larry Edmonds, Laura Viramontes, Mariah Lewis, and Paula Brim. To learn more about volunteering, vendor information, donations, or other general information, contact Paula Brim at (858) 442-5033 or paula.brim@sdaihc.org.

About San Diego American Health Center The San Diego American Indian Health Center is a patient-centered health home that provides comprehensive medical, dental, behavioral health, and community wellness services that are available to all San Diegans. Founded in May 1979, we honor the wisdom of community leaders who believed urban American Indians living in our city should have community-based health care rooted in traditional cultural values. The vision of our founders lives on after nearly forty years as we continue to grow and provide high quality health care services to a diverse community of all ages and walks of life. For additional information, please visit www.sdaihc.org.

Carlton T Meyers, Esq.

I recently met with Carlton T Meyers Esq, Founder and Head Consultant for Mayer's Strategic Solution and discussed his contribution to American Legalism. Carltons background in policy prepared him to serve in various capacities in Restorative Justice to decrease recidivism and increase conflict resolution in the workplace while serving under the President Barak Obama Administration.

He has continuously helped the Community by implementing The C.A.T method focusing on Community Empowerment, Accountability and Transparency while focusing on plans to give the community tools for



communication and validation with law enforcement for safer communities. He has tirelessly worked as Policy Counsel with agencies like the NAACP to place programs like the Legal Defense and Educational fund in effort to support citizens' rights. He has also worked with Senator Corey Booker to decrease police misconduct and policy reform and lobbied with Andrew Cuomo on The Hill. His consulting company has tirelessly addressed Juvenile Justice Reform. Carltons work includes a four hour Course on Conflict Resolution and Anger Management for people coming out of the Prison System for Reentry Mediation. Carlton has also served as Policy Lawyer of Legal Defense Fund for Thurgood Marshall Associate Justice of the Supreme Court. In addition to working in policy reform he is also committed to public safety. Other recognition includes National Organization Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE) and Andrew Gilliums run for the State of Floridas Governors Office.



Wonder of the World Of Rocks

by April Nurse

Life takes grit! It takes small doses of courage spoon fed to our fearful inner child day after day, until we finally learn to trust ourselves. For many, the pandemic interrupted our autopilot leaving us face to face with an unmotivated and fearful version of ourselves. Processing and progressing in the face of who we have become takes grit. Recently, I had the pleasure of teaching a few brave women how to find courage with a little grit.

These wonderful students, enrolled in our eight week beginning class which focuses on cutting, shaping, and setting gems and minerals. Each woman came with a story, a lot of curiosity and a fair amount of nervousness. Faced with fear I had the honor of addressing the doubtful inner children. -Let me show you what you can expect, but remain open to the unlikely. The worst may happen but I have your hand steadfast in my own, have no fear. I've walked this path many times and if something new arises that we don't yet understand, we'll use what we know to understand it better. - Fear is valid, but it may be put to rest by the support of experience and confidence in lessons learned. I have made so many mistakes in my life, at least now I've got a full toolkit and the capacity to use my tools for good. I know I'm not alone in this. Anybody who makes mistakes in class can rest assured they'll be supported. And so we should support ourselves as we go through life. Mistakes are inevitable. We might as well be kind to ourselves when they happen.

The hands-on work of shaping stone exposes the truth of a person. Everybody makes mistakes; stones are dropped, cracked, broken, exploded even. How a student reacts to these setbacks is very much reflective of how they deal with setbacks in life. I like to remind students that a cracked stone is an opportunity to adapt and create a new vision. How lucky care we to unexpectedly find ourselves holding two gems instead of one? How satisfying to reshape a mistake and make something beautiful. It was a

proud moment watching a student break a stone on the first day and laughingly repeat my words "...and now I have two!"

At times the students would be so focused on finishing their pieces they'd rush to the end. Gently I'd remind them to pause, wash up, and walk their art out into the sunlight. Every flaw, every blessed scratch, and crack becomes visible in the light. It's so easy to miss under the intensity of focused progress. The way the grit and water run through everything during the shaping process, coating and blurring the final result, is a part of the journey. Admittedly, it can be hard to appreciate. Instead of cursing the deceptive mud, it helps to remember that the grit is the gem itself shedding the weight of its old self under our evolving guidance. With our focus on the emerging shimmering jewel, we often forget that the rough material had to undergo the harshest treatment of cutting, sanding and polishing before at last meeting our approval. Care, patience, and gratitude are the least we can offer the grit that makes our transformation a reality.

Stepping into life after the pandemic can feel daunting. Many of us are peering at ourselves as though for the first time. As we unfreeze from our quarantined emotions I offer you the tools I offer my students. Be gentle with your process and ever more gentle with yourself. Acknowledge your fear for what it is (it's valid,) and then remember you've got everything you need to overcome. It would be a shame to let a little fear ruin what might be a lot of fun. Slow down! Don't race to the finish; instead take lots of breaks, take your time and inspect your progress in the light of truth. You may not be where you want to be, but all that grit is proof you're making progress. While we all want to get to the jewel, we can't lose sight of the work that happens before hand. Making a jewel of life takes courage, patience, gratitude, and a little grit.

If you'd like more information on shaping stone please visit VistaRocks.org

Fighting Fire with Fire

by Steven Marquardt, Oceanside

As spring passes, I'm filled with excitement for the long days of summer relaxing in the rejuvenating bodies of water on the West Coast. Sadly, that excitement is paired with dread of the inevitable wildfires and potential days stuck inside trying to keep smoke out of my lungs. After living in Chico, California, I'm left with memories of raining ash and community distress during the deadly 2018 Camp Fire and the weeks of hazy, hazardous air during the deadly 2020 fires. It's saddening to think how many people are deprived of the ability to escape the toxic smoke, like our unhoused neighbors and agricultural workers unable to skip work. It's infuriating to know that many people have lost, and will lose, loved ones, homes, and sacred land due to climate, corporate, and colonial fueled wildfires.

Northern California communities are far too familiar with these devastating wildfire realities. Many in this region have a fear of fire for its associations with death, destruction, and chaos. While this fear is valid given the fires of the recent past, Indigenous peoples remind us that fire is not inherently bad nor something to fear completely. What is to fear is the frequency and the severity of today's wildfires, the results of climate change, corporate greed, and the US's abandonment of Indigenous land management practices.

Wildfires are a natural part of the landscape in western forests, but as the Mechoopda Tribe's Ali Meders-Knight recently told Congress, land management decisions will determine whether we have "a little bit of fire or a lot of fire". Indigenous peoples have privileged knowledge of the human management required in native ecosystems. Before colonizers arrived, they routinely used fire to maintain the health of forests and mitigate wildfires. They understand how fire cleans the ground to allow certain species to grow and reproduce, how smoke can naturally

fumigate trees, and how certain Indigenous trees can create more water than existed before. As Ali puts it, "there is good fire and good smoke which brings rain, sequesters carbon in the soil, and makes healthy plants that have been adapted to good fire for thousands of years".

Through the Chico Traditional Ecological Stewardship Program, Ali and the Mechoopda Tribe are helping to bring this good fire back to Northern California's forests. The program's overall focus is teaching Indigenous-led land management to build community resilience and shared prosperity. She explains that "Indigenous methods and approaches of tending forest ecosystems have objectives to cultivate biodiversity based on long term place based observation and well known outcomes. From a climate change perspective, biodiversity is an insurance policy for resilience. If one species is impacted, another species will step up and take its place to keep the system going."

The program is preparing an ecologically trained and certified workforce to restore native ecosystems and encourage locally based livelihoods all while mitigating the effects of climate change. The program is so promising that it even has the US Congress rethinking forest management. Last month, Ali was one of three panelists at the Congressional Environment Subcommittee hearing to speak on the necessity of traditional ecological knowledge and Indigenous practices in reducing catastrophic wildfires.

The Chico Traditional Ecological Stewardship Program is an inspiration at a time when politicians, companies, and agencies have proven themselves incapable of protecting our communities. It reminds us that solutions to today's biggest problems existed well before colonizers arrived. It shows us that the path to a just and livable future is through Indigenous leadership. You can learn more about the Chico Traditional Ecological Stewardship Program at tekchico.org.

More than a Yard Sign

A valiant media is critical to holding those in power accountable for their actions, and for offering a free flow of accurate information that builds an informed citizenry. A free and fair press, with deep roots in the community, opens up the world around us and provides

insights into events and actions of taking place in the communities where we live. And, it is the ethnic community newspapers and outlets that are historically the main source of original reporting in their communities.

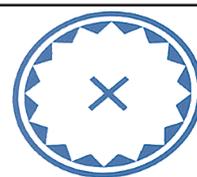
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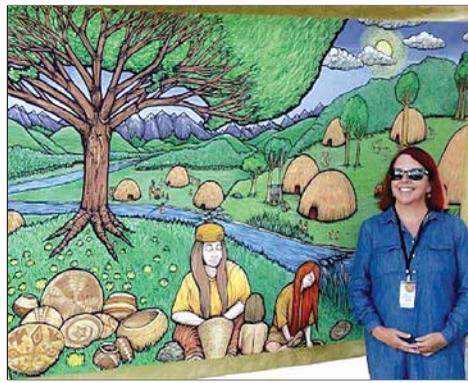
News From the North

by Linda Kallas

Greetings fellow readers. I am back with the second article about the arts in North County. This article will feature Studio ACE located in the San Luis Rey Valley in Oceanside.

Studio ACE was founded by Julia Fister, three years ago with the mission of enriching lives through Art, Community and Education. Julia has developed programs that offer affordable and accessible from toddlers to seniors along with many outreach programs for underserved community members as well as a variety of creative workshops. Studio ACE has become a vital force in promoting the arts throughout North County.

Julia has also collaborated with over 30 organizations in North County both before and during the COVID shutdown. When the pandemic hit, Julia and her small but mighty staff became innovative and put together over 8,000 art kits that were delivered to the Oceanside Parks and Recreation summer camps, Oceanside School District students, USO Camp Pendleton, Boys and Girls Clubs as well as the general public. Other collaborations include Buena Vista Audubon Nature Center, El Camino High School, Transitional Youth Academy, and Girl Scouts of America to name a few. In collaboration with the Oceanside Public Library during the pandemic, Julia and I created zoom lessons for seniors, developmentally disabled adults, and families. All materials were provided for the classes, and the participants zoomed in once a month for three months for lessons



in creating art. The senior lessons included a lecture component taught by Julia.

Studio ACE has been the recipient of many grants which enable Julia and her staff to continue to develop and implement art education programs. Studio ACE received a grant from the Conrad Prebys Foundation that helped fund the Valley Arts Festival. In collaboration with Mel Vernon, members of the San Luis Rey Band of Mission Indians, Mitzi Summers, and myself, the Valley Arts Festival was created to celebrate the first peoples of this area. The event took place last November at Heritage Park in Oceanside and was free to the public. The festival offered live music, basket weaving, arts and crafts, mural painting and freshly made fry bread. Other contributors to the event were the Oceanside Cultural Foundation, Oceanside Public Library, and the Oceanside Friends of the Library. The event was well attended and received by the community. Julia continues her quest to keep expanding programs throughout North County and focusing on underserved communities. More information is available on her website, www.studioace.org.

Seven-Foot-Tall, 8,000-Pound Quartz Crystal Cluster Is Unique Addition to National Museum of Natural History

by James Di Loreto, Smithsonian Institution

The Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History unveiled a stunning slab of quartz crystals today, Oct. 27. This is among the largest examples of quartz specimens on display in any museum in America. At 7 feet tall and more than 8,000 pounds in weight, the gigantic cluster of thousands of sparkling crystals stands in the front gallery, adjacent to the museum's historic north entrance. The quartz was discovered at the Coleman Mine in Arkansas' Ouachita Mountains in 2016. It is named the Berns Quartz in recognition of Michael and Tricia Berns, whose philanthropic support brought the specimen into the museum's collection.

"We are thrilled to have the Berns Quartz join other Smithsonian icons—the Hope Diamond, the Nation's T. rex and Henry the elephant—on display in the most visited natural history museum in the world," said Kirk Johnson, Sant Director of the National Museum of Natural History. "The specimen's research value is significant,

but its dramatic appearance makes it one of the most striking visual experiences in the museum."

From sandstone to gemstones, quartz is everywhere. In its natural form, it is the second most common mineral in Earth's crust and is the mineral behind the well-known gems amethyst and citrine. In its synthetic form, it is a key ingredient in watches, radios and other electronics. Quartz crystals look like hexagonal prisms that culminate in a point. Their shape comes from how their atomic building blocks, silicon and oxygen, lock into precise, repeating arrangements.

"A cluster of clear quartz crystals of this size and quality is extraordinarily rare," said Jeffrey Post, mineralogist and curator-in-charge of gems and minerals at the museum. "Quartz is one of the basic building blocks of our Earth, and we hope this amazing specimen will inspire a sense of awe in people and excite them to learn more about our world."

For more information, visit the museum on its website, blog, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

2022 April - Family of Indians

As my mind, starts to think that maybe this covid mutated virus. Has become our new reaper. My experience with this beast had my opinion changed. That it is a killer, and has come for souls. It will mutate again and our world needs to be ready. If we want to be here on earth a little longer.

Self, is important, our shells need vitamins, need every day care. Medications for diabetes and high blood pressures to keep up. Stock up on antibiotics for allergies. It stops the sinus infections, which can help with the mucus drip. Congestion and some thing to dry up the mucus and loosen it, as well as hot fluids. To each, is his own in today's society. But, individuals with health problems, need to take heavy pre cautions.

As, I learned to cleanse my spirit on a daily bases. I learn to care for my physical self in making sure the vessel is working properly. But, when the body needs medical attention we should not be hesitant to get it. This means vaccine and booster shots.

As an Indian, a native American, learning our history of how our lands were taken. It Brings me to think that. Our governments, will always try to kill us off. All races are in this boat with us as well. So, we need to up lift one another and treat others with respect.

Back in ,1903 until 1937. At the time of its NRHP nomination. The valentine indian school was owned by the Hualapai Indian nation. Its said that it

was built to educate the Hualapai. But also "Apache, Havasupai, Hopi, Navajo, Tohono O'odham (Papago), Pima, and Yavapai children during the early twentieth century". Growing up, we used to hear stories about the school.

How the government gave blankets to the children there, with small pox. Killing off the Indian children and putting their life less bodies in a pit. My mom lived in valentine for awhile. I used to visit. At night you could hear the children still active. It tells me that they are still restless, maybe looking

for answers or maybe just imprinted in that time warp.

Never, could I have pictured, that till the covid pandemic hit, this past year. Watching the news in New York. Bodies were piled, then loaded into uhaul trucks to accommodate storage. What has our world come too?

Losing, so many of our elders, friends and relatives. It's really hard to think that our government would do this to down size our population control. They say it's the law of man. Law, of man is government control, taxes and so fourth.

On a regular basis, I used to talk to myself. In my world, it means talking with God(our creator), It's like an arm wrestling match. Sometimes self gets to take the wheel and sometimes God is in control. But, the ship is always moving.

God, is the spirit and with the spirit moving a mountain is not impossible. But, physically, to move a mountain requires heavy machinery and by far many years of man power - RezconnectEnt & Promotions (Clarence Gonzales) 2022



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San Diego Black Arts

by Camille Appling

On April 13th 2022 Council President pro tem Monica Montgomery Steppe was joined by the Community including San Diego's Own California Secretary of State Dr Shirley Webber, Dajahn Blevins Founder and CEO of SD Urban Warriors Inc and Gaidi Finnie of the San Diego African American Museum of Fine Arts to discuss the future of San Diego's Black Arts District. The Black Arts district that will be located in between 62nd to 69th Street including Mary Widman Park area.



The community is in great need of an area that both supports and appreciates the distinction of African American Culture and its Contributions. The Area will include Museums, Cafes, Storefronts and Theatres that will display contributions from both local and international artist showcasing the modernization of the African interculturalized by America and its inhabitants. The goal is to uplift underserved communities by embracing History and Culture to remove limitations and increase knowledge.

The Journalist's Creed

Drafted by Walter Williams, the first dean of the Missouri School of Journalism in 1914, this declaration and personal affirmation remains one of the clearest statements of the principles, values and standards of journalists throughout the world.

- **I believe** in the profession of journalism.

- **I believe** that the public journal is a public trust; that all connected with it are, to the full measure of their responsibility, trustees for the public; that acceptance of a lesser service than the public service is betrayal of this trust.

- **I believe** that clear thinking and clear statement, accuracy and fairness are fundamental to good journalism.

- **I believe** that a journalist should write only what he holds in his heart to be true.

- **I believe** that suppression of the news, for any consideration other than the welfare of society, is indefensible.

- **I believe** that no one should write as a journalist what he would not say as a gentleman; that bribery by one's own pocketbook is as much to be avoided as bribery by the pocketbook of another;

that individual responsibility may not be escaped by pleading another's instructions or another's dividends.

- **I believe** that advertising, news and editorial columns should alike serve the best interests of readers; that a single standard of helpful truth and cleanness should prevail for all; that the supreme test of good journalism is the measure of its public service.

- **I believe** that the journalism which succeeds best — and best deserves success — fears God and honors Man; is stoutly independent, unmoved by pride of opinion or greed of power, constructive, tolerant but never careless, self-controlled, patient, always respectful of its readers but always unafraid, is quickly indignant at injustice; is unswayed by the appeal of privilege or the clamor of the mob; seeks to give every man a chance and, as far as law and honest wage and recognition of human brotherhood can make it so, an equal chance; is profoundly patriotic while sincerely promoting international good will and cementing world-comradeship; is a journalism of humanity, of and for today's world.

Pandora Papers

The International Consortium of Investigative Journalists is making public a trove of new information about shell companies linked to Russians as part of a broader effort to spotlight the offshore world and the hidden wealth of Kremlin-linked figures in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

The company names and other data on more than 800 Russian nationals come from Seychelles-based Alpha Consulting Ltd., an offshore services provider that serves mostly Russian clients. The data includes newly discovered details about companies tied to Russian President Vladimir Putin's allies and other Russian political figures who shelter assets behind opaque businesses that can be used to escape global sanctions.

Putin's former communications minister, a high-ranking regional political leader, an imprisoned cryptocurrency specialist and an oligarch are among the Russians whose names appear in the data, which can be accessed through ICIJ's public Offshore Leaks Database.

The database now contains information on more than 800,000 offshore companies, foundations and trusts, and links to people and companies in more than 200 countries and territories, which can be publicly

searched and downloaded.

In addition to the data release, ICIJ and its partners are publishing new reporting that shows how Russian bankers, oligarchs and others in Putin's orbit have obscured vast wealth in tax havens with the help of Western enablers. The data release, and the stories, draw primarily from the Pandora Papers, millions of offshore financial records that fueled a 2021 global investigation.

This new publication, dubbed Pandora Papers Russia, marks the latest effort by ICIJ to shine light into one of the world's most secretive industries — and follows a decade of reporting on Russian offshore maneuvering in particular. For ease of access, ICIJ has compiled much of that prior reporting in a dedicated page called the Russia Archive.

The reporting and the data release come as U.S., British, European and other authorities scramble to hunt down money and assets of oligarchs and others with Kremlin ties, a task that offshore secrecy brokers, like Alpha Consulting, have made far more difficult.

Forty percent of more than 2,000 offshore corporations, foundations and trusts found among the leaked Alpha Consulting data and published today have one or more Russian beneficial owners. Another 23% have one or more Ukrainian beneficial owners.

What is Succession Planning?

Succession planning is a human resource development activity in which key employees are identified, groomed and prepared for succeeding onto the key leadership positions from within the organization. Under succession planning, companies identify critical organization positions for which existing employees need to be prepared for. This is a critical process in HRM keeping in mind the long term requirements of a company.

Importance of Succession Planning

In every company, there are certain

critical positions which always need to be held by key persons having high business acumen, strong leadership skills & must be able to motivate their respective teams & functions. To make sure that companies keep on functioning efficiently, there is a process to groom, train, skill & retain employees who care take-up such critical roles. This process is known as succession planning. This is an important activity which ensures that under any unfortunate circumstances, the company roles must be filled by highest efficient & motivated employees.

To be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others.



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Barsotti named CA. Newspaper Publishers Association General Counsel

Brittney Barsotti has been named general counsel for CNPA, according to an announcement by Charles Ford Champion II, President and CEO of the 450-member news association. Her appointment to the association's top legal post is effective immediately.



Barsotti had been serving as staff attorney and legislative advocate for CNPA since joining the association in 2019. She takes over the general counsel position previously held by Jim Ewert, who retired at the end of 2020 after 25 years with CNPA. She earned her Juris Doctor degree with Honors in 2017 from University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law in Sacramento.

"Brittney has been a key member of our legal team and, as the head on our legal Helpline for member newspapers, she has become expert in the laws that impact the news industry," said Champion. "She is also very familiar with the legislative challenges we face with respect to circulation, freedom of information, and public notice advertising, all of which have legal

ramifications for our businesses."

The association's new chief lawyer attended San Francisco State University, where she graduated Cum Laude from with a degree in Journalism. She received the Torri Minton Feature Writer Scholarship, named after the award-winning San Francisco Chronicle

journalist. Barsotti won first prize for news features from the Journalism Association of Community Colleges while attending Las Positas College in Livermore. She also interned at KTVU Channel 2 News in Oakland.

Prior to joining CNPA, Barsotti was active in public service. She worked with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, the Boards of Parole Hearings and Equalization, and the Office of Legislative Counsel in Sacramento.

A native of California, Barsotti has also been engaged in community service. In 2019 she was support staff leader for Volunteers of America in Sacramento. The organization provides emergency shelter and nutrition for residents with HIV. From 2013-14 she was a classroom coach and team builder with AmeriCorps as a part of California's First 5.

Sandy Close

Continued from page 1

corporate hierarchy.

With obstinate fervor Sandy Close et al are pushing to fulfill their commitment as Journalist for the People. Ethnic Media produced a recent forum highlighting the danger that investigative journalists are faced with the closer that they get to exposing the mechanisms of the hidden and forbidden realities behind the secret curtain of power. Four veteran journalist were interviewed and sold their individual stories suppression, intimidating and life threatening encounters

Sandy and her team have fought valiantly to keep journalism alive relevant and significant. The vacuum that nature abhors is occupying space in the media universe that nature dictates must be filled with the incessant, unrelenting push by committed journalists to bring accurate information to the people while bringing storytelling back to its original journalistic intent and remaking media in the pursuit of justice. Nature, like justice is slow. Patience is required when dealing with Indigenous time, but as Sam Cook told us, A Change is going to Come

The Tipping Point is Close



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Parenting From Prison: 'In Your Children's Eyes, It's Like You Just Disappear'

by Danielle Harrison and Kamiah Koch

Michele Plummer went to court to face drug charges during a lunch break in September 2008.

She never made it back to the office. Plummer was arrested and taken to the Marion County Jail. From there, it would be five months until she was able to see both of her daughters, who were then 14 and 5.

"I committed a crime and deserved to be where I was, but for your children it's like you just disappear," Plummer says. "My oldest daughter (Myranda Bradshaw), it crushed her. It was right before her birthday. She was a teenager and just needed her mom. My youngest was 5 and at school. I can't even begin to identify what they went through. One minute I'm there, the next I'm not."

Compounding the situation was Measure 57, which Oregon voters approved in 2008. It increased prison time for those convicted of certain drug and property crimes.

Plummer says she sold drugs to supplement income at a state job because she wasn't able to make ends meet as a single mother. Desperate to escape a violent partner, she turned to what she knew.

"A lot of times, women who are in prison, it is due to circumstances which led them to the choices that they made," she says. "That is what happened to me. After I split up with my ex, I couldn't afford to take care of the kids, pay for rent and groceries and make the car payment. I worked and sold drugs, but you can't do that for long without getting caught."

Research from the Prison Policy Initiative backs this up. In addition to policy changes that increased the arrest and incarceration of women, the underlying cause of many substance use and resulting criminal behaviors are



Grand Ronde Tribal member and Homeownership Coordinator Michele Plummer sits next to her daughter, Tribal member and Rental Housing Coordinator Myranda Bradshaw, outside the Housing Department offices on Tuesday, March 29. Plummer spent a year and half incarcerated when Bradshaw was 14 years old.

(Photos by Kamiah Koch/Smoke Signals)

desperation, it states, and many would be better served by community treatment programs than prison time.

"Many women on the social and economic margins of society struggle to survive outside of legitimate enterprises, which brings them into contact with the criminal justice system. ... The most common pathways to crime are based on survival (of abuse and poverty) and substance abuse."

To read the complete story go to www.smokesignals.org/articles/2022/04/14/parenting-from-prison-in-your-childs-en-s-eyes-it-s-like-you-just-disappear/

(Editor's note: The U.S. criminal justice system disproportionately affects Native Americans, women in particular, who are overrepresented in the prison population with the highest incarceration rate of any racial group. This story is the first in a series that examines the effects of mass incarceration on Grand Ronde Tribal mothers and their children.)

For full story go to IndigenousWarriors.com



Stan Rodriguez, newest member of the San Luis Rey Rotary. With Michael Odegaard (l) and Mel Vernon (r).



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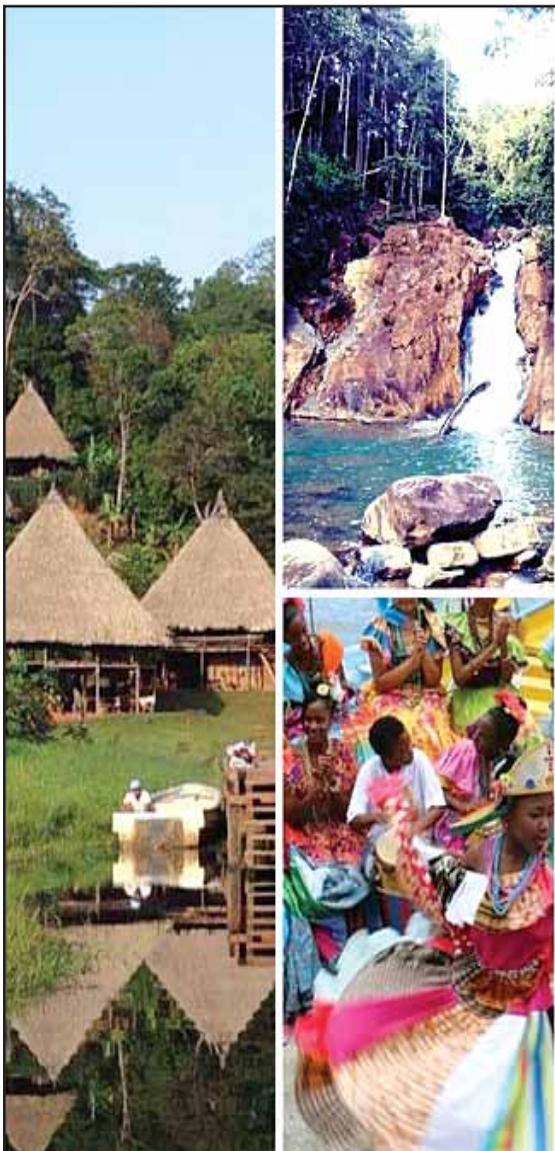
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