OUR 27TH YEAR

MULTI-CULTURAL NEWS GLOBAL NETWORK

SEPTEMBER 2013

Sycuan Band Adds 2,000 Acres

Kumeyaay reclaim their ancestral land

by Karen Pearlman

DEHESA, CA – Charlene Worrell, a Sycuan tribal member and a tribal gaming commissioner summed up Thursday morning's historic event on the land belonging to the Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation in just a few words: "The earth doesn't belong to us, we belong to the earth."

Worrell was among 200 tribal members, local residents and Native American supporters celebrating newly annexed land via "fee to trust" between the Sycuan Band and federal and state agencies.

In a setting worthy of a postcard – beautiful mountains, native shrubs and

THUNDER

grassland with coastal oak leaves covering the ground, with the Sweetwater Reservoir as a backdrop – Sycuan Tribal Chairman Danny Tucker explained how the tribe's acquisition of 2,000 acres over several years is all about "reclaiming our ancestral lands" as well as allowing the band to "further our self determination and exercise our sovereignty."

The deal has caused some neighbors who have been critics of the tribe's casino to worry about what Sycuan's longterm plans for the land. The tribe says it does not plan to expand casino operations onto the annexed property.

The tribe annexed nearly 1,400 acres to the reservation, most of which will be preserved as open space with the cooperation of the federal and state departments Fish and Wildlife. An additional



Charlene Worrell, member of Sycuan Band proudly joins her tribe in reclaiming ancestral land.

600 acres was sold to the Kumeyaay-Diegueño Land Conservancy for conservation space. A 1,000 foot-wide wildlife corridor connecting tribal-protected land to federal- and state-protected habitats has also been established.

"Why is this so important to us?" Tucker asked rhetorically. "Land is the connection we have to our people, the broader society, the universe and our creator. All things flow from the land."

SEE Sycuan Adds 2000 Acres, page 3

In this issue...



- Spirit of 45 in San Diego
- 2 Beware Trans Pacific Partnership Red Cross Launch "Prepare San Diego"
- 3 Who Really Deposed San Diego's Mayor?
- 4 Minister Farrakhan Message to President Obama
- 5 Black Path Commentary Muhammad Mosque 8 Celebration
- 6 Bureau of Black Indian Affairs
- 7 Gregory Canyon Landfill is Not Needed
- 8-9 American Indian Cultural Tourism Vendors' Circle
- 10 California Tribes Come Together In 1886 500 Indians Sent to Prison Santa Rosa Canoe Project
- 11 San Diego 2013 Crime Statistics March Against Monsanto
- 12 South Dakota Native American Indian AA Meeting
- 13 Cecelia Apple Firethunder (Tawacin Wastewin)
 Thunder from the Fourth Estate in the
 Fourth District
- 14 Nevada News
- 15 Reid All About It
- 16 Sleeping Warrior Veterans Pow Wow Pala Indian Reservation

www.indianvoices.net

"Spirit of 45 in San Diego"

On August 14, 2013, there was a memorial celebration in San Diego, It was called the "Spirit of 45". Many cities across the US were celebrating the end of WW11 with similar events. The event here in San Diego was special because it honored all the service men and women who served in WW11. Among the honored guest ,were Charlotte and Manuel Flores. They were married at the end of the war like so many other service men and women who came home from the war. Manuel joined the Marines in April on 1943. He forged his mother's signature in order to enlist .Charlotte and Manuel met in June 1944 at a Uso dance here in San Diego. Charoltte was only 16 years old at the time and Manuel was 19. Manuel walked Charlotte home after the dance. On July 13, 1944 Manuel was hipped out to Saipan,then on to Guam. He was enlisted in the 3rd Marine Wing division where he did various jobs. He became the personal deriver for General Shilt while in Okinawa. After bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Manuel's unit became part of the clean up efforts on Okinawa. His unit was

then transferred back to San Diego.

Manuel remembered Charlotte's name and remembered his walk home with her the night they met. He returned to here home and asked her out. That date started a long life together. They were married April 21, Easter Sunday 1946.

Manuel was then transferred to Quantico, Virginia where he was a parachute instructor, Charlotte went with them and was instructed on how to pack his parachutes for his jumps. Their first apartment was on East Capital St. Washington DC. For Charlotte, that was a long way from San Diego. After Manuel's dis-



charge from



Manuel and Charlotte Flores dancing and smiling through their golden years.

"Spirit of 45" celebration Charlotte and Manuel renewed their wedding vows. The ceremony and celebration took place at the Kissing Statue next to the Midway museum. The chaplain assigned to the Midway officiated the marriage ceremony.

Beware the Trans Pacific Partnership "Trade" Agreement

We are about to have a new "free trade" agreement in our lives unless we can get the Congress to start an open discussion and debate. Right now, the President wants to Fast Track it, which means have Congress vote up or down, without studying it.

2

We have more than 10 years of experience with the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), on which the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) is based. NAFTA took our manufacturing jobs to Mexico. It lowered wages in the US. So it lowered the amount of taxes being paid, so there is less money for roads, bridges, and other infrastructure.

Thanks to a leaked document during one of the rounds of negotiations with

trade representatives from Pacific-rim nations, we learned that the TPP will negatively affect our economy, environment, drug access, internet freedom, food, labor and wages, and national sovereignty. We learned that this is a great deal for corporations and a bad deal for taxpayers. Corporations will be able to sue governments for lost future profits, which are unquantifiable. They will sue in a court whose lawyers are often former employees of the corporations.

Here's an example of life under NAFTA. The Ethyl Corporation sued Canada over its regulation to remove the additive MMT from gas. Ethyl Corporation which makes MMT sued for 350 million dollars because of lost future

profits and won. Canada had to withdraw its regulation and pay the Ethyl Corporation 13 million dollars. MMT affects liver and kidney function. Here's what the agreement will do to internet freedom. TPP will grant big media new powers to lock users out of their own content and services, to shut down websites, and even allow seizure of computers involved in copyright infringement. Librarians and library patrons will be sued for accessing sites that they didn't pay to download materials from. Chevron, Exxon Mobil, Dow, and Cargill have brought 450 investor-state cases against 89 governments. Of these, 70% are challenges to natural resources and environmental policies. Over 700 million dollars have been paid so far to these corporations. The TPP is being worked out in secrecy between 600 corporation lobbyists and the trade representatives of the potential signatory countries. The official reason for secrecy is that if people knew what is being negotiated, they would not approve. This is true—we do not approve. We do not want pharmaceutical companies to be able to extend their patents, thereby keeping life-saving medications unaffordable. We do not want companies such as Monsanto to have increased power to take land from indigenous farmers. We do not want our manufacturing base to be eliminated. No, we do not want the TPP.

Tell that to your Congressperson before October when it is slated to be brought to Congress for a decision that will harm us all.

Key Community and Business Leaders Launch 'Prepare San Diego'

The four-year regional resiliency initiative boasts high-level stakeholder support and goal of one million people to take action towards getting prepared

SAN DIEGO, CA — The American Red Cross San Diego/Imperial Counties Chapter today along with key partners announced Prepare San Diego, a four-year regional resiliency initiative driven by the

Red Cross to help prepare the San Diego region for human emergencies and disas-

Through Prepare San Diego, the Red Cross brings together key business and community leaders from the region to create a sustainable network that encourages preparedness, carries out response and recovery plans, and strives for resiliency in the face of disaster. A key goal with the

initiative is to facilitate a cultural shift to increase individual, organizational, and business preparedness, and with that, one million people in San Diego County will make an emergency plan, build a disaster kit or get trained to effectively respond.

"Based on research we know that only 7% of households in San Diego County are prepared for a disaster -- that's not good enough," said Tony Young, CEO of the local Red Cross. "Prepare San Diego is a single integrated program that brings the entire community together, shoulder-toshoulder, to make preparedness a priority.

We must look at everything through a preparedness lens and it's yet to happen as a collective effort until now.'

Several key community and business leaders are behind Prepare San Diego, including names like Interim Mayor Todd Gloria, Councilmembers Mark Kersey and Marti Emerald, Supervisors Ron Roberts and Dave Roberts, Jerry Sanders and the Chamber, and entities like County Office of Emergency Services, San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E), San Diego State

SEE Prepare San Diego, page 4



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Sycuan Adds 2000 Acres

Continued from page 1

The annexation was approved by the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs earlier this summer and has been named "Halasii 'eHa Topit" or Willow Lake, according to Tribal Council Member Jamie LaBrake.

During the ceremony, a "bird dance" was performed by 10 tribal women to the vocal harmonies and maraca-shaking of 20 tribal men. The dancing was done near several Native American houses called "ewaa" as part of a tribal village which will stay there, LaBrake said.

The huts are made from willow branches tied with agave cordage and thatched with cattail, according to La Mesa resident Jill Richardson, who help build them as part of a class through Kumeyaay Community College.

"I think the value this brings to the environment cannot be separated from the value it has for the Kumeyaay people," Richardson said of the annexation of the land. "Their way of life - everything from their spirituality to their food and material needs - comes from the earth."

Several tribal members spoke about the significance of the accord. Anthony Pico, tribal chairman for the Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians said, "This is a great celebration not only for Sycuan but for all the tribes because of the tremendous amount of land that has already been lost."

Jim Bartell, field supervisor for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Amy Dutschke of the Bureau of Indian Affairs; and Congressman Darrell Issa all gave their blessings.

The tribal presence will be open space where otherwise there would be endless development in our country, in our county," Issa said.

Members of the Sycuan Band have resided in and around the foothills of the Dehesa Valley for nearly 12,000 years. The new accord ensures the protection of Kumeyaay cultural and archeological sites located within the newly acquired land. A portion of the added land to the reservation will allow for the construction of tribal housing, a new emergency access road, equestrian center, new powwow grounds and small RV Park.

The picturesque reservoir was also a part of the land deal. Tucker said that the band was "able to resolve issues of water quality and access to this lake, which serves as part of the drinking water for National City and Chula Vista."

In order to get the land, the tribe agreed to pay San Diego County \$321,000 a year for 7 1/2 years. Sycuan will also pay \$800,000 for road improvements in the Dehesa area.

"This has cost us \$25 million, but it's ours and no one can take it away," Tucker said.

Who Really Deposed San Diego's Mayor and Nullified the 2012 Election?

by Bill Adams

By now, most of the nation is aware of San Diego's mayoral scandal, which was reported in such national media outlets as CNN, Chris Mathews Hardball, *New York Times*, etc. and included international legal gadfly Gloria Allred elbowing her way onto center stage. Former 10 term congressman Bob Filner had been Mayor of San Diego only 6 months before it all came to an inglorious and undemocratic end. The conventional wisdom is that the Mayor was accused by 18 women of sexual harassment leading to his resignation.

A former Freedom Rider, he was elected in the 2012 presidential election in one of the widest turnouts for a Mayoral election in the City's history. It was a referendum for dramatic change, embodied in the policy positions and persona of Bob Filner. He was elected on a vision of prioritizing planning, neighborhoods, transit, affordable housing, labor, and livable city concepts. He was quick to deliver action on his promises ... perhaps too quick.

At times, it seemed he was elected without really trying. He came into the Mayor's race with a reputation for being irascible, pugnacious, and sometimes abusive. He raised a third of what his mayoral rival did. At age 70 he was in the twilight of his career, and the Mayorship was icing on his career rather than a stepping stone. He was beholden to few, and in the end, it seemed few were beholden to him.

Empowering Mortals and Angering Gods

In another city the allegations that proved his undoing might have been treated as simply a rehash of already debated campaign accusations. His admitted abrasive, arrogant, even abusive conduct was well known before the election, and was an issue in the election. It was also known that he sometimes went too far. For example, in 2007 in a widely publicized incident, he was charged with assault and battery on a United Airlines employee and plea bargained to a lesser charge. In fact, most of the accusations that proved his undoing related to alleged incidents that predated the election.

It seemed, at least in part, that the voters believed his personality was what gave him the backbone to stand up to the City's power brokers. He ran on a platform of empowering neighborhoods and not catering to "downtown insiders." For the six months of his term, he did not disappoint them, taking on powerful interests and championing San Diego's noninsider citizens. In record time, he shifted the power paradigm as no other San Diego Mayor had. He was an ally of the City's "blu-collar neighborhoods," and they stayed loyal to him to the end. Actions that gave development interests cause for concern included the following:

• Mayor Filner intervened at the behest

of community groups to stop several well-funded development projects, as was noted in The Voice of San Diego and the the *San Diego Union Tribune* (news outlets not sympathetic to the Mayor as is discussed further below). While the actions appeared entirely consistent with his campaign pledges to empower neighborhoods, developers and Republicans cried fowl and attempted to use these interventions as the basis for corruption investigations, despite the fact that the alleged "payments" were donations by developers to community projects.

• Rather than the usual assortment of developer friendly campaign contributors and large firm partners, Mayor Filner made appointments to the Planning Commission (Wagner and Quiroz) and Redevelopment board (Blackson &

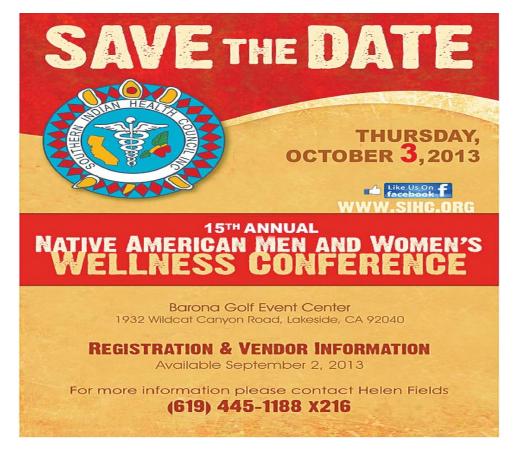
Baxamusa) who were neighborhood activists, non-profit employees, academics, and progressive urban planners.

• Mayor Filner reinstated the Planning Department, which had been subsumed into the development service department and marginalized under the previous mayor. He then recruited one of the most, if not the most, respected urban planners in the country, Bill Fulton, to run it. This was another clear indication that community groups and community plans were no longer to be over-run by well funded and well connected developers.

While the list of his accomplishments goes on, it was the foregoing that were most likely his undoing.

The Three Part Perfect Storm

SEE Election Nullified, page 12



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Message from California Office of Problem Gambling & California Council on Problem Gambling

Minister Farrakhan Cautions President Obama

CHICAGO, IL - The Honorable Minister Louis Farrakhan continued his efforts to warn the president, the country's leaders and the public by urging Congress to reject pressure to launch military strikes against Syria after disputed charges of chemical weapons use by the Syrian government against civilians. The letter was to be sent to U.S. lawmakers today. In addition, a special message about the Syria crisis and its potentially catastrophic impact on America, the Middle East and the world is airing at

http://www.noi.org/SyriaWar/. It is part of the Minister's weekly 52-week lecture series "The Time and What Must Be Done," which runs Saturdays at 6 p.m. Central.

"I am deeply concerned that a larger war will materialize and America will be forced to put American soldiers in harm's way to accomplish their desired results. What is the real purpose of this intervention? What do we plan to do in the event the regime falls and the leadership in Syria falls into the hands of those who are not necessarily friends of America and another civil war takes places over who will be the political power in Syria. If Russia and oth-



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Advocate for Native Youth and Scholarships alan@blackphonerecords.com

ers intervene a possible wider conflict could engulf the entire Middle East," said Minister Farrakhan on Sept. 6.

"I am pleading with you on behalf of a war weary American people and the suffering peoples of the World; and the needs of the American people will be further delayed in being satisfied, which will produce negative results on the inside of America creating the same kind of backlash and vitriol as we saw when the American people revolted against the war in Vietnam," he warned.

The special message online includes extensive information about the danger of potential conflict with Syria, reasons why America should tread carefully, questions about the validity of insistence the sarin attack was carried out by Syrian government forces, and the dire consequences of another U.S. War.

Congressional Gold Medal Awarded Posthumously to Victims of the 1963 Bombing of 16th Street Baptist Church

WASHINGTON, D.C. - A
Congressional Gold Medal was awarded posthumously today to Addie Mae
Collins, Denise McNair, Carole
Robertson, and Cynthia Wesley, the four young black girls who lost their lives in the bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama, on September 15, 1963. The ceremony was held at the U.S. Capitol Building.

Elke W. Chenevey

Vice President Financial Advisor

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Prepare San Diego

Continued from page 2

University, KPBS, Economic Development Corporation, among others.

"SDG&E has long been an advocate of safety and emergency preparedness, and is a supporter of the American Red Cross and many other entities in the region," said David L. Geier, vice president of electric operations for SDG&E. "This is the right time for a region-wide leadership initiative of this kind and we're proud to be part of it."

In addition to a preparedness goal, Prepare San Diego rounds out the full disaster lifecycle with goals for response and recovery. From a recovery standpoint, the goal is to strengthen the region's post-disaster recovery infrastructure and economic resiliency. Businesses throughout the San Diego region need to be able to return to a pre-disaster state as quickly as possible in order to assist with regional recovery.

"With disasters and other emergencies, it's not 'if' but rather 'when' it will strike," said Jerry Sanders, CEO of the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce. "We must work together to ensure successful long-term recovery and reduce economic impact. I applaud the American Red Cross and all other partners who are behind Prepare San Diego."

A pivotal component of the initiative is the Steering Committee, comprised primarily of members of the Senior Red Cross Business Council. This committee will review and evaluate the progress of the initiative, inform future directions and disseminate findings and progress to key stakeholders within the region to ensure Prepare San Diego is responsive to the needs of the entire region.

Native San Diegan and philanthropist Malin Burnham is also a supporter of the initiative. "Prepare San Diego is the kind of forward and collaborative thinking our region needs," said Burnham. "The importance of teamwork is key to meeting a large goal like preparing one million people. I believe San Diego can do it."

September is National Preparedness Month and a perfect time for individuals, families, businesses and organizations to take action. For more information about Prepare San Diego and how to get involved, visit www.preparesandiego.org.

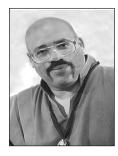
About Prepare San Diego

About Prepare San Diego is a four-year regional resiliency initiative driven by the American Red Cross to help prepare the San Diego region for human emergencies and disasters. Through Prepare San Diego, the Red Cross brings together key community and business leaders from the region to create a sustainable network that encourages preparedness, carries out response and recovery plans, and strives for resiliency in the face of disaster, meeting all aspects of the disaster lifecycle. A key goal with the initiative is to facilitate a cultural shift to increase individual, organizational, and business preparedness, and with that, one million people in San Diego County will make an emergency plan, build a disaster kit or get trained to effectively respond. Visit www.preparesandiego.org to join the movement and share what action you've taken to get prepared.

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

The 50th Anniversary of the March on Washington: Position, Analysis, & a Rereading on the Significance of our Struggle

by Min. Tukufu Kalonji



In the midst of all the hoopla and supposed celebration of the historic 1963 March on Washington whereas Dr. M. L. King made his "I Have A Dream Speech; it is critically imperative that we

(the masses) do not allow ourselves to be anesthetized by the matrix of madness inherent in the European paradigm of hegemony and hypocrisy. The primary objective of softened, oppressor sanctioned, and non-substantive versions of this and our other victories is an ongoing effort by the established order to co-op the essence of the struggle of Black peoples, other peoples of color, and all others who struggle for justice; but especially ours; as we Afro Americans stood up, and continues to remain standing up in struggle, as the moral vanguard of Amerikkka.

The established order seeks to reductively translate the monumental efforts and achievements of our collective movement to merely one man, i.e., Dr. M.L. King Jr. That clearly is a lie and a disservice to our history at large, and a gross misinterpretation of Dr. King's specific history as a central figure and leader in the Black Freedom Movement. Dr. King while a leader and organizer was one of a number of leadership persons who contributed to this event occurring. There was James Farmer, John Lewis, Roy Wilkins, and Whitney Young. Furthermore, it was initially Bayard Rustin, who along with Anna Hedgeman, and A. Philip Randolph, that conceived, planned, and led the march.

This of course is not to strip anything away from Dr. Kings legacy, it is however to do justice in providing critical analysis of our struggle to offset the myth and madness of Eurocentric interpretation and reductive translation of our work and struggle to one man, a dream speech with no cultural or historical substance, and the co-opting of our work, study, and struggle for the established order's own self aggrandizement. Moreover, as with anything of productiveness and achievement in an African cultural and community context, our Ujima, (Collective Work and Responsibility); that produces that which is good and beneficial to the people and indeed the world. In addition, the focus on one man rather than the movement fails to pay homage and give duly earned credit to other factions of our community such as the Black press, other organizers/organizations, and the contribution via their particular professional

and communal contexts. Moreover, as Black people proven to be the moral vanguard in this country, we also recognize and respect the other people of color, and even whites of good will etc., who were and are allies in the struggle to build a truly just and moral society.

However, in spite of those who are our allies it remains a crucial fact of life that in the final analysis a people seeking justice are ultimately responsible for initiating our movement, maintaining the struggle regardless of what odds of adversity are facing us; and the people in we are charged with the responsibility of striking the final and most decisive blow in seeking justice for ourselves, our history, and the future generations yet to come.

Thus, it is critical to every fiber of our being that with this moment in history as it is with our experiencing how in referencing the election of President Obama that we don't get sidetracked by further illusion; that illusion being the hypocrisy of a post-racialized Amerikkka. Subsequent to the posing of the lie, the established order and its puppets implicitly assert that there is no longer a need for our to continue the struggle for justice and liberation. However, it is as argued by the late great and honorable Paul Robeson, who maintained that, the "battlefront is everywhere, there is no sheltered rears"; and clearly, we must remain cognizant that we are at war with insidious savage hearts, minds, and their institutionalizing of their barbarism. Therefore, we have to remain suspect of the sanitizing myth making of our history and reject for what it is, a blatant attempt at bamboozling us and our allies, into an unconscious state of mind for the benefit of the ruling race and class.

Clearly, the fight is not over as we are daily witnesses to the continued onslaught against Black peoples and other people of color in the mis-education system, the criminal system of injustice, as with the recent Trayvon Martin / Zimmerman case. We bear witness to the rise in the structuring of poverty and unemployment throughout the wilderness of north Amerikkka, and all the other vestiges of inhumane systematic oppression. Moreover, we see recently in local city government affairs, the oppressor relent-

SEE Anniversary of March, page 6



I Am My Brothers Keeper-On the Move

When Brother Hugh Muhammad arrived in Buffalo, New York from Kingston, Jamaica in 1962 he had no idea that his destiny would find him appointed as minister of Muhammad Mosque No. 8 in San Diego.

One of his most notable achievements has been the establishment of I Am My Brothers Keeper, an arm of the Mosque which is dedicated to the development of the human potential in all members of society.

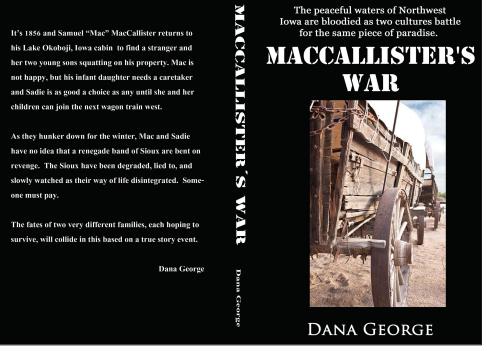
Growth and development is pushing forward in many directions ... onward and upward. The lease will soon be up at the current Mosque headquarters 5083 Logan Ave. After some due diligence a new property has been located at 6601 Imperial Ave. The massive sq. footage offers great opportunity. Brother Hugh explains. "We plan to be in place by the first part of next year. The building of will allow is the space to start a Charter School. We will start out a with prekindergarten to 6th grade. Later we will extend it to the 12th grade."

Brother Hugh's resume of accomplish-



ments is lengthy. A Gala in celebration of this remarkable leader is planned for Sept. 20 at the Jacobs Center.

As this media project continues to build a team of concerned citizens willing to join together to lock arms to drain the putrefied political swamp engulfing us, we look forward to networking with Brother Hugh Muhammad and his circle of change agents to reach our highest potential.



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

"Because, I say that I Am"



Phil Fixico
PHOTO by DANIEL MITCHELL

Phil Fixico follows the course of Transcendance to rise above rejection of groups.

Even though he has the documenttion to become a Bi-Blood Tribal member he has chosen to remain in solidarity with un-documented Black Indian like Eagle Eye.

"I defy Dr. Henry Louis Gates' technique of blindsiding our prominent Cultural Icons with DNA data to make Black Indians an Urban Legend. Ethnicity is not found at the bottom of a test tube. It is found in the alliances created by two different groups, need to survive and it is also found in their hearts when they decide to remain together. It is called Ethnogenesis."

"Racially, I'm an African-Native American. Culturally, I'm an aspiring Seminole Maroon descendant. But, to the people of America that see me on the street, I'm just another flavor of Black.

Eagle Eye's identity is in his own heart. He is a real legend.

Anniversary of March

Continued from page 5

less efforts to character assassinate even members of their own community who choose to side with righteousness and the masses.

Yes, let it be known that the oppressor, the one percent as some call them who in their deranged state of mental masturbation see themselves as God's chosen are really the spawn of the devil! And as they continue to wreak havoc on the society, we are compelled by history, heaven, and humanity to remain ever vigilant in our struggle for justice. This struggle clearly is inclusive of not letting our history be distorted, co-opted, and made a weak and watered down act of their own self-congratulatory meanderings.

In continuing forward in the struggle to build a truly just and moral society let us reflect and respond in innovative ways to charges given us by A. Phillip Randolph in his opening speech where he contends that;

We (Black people-emphasis mine)) are the advanced guard of a massive, moral revolution for freedom. This revolution reverberates throughout the land touching every city, every town, and every village where Black men are segregated, oppressed and exploited. The sanctity of private property takes second place to the sanctity of the human personality. It falls to us to demand new forms of social planning, to create full employment, and to put automation at the service of human needs, not at the service of profits. And so we have taken our struggle into the streets. The months and years ahead will bring new evidence of masses in motion for freedom. When we leave, it will be to carry on the civil rights revolution home with us into every nook and cranny of the land, and we shall return again and again to Washington in every growing numbers until total freedom is ours. We shall settle for nothing less, and may God grant that we may have the courage, the strength, and faith in this hour of trial by fire never to falter.

Tutashinda Katika Umoja (Swahili for in unity we will win)

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

United States Department of the Interior NATIONAL PARK SERVICE Pacific West Region 333 Bust Street, Suite 500 San Francisco, CA 94104 Phil Wilkes Fixico, President The Semiroon Historical Society 11227 S. Hobart Boulevard, "B" rear Los Angeles, CA 90047

The National Park Service (NPS) has received your request to become a partner with the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom. We commend you on your dedication to this important aspect of our history and expect that you will join with us in continuing to exemplify the values expressed in the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Act. We are pleased to welcome you as a Partner and are enclosing a Certificate of Acceptance. Your organization's name and address will appear in the Partners database on the NPS Network to Freedom website.

Please know that we are aware of your commitment to be stewards of all that the Network to Freedom Act embraces and encourage you to stay firm to that commitment. To ensure accurate interpretation of the Underground Railroad to the public, we will remove your name from the list of partners if we determine your activities are inconsistent with the goals of the Network to Freedom Act. In order to help us stay up-to-date on your programs and activities, we rely on you to send us news and examples of flyers, newsletters, programs, brochures, etc. Additionally, you may post news of your upcoming events on the Network to Freedom web site.

Congratulations again on your recognition as a Network to Freedom partner. We wish you continued success. Please do not hesitate to contact me at any time to seek assistance, advice, information, or to let me know what you are working on.

Sincerely.

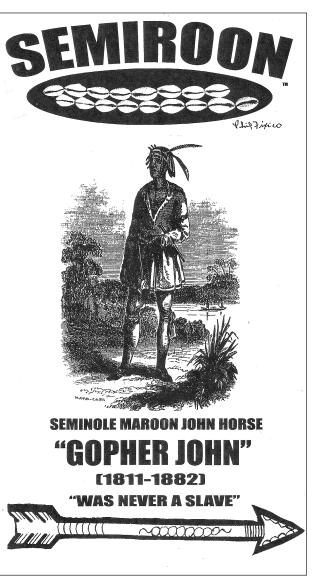
Guy Washington
Guy Washington
Pacific West/Intermountain Regions Manager
National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom
National Park Service
333 Bush Street, Suite 500
San Francisco, CA 94104
415-623-2305

guy_washington@nps.gov http://www.nps.gov/ugrr



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CalRecycle Data Confirm: Gregory Canyon Landfill Is Not Needed

Developers have spent decades and tens of millions of dollars fighting to build a dump in pristine Gregory Canyon. NRDC, the Pala Band of Mission Indians, and a broad coalition of California tribes, local environmental groups, elected officials, scientists, and concerned citizens have challenged the proposal at every turn. If built, the north San Diego County landfill would desecrate Native American sacred sites, destroy threatened and endangered species' habitat, create traffic hazards, and imperil the San Luis Rey River and local groundwater. These factors make the project a terrible idea, but, if constructed, the dump would be worse than that: it'd be tragic. Because it is not

The data is in and the results are irrefutable. New numbers released by the California Department of Resources Recovery and Recycling (CalRecycle) confirm that San Diego County and the State of California continued in 2012 to move away from disposing of their trash in landfills—a form of waste management that is rapidly becoming an anachronism—and towards alternative methods of waste management.

CalRecycle reports that in 2012, California's 37.7 million residents disposed of about 29.3 million tons of solid waste for a statewide per capita disposal rate of approximately 4.3 lbs/person/day. Per resident disposal in 2012 was the lowest since disposal reporting began in 1989. In the last 7 years alone, Californians have reduced the amount they personally throw away by an average of 2 lbs a day.

In San Diego County, the amount of waste generated in 2012 was approximately 170 tons less than in 2011 and

less than in every year since 1997

The trend was the same in neighboring Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and Imperial counties where the amount of waste generated in 2012 was the smallest amount of waste generated in more than a decade. For example, in Los Angeles County, the amount of waste generated in 2012 was approximately 91,000 tons less than in 2011 and approximately 3.5 million tons less than in 1995.

The data show that Southern Californians are diverting materials from landfills and using alternative forms of waste management. Recycling, composting, and reuse are the mainstream, and annual statewide diversion rates are on an impressive and steady rise—reaching their highest rate yet (66%) in 2012.

These findings are in line with a recent flurry of articles that have reported a decline in landfilled trash and a surge in recycling in San Diego. One article, reported that recycling in the City of San Diego has risen from 29% in 1991 to 69% last year, and that the City is struggling to keep pace with overflowing blue recycle bins.

The developer, Gregory Canyon LLC, continues to claim San Diego needs this landfill. But CalRecycle data show that since 2005 the amount of waste disposed by San Diego County residents has declined by more than 25% or 1 million tons. And it continues to

The proponents of the proposed Gregory Canyon landfill should let go of this dinosaur project, stop hiding behind fallacious numbers, and embrace the greener, cleaner present. Our blue bins are full. We don't need to pile trash on a sacred mountain or in a verdant canyon.

Celebrating Change and Partnerships

Progressive Local Foundation invites longtime ally to take up residence in urban North Park office

September is a month of new beginnings and it will mark the transition of offices from the San Diego Foundation for Change (F4C) to the Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice (ICWJ) who will take up residence September 1st. The longtime allies have decided to blend their immigrant advocacy programs while ICWJ moves its complete program to the North Park offices.

For 30 years the Foundation for Change has supported organizations in the San Diego/Tijuana region working for social and economic justice. Over its 30 years F4C has awarded more than \$1.5 million in grants. Complementing the grants, F4C has provided opportunities to strengthen the work of grantee organizations via leadership development, capacity building, and network convening. Across 2014 F4C and ICWJ will work together in support of immigrant worker health initiatives and promotion of advocacy opportunities. Together they will seek future funding for related programming; in fact this process is already underway. Executive Director John Fanestil stated, "ICWJ is a long-time grantee of the Foundation for Change and has remained one of our closest allies. As we take our own operations 'virtual' we will continue to work

closely with ICWJ in our fight for the rights of low-wage immigrant workers." F4C maintains its commitment to grassroots philanthropy and will continue to work towards a more progressive future for the region.

Founded on the belief that all economic life should be shaped by moral principles, the ICWJ is a multi-faith coalition in support of living wages, safe working conditions, a voice on the job, and access to quality healthcare with a focus on the working poor. For fifteen years clergy leaders, priests, ministers, imams, rabbis, and people of faith in San Diego county have stood beside working families lifting up their issues and concerns.

The Foundation For Change was among the earliest funding partners and supporters of the ICWJ mission and vision for a more sustainable economy for all people living in the San Diego region. Executive Director Rabbi LaurieCoskey said "From the time of receiving our first seed grant almost 15 years ago, to our recent collaborations, ICWJ and the Foundation for Change have a long history of working together for transformational change in San Diego County.'

JOIN US

The two organizations intend to celebrate their new joint program endeavors and the transition of the office to the ICWJ on Thursday, October 17th when they will be jointly hosting a celebration and open house in the afternoon, from 2:30 - 6:00 with updates on the hour.



Indian Fortune Cookies

Q: Do you know what an NDN fortune cookie is?

A: A piece of fry bread with a food stamp stuck in it

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While The American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association (AIANTA) has been busy preparing for their 15th Annual American Indian Tourism Conference (AITC) "Tourism: The Economic Engine for Indian Country" hosted by the Cherokee Nation at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Tulsa, September 22 – 26, 2013, Indian Voices and Friends have been busy getting on board the Indian Tourism bandwagon.

The concept and idea of San Diego Indian Tourism has been incubating for many moons and motivated and fueled by discussions with Dr. Norrie Robbins who has generously shared her exhaustive knowledge and expertise about the San Diego native culture and region.

After much thought, discussion and community meetings a date was planned for the first experimental maiden voyage of San Diego American Indian Culture Tours. With the cooperation and assistance of James Burkes of Personalized Luxury Transportation who agreed not only to provide the bus but also be our driver we were all set for a August 24th roll out. The word got out and soon a caravan of family and friends were assembled for the first San Diego American Indian Culture Tour. Meeting at a Park and Ride on I-15 at 9:00am we proceeded to the Kumevaav Interpretative Center in Powav where we were educated to the history and traditional ways of the Kumeyaay, the original stewards of the land.

The next stop was to the Barona Casino for lunch at their affordable, wonderful Food Court.

Along the way Norrie expanded our knowledge with historical insights and wisdoms not to be found in any text book. A power outage at the Barona Museum cut the itinerary short but we doubled up on the opportunity to socialize and build community.

The success of this event and the forward motion toward our ultimate goal is largely due to Dr. Norrie Robbins. Her immaculate attention to detail, nurturing spirit and networking instincts made this San Diego American Indian Culture Tour dress rehearsal an educational learning experience wrapped in fun.

We look forward to introducing the culture tour to the world at next years AIANTA conference.

For more information call 619-534-2435.





















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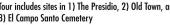
FOR RESERVATIONS, please call, text, or email: (858) 761-4369 runninggrunion@juno.com

PRICES: \$20 for the 1st hour \$10 for each additional hour (group discounts are available)



Descendant & Tour Guide Abel Silvas documents and oral stories from our families' histories. Most of us are trained professional storytellers who sit on historical boards and various civic committees that help make San Diego a better Tour includes sites in 1) The Presidio, 2) Old Town, and



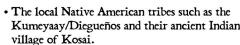


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ABOUT THE **TOUR GUIDES:** We are ninthgeneration San Diegans who have collected

place to explore and discover.



American Indian Traditional Vendors Circle

BELLAS CREATIONS CATHY BELLAS

My name is Cathy Bellas and my business is called Bellas Creations.

I was raised in the Native American culture. My grandparents spoke the Shoshone dialect and taught us the Native ways. They would take us to many Pow Wow's as kids growing up. They enjoyed playing their hand game participant in the dance contests. My that were passed down from my

uncle was one of four singers and my aunt helped out in the Fry Bread

Now that they have all passed, except my Mom, I still like to carry on the traditions of being involved in Pow Wow's. I feel that I can be closer to my family because it brings back fond memories. At the Pow Wow's I love talking with the kids tournaments. My mother was also a and like sharing some of the stories

elders. I believe that having a booth and being a vendor will shoe the many talents that my family has to offer. My daughter's hand made bead work, my husbands hand made moccasins and my beautiful feather heir clips, which are made from various birds. I am positive person and strongly believe in education and part of the profits from my booth is helping put my daughter through college in the medical field.

PALM CRAFTER

I always had wood carving in my blood. My Great-Great-Great Grand Father was a renowned wood carver. I inherited his wood carving tools that actually burned in a fire on our land.

On my last birthday I was bored. I had a palm husk so I made a feather. My Father-in-law, who would have loved it grabbed it from the grave. My son saw it and

said I should give it to Grandpa, which I did. Now I have been carving for seven months. I had been using store bought tools. Now I find myself making each tool I

Thank you Great-Great-Great Grandfather for showing me the way.

AIVA **American Indian Veterans Association**

Saturday September 14th AIVA held our 3rd Bingo Game.

Pala has been gracious in helping our association by letting us use their hall for these games and a host of other means of support. And for all of this we say Thank You – Much Appreciated.

The games started at about 1:00 pm ... a nice day in a cool air conditioned hall. All were waiting for the first game to start and it did a few minutes later. A few moans and groans as someone velled out Bingo ... it was on. Our attendance is growing and everybody is having a great time. The games went on till all the prize money was gone and a lot of happy winners

As usual we had snakes and cold drinks for all the competitors. For lunch we has healthy Subway sandwiches. A special thanks to those who made the homemade brownies and other treats

Please tell your friends and family so we can make our future games just as fun or better.

Thank you, Your Bingo Reporter 619-419-4620

Adam A. Rodriguez abelrodriguez93@yahoo.com

California Tribes Come Together for the Native American Day Celebration with an Evening of Music and Dance

San Manuel Band of Mission Indians invites the public to a free event in San Bernardino

CELEBRATE TRADITION: Traditional dancers from southern, central and northern California will highlight the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians' annual celebration of California Native American Day. Performances will be held in the Lower Commons area at California State University, San Bernardino (CSUSB). The event is free and open to the public, and marks the

culmination of the weeklong California Indian Cultural Awareness Conference held each year at CSUSB.

Favorite foods such as Indian fry bread will be available for purchase along with craft items from onsite vendors. Additionally, children are invited to make their own Clapper Stick, a rhythmic instrument that is traditional to central Californian tribes.

The California Native American Day celebration is sponsored by the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians and CSUSB. LOCATION: California State University, San Bernardino – Lower

In 1886, over 500 Chiricahua Men, Women and Children Were Sent to Prison

As Chiricahua Apaches fought for their freedom and their right to exist, a greater power called the United States of America wanted to rid the Chiricahua Apache of their homeland, beliefs and culture. As it is noted, the Chiricahuas were the fiercest of all Native American Fighting Groups and did not go down without a fight. Thru trickery, lies, deceit, and the TWO YEAR PROMISE the United States was able to remove the Chiricahuas from the American Southwest completely and nearly destroy their culture. Thru twenty-seven years of imprisonment, the Chiricahua people still exist today and are still able to tell their stories of survival.

Elbys Hugar (1930-2012)

"Do not be ashamed of being Apache. Be glad about it. Learn the Apache Way. I grew up with the Apache Way." "Teach your children the Apache way of life so that we can go forward with it in a good way." EH (2004)

In 2004, the National Parks Service was working with the Mescalero Tribe on a similar POW project. Elbys was instrumental in working on the project and provided a lot of good words for us Apache people then, now and for the future. It is hard to comprehend what was lost. But looking back, what she said will be forever etched in our children's minds and that is what is important. This interview, and others, will be included in the extended version.

As much as we feel the world is against us now, just imagine being 1,000 miles from home with no friends in the world. You lost your only homes. Your family members are dying by the day. The Chiricahua people went thru a lot and we should all be grateful that we are still on this earth now.

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DATE/TIME: Friday, September 27TH from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. For more information, please call (909) 537-8709 or visitwww.nativeamericanday.org.

About the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians: The San Manuel Band of Serrano Mission Indians is a federally recognized American Indian tribe located near the city of Highland, Calif. The Serrano Indians are the indigenous people of the San Bernardino highlands, passes, valleys and mountains who share a common language and culture. The San Manuel reservation was established in 1891 and recognized as a sovereign nation with the right of self-government. Since time immemorial, the San Manuel tribal community has endured change and hardship. Amidst these challenges, the Tribe continued to maintain its unique form of governance. Like other governments it seeks to provide a better quality of life for its citizens by building infrastructure, maintaining civil services and promoting social, economic and cultural development. Today San Manuel tribal government oversees many governmental units including the departments of fire, public safety, education and environment.

Santa Rosa Canoe Project Symbolizes Cultural Revitalization for Native Americans

More than just a canoe has been under construction in the front yard of a home on Corby Avenue.

The band of amateur boat builders who've been creating the rare replica a Native American vessel are also rebuilding a sense of community shattered by history.

"This is a symbol of our cultural revitalization," said L. Frank Manriquez, an artist and member of the tiny Tongva tribe, whose homeland is in present day Los Angeles.

Manriquez, 61, is the architect of an effort to construct an 18-foot sewn plank canoe and paddle it down the coast of Washington State as part of a gathering of Native American peoples next week at the Quinault Indian Nation.

Building the craft is something she's had in the back of her mind since 1989, when she was part of a similar project by Tongva tribe's neighbors to the north, the Chumash.

The Sweet Smell of Sage and Racism in Kansas

by Brenda Norrell, Censored News

KANSAS -- Native Americans on the Longest Walk 4 Return to Alcatraz said, "Day 64-nothing like a little racism."

Long Walkers said that after five straight days of walking they were "racially harassed" near Kansas City in Kansas.

"Some ding dong called the police when we were circling up at the end of walking today and when we got on the van the police show up, and he claims burning sage smells like marijuana. So after some discussion, he runs me through the computer, calls three other vehicles and comes over and does a field test," Long walker said.

"Of course it comes up negative, and we are on the way but the whole incident leaves a sour taste. I told them they should improve their drug training. Earlier another police tried to stop us for jay walking. Go figure.

"Other than that it was all good. Special thanks to Steve and Nanette and family for hosting us; her father who is 91 supported us in 1978 The Longest Walk. Also to Penny and family for walking with us as well and Forest for the dinner."

Dear Readers,

We are developing a Trade/Barter Classified section for the AIVA area of Indian Voices. (Page 9)

Please contact me with any ideas and or suggestions as how to launch this project. Let's return to our marketing tradition.

Your continued interest and support is appreciated.

619-419-4620 Adam A. Rodriguez

Juaneno Band of Mission Indians abelrodriguez93@yahoo.com

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Crime in the San Diego Region Mid-Year 2013 Statistics

Since 1980, SANDAG has been compiling and reporting regional crime statistics for San Diego County and remains the only local source for regional statistics not available at the national level. This summary presents information regarding how many and what types of crimes were reported to local law enforcement in the first half of 2013 and how these numbers compare to prior years. These data are useful to local law enforcement agencies as they track the effectiveness of their prevention and response efforts on jurisdictional and regional crime rates.

While the violent crime rate per 1,000 population increased from calendar year 2011 to 2012, as reported in SANDAG's 2013 Annual Crime Bulletin, this trend did not continue into the first six months of 2013. As Figure 1 and Table 3 show, the region's violent crime rate of 3.46 represented a 6 percent decrease from mid-year 2012 and was the second lowest in the past ten years (following 2011). However, the jump in the property crime rate reported in calendar year 2012 did continue during the first half of 2013, with a 4 percent increase from mid-year 2012 to 2013.

VIOLENT CRIME

• A total of 5,431 Part I violent crimes were reported to local law enforcement agencies in the region

between January and June 2013 (Tables 1 and 6), an average of 30 per day, compared to almost 32 per day during the first six months of 2012 (not shown). Part I violent crimes include homicide, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault.

• There were 40 homicides in the first half of 2013, a drop of 38 percent from mid-year 2012 when 64 occurred (Tables 1 and 8). Over the past ten years, the fewest number of homicides at mid-year were reported in 2010 (31) and the greatest number in 2004 (71).

• The number of rapes reported across the region decreased 17 percent to 313 in the first half of 2013 (Table 1). This number was the second lowest reported in the past ten years.

• The number of robberies also decreased during the first half of 2013, after an increase at the same time last year. This decrease from 1,529 in the first half of 2012 to 1,473 in 2013 represented a 4 percent decline.

• The 3,605 aggravated assaults reported during the first six months of the year represented a 6 percent decrease from the prior year and was the second lowest in the past ten years.

• Across the 19 jurisdictions, the number of violent crimes decreased (since the same time period one year ago) in 12 jurisdictions, increased in 4, and 3 had numbers too small to calculate the percent change. Decreases

ranged from 2 percent to 23 percent.

PROPERTY CRIME

- A total of 35,012 property crimes were reported to local law enforcement agencies in the first half of 2013 (Tables 1 and 7). Sixty-four percent (64%) were larcenies, 20 percent burglaries, and 16 percent motor vehicle thefts.
- The 6,921 burglaries reported in the San Diego region in the first half of 2013 represented an increase of only 1 percent from mid-year 2012 (6,846). However, while residential burglaries decreased 7 percent (from 4,613 to 4,291), non-residential burglaries increased 18 percent (2,233 to 2,630).
- The number of larcenies reported in the region at mid-year 2013 (22,439) represented the second consecutive increase and a 7 percent jump from mid-year 2012 (21,058). Both petty theft (estimated value of items stolen \$400 and under) and grand theft increased (by 3% and 12%, respectively).
- Motor vehicle theft was the only property crime type to decrease from mid-year 2012 to 2013. The drop from 5,716 in 2012 to 5,652 in 2013) represented a 1 percent decline.
- Across the jurisdictions, the number of property crimes increased in 13 of the 19 jurisdictions, with increases ranging from 3 percent to 25 percent.

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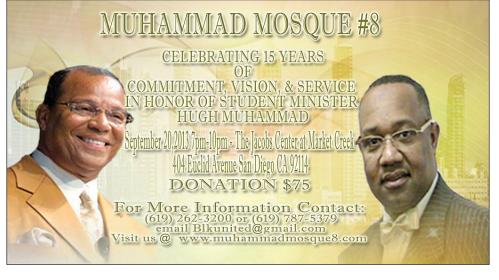
EVENTS RELATED TO STOP SAN ONOFRE project (in cooperation with Coalition to Decommission San Onofre)

- 26 Sep 2013 5–9pm NRC Public Meeting on Decommissioning San Onofre, La Costa Hotel, 2100 Costa del Mar Road, Carlsbad CA (doors open at 5 PM for security screening)
- 01 Oct 2013 2-3pm and 6:30-7:30pm CPUC public participation Meeting at Al Bahr Venue, 5440 Kearny Mesa Rd., San Diego, CA 92111 1:15pm - Press Conference outside
- 09 Oct 2013 6-9pm Nuclear Regulatory Commission "waste confidence" hearing (6 PM – 7 PM open house, 7 PM – 9 PM meeting)

Sheraton Hotel, 5480 Grand Pacific Drive, Carlsbad -- The meeting will focus on the current status of the requirement that accumulated nuclear waste at power plants must have a safe storage strategy.

• 19 Oct 2013 - 12-4pm, Decommissioning Symposium by Coalition to Decommission San Onofre location: Center for Spiritual Living, San Clemente;

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Election Nullified

Continued from page 3

While it is dangerous to get in the way of big money, in San Diego the Mayor walked into a perfect storm. First, his personality and actions made enemies among even his supporters. Second, key supporters abandoned him. The third and possibly the most significant element in his down fall, the major media outlets were either controlled or financially beholden to his biggest opponents. As the dust settles, it is becoming increasingly clear that between the first accusation and his resignation reigned an atmosphere in which accusations and hysteria were left unchecked by opposition-influenced news media, supporters were intimidated into abandoning him, and the ends justified the means.

While it would be hard to eliminate Mayor Filner's own conduct as playing a role in his removal, the scope and gravity of such conduct will remain unknown at least until there is a trial of the two sexual harassment suits, if ever that transpires. Before any evidentiary process took place, the City's mayor was deposed in a forced "deal" without a recall election, without scrutiny of the accusations, without a nuanced public discussion, and without a balancing of the equities in nullifying an election.

In November, a special election will be held to replace the Mayor. Special elections typically see low voter turn out with a high proportion of older and more conservative voters. The City's progressives are divided and demoralized. Therefore, the majority who voted for the Mayor are unlikely to find an adequate remedy in the special election. It begs the question why such an important referendum on the City's future was so easily and undemocratically derailed.

The unusual perfect storm started with a press conference on July 10, 2013. It was not arranged by his usual foe, but by ostensible former supporters: attorneys Marco Gonzalez and Cory Briggs, locally known for high profile environmental and public interest lawsuits against the City; and former City Council person, mayoral candidate, and Filner appointee Donna Frye. They claimed to have knowledge of sexual harassment allegations. The details of the allegations and the identify of the accusers were not disclosed. They demanded the Mayor's resignation before more would be disclosed. Although, the events that followed provoked many conspiracy theories, nothing has surfaced to implicate these three persons as part of a plot, though they are most responsible for the scandal's initial momentum. As former supporters, they signaled the Castle ramparts were breached. By the end of the drama, it was a medieval palace coup in which everybody was in on it: the inner court, the guards – everyone except the public. It's hard to know exactly where the scandal would have ended up had not the Mayor's allies so quickly turned on him.

San Diego's Unique Developer — Media Relationship Now that there was a breach in the Mayor's own support structure, opponents saw an extraordinary opportunity. The task was still a monumental one but the enemies of the Mayor had a unique relationship with the local media — on both sides of the political spectrum:

- The City's most well known developer, Doug Manchester, owns the City's principal newspaper, the Union Tribune ('UT"). The bias of the paper since his purchase is so unprecedented among papers of its size that it has been a topic of national discussion. In addition to being a staunch Republican who was no fan of the Democratic Mayor's politics, two of his pet projects had been the target of the Mayor's opposition: the City's proposed Convention Center expansion and the proposed new professional football stadium – both planned near Mr. Manchester's hotels. Moreover, the Mayor had intervened in the public funding mechanism for the Convention Center expansion to obtain a more favorable financial arrangement for the City. The Mayor opposed any public subsidy for the stadium proposal.
- The local news media outlets, which can normally be relied on to balance the reporting of the UT were silent on the salient questions in this matter.** These outlets were the Voice of San Diego, an on-line daily news outlet, and KPBS, the local NPR / PBS affiliate. A major contributorto both outlets was the City's wealthiest man whose proposed development the Mayor opposed: the proposal and funding by Irwin Jacobs to build a parking ramp on to the iconic Cabrillo bridge entrance in the City's famous Balboa Park. Ridding the City of Mayor Filner would also create another chance for his employee and alsoran mayoral candidate, Nathan Fletcher.

Nullifying an Election without an Election

What followed was essentially a "news black out" of investigative reporting, legal analysis, and political analysis. There were many facts and issues that merited a closer look. Nevertheless, the silence was deafening for anything but the steady drum beat of "new accusation[s]" and calls for resignation. Panel discussions were held which only debated the timing of resignation or recall, and new accusations were reported almost daily without scrutiny or gradation. In this environment, the following took place with impunity:

 News media rarely distinguished between the two sexual harassment allegations (now the subject of lawsuits) and the 16 date requests or allegedly inappropriate touches, which were lumped together as "18 sexual harassment accusations." It is surprising how insubstantial many of the accusations appear on their face - most were date requests or incidents that are open to interpretation. Many of them occurred years ago. A renowned gadfly and publicity hound made one accusation without further questioning. It is no surprise that only two of the 18 accusations have been filed as lawsuits. The lawsuits, even to most seasoned attorneys, do not appear to be of the most serious variety of sexual harassment suits.

- There was no public discussion of the effect a resignation would have in nullifying the 2012 election, or whether the interests of the public in that election should be considered in determining how to process the allegations. The 2012 election was revolutionary for the City in many ways. It essentially constituted a referendum for dramatic change from the way the City had been run for most of its history. The City had elected its first democrat in twenty years in a high turn out presidential election. Moreover, unlike the democratic Mayor of twenty years ago, the new Mayor openly campaigned against the City's power brokers and allied himself with neighborhood groups, environmentalists, labor, impoverished communities, and the poor. Additionally, City Charter amendments ("strong mayor" amendments) provided him with greater power than previous mayors. News media typically would have provided at least some analysis of the effect of a resignation or removal on the interests of the public in avoiding a nullification of the 2012 election, or what types or gravity of conduct merit such an extreme measure, or what the appropriate process is for doing so. Nary a word was said by either of these news outlets until after the resignation – and then only in a guest opinion.
- More recently, in an out of town newspaper, it was reported that two City Council members allegedly witnessed Filner's Mayoral runoff election opponent and former City Council member Carl DeMaio masturbate in the Council bath-

- room during Council public meetings. DeMaio repeatedly made public pronouncements demanding that Mayor Filner resign. It is believed that DeMaio may run for the vacant position. Despite the similar (or greater) salaciousness and obvious irony, news media refused to report the story and kept it under wraps for 3 years, even while the Filner scandal raged.
- The principal architects of the resignation deal were City Council members Todd Gloria (Dem.), Kevin Faulconer (Rep.), and City Attorney Jan Goldsmith (Rep.). These were the three City representatives who attended the two day mediation resulting in the resignation. Both Council members have since stated their interest in running for the vacant position. Moreover, Todd Gloria was to be (and now is) interim Mayor upon Mayor Filner's resignation. It begs the question whether the Council members' interests in their own ambitions conflicted with their role in the negotiations – a question ignored by the aforementioned news out-
- The City Attorney, who had been openly feuding with the Mayor since the beginning of the Mayor's term, recently appeared to admit in an interview by an NBC Local affiliate (at 2:14 in video) that he and his office had been investigating the Mayor for 6 months prior to the beginning of the scandal.
 - The recall petition drive, ostensibly in

SEE Election Nullified, page 13



Election Nullified

Continued from page 12

response to the scandal, began as early as January 1, 2013 at the inception of the Mayor's term, long before the scandal broke.

- Adding to the list of dirty tricks and media pile-on, one news outlet even published a photo of the Mayor's press secretary drinking from a glass with a penis shaped straw. The photo was accompanied by an article with commentary from a GOP consultant, but identified in neutral terms, opining about that the behavior was inappropriate especially while the Mayor was being accused of sexual harassment. The article didn't mention until the fourth paragraph that the photo was taken at her bachelorette party in Las Vegas, or that the Mayor's political foes set up the photo. When the circumstances of the photo were discovered, the article was widely criticized.
- The City Attorney and City Council set up the forced resignation with a classic coercive bluff. On July 30, the City Council voted 9-0 to deny the Mayor a legal defense against the harassment lawsuits, apparently with the City Attorney's advice. Then three weeks later, the City Council voted to approve the resignation deal, in which the City would defend the Mayor in exchange for his resignation. The Council accepted the agreement based on the City Attorney's advice that "[t]he city is strictly liable for harassment of city employees by their supervisors, and that includes the mayor." It begged the question why that rationale did not similarly guide the Council when it voted to deprive the Mayor (i.e., the City) a legal defense. This tactic went unnoticed in
- By the time of the resignation, the developer-influenced media apparently felt so confident in its command of the events, that it abandoned deference to the voters' policy referendum in the 2012 election.

The day of the Mayor's resignation, the San Diego Union Tribune published an editorial which argued that with the Mayor out of the way, the new leadership should double-down on the projects the Mayor opposed, e.g., the Balboa Park bypass bridge and parking garage, the Convention Center expansion (the Mayor initially opposed the deal but, after getting concessions favorable to the City, supported it), a new football stadium (the paper's owner owns several hotels near the proposed site of both the Convention Center and the stadium), etc.

• As if on cue, interim Mayor's Gloria's first official act was to rescind a stop-work order issued by Mayor Filner against a controversial Jack in the Box project involving an expansion and drive-thru feature contrary to the neighborhood's community plan and ordinance.

Conclusion

We have come to expect, in varying degrees, news media to check bare allegations, to provide balanced perspective and analysis, and to consider different points of views and angles. This did not happen in the Mayor Filner matter except in some of the smaller alternative publications. Was it simply incompetence? The pedigree of the offending news outlets suggest otherwise.

The net result of the ordeal was that the public referendum on the direction of the City embodied by the 2012 election was overturned without a vote of the public, in a deal made behind closed doors, with no public scrutiny or informed debate, and with no likely remedy in the special election.

Bill Adams is the founder and chief editor of UrbDeZine. UrbDeZine.com. He is also a partner in the San Diego law firm of Norton, Moore, & Adams, LLP.

Cecelia Apple Fire Thunder (Tawacin Wastewin, Good Thoughts Woman)

by Roy Cook, edit

Celia Fire Thunder was born on the Pine Ridge reservation but only lived there for a short time, moving to California while still a child. But the lure of Pine Ridge proved too strong, and she returned home 24 years later in 1987. Health care has always been a priority of hers. Fire Thunder graduated from nursing school and eventually became part of an effort to provide free health care to people too poor to afford it. She has since worked for the tribe, a hospital, the state of South Dakota and as a private consultant. Fire Thunder was involved in a program to cut down on domestic violence. She has also adopted needy children, raising them as if they

When former Tribal President Cecelia Fire Thunder stood up for women's rights and challenged one of these laws, she was impeached. So far this year 93 laws have been passed nationwide that are restrictive to women reproductive rights.

Fire Thunder has dedicated much of her adult life to the defense of the Indian family and the struggle against abuse of Indian women and children. She is an advocate of the rescue and use of the Lakota language by the younger generation. Marjene Ambler, in Tribal College Journal, wrote, "Lakota language advocate Cecilia Fire Thunder uses healing ceremonies to free the tongues of people too ashamed to 'remember' their Native language. In many cases, these feelings toward the language have led to hating their own skin color." Indian Country Today columnist Suzan Shown Harjo wrote on our Web site edition recently about Fire Thunder's work "to educate Lakota people about Lakota traditions of gender balance and the sacredness of children and elders." Harjo pointed out that Fire Thunder's Lakota

SEE Cecilia Fire Thunder, page 14

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Federal Control of Nevada Lands Hot Topic at Summit

by Sean Whaley

STATELINE, NV — Representatives of Nevada's diverse collection of cities and counties don't always find common ground, but the federal government's control of so much of the state's public lands struck a nerve at a summit here Friday.

Officials representing rural counties, small cities and the biggest jurisdictions took the opportunity to vent on the federal land control issue at the Local Government Summit sponsored by the Nevada Association of Counties and the Nevada League of Cities and held at Lake Tahoe

"Run the BLM out of Nevada?" asked Las Vegas City Councilman Steve Ross. "I'm in favor of that. Do I hear a second?"

He got more than a few nods and vocal signs of support from the approximately 100 attendees, a demonstration of just how unhappy many local officials are with the federal agency.

Ross later said his comments were made in jest, and were in response to the level of frustration he heard from local government officials in Northern and rural Nevada directed at the agency. Clark County has a good working relationship with the agency, Ross said.

Federal control of Nevada's lands is an economic issue, he said. Small rural municipalities in particular need more land so they can grow, Ross said.

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From the implications of a listing of the sage grouse as an endangered species to the difficulty in getting federal land transferred to cities and counties so they

can grow, kind words for the agency were in short supply during the discussion.

It was just one part of a three-hour wide-ranging forum on federal and state issues affecting local governments, but it pro-

voked some of the most spirited discussion.

About 48 million acres, or more than two-thirds of Nevada's acreage, is under the control of the BLM.

Carlin Mayor Cliff Eklund offered a more modest view than Ross, arguing not for the removal of the BLM but for more state and local control over the lands. The BLM has a one-size-fits-all mentality across the country that does not consider geography or other factors, he said.

"I think if the states and counties had more input in how these lands are managed a lot of the problems we have between the local governments and the BLM would go away," Eklund said.

BLM officials hold the illogical view that ranchers will overgraze the lands and put themselves out of business, he said.

"In a lot of cases, the ranchers have a better idea of how to manage the range-

lands than some government official in Washingon, D.C.," Eklund said.

Elko County Commissioner Demar Dahl said the Nevada Legislature has ini-

> tiated a review into whether the state should take over control of the public lands now managed by federal agencies, including the BLM.

Assembly Bill 227, which passed in the 2013 legislative session, has

mandated that review, he said. A task force is now evaluating if the state wants to see a transfer of the lands, and if such a transfer can be accommodated, Dahl said. A report will be made to the Legislature in 2015.

The Nevada Policy Research Institute, a conservative think tank based in Las Vegas, has repeatedly called for the federal government to release the government's public lands for economic development.

"Public auctioning of these lands could yield billions of dollars in immediate state revenues, while private-sector development of these lands would stimulate job growth and wealth creation," said Geoffrey Lawrence, deputy policy director at NPRI, in a release last year.

Some land transfers do occur. The BLM has just announced a plan to sell 440 acres of property in Clark County.

Cecelia Fire Thunder

Continued from page 13

name means "Good Hearted Woman." A practical nurse, Fire Thunder established an organization, Sacred Circle, to address domestic violence. Her career stands as testimony of the effort to help rebuild the self-esteem of women in her community and nationally. She is just the kind of courageous and outgoing woman leader that a people wanting to re-strengthen their nation from the ground up, family by family and tiospaye by tiospaye, could appeal to for understanding and assistance.

Most importantly, Cecilia Fire Thunder is an inspiration to young women to reach for leadership and pursue the path of self-esteem and self-dignity. From consideration as sacred and as centrally important to the nations, Indian women have too often been denigrated and abused. This is the conclusion of the "Family Violence and American Indians/Alaska Natives: A Report to the Indian Health Service Office of Women's Health," a compendium produced in October 2002, by Dr. Laura Williams, et. al. Sexual assault against Indian women is more than double that among blacks and three times that of whites. Forty-six percent of violence and 70 percent of crime is alcohol related. Acquaintances (38 percent) and strangers (46 percent) have the highest rates as perpetrators against Indian women. Family and intimates account for around 10 percent. In domestic violence, poverty and alcohol are the major factors.

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The Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act

The Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA) is one out of about a dozen Indian laws that really makes an impact on Indian Country every day. This year marks the expiration of this law. First passed in 1996, NAHASDA consolidated several non-Indian specific programs within the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) into a single block grant, the Indian Housing Block Grant, and concentrated the decision-making process on Indian tribes. At its core, NAHASDA recognizes the right of

Indian self-determination and tribal selfgovernance which allows tribes greater flexibility in determining how to deliver quality and affordable housing to their communities.

Senator Maria Cantwell (D-WA), Chairwoman of the Senate Indian Affairs Committee, recently introduced bipartisan legislation to reauthorize NAHASDA in the 113th Congress. She is working to improve the law to better provide housing opportunities for veterans, promote energy efficiency, reauthorize programs for Native Hawaiians, and improve how low-income housing tax credits can be used in Indian Country. Meeting the challenge for housing is great - an estimated 200,000 housing units are needed immediately in Indian Country and approximately 90,000 Native families are homeless or under-housed.

I was proud to be an original cosponsor of this important legislation in 1996 and subsequent reauthorizations. Indian tribes in Nevada use this powerful tool to meet the challenges in providing housing and housing related community development to their tribal members on their terms. I know NAHASDA has worked well in the Silver State and throughout

Indian Country, and I will continue to work toward reauthorizing NAHASDA. With a coalition including Indian tribes, the National American Indian Housing Council, and other housing and community development advocates working towards reauthorization, this vital housing program for Indian Country is in good hands. I hope Congress will act swiftly to pass a bill in order to keep these critical tools available to tribes so Indian Country can continue to build strong communities. For more information, or to receive the Reid Report E-Newsletter, visit Senator Harry Reid's website athttp://www.reid.senate.gov

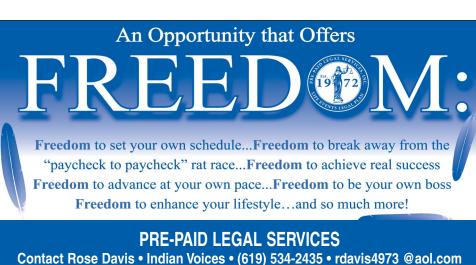


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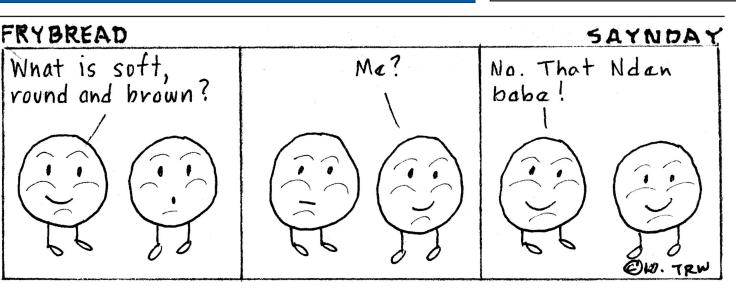


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