



# INDIAN VOICES

OUR 25<sup>TH</sup> YEAR

MULTI-CULTURAL NEWS GLOBAL NETWORK

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## Native Americans 'Swim for Life' in San Francisco Bay

American Indians three times more likely to die from diabetes-related complications

by Pete Verral, Community Outreach/Media Relations Representative PATHSTAR

SAN FRANCISCO, CA – It's about 1.2 miles from Alcatraz to the San Francisco shore, which doesn't seem a long swim until you consider the frigid, mid-50 degree water and perilous currents of the San Francisco Bay. On October 17, Native Americans from South Dakota, Alaska, Washington and the San Francisco Bay Area completed the swim -- with just six days' training.

Fred Crisp, one of the organizers and a San Francisco resident said, "Today's swim was truly the 'Magnificent Twelve', with the oldest swimmer being 62 years old, and the youngest being 15 years old. Three of the 12 swimmers had only one swim before this, and all of the members had little or no experience on open water, especially cold waters such as the San Francisco Bay..."

The event concluded the ninth annual PATHSTAR Alcatraz Program, a week-long (October 9-17) event. PATHSTAR ([www.pathstar.org](http://www.pathstar.org)), a San Francisco-based nonprofit, inspires active lifestyle and healthy nutrition within Indian Country communities.

The national diabetes epidemic is devastating in Indian Country. When compared with the population as a whole, American Indians are three times more likely to die from diabetes-related complications, according to federal Indian Health Service statistics. Obesity is a leading risk factor of diabetes. Native youth are twice as likely to be overweight than are young people in the general population.

During the week prior to the swim, the participants visited farmer's markets and school gardening/meal-planning programs, learned healthy cooking practices and worked with dieticians and



The Magnificent Twelve swim for health in front of Alcatraz Island.

Photo Johan Wikman

physical fitness experts that included Pilates and yoga sessions and a kayaking outing. Following the program, they returned to their communities as ambassadors of change, sharing their experiences and ideas with family and friends.

The Lakota message, "Oyate kin nipi kte: So that the people will live," succinctly expresses the motivation for the participants.

SEE **Swim For Life**, page 2

### In this issue...

- 1 Swim For Life
- 2 Cultural Sovereignty Center Opens
- 3 Disenrollments
- 4 Governor Brown Appoints Lee Gutierrez
- 5 OWS Welcomes Indigenous People
- 6 American Indian Warriors Association
- 7 Big Brothers Sisters Celebrate Native Heritage Month
- 8 St Augustine's Cultural Heritage
- 9 Respected Elder Katherine Siva Saubel Passes On
- 10 Dorothy M. Tavui Library Memorial Dedication
- 11 Union Bank KPBS Honor Local Heros
- 12 Indian Girls Softball Team Brings Home the Gold
- 13 Update on Black Indian Survey
- 14 Bureau of Black Indian Affairs
- 15 Underground Railroad Conference
- 16 New York OWS William Loren Katz
- 8-9 Photos: Malcolm X Library Harvest Dinner
- 10 LA Indian Heritage Month Celebration
- 11 CA Indian Culture & Sovereignty Center
- 12 Buffalo Soldier Tradition
- 13 Jon Meza Cuero
- 14 Seneca Niagara Opens Chocolate Boutique
- 15 Multi Cultural Festival
- 16 CA to charge Prisoners \$142 Per Day
- Senior Olympics Report
- 13 Gray Whale Season at Birch Aquarium
- 14 Poway Center for the Performing Arts
- 15 Nevada News
- 16 Reid All About It
- Southern California Tribal TANF

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## California Indian Culture and Sovereignty Center Opens its Doors

by R.E. Gomez

California State University San Marcos reaches a new milestone with the grand opening of the California Indian Culture and Sovereignty Center (CICSC). The ceremony took place on Thursday, November 17, 2011 with a large number of attendees to show their support. The new center will be used as a gathering place for faculty and staff linking them up with Tribal members and Native American students. CSUSM finished the building and its new center during the summer semester's break.

Currently, the CICSC is home to the University's American Indian Student Alliance (AISA), that meets weekly to discuss upcoming events that help the community and local reservations focus on a higher education. The CICSC is part of the new Social Science and Behavioral building which allows the center to serve as an important facility for Native American studies. The center will also be a location to research and

preservation of cultural heritage and Indian activities on campus. Currently, the center, along with Pauma reservation, has collaborated to create software for indigenous language teachings for local native tribes within their schools curriculum.

The shadows started to cover the Tukwut (cougar) statue as it patiently watched the sun set. The cold suddenly took over and the exciting event started. Tribal Liaison Tishmall Turner, opened the even with an introduction to all the attendees and of the next speaker, Dr. Joely Proudfit, The center director and professor at the university. Her speech was breathtaking



Dr. Joely Proudfit greets those assembled acknowledging the presence of a Redtailed Hawk and a wildcat spotted in the area earlier in the day.

as spoke about how the CICSC was just the beginning for the Native American people. Dr. Proudfit continued to mention that the center opening its doors shows that there is an important com-

SEE **CISC**, page 2

# Picayune Rancheria Tribal Disenrollments 'Disheartening'

by Rande Payne / Guest Commentary

I found the Sept. 29 Sierra Star article by Carmen George about disenrollment of Chukchansi tribal members very informative and well written, although it is very disheartening to see what is happening to the Chukchansi people. Unfortunately, disenrollment is all too common with many tribes today.

I serve as the District 6 representative for the Citizen Potawatomi Nation which covers the southern half of California from near the Kings River to the Mexican border and the southern half of Nevada, representing about 1,900 members of our 30,000-plus member tribe headquartered in Shawnee, Ok.

Myself and the other 15 members of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Tribal Legislature recently took a Native Nations rebuilding course through The University of Arizona's Native Nations Institute. What is happening with the Chukchansi Tribe fits the "standard approach" profile as described in the course material to a tee.

So many tribes fall into the pit of the "standard approach" to economic development and nation building. The typical

results are almost always failed enterprises, a politics of spoils, brain drain, outside perceptions of incompetence and chaos that undermine the defense of sovereignty and the confidence of the community.

Per capita payments, or "stipends" as they were called in the article, are at the heart of what is driving the Chukchansi disenrollments. Rather than reinvesting casino profits into nation-owned and operated enterprises that further economic development, create jobs within the community, insure self-determination and lessen dependency on federal aid, the profits are fought over and eventually squandered and the community remains in chaos and poverty.

It saddens me to see this. While I am not Chukchansi, I am Native American. But it also concerns me and because while the Bureau of Indian Affairs may appear to be hands-off with the tribe's enrollment issues, you can bet they are watching the chaos and dysfunction of the tribal government.

If there are enough petitions, protests and law suits, the BIA has everything it

SEE **Disenrollments**, page 4

## Swim For Life

Continued from page 1

Terry Mills (Oglala Lakota), Pune Ridge, SD, stated, "I plan to put what we have learned here to work on the reservation. We need to encourage more gardening of fruits and vegetables without the use of pesticides and chemicals.... We learn a lot from each other... We bring some of our language, our culture... Anybody can do this, age is not an issue..."

Zolina Zizi (Cheyenne, Arikara Creek), Richmond, CA, said, "I will be working on placing gardens in schools and getting healthy foods into schools. I will definitely spread the word..."

Shelli Joy Martinez (Okanogan Band,

Colville Federated Tribes), WA, observed, "This was an exceptional experience with a dedication to a healthy lifestyle. This was about eating, learning, and how to prepare for a new lifestyle. By preparing for our swim, we learned that we can overcome any obstacle..."

Jeffrey Not Help Him (Oglala Lakota), Pine Ridge, SD, commented, "I had an intense week of knowledge, friendship, and support to complete an event I didn't think I could. I did it... There were sacrifices that I chose to make and they understood. I lost people I loved, but gained new friends. And I'm blessed, truly blessed. I see that through the ten thousand colors. When you say you can't, you can."

## CISC

Continued from page 1

munity that supports milestones such as this one. CSUSM President Karen S. Haynes briefly spoke about her continued support and interest in the growth of Native Americans on campus. President Haynes also mentioned on how the students and community need to continue their support so that joyous events such as this one can continue to strive on and off campus.

An opening blessing was given by chairman Deevers, thanking all the attendees for their support and guidance. The chairman's blessing gave guid-

ance for the events to follow that evening. The chairman was soon followed by Bird Singers chanting into the cold-dark air - with sounds of beauty and culture for the Native American people. A tour of the new center followed as students, staff, Natives, and children walked about on the university's campus. The beautiful décor brightened up the CISC as important conversations moved back and forth between the center and outside area. California State University San Marcos looks forward to future gatherings to support the Native American local tribes and strive for a higher education.

See photos on page 9.

# Governor Brown Appoints Lee Gutierrez and Pouneh Simpson to the California Department of Veterans Affairs

SACRAMENTO, CA – Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. today appointed Lee Gutierrez as Deputy Secretary for Minority Veterans Affairs in the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet). He also appointed Pouneh Simpson as Chief of Financial Operations for the CalVet Veterans Homes Division.

"I welcome Lee and Pouneh to the CalVet family," said Peter J. Gravett, CalVet Secretary. "Lee's extensive knowledge and experience in cultural awareness makes him uniquely qualified to fill the Deputy Secretary for Minority Veterans position. Pouneh's depth of knowledge of fiscal services will greatly enhance the CalVet Veterans Home Division as its Chief of Financial Operations."

Gutierrez, of Temecula, is a retired colonel with more than 29 years of commissioned service in the United States Army, serving in twelve countries. He has been the division chief of the Joint

Interagency Coordination Group at Pacific Command Headquarters since January 2011. Gutierrez has served in multiple command positions ranging from brigade to platoon and joint staff positions, including director of cultural awareness and counterinsurgency and executive assistant officer to Commanding General, First United States Army, Lieutenant General Honoré.

Simpson, of Sacramento, has served as chief of administrative services division for the State Personnel Board since 2009. She was chief of fiscal services at the California Emergency Management Agency from 2007 to 2009, chief of administration at the Office of the Inspector General from 2005 to 2007, manager of forms and publication at the Board of Equalization from 2004 to 2005, special projects manager at the California State Controller's Office from 2000 to 2004 and a budget analyst at Department of Finance from 1997 to 1999.



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# Occupy Wall Street Welcomes Indigenous Peoples

New York, NY – As the United States officially celebrated Columbus Day on Monday, indigenous peoples joined thousands of activists to commemorate “Indigenous Peoples Day” at Occupy Wall Street in Lower Manhattan. Representatives of several local, national, and international indigenous organizations and community groups led a teach-in and then an historic march down to the National Museum of the American Indian. The indigenous representatives also presented an ‘indigenous

platform’, which noted that “without addressing justice for indigenous peoples, there can never be a genuine movement for justice and equality in the United States.”

At the “teach-in” speakers from the Owe Aku International Justice Project, First Voices Indigenous Radio, and the United Confederation of Taino People reminded those gathered that “Columbus was not a Day” as they linked “colonialism and corporate greed” to the struggles of Indigenous Peoples



Photo: Alyssa Macy

A Day of Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples at Occupy Wall Street. From left to right: Jen Yazzie (Navajo), Roberto Mukaro Borrero (Taino), Kent Lebsock (Lakota), and Tiokasin Ghosthorse (Lakota).

The march was followed by presentations from members of the local Taino and Mexica community including ‘Mexica Danza’ back at Zucotti Park.

With the ancient rhythms of the Mexica drums resounding through the New York night, Kent Lebsock (Lakota) of Owe Aku International Justice Project and Roberto Múkaro Borrero (Borikén Taino) of the United Confederation of Taino People presented the opening remarks to Occupy Wall Street’s evening General Assembly. During the presentation, an ‘indigenous platform’ was offered for the education and endorsement of the groups and individuals in atten-

## American Indian Warrior Association: San Diego

by Roy Cook

AMERICAN INDIAN WARRIORS ASSOCIATION AIWA Honor Color Guard members were invited to be a part of the Veterans Day festivities in Old Town San Diego on Nov. 11, 2011.

There were many local Tribal Artists and other Native American related Institutional representatives in attendance: botanical groups, Museum of Man and the like. All were assembled on the grassy plaza in the heart of the State park Prado.

AIWA: Joaquin Sandoval and Roy Cook assembled our Indian staff and the colors in their mobile stand. There were members of the other Veterans groups there too. They volunteered to stand in

and carry in the colors if we were short of members. Alex Rodriguez and his son had a Jueaneno display and we enjoyed the warmth of the day reliving past airborne paratrooper memories. WW II USMC Veteran Manuel Flores was also a Para-marine and joined in relating his training in North Carolina and New Jersey. US Navy submariner Joe Luna splashed in with his salty stories of his times in the diesel boats.

When 51st District Congressman Bob Filner came into the area we all moved to the flagpole and the colors and things moved quickly from a blessing by Celia Flores, Juaneno Elder to Assemblyman, Bob Filner. He was introduced by the day’s organizer

Minnie. He spoke to the debt our Nation owes our military female and male Veterans and his efforts on the Veterans committee in Congress.



around the world.

Following the teach-in, indigenous community members were honored to lead the evening march of several thousand activists from Liberty Plaza/Zucotti Park to the National Museum of the American Indian and back to “Wall Street”. The indigenous peoples leading the march with drums, guamo (conch shell horn), and songs, were followed directly by a banner calling for the freedom of American Indian political prisoner, Leonard Peliter.



Photo: Nona Aquan

Some of the Mexica and Taino community members at Occupy Wall Street on Oct. 10th. From left to right: Elvira and Hortencia Colorado (Chichimec Otomi), Roman Guaragarix Perez (Taino), Vanessa Inarunikia Pastrana (Taino), and Raphael Landron (Taino).



Photo: Alyssa Macy

Taino and other indigenous peoples lead the march to the National Museum of the American Indian. From left Roman Guaragarix Perez (Taino), Vivien Guara’narú DuMont (Taino), R. Mukaro Borrero (Taino) and Esperanza Martell (Taino).

dance and beyond.

The indigenous platform calls for recognition of Indigenous Peoples right to self-determination, the repeal of the papal bull Inter Caetera (1493), and the repeal of the Columbus Day holiday among other items.

Organizers committed to distributing the statement widely and to posting it at the Occupy Wall Street Website.

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# Big Brothers Big Sisters Celebrates Native American Heritage Month With Efforts to Expand Culturally Relevant Mentoring Services

## Professional Basketball Star Tahnee Robinson to be Featured in Upcoming PSA Announcement

PHILADELPHIA, PA, – Big Brothers Big Sisters celebrates Native American Heritage Month with a new campaign to enroll more youth and volunteers in its unique, culturally relevant mentoring program developed to help Native American/Alaska native children achieve in school and succeed in life. The program includes a new public service announcement (PSA) featuring professional women's basketball player Tahnee Robinson, who is one of the first Native Americans ever selected in the WNBA draft.

"We are energized by the progress of our local agencies in strengthening relationships in their communities to better serve Native American youth," said Big Brothers Big Sisters of America President and CEO Karen J. Mathis. "We are extremely excited about the passage of a resolution by the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians to support this work. The National Congress of American Indians Youth Commission is reviewing a similar resolution. It is through working closely with families and local communities that we are able to hold ourselves accountable for helping the children we serve overcome adversity to achieve in school; avoid risky and delinquent behaviors and have higher self esteem and aspirations."

With support from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), Big Brothers Big Sisters established its Native American Tribal Community

Initiative in 2008. The program serves more than 3500 Native American young people, 42 percent of whom are matched with Native American mentors. Continued OJJDP support is bolstering funding in 25 tribal communities and 10 reservations/pueblos across the country, where Native American staff, with the help of advisors and elders, carefully match youth with mentors and provide ongoing support to the adult volunteers, mentees and the children's families.

"The program is already resulting in measurable positive outcomes, most notably improved attitudes toward anti-social behavior; stronger parental and peer relationships; better school attendance and scholastic competence; and

higher educational expectations, social competencies and school attendance," said Big Brothers Big Sisters of America Director of Native American Mentoring, Ivy Wright-Bryan, a member of the Pyramid Lake Paiute tribe in Nevada. "Our local affiliates are engaged with local businesses; educational and vocational training institutions; community non-profit groups; and faith-based institutions that serve Native Americans."

"By providing these specialized mentoring services, Big Brothers Big Sisters is supporting educational and community efforts that help Native American young people develop tribal, national and inter-

SEE **Big Brothers Big Sisters**, page 5

## St. Augustine's Legacy

by Rick Mansfield

I was recently part of a guided tour thru Antelope Canyon on the Navajo Reservation in Northeastern Arizona. Our Navajo guide spoke quietly of the Native Americans or, first peoples' love and respect for the land and all that inhabit it. He reminded us that the Native American does not attend church on Sunday and pontificate for all to hear about the glories of Christianity. Instead Native Americans quietly and privately honor the earth and sky and four directions as part of their everyday life. Their religious ceremonies are tribal and not shared with the outside world for it is not the Navajo way to tell others how to or to worship. A wise man indeed.

Florida was the site of many massacres of Native Americans and St. Augustine's Fort Marion, the prison site for members of the Seminole tribe including Chief Osceola, and the Plains Indians, including Geronimo and members of the

Chiricahua Apache tribe. These and other Native Americans were rounded up like cattle and marched to Fort Marion, where many were either killed or died from neglect.

A lot of effort is being put into celebrating the 450th anniversary of St. Augustine yet there seems to be no plans to recognize this dark time in the city's history. Could the shameful truth regarding the Ancient City's treatment of the only true Americans be so embarrassing as to put this time of butchery behind them? I expect we all know the answer.

If it were not for the outcry from the city's African-American community there would be no recognition of the black community or, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., or racists throwing acid in a local motel swimming pool which is also a part of the proud heritage of St. Augustine.

If St. Augustine is going to tell the true story its 450-year-history, don't just tell the part that makes everyone feel good and attracts tourists, tell the whole story.

## Disenrollments

Continued from page 2

needs to lobby for removal of the tribe's federal recognition. Without federal recognition the tribe will basically cease to exist. No grants, no casino, no tribe.

On a much wider scale, there are some who would like to see the Indian Self-Determination Act and Education Assistance Act of 1975 repealed. Some are of the opinion that there should be no special agreements with native nations. There were many activists who fought long and hard for Native American rights to self-determination.

My hope and prayers are that there are enough native nations with the vision and courage to be self-determined. I am proud to say that the Citizen Potawatomi Nation is one such tribe. We are the ninth largest federally recognized tribe and the only federally recognized tribe with member representation outside of the tribe's geographic

jurisdiction.

I wish there was something I could do to help the Chukchansi tribe but I wouldn't know where to start, even though I was raised in the area. Frankly, I don't think there is much hope if the leadership isn't taking the "long look" (seven generations into the future).

The tribal government has to have public-spirited leadership instead of boxing ring politics where factions fight to control the goodies. Without these key elements within the tribal government it would be very difficult to impact change.

My hope is that this letter will stir within the Picayune Chukchansi leadership a desire to consider what is best for their tribe as a whole rather than the select few currently in power.

It is heartbreaking that fluent native speakers are in the mix of disenrollments. This sends the message that money is more important than heritage, culture and traditions.

## Respected Elder Katherine Siva Saubel

It is with deep sadness to report the passing of Katherine Siva Saubel, tribal elder of the Los Coyotes Band of Indians.

Ms. Saubel passed away peacefully on Tuesday, November 1st at her home on the Morongo Indian Reservation. She was 91 years old. Saubel was a prominent tribal leader, educator, mentor, and grandmother and will be deeply missed by all.

Saubel was an inspiration to many and her absence will be felt by all of us in Indian Country. Her beautiful smile and gentle spirit has left a lasting

impression on those whose life she touched. Our thoughts and prayers go out to her family and the Cahuilla people.

Services to Saubel were held at St. Mary's Church on the Morongo Indian Reservation. A viewing was held at the church on Monday, November 7 with the Rosary that followed at 7:00 pm. The funeral was held Tuesday November 8 followed by the traditional feeding of the people at the Morongo Community Center.

Naturally, we respectfully request prayers for the family.

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## Standing Room Only at Dorothy M. Tavui Library Memorial Dedication Ceremony



More than 50 people attended a dedication ceremony honoring Dorothy Tavui, a woman who spent her life educating people on the Kumeyaay culture.

Sage smoke filled the air as more than 50 people gathered out-

Library Dedication was solidified with a brief ceremony that included a presentation from the local Boy Scout color guard and a performance by "Birdsingers"

four men and a boy who sung in harmony while shaking festive gourd rattles.

Friends of the Kumeyaay president Mike Horan shared stories of Tavui and her impact on the center and the children she taught, saying they "wouldn't be where we are today if it weren't for Dorothy."

"She got things done when the center couldn't get things done?even with the city," Horan said of Tavui, who died nearly two years ago.

A close friend also offered a few words just before the ceremony ended.

"She had a lot of love for the language, the people and the land," said Jane Dumas of Jamul. "I didn't expect her to leave me."

The ceremony was attended Tavui's husband, Logo, and son, Michael Gemmell of Valley Center, as well as Deputy Mayor Jim Cunningham and Councilman Dave Grosch.



Photos: Annie Lane



side the Kumeyaay-Ipai Interpretive Center to honor the life and work of Dorothy Tavui former chairwoman of the San Pasqual band of Kumeyaay Indians who was dedicated to furthering her tribe's culture.

The Dorothy M. Tavui Memorial

## American Indian Girls Softball Team Brings Home the Gold

TEAM Cali 16-U, a team of American Indian girls returned home to their San Diego and Riverside County reservations richer than they left. The athletes from nine local tribes won the Gold Medal in baseball, and a first time victory for California, in the 2011 United States Indigenous Games, held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

The 15 member team competed in the combined Under 16-and 19-category, and represented the Rincon, Sycuan, Soboba, Pala, Viejas Pauma, La Jolla, Barona and Torres Martinez tribes in the games, which are held every two years. Manny Boyle, of the San Pasqual Band, also earned the title of Gold Medal Champion in the wrestling weight 130-135 pound competition.

"This was the first time we entered a team," stated Michelle Nelson, the organizer and general manager. "The girls were great, they went there to win and they did." Nelson works for the Rincon Recreation Department, organiz-

ing events for the Indian Communities. Someday, she would like to see the games held in California.

Team Cali 16-U, competed against nine teams, winning the best out of five games, the final playoff was against a highly favored Wisconsin team, which was defeated by the Cali 16-U team.

The organizers and girls raised \$8,000 to travel to the games with a number of tribes and individuals contributing. Nelson praised her tribe for their support in helping to fulfill the girls' dream of taking part in the 2011 Indigenous Games. She added that "without the support of local Tribal Chairman Robert Smith of the Pala Band, we would have had to work even harder for the additional funds to pay for airfare." Nelson also thanked the numerous individual community members that contributed to the cause as well.

SEE **Girls Softball**, page 12

## Union Bank and KPBS Honor Native American Heritage Month Local Heroes

SAN DIEGO, CA – As part of its ongoing commitment to cultural diversity and in celebration of Native American Heritage Month, Union Bank, N.A., has partnered with KPBS to celebrate local heroes who are making a difference to enrich the lives of others. The honorees are announced as part of the ongoing 2011 Cultural Diversity Partnership, which recognizes and pays tribute to 16 local heroes from eight diverse communities who are making a difference by improving their workplace, profession, neighborhood, community, region and the world. The 2011 Native American Heritage Month honorees are: Michelle M. Parada and Brandie Taylor.

"Union Bank is honored to partner with KPBS to celebrate the contributions of these exceptional community leaders," said Senior Executive Vice President Pierre Habis, head of Community Banking at Union Bank. "The Local Heroes program reflects the diversity of San Diego, and we are thrilled to honor these individuals who have contributed so much to their community."

"KPBS has the pleasure of partnering with Union Bank to celebrate these outstanding local heroes," said KPBS General Manager Tom Karlo. "KPBS is

proud to feature these honorees in our programming as they inspire us and make a positive difference in our neighborhoods and the world."

The 2011 honorees for Native American Heritage Month:

**Michelle M. Parada** is the co-founder and lead teacher of All Tribes American Indian Charter School. Ms. Parada grew up on the Rincon Reservation and was one of only three students to graduate from Orange Glen High School's class of 1984. She was also the first Native American student to graduate from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo with an agricultural education degree. It was her education that helped shape her life's mission of making sure students receive the necessary resources to ensure their success. Since 2001, All Tribes Charter School has provided culturally focused assistance to reduce the dropout rates among Native American students in San Diego by graduating 46 high school seniors to date. Ms. Parada has been a recipient of numerous honors and awards, including the 2010 Educator of the Year from the National Indian Education Association

SEE **Local Heroes**, page 12

## Big Brothers Big Sisters

Continued from page 4

national leadership skills," Wright-Bryan said. "Ultimately these mentoring services will help improve overall wellness, including the avoidance of substance abuse and suicide."

Starting in January 2012, Big Brothers Big Sisters affiliates serving Native American youth will work local television stations and social media friends to share the PSA featuring Robinson.

Robinson, who grew up on Wind River Reservation in Fort Washakie, Wyoming, is one of the only Native American athletes drafted to the WNBA and is now playing abroad in Israel.

"Mentoring is about putting a child on a path to success and giving kids the power to believe that they can achieve their dreams," said Robinson. "While I was fortunate enough to count my parents as my true mentors, I will always do whatever it takes to make sure kids have the mentorship and tools they deserve, and the Big Brothers Big Sisters organization does that better than anyone."

In addition to the PSA, in January, Big Brothers Big Sisters affiliates will begin placing in local print and web media new advertising to engage more families, volunteers, partners and donor support. Designed by Native American marketing firm G&G, the ads feature Native

American/Alaska Native mentors and mentees who are already enrolled in Big Brothers Big Sisters' mentoring programs.

The U.S. has recognized November as National American Indian Heritage month since 1990 under variations of the name, including Native American Heritage Month and National American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month.

*About Big Brothers Big Sisters*

For more than 100 years, Big Brothers Big Sisters has operated under the belief that inherent in every child is the ability to succeed and thrive in life. As the nation's largest donor and volunteer supported mentoring network, Big Brothers Big Sisters' mission is to provide children facing adversity with strong and enduring, professionally supported one-to-one relationships that change their lives for the better, forever. Partnering with parents/guardians, schools, corporations and others in the community, Big Brothers Big Sisters carefully pairs children ("Littles") with screened volunteer mentors ("Bigs") and monitors and supports them in one-to-one mentoring matches throughout their course. The organization holds itself accountable for children in the program to achieve measurable outcomes, such as higher aspirations; greater confidence and better relationships; educational success; and avoidance of delinquency and other risky behaviors. Most children served by Big Brothers Big Sisters are in single-parent and low-income families or households where a parent is incarcerated. Headquartered in Philadelphia with a network of about 370 agencies across the country, Big Brothers Big Sisters serves nearly 250,000 children. Learn how you can positively impact a child's life, donate or volunteer at [BigBrothersBigSisters.org](http://BigBrothersBigSisters.org). Learn more about Big Brothers Big Sisters Native American Mentoring Initiative.

## Update on Black/Indian Survey

by Dr. Bruce Twyman

The July/August issue of *Indian Voices* featured a survey which sought to get some general public response to the nationally publicized, DNA studies of Harvard scholar, Henry Louis Gates. The Gates study essentially concludes that African Americans have little to no Native American Blood. *Indian Voices* reviewed the survey reactions in its September issue. The following is an overall response to the survey up to this date.

There has been greater awareness of the survey, yet respondents maintain a level of scepticism about Gates' DNA research. The number of respondents who say they are familiar with the study has increased by 25% since August. This is 75% of all those who have participated. Up to this time 55% of respondents classify themselves as Native American. Since *Indian Voices* has focused on Gates, perhaps many Native Americans have responded who might have otherwise kept their views private. African American respondents, 20% of the total, have decreased since August by 8%. These statistics on participation reflect the current extent of survey distribution and may change in the future.

Perhaps the dominant trend in the survey is that 90% of participants believe the Black Americans have from 10% to more than 50% Native American ancestry. This

trend is a clear rejection of the Gates research and naturally reflects opposition on some other survey questions. Only 17% of respondents believe the study can accurately determine the extent to which Blacks may be of Indian ancestry. In August 30% felt the study was accurate. As opposed to 50% in August, 60% believe the study is wrong. When asked, if there could be an effort to misrepresent the true ancestry of American Blacks, if there is a need for continued research, or if the study is flawed, 70% to 74% responded yes.

So far the survey indicates a growing awareness of the Gates study, but that increased familiarity is paired with a growing scepticism about the validity of conclusions drawn by Gates. *Indian Voices* will continue to expand the distribution base of the survey and report the results.

Further explanation and instructions regarding this survey will be described in the next issue of *Indian Voices*.



by Phil Fixico / Rose Davis

The Bureau of Black Indian Affairs continues to evolve. Since the concept rolled out a few months ago it has caught the attention of several individuals and groups. As many loyal *Indian Voices* readers may remember, Phil Fixico, Dr. William Katz and Rose Davis have come together to forge the Bureau of Black Indian Affairs. To anchor the concept the BBIA is a News Bureau of *Indian Voices*. The purpose is to take positive steps to re-build good vibes and healthy relationships between Black and Indians and the world at large. The BBIA offers the opportunity to reframe and counter academic positions such as those promoted by Dr. Henry Louis Gates Jr. who's using DNA results blindsided many beloved Black icons who, all their lives had voiced bragging rights about their Indian Ancestry. They were crushed with the news that, according to

## Bureau Of Black Indian Affairs

Gates they had practically no Indian DNA in their blood and that they should "Seek The White Man". He made a point of saying that: "Not only did Indians have slaves, they didn't even release their slaves after the Civil War was over". The BBIA provides the platform to bring to the academic forum open dialogue and unbiased discourse to examine and perhaps resolve some of these critical cultural issues. The growth and development of the BBIA is dynamic and evolving holistically.

The working BBIA Mission Statement: Mission is 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". Its membership is open to all people of the world who wish to celebrate this culture.

When the term Black Indian is no longer needed to identify the group that was marginalized by the Dawes Census Rolls and the outdated policies that still continue to this day, which are enforced by the BIA are discontinued, or when the descendants of Black Indians transcend their marginalization and create their own "Indigenous Peoples of Color" groups. Then the name could be replaced. As interested parties involve themselves with the BBIA decisions can be made by a consensus. This community is slowly building.

# Attention Diabetics Taking Actos

The FDA is informing the public that use of the diabetes medication Actos (pioglitazone) for more than one year may be associated with an increased risk of bladder cancer. If you would like an attorney to investigate whether you have a potential claim for compensation, we welcome the opportunity to do so.

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## Escaping to Destinations South: The Underground Railroad, Cultural Identity, and Freedom Along the Southern Borderlands

June 20-23, 2012

St. Augustine, Florida

by Derek Hankerson, Indian Voices Public Relations Coordinator

The 2012 Conference theme is the resistance to slavery through escape and flight to and from the South, including through international flight, from the 16th century to the end of the Civil War. Traditional views of the Underground Railroad focus on Northern destinations of freedom seekers, with symbols such as the North Star, Canada, and the Ohio

River (the River Jordan) constructed as the primary beacons of freedom. This conception reduces the complexity of the Underground Railroad by ignoring the many freedom seekers that sought to obtain their freedom in southern destinations.

Likewise, borders and the movement across them by southern freedom seekers are also very crucial to our understanding of the complexities of the Underground Railroad. Freedom seekers often sought out political and geographical borderlands, as crossing these locations usually represented the divide between slavery

and freedom. To this end, the conference will explore how southern freedom seekers seized opportunities to escape slavery into Spanish Florida and the Seminole Nation, to the Caribbean Islands, and into the western borderlands of Indian Territory, Texas, and Mexico.

Escape from enslavement was not just about physical freedom, but also about the search for cultural autonomy. The conference will explore the transformation and creation of new cultural identities among southern freedom seekers that occurred as a result of their journeys to freedom, such as the dispersal of Gullah

Geechee culture and the formation of Black Seminole cultural identity.

The 2012 Conference will include participation by independent and academic scholars at all levels, educators, community activists, public historians and preservationists, and multi-media and performance artists. The conference seeks to create a cultural, historical, and interpretive exchange between domestic and international descendent communities of southern freedom seekers.

Gullah Geechee and Black Seminole descendents are particularly welcome at the conference.

For more information on how to participate in the 2012 Conference as an organizational partner or presenter, contact Turkiya L. Lowe, Ph.D., Southeast Region, National Park Service, [turkiya\\_lowe@nps.gov](mailto:turkiya_lowe@nps.gov), 404-507-5830.

## A Saturday at "Occupy Wall Street" New York City



A photo of Occupy Wall Street protesters, taken on Saturday, October 22, 2011.

victimhood from what I could see.

These mainly young people quickly found they are hardly alone or uncared for. Restaurant donations led to an extended food counter of gourmet and ethnic choices including a

fancy Greek spinach pie and a classy Bavarian fudge cake. Men and women periodically arrived to donate homemade muffins and other baked goods. Casually dressed OWS residents and better dressed visitors crowded the chow line. If "class warfare" was on anyone's mind it was absent at ground level. Nobody seemed to mind the presence of visitors who looked like the 1%.

Good cheer ruled. An energetic trombone and tuba band blared catchy tunes as a few young men and women improvised a dance of sorts. Hoping their time had come, representatives of traditional socialist groups handed out printed screeds. Far more numerous and impressive were the young people handing out personally scribbled Xeroxed statements detailing their political complaints — pointing to those responsible for the financial disaster, or decrying war. Many people pleaded for a new and loving community. Words were soft-spoken and politeness was common.

People of all ages and both sexes swept the grounds and cleaned up for the live-ins and tourists. One sign pointedly said "Take care of your own stuff!"

Another woman's sign demanded, "No more photographs!" One sign announced specific times for "nonviolent training" and another told when and where in Zuccotti park people would gather to celebrate the upcoming Jewish holiday.

In several corners, circular groups were engaged in earnest debate about new models of thought, political strategies, and public policies—or how to keep the park policed, neat and livable.

Here in a one block park ringed by towering skyscrapers and a nearby quiet, unsettling, and largely ignored police presence, was a community trying to plant peaceful roots.

Perhaps if we can demonstrate a warm, neighborly model, they seemed to say, the world will know there is a better way than overseas wars and feeding Fat Cat capitalism. Society, their presence said, needs to control the corporations that now own it and get to select the wrecking crew that runs it. Voters need to take government back. Maybe a new system is required.

If President Bush suddenly appeared a few might rush to arrest him for war crimes, but I felt many more would parade them proudly into their models of peaceful living. A Tahrir Square courage and tenacity laced by youthful American optimism marks this occupation. It may not get where it wants, but not for lack of effort, and neither is it leaving its new home.

The OWS failure to issue specific demands does not signal a lack of basic agreement. They agree current U.S. wars should end, the rich should pay their share, jobs must be created. They insist Wall Street greed has not only produced poverty, militarism and income inequality, but has blocked the march to a just and democratic society. And they are ready and eager to march.

My wife and I began to leave pushing our way through residents, visitors and those clearing and cleaning the park. One middle age man paused, looked up from his broom and thanked me for coming. I thanked him for being there.

## Sycuan Casino Celebrates 28th Anniversary Saturday, November 19th!



It was Full Tilt Boogie Party time at Sycuan November 19.

Not only did the lucky guests have the opportunity to enjoy the \$19.95 Steak and Lobster Special in the Wachena Restaurant and the offerings at the all new Game Day Sports Bar and Grill but they also got to party with Chairman Danny Tucker.

The affair got started at 10am with free cup cakes. There were custom T-shirt and coffee mugs \$56,000 in cash prizes during hourly drawings from 10:00am to 8:00pm. Five winners split \$28,000 at the end of the day.

The highlight of the celebration was the cake cutting which took place at 5:00pm complete with Bird Singers and Dancers.

The newly renovated casino has something to offer for everyone one. Seniors are given special attention. Every Wednesday at Sycuan Casino, it Senior Wednesday and to take advantage of bonus offers! Claim your FREE continental breakfast and \$5 slot FREE play from 7AM - 11AM, then stick around for \$5.55 lunch specials 'til 2PM!

This holiday season bring family visits from out of town. Treat them to a night out ... and where might that be? ... to the Sycuan Casino of course. Just 30 minutes from Downtown. Enjoy 2000 slots, table games, poker, bingo, dining and entertainment. All new, completely renovated in 2011.

The 28th Anniversary is just the beginning.

by William Loren Katz

Photo: William Loren Katz

## Friends of the San Diego Malcolm X Library Hold Community Forum Inspiring Cultural Movement

In observance of 2011 International Year For People of African Descent, a festive, educational and entertaining program was held November 19th at the Malcolm X Library Performance Arts Center, 5143 Market Street. The library which is the only public library named in honor of Malcolm X was wall to wall with community members eager to share information about African history and current affairs. Utilizing their constitutional rights of freedom of speech and assembly, attention was drawn to world affairs especially related to the economy. In keeping with the United Nations (UN) General Assembly Declaration, "the year aims to strengthen international, national and regional cooperation to benefit the people of African descent, and to recognize and promote their political economic, social

and cultural contributions from their diverse heritage and culture." Activists, leaders, educators and cultural craftivists offered inspiration and encouragement to the assembled community stakeholders to get educated and avoid the information vacuum encouraged by corporate media's IQ lowering, diluted, flaccid version of world affairs and to make a difference one person at a time.

The strong community outpouring gathered for this free event enjoying African Cuisine, poetry, art, and music from the African Diaspora. Dr. Carrol Waymon was supported by the Malcolm X Friends Committee Members in organizing the event which suggested a refreshing air of online e-revolution. It's Time!



## The Council of American Indian Organizations of San Diego

The American Indian Community came together for the festive and joyful event at the Barrio Station, 2175 Newton Avenue. The community celebration included games, entertainment and a traditional feast with all of the trimmings including favorite dishes offered by the community. Paula Brim's networking expertise assembled an army of volunteers from the corporate and non-profit communities and even included volunteers from the U.S. Navy who joyfully pitched in with serving and clean up. Randy Edmonds made sure that everyone worked off some calories with a fun filled and spirited Round Dance. The diverse gathering demonstrated an important display of cultural tradition and sustainability as well as a dress rehearsal for the upcoming December 10th Winter Gathering.

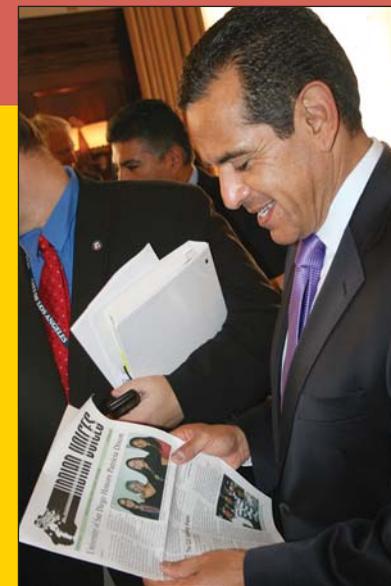


# Harvest Dinner

# Los Angeles American Indian Heritage Month Celebration Makes Antonio Ramón Villaraigosa a Friend of the First and the Forced

Mayor Villaraigosa, Coordinator, Brenda Anderson and the city of Los Angeles, the nation's largest laboratory of democracy, made a great contribution toward cultural inclusion at the "American Indian Heritage Month Celebration", held at City Hall October 28th, 2011 by making sure that the African-Native American community was invited.

While navigating a world of intercultural /interracial alliances,with its many challenges and dealing honorably and in solidarity with Occupy L.A encampment outside the door of City Hall Mayor Villaraigosa has earned the title of Friend of the First and the Forced.



Phil Wilkes Fixico First Black Indian Heritage Month Honored Guest



Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa shares the spotlight with some honored guests. Left to right: Mikal Kamil, Phil Wilkes Fixico (Seminole Maroon Descendant) Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and David Hoff Grindstone, Lakota Fine Artist.



Brenda Anderson, MBA, Area Director: Neighborhood & Community Services and smiling L.A. City employee enjoying this years American Indian Heritage Month Celebration at City Hall.



Occupy Wall Street LA participants.

## CALIFORNIA INDIAN CULTURE AND SOVEREIGNTY CENTER



Shelia Dasher Student and Cultural worker.



Chris Devers Pauma Band offered support and blessings.

SEE STORY ON PAGE 1



Margaret Fields SDSU Dept. American Indian Studies, Linda Locklear Indian Studies Palomar College.



Future undergraduate CSUSM.



Community and Cultural worker.



Kathy Wallace, mother of Brandon Wallace.



Natives and supporters affiliated with AISA (American Indian Student Alliance).



To whom it may concern:

My name is Ramona Sims and I am writing to let you know that the Buffalo Soldiers have not been forgotten.

My son attends a charter school in the Westchester area of Los Angeles that strongly promotes the learning of African and African-American history. This past October (in place of traditional Halloween celebrations), the school

held their annual Fall Festival. As part of the festival, students were encouraged to create their own costumes which honored any real person or fictitious character of African and/or African descent. The school was flooded with the likes of Obama, Oprah, Muhammed Ali, Egyptian Kings, Prince, Rosa Parks and so on.

After some research, my son Joshua proudly dressed as a "Buffalo Soldier". We created the costume mostly from thrift store items and items we had at home. He won first place in the costume contest for his grade level. He was so proud.

I am glad he had the chance to pay tribute to the brave Buffalo Soldiers.

I have attached a picture of him in his "uniform".

Enjoy! Ramona Sims

## In the Spirit of service

Clando Brownlee Founder & President of The San Diego Brotherhood Lions Club a newly chartered club of Lions Clubs International and the first African American club in the State of California (Lions Clubs International is the world's largest service club organization. We have 1.35 million members in more than 45,000 clubs worldwide. Lions are everywhere. We're active men and women in more than 206 countries. Our motto is "We Serve.") The club is just one year four months old but has focused its energy on serving low-income & communities of color, one of the ways they serve is by educating people on environmentally friendly and sustainable lifestyle choices.

### Will MR. Brownlee make history again?

Introducing: The San Diego Brotherhood Communities of Excellence Group

Launched November 14th-16th 2011 Their first Community project began early November in a joint collaboration between the Community of Encanto, the Jacobs Center sponsored peoples pro-

duce Famers Market & The San Diego Brotherhood Communities of Excellence Group this project will assist and scholarship certifications for local food growers so they'll be able to sale their produce at the farmers markets, creating jobs and a positive impact on local neighborhoods. The first phase of the funding will be raised from an E-waste event we're hosting at the Jacobs center in early January, recycle your electronics for FREE! Support healthy foods & clean air for kids and their families.

Made up from a group of organizers & partners dedicated to Community service Communities of Excellence Group is forming a steering committee which will be assembled of members from San Diego's under privileged communities & service organizations, they will identify the strengths & resources of a community or neighborhood.

Assessing what is easiest to change fist, the team will work together with community leaders to develop projects & events that resonates with the community's needs, addressing the local economic & environmental issues. Whether they plan to do a neighborhood clean up, E-

SEE Clando Browlee, page 13

## Nyemii, la Fiera, Gato California presentaciones Tribales de canción

por Roy Cook

Jon Meza Cuero es orador de El Unico Nativo Kumeyaay en California que mantiene el Caranza tradicional ciclo Arriesgado familiar de canción vivo. Es el líder de canción del Tres Aukas y un cantante de Campeonato en Baja California. El también enseña juventud en el idioma y canciones del Kumeyaay. Canta regularmente en EEUU y comunidad de BAJA Tipai acontecimientos sociales y tradicionales.

Jon Meza Cuero es un cantante de Nyemii y tiene experiencia extensa con muchos de los otros estilos de canción de Tipai. Por su experiencia de la vida y por circunstancia y política, él es un observador de participante de la dinámica en el trabajo que define estilo tradicional de canción en el Kumeyaay, Ipai, Tipai y el territorio prolongado de Baja.

Este fin de semana, el 11/4/11, él presentó Tipai canciones Arriesgadas en el San Diego Universidad Pública Homenaje 35 de año del indio norteamericano Estudia el Departamento. Una fila fina de cantantes reunió para la presentación: Henry Mendibles, Ben Nance, Stan Rodriguez, Cocinero de Roy, Alan Lachuza y Ral Christman. Jon fue muy generoso con la oportunidad de cantar en el público y él permitió nuevos y a cantantes consumados participar. Cantó una sesión larga con entusiasmo y propósito en la selección de canción.

Después de que un poco de referencia histórica para mejor apreciación del momento compartido de compartir cultural que fuera saludado con aplauso y reconocimientos apasionado hablado sonrientes y calenta apretones de manos.

Al día siguiente Jon otra vez cantaba en la recepción que honora y desvela del trabajo de la Arte hecho por Bancos de Kenneth de la Banda de Santa Ysabel del Diegueno. Este acontecimiento fue tenido en el Centro de Jacobs en el Sur San Diego Oriental a través del Riachuelo de Chollas y por la vía navegable tradicional de los sitios de la banda de residencia de Nación de Kumeyaay.

Otros cantantes fueron también en asistencia: Stan Rodriguez cantó Tipai can-

ciones de Pájaro y Paul Cuero con Louis Guassic cantaron Tukuk canciones de Pájaro. Esta ocasión fue una vista general espléndida de la California del sur Estilos tradicionales de Canción.

El final de Jon empezó con una canción apropiada asociada con San Diego y bailó a través del sendero, giró a los cantantes y siguió baile delante del Coyote desvelado dedicado Rastrea el trabajo del Arte. Jon trajo su conjunto de canciones a un fin con la canción de fin de círculo y un floreo dramático de la matraca de calabaza. Esta presentación fue un tiempo bueno para los visitantes, los organizadores y el Jacob Centran.

También, recientemente, Jon Meza Cuero, Tipai Maestro Magistral y líder de canción, hablaban con otros miembros de los cantantes de Auka. Hablábamos de canciones e historias acerca de canciones. Jon a menudo nos ha dicho de tiempos más temprano y un viaje al norte y el Este de una comunidad tribal al luego. Este viaje de la canción fue tomado y fue compuesto los antepasados de Jon: Alfonso Meza, el padre de Jon y su tío Benito Carranza y también por un cantante tradicional y muy conocido Tribal de canciones: Amaay Ta Qwas, el de Pinta Cielo Amarillo o Cielo Amarillo, en inglés. El Cielo amarillo compuso estas dos canciones que empiezan en San Jose de Tecate. Primero, como miraba hacia la ruta adelante él fue inspirado a componer una canción para empezar su viaje. Viajó de la aldea a canciones aldea-componiendo que describen las ubicaciones. Las inspiraciones fueron de vistas vistas y las emociones experimentaron.

Como un compositor de maestro y canción, Jon acentúa totalmente la necesidad de aprender la melodía primero. El a menudo ha dicho, "Primero la canción, entonces las palabras, y entonces lo que las palabras significan". Nos sentimos que ofrece su instrucción en una manera tradicional y a menudo habla con nosotros del corazón en una manera tradicional. ¡Mehan!

Para más información y acontecimientos pasados ve:

<http://americanindiansource.com/wildcatpresents.html>

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## Seneca Niagara Casino Celebrates Grand Opening of Watson's Chocolates Boutique

*New outlet is the latest addition in dramatically-transformed retail corridor*

NIAGARA FALLS, NY – A trip to Seneca Niagara Casino & Hotel just got a little bit sweeter. Casino officials today officially welcomed Watson's Chocolates

just any chocolate – it has to be quality. We've carried Watson's for a few years at our 24-hour NewsStand store, and it's consistently one of the first products to sell out. Now, instead of a small shelf, we have a whole outlet dedicated to Watson's."

According to Cathy Walker, president and CEO of Seneca Gaming



Boutique as the latest addition to the property's growing retail corridor along the 4th Street side. The store will be open seven days a week and adds a full-time and part-time job for the company.

For Tonawanda-based Watson's Chocolates, the boutique marks the company's ninth location in Western New York since its beginnings in 1946 and first addition in nearly a decade – as it has recently focused its efforts on web-based, catalog and mail order business. Watson's is especially known for its sponge candy, Buffalo Bites, and chocolate-covered pretzels and popcorn.

"We are thrilled to be opening this beautiful new boutique at Seneca Niagara Casino," said Whitney Watson Beecher, president and owner of Watson's Chocolates. "While we are very well-known locally, this is a unique opportunity for us to increase our exposure to the huge number of tourists that visit the Niagara Falls region and to promote our business and products to a much broader market."

Watson's Chocolates Boutique joins Yankee Candle Boutique, Swarovski Crystal Boutique, the co-branded Tim Hortons Café and Bake Shop / Cold Stone Creamery dining outlet and the TEN store as new additions since 2010. Combined, the outlets created more than 30 new jobs.

"The new boutique came to fruition because we listened to our guests," said Karen Karsten, chairman, Seneca Gaming Corporation. "In a [AAA] Four-Diamond resort as action-packed as Seneca Niagara Casino with great gaming, dining and entertainment, chocolate adds to the excitement. But it can't be

Corporation, retail sales at Seneca Niagara have increased dramatically since 2010, and the three boutiques that were all added since late November 2010 – Swarovski, Yankee Candle and now Watson's Chocolates – will generate additional growth.

"With minimal overhead costs and smart planning, we've brought a once-empty space to life and created jobs during what some consider a down economy," Walker said. "We're continuing to explore additional quality retailers for all Seneca Casino properties, and our guests will play a major role with influencing what comes next. The latest addition with such an outstanding regional chocolatier is, indeed, a sweet one."

Watson's hours will coincide with its neighboring boutiques – noon to 8 p.m. on Sundays through Thursdays and noon to midnight on Fridays and Saturdays. Items range from around \$2 to \$20 and up for gift baskets, and may be purchased with cash, credit cards or Seneca Players Club Points. For more information, please visit [www.watsonschocolates.com](http://www.watsonschocolates.com) or [www.senecaniagaracasinocom/retail\\_watsons.cfm](http://www.senecaniagaracasinocom/retail_watsons.cfm).

*About Seneca Niagara Casino & Hotel*  
Seneca Niagara Casino & Hotel is located just minutes from the world-famous Niagara Falls in Western New York, near the Canadian border. The property is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week and 365 days a year, and self- and valet-parking are always free. Guests can enjoy 147,000 square feet of gaming space with 4,000 slot machines and 100 table games, 10 restaurants, live entertainment and a AAA Four Diamond Award-winning, 26-story hotel with 594 deluxe rooms, a spa and salon, fitness center and indoor pool. Please visit [www.senecaniagaracasinocom](http://www.senecaniagaracasinocom) for more information.

## Multi-Cultural Festivities



Photos and Story by TJ Dumnivant

The 6th Annual Arts & Culture Fest was held Saturday, October 15 at the Market Creek Plaza. Cultures such as the Phillipines, Sudanese, Somoan, Mexican and many others were represented with food, fun and information. Each ethnicity presented entertainment in the form of dance representing their heritage on the floating dock over hanging the creek.

According to [www.shopmcp.com](http://www.shopmcp.com), the fest is a celebration designed to foster appreciation and understanding between and among individual cultures. The fusion of authentic cultural expression with goods and services has made the Fest one of San Diego County's major



cross-cultural events. A team of multicultural residents living in the Diamond Neighborhoods of Southeastern San Diego was responsible of planning the event. For more information on upcoming events call 619-527-6161 or visit the previously stated website above.

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3. GOJI - Native to Asia.
4. NONI - Found in the Pacific Rim and West Indies.
5. FUCODIDAN - A brown seaweed.
- 6 - MANGOSTEEN - Native to the Sundra Islands and Southeast Asia.
7. SEABUCKTHORN - Native to the Sundra Islands and Southeast Asia particularly in the mountains of China and Russia.

exfuse itself literally means extracts fused together. An extract is a small particle that is the result of a sophisticated process that extracts all the beneficial components of the botanicals, leaving behind the indigestible parts of the plants. These statements have not been evaluated by FDA. This product is not intended to diagnose, treat, cure or prevent any disease.

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## California To Charge Prisoners \$142 Per Day Of Their Stay

NEW YORK – In the latest case of government belt-tightening, a Southern California county is charging prisoners for the daily cost of their stay.

The Riverside County board of supervisors approved a measure on Tuesday that allows the county to charge prisoners \$142.42 per day.

County supervisor Jeff Stone proposed the idea because he believes the county could save between \$3 million and \$5 million annually by charging at least some of the 60,000 prisoners that pass through Riverside's jails every year.

But he added that his estimate of up to \$5 million in savings is a conservative one, recognizing that not everyone who can afford to pay will pay.

Still, while many criminals are broke, Stone said that many of those arrested for crimes like drunk driving have jobs and should be able to pay.

"We believe that 25% of the people who go through our jail systems can afford to pay for their jail stay," he said. "If we just grab 25% of those, that would save the county or the city \$6.7 million."

## Senior Olympics Report on the Senior Games for September 2011.



by Danny Propp

I am delighted to announce that we have had a record year for 2011. Through the unselfish generosity of such companies as TV Ears, Sycuan Casino, Union Tribune and sign on San Diego, Western Home Health Care, Dr. Suess Foundation, Silver Sneakers, Humana

Insurance, Wells Fargo Bank, San Diego Padres just to mention a few that stepped up and made this a fantastic year.

Western Health Home Care is a family of caring professionals working to enhance our patients' total well being and to improve the health of our diverse communities. They have been providing home care services since 1969 in San Diego County and are licensed by the State of California, operating as a full service Home Health agency and Private Home Care agency.

They have been awarded as a Top Home Care Elite agency three years in a row and their services are consistently rated above the state and national average in the quality measures by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. For Home Health comparisons visit [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov) and click on the Home Health Comparison link. Take a minute to check out their website at <http://www.westernhealthhomecare.com>

### ARE YOU OR YOUR ORGANIZATION IN THE MARKET FOR AWARDS?

I would like to introduce the community to a new company in the East County area.

"With Esteem" was created by Mark Daemon in July of 2011 to make personalized awards, presents and gifts for those individuals that truly deserve to be recognized. After seeing many of his Marines receiving store bought plaques and going-away gifts, he wanted to ensure that those individuals who have gone "above and beyond" would have

something unique and personalized to remind them of those who respected and appreciated them - something "for them" from the people that "were there, in the trenches, with them." "With Esteem" takes great pleasure in offering canvas prints of photographs, organizational awards, collage-style gifts, caricatures and many other items that are "one of a kind" while keeping your organization under budget. Mark has created team shirts for the San Diego Beachcombers, a paraplegic Veteran athletic team, sponsored the La Mesa Chamber of Commerce's "Oktoberfest" by creating awards for all of the events' sponsors and is helping the San Diego Senior Olympics.

### THE MAGIC OF SEBASTIAN

Sebastian has been performing magic for 20 years in San Diego. What started as a childhood past time soon became a passion and a great way to earn some extra money. He has travelled to Japan and Argentina to perform as well as numerous destinations here in the states. Sebastian is the owner and a headliner at the Red Spade Theater in Old Town that specializes in Sleight of Hand and parlor style magic shows.

Currently there are three different magic shows offered in which he performs in two of them. The theater has shows on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights. His plans for the theater are to continue building the buzz about the only place in San Diego where you can come and see a live magic show. He has a great working relationship with the San Diego Senior Games Association (SDSGA) and donates to the Senior Olympics. When asked why he works with the SDSGA he says "The director is a great guy and has worked really hard to make the SDSGA what it is today and providing some magic and entertainment for our seniors is enriching their lives which in turn enriches my life."

We are excited to have these new sponsors on board – I hope to feature a few of our sponsors each month, - If you are interested in becoming a sponsor call 619.226.1324

## Local Heros

Continued from page 5

and San Diego's 10News Leadership Award.

**Brandie Taylor** is the vice chairwoman of the Iipay Nation of Santa Ysabel, an Indian tribe in Northern San Diego County. Ms. Taylor has dedicated her life to advocating for tribal rights, preservation of tribal culture, improvement of health and safety of native peoples, and she is an avid supporter of higher education for youth. Ms. Taylor's many accomplishments include securing funding for Iipay Nation's Tribal Social Services, which handles child dependency cases and culturally focused assistance for family preservation. She is also a member of many tribal, local, state and national groups that promote tribal self-determination, education, and health issues, among them the Kumeyaay Diegueno Land Conservancy, Inter-tribal Court of Southern California, and the Cal State San Marcos Native Advisory Council. Ms. Taylor has been recognized with the 2010 Community Leader of the Year Award and the 2004 Tribal Leader Award for Indian Child Welfare.

Honorees were also identified during Black History Month (February); Women's History Month (March); Jewish American Heritage Month (May); Asian Pacific American Heritage Month (May); Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Pride Month (June); Hispanic

Heritage Month (September/October); and Disability Awareness Month (October). The year-long celebration of diversity will culminate in February 2012, at an event where recipients will be formally recognized as part of the 14th Annual Local Heroes Awards, which Union Bank sponsors.

Throughout the respective commemorative heritage months, KPBS airs video profiles of the honorees, highlighting how they made a difference in their community. The spots can also be viewed on the Web at [www.kpbs.org/heroes](http://www.kpbs.org/heroes). For more information on the Local Heroes Awards, please also visit [unionbank.com/heroes](http://unionbank.com/heroes).

*About UnionBanCal Corporation & Union Bank, N.A. - Headquartered in San Francisco, UnionBanCal Corporation is a financial holding company with assets of \$84 billion at September 30, 2011. Its primary subsidiary, Union Bank, N.A., is a full-service commercial bank providing an array of financial services to individuals, small businesses, middle-market companies, and major corporations. The bank operated 404 full-service branches in California, Washington, Oregon and Texas, as well as two international offices, on September 30, 2011. UnionBanCal Corporation is a wholly-owned subsidiary of The Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ, Ltd., which is a subsidiary of Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group, Inc. Union Bank is a proud member of the Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group (MUFG, NYSE:MTU), one of the world's largest financial organizations. Visit [www.unionbank.com](http://www.unionbank.com) for more information.*

*About KPBS - KPBS is a public service of San Diego State University, serving the region with TV, Radio and Internet content that is educational as well as entertaining and free of commercial interruption.*

## Girls Softball

Continued from page 5

Modeled after the Olympic Games, thousands of athletes and more than 500 American Indian tribes participated. It is the largest sports competition for American native youth, and attracts thousands of spectators and supporters. In addition to baseball, competitions included archery, boys and girls basketball, cross county, boys and girls' golf, shotgun shooting, softball, track and field and wrestling.

"It was a ton of work, but seeing our girls in the Procession of Champions and standing on the platform with their gold medal, we were so proud," stated Nelson.

"In that moment, we didn't even remember all that went into training, getting to the event and winning. We were just happy for them that they were a part of this event."

According to Nelson, it was a four month process of try outs and screenings to pick the team. Then, there are the practices, requiring a real commitment. The multiple tryouts and screenings were to ensure that anyone who wanted to participate had a fair shake to qualify for the team.

"In addition to honing their softball skills, the girls learned discipline, acquired leadership skills, and bonded as friends.

"And much more, they met other tribal youth from throughout the United States and participated in Native cultural, arts, entertainment and spiritual activities associated with the games," she noted.

Assisting Nelson, were Richard Lavato of the Pala Band; Ashley Skaggs, and Marilyn Arres from the Soboba Band; and Michele Parada from Rincon. Nelson had praise for the assistance. "All the adults volunteered our time, and I am so grateful and appreciative of their sacrifices and what they helped the girls accomplish," she added.

"This experience will stay with the girls throughout their life and inspire them to always set high goals and fulfill their dreams, stated Nelson, who added a special thanks to Richard Lavato, the team coach, "for the exhausting hours he spent with the girls and the important work of teaching them the fundamentals of softball."

Members of Team Cali 16-U were:

Martina Calac	Catcher
Victoria Smith	Second Base
Mariah Bentiste	First Base
Kateri Rodriguez	Pitcher
Shania Lopez	Right Field
Rendy Bow	Pitcher
Shane Hyde	First Base
Andrea Torres	Short Stop
Feather Trujillo	Center Field

## Gray Whale Season Surfaces at Birch Aquarium at Scripps

*Scripps Institution of Oceanography/UC San Diego*

Dec. 26, 2011—April 15, 2012

Live a whale tale this winter and experience the annual epic journey of gray whales with Birch Aquarium at Scripps Institution of Oceanography, UC San Diego. Enjoy daily local whale-watching cruises featuring aquarium naturalists as well as whale-watching expeditions to Baja California, Mexico.

Witness the longest mammal migration in the world, when approximately 20,000 gray whales pass San Diego on their 10,000-mile round-trip journey from Bering Sea feeding grounds to Baja's lagoons, where they play, rest, breed and give birth.

### Daily Whale Watching Cruises

Dec. 26 through April 15

Daily tours: 9:45 a.m.-1:15 p.m. & 1:30-5 p.m. with Flagship Cruises & Events

Get ready for one big adventure with Birch Aquarium at Scripps naturalists as we venture out for twice-daily cruises to locate gray whales on their roundtrip migration from the Bering Sea to Baja's breeding grounds. Get an up-close look at these amazing animals aboard vessels

from Flagship Cruises & Events, a charter cruise and touring company presented by San Diego Harbor Excursion. Learn about gray whale baleen, barnacles and prey from aquarium naturalists during this memorable whale-watching experience, leaving daily from San Diego Bay. Don't forget warm clothing and binoculars!

RSVP: Flagship Cruises & Events at 619-234-4111 or online at [www.flagshipsd.com](http://www.flagshipsd.com)

Public: \$35 weekdays and \$40 weekends

Aquarium Members: \$30 daily  
Seniors/Military: \$30 weekdays and \$35 weekends

Youth (4-12 with paid adult): \$17.50 weekdays and \$20 weekends

School groups (Monday-Thursday a.m. cruise only): \$13.50 per person

### Extended Whale Watching in Baja California

Travel south to Baja California's tranquil lagoons with Andiamo Tour Mexico for extended trips to see gray whales up-close. Birch Aquarium at Scripps naturalists join you on this unforgettable journey to experience the gray whale birthing grounds, where whales and their calves play, rest and investigate

their curious visitors. Hop aboard small boats for encounters with these magnificent mammals. In addition to the lagoons, highlights include authentic cuisine, scenic views of Baja's desert and memorable stops along the way.

Travel is by private motor coach. Accommodations and most meals are included. For more detailed information regarding the trips, please visit [www.andiamo-travel.com](http://www.andiamo-travel.com) or [aquarium.ucsd.edu](http://aquarium.ucsd.edu).

Weekend Whale Safari (five days) - Feb. 2-6

\$785 per person in double occupancy  
\$970 single occupancy (subject to availability)

Whale Watching Adventure (four days) - Feb. 17-20

\$610 per person in double occupancy  
\$745 single occupancy (subject to availability)

Whale Watching Expedition (six days) - March 15-20

\$915 per person in double occupancy  
\$1,130 single occupancy (subject to availability)

For more information about Birch Aquarium at Scripps' whale watching programs and events, call 858-534-7336 or visit [aquarium.ucsd.edu](http://aquarium.ucsd.edu).

## Poway Center for the Performing Arts

**BeauSoleil avec Michael Doucet**

**January 21, 2012 at 8 pm** - Celebrate Mardi Gras with Grammy Award-winning Cajun band, BeauSoleil! Come see one of the longest standing and most beloved Cajun bands in the world.

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"THE BEST CAJUN BAND IN THE WORLD" - Garrison Keillor, *Prairie Home Companion*

"BeauSoleil play music that's honest to the bone!" - Allen Toussaint

2009 GRAMMY Winner for Live at the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival (Best Zydeco Or Cajun Music Album)

1998 GRAMMY Winner for L'Amour Ou La Folie (Best Traditional Folk Album)

2010 Winner: Best Cajun Performer - Best of The Beat Awards, presented by New Orleans' offBeat magazine, an amazing 14th win for them in this category

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## Clando Brownlee

Continued from page 10

waste collection, plant backyard gardens or a roundtable discussion on green jobs development, they'll make sure it is relevant, positive and takes steps towards lasting change for a sustainable community.

There are E-waste collections events planned through April 2012 to fund the Communities of Excellence programs that range from certifications for backyard garden growers to clean water / air campaigns that educate and serve the community. Whether it is access to information on healthy foods or how to decrease energy bills, we'll examine, assist and take action with the commu-

nity. Upon request an Organizers guide can be obtained, it provides tips and resources for anyone who wants to organize their own Communities of Excellence service events. Can't wait to see what we can do together!

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# NEVADA NEWS

For Nevada Information: 619-234-4753 • 619-534-2435

## The 2011 Nevada Governor's Conference on Tourism



Bethany Drysdale Nevada Commission on Tourism, Director of Public Relations facilitated a energetic and productive conference.

The Tourist Industry came together in Las Vegas at the Rio Convention Center, December 29 - 30 to explore strategies and initiatives being implemented at the national and local levels to effectively reach targeted international and regional markets.

Particular attention was focused on ways to recoup the loss of revenue and jobs due to the stringent and burdensome security regulations placed on potential visitors to the United States.

The travel and tourism industry in the United States was among the first commercial casualties of the September 11, 2001 attacks,

The United States has lost billions of dollars and an immeasurable amount of good will since the Sept. 11 terrorism attacks because of a decline in foreign

tourists. The tourist industry is one of the largest employers in the nation

The Industry is lobbying legislators to get the government involved in bringing those visitors back.

Sponsored in part by the Las Vegas Convention Authority the conference featured had many Breakout sessions focused on learning more about international sales initiatives, meet NCOT's new partners from Cultural and Indian Affairs or find out what health & wellness tourism is all about and why it is one of the fastest growing niche markets in the industry.

Opening Remarks: Brian Sandoval, Governor; Brian K. Krolicki, Lieutenant Governor; Carolyn Goodman, Mayor, City of Las Vegas; and Claudia Vecchio, Director, Nevada Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs

An in depth presentation on The Next Frontier in Social Media was presented by: William Bakker, Chief Strategist, Think! Social Media.

Sherry L. Rupert, Executive Director, Nevada Indian Commission participated in a panel exploring American Indian involvement in tourism.

A grand luncheon sponsored by the *Chicago Sun Times* brought the gathering together in unity.

## American Indian Crafts Events Scheduled for Holiday Season

CARSON CITY, NV. — Learn about Nevada's American Indian culture at one of several events showcasing native artwork scheduled this fall. Beadwork, baskets, jewelry, quilts, paintings and other items made by American Indian artisans will be displayed — and in some cases sold — at in November and December.

"Nevada is home to 27 federally recognized American Indian tribes, each with a distinctive culture and history," Larry Friedman, interim director of the Nevada Commission on Tourism, said. "Artwork made by tribal members often reflects unique traditions of the various groups."

American Indian tribes throughout Nevada share information about crafts shows, powwows and other cultural events open to the public through Indian Territory, a nonprofit organization that promotes and markets tribal activities and enterprises.

American Indian arts events scheduled this

fall include:

Contemporary Arts and Crafts from the Powwow Tradition, an exhibit organized by the Nevada Arts Council, will be on display Nov. 4 through Dec. 21 at the Charleston Heights Art Center, 800 S. Brush St. in Las Vegas. A public reception for the exhibit, with a performance by the Las Vegas Native Dancers from the Las Vegas Paiute Tribe, runs from 6 to 8 p.m. Nov. 4. The exhibit, part of the NAC's Traveling Exhibition Program, will move to the Clark County Museum in Henderson from Jan. 6 to May 6, 2012, and then to the Marjorie Barrick Museum on the University of Nevada, Las Vegas campus from May 16 to Sept. 13, 2012. Details: 702-229-1012.

Annual Holiday Faire, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Nov. 12 and from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Nov. 13 at the Stewart Community Center, 465 Clear Creek Ave. in Carson City. Items crafted by Washoe tribal members and others, including beadwork, jewelry, lamps, quilts, blankets and ceramics, will be for sale. Admission to event, which will feature 20-25 vendors, is free. Details: Debi Jones, 775-313-4871.

Tommo Craft Fair, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Dec. 16-17 at the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony, 34 Reservation Road in Reno. Around 25 American Indian artisans will offer beaded items, quilts, paintings, jewelry, baked goods and more. Admission into the sale is free. Details: Henrietta Tobey, 775-336-8896 (after 5 p.m.) or Joanne Bill, 775-560-9965.

Learn about American Indian events throughout the state at the Indian Territory website, [www.nevadaindianterritory.com](http://www.nevadaindianterritory.com).

## Sandoval names Hualapai Tribe member to his Cabinet

CARSON CITY, NV – Nevada Indian tribes now have a seat at the governor's Cabinet table.

Gov. Brian Sandoval on Tuesday announced his appointment of Ted Quasula as a member of his Cabinet.

Quasula is chairman of the Nevada Indian Commission and a member of the Hualapai Tribe of northern Arizona. He

lives in Henderson.

Quasula spent 26 years in law enforcement with the Bureau of Indian Affairs. He holds degrees in police science and administration from Northern Arizona University, and also attended the Kennedy School of Government Program at Harvard and the FBI National Academy.

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## Elouise Cobell was inspiring leader in pursuit of justice

For 15 years, Elouise Cobell sought justice for hundreds of thousands of Native Americans whose trust accounts were mismanaged by the United States government. To lead a class action lawsuit on behalf of those who have been wronged by the federal government

required grit, perseverance and courage. Yellow Bird Woman – as Elouise was known by her Indian name – demonstrated each of those qualities on her way to reaching an historic settlement.

Generations of Native Americans gave up valuable natural resources, such as oil,

gas and timber, on their lands in exchange for what turned out to be mere pennies on the dollar. The federal government's gross mismanagement of their accounts left them and multiple generations in poverty. Elouise, however, was a trained banker and she recognized just how much Native Americans had lost and the detrimental effects it had.

I met with Elouise many times as she fought for justice. I was struck by her no nonsense, pointed, yet gracious demeanor as she presented her case. When it came time for Congress to fulfill its role in the settlement, she still would not rest until these last steps towards justice were taken.

While I worked hard to pass the settle-

ment in the Senate last year, Elouise worked even harder and she immeasurably improved the lives of many American Indians, including thousands living in Nevada. One of those Nevadans is our mutual friend Mervin Wright, the outstanding former chairman, and current vice chairman of the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe.

I was saddened to hear Elouise lost her last battle in life with cancer. She was an extraordinary American who made countless contributions to our country, which is why I believe she deserves the highest honor Congress can bestow upon a civilian, the Congressional Gold Medal. Indian Country – and the entire country – has lost an inspiring leader.?

## Elouise Pepion Cobell, Yellow Bird Woman

(November 5, 1945 – October 16, 2011)

by David Grindstone-Hoff

Ms. Eloise Pepion Cobell was a Blackfeet elder and activist, banker, rancher, American Indian leader, and lead plaintiff in the groundbreaking litigation of Cobell v. Salazar lawsuit, which challenged the United States' Department of Interior's mismanagement of trust funds belonging to more than 500,000 individual Native Americans.

Ms. Cobell was a member of the Blackfeet Indian Tribe of Montana and a great-granddaughter of Mountain Chief, a legendary Blackfeet Chief. She was a graduate of Great Falls Business College and attended Montana State University

She was the Executive Director of the Native American Community Development Corporation, a non-profit affiliate of Native American Bank. She also served as Chairperson for the Blackfeet National Bank, the first national bank located on an Indian reservation and owned by a Native American tribe. Her professional, civic experience and expertise includes serving as Co-Chair of Native American Bank, NA.; a Board Member for First Interstate Bank; a Trustee of the National Museum of the American Indian. She served for 13 years as the Treasurer for the Blackfeet Indian Nation in Montana. As Treasurer of the Blackfeet tribe, she established the Blackfeet National Bank and was an active member of the board. This was the first national bank to be located on an Indian reservation and to be owned by a Native American tribe.

In addition to operating a working ranch with her husband, who produces cattle and crops, she was active in local agriculture and environmental issues. She founded the first "land trust" in Indian Country and served as a Trustee for the Nature Conservancy of the state of Montana.

As the Treasurer of the Blackfeet Tribe, Ms. Cobell discovered many irregularities and malfeasances within the management of lease and land funds held in trust by

the U.S. Dept. of Interior for the tribe and for individual tribal land owners. Along with serving as President of the Intertribal Monitoring Association, she attempted to seek reform in Washington, DC from the mid-1980s to the mid-1990s unsuccessfully. At this time she collectively asked banking lawyer Mr. Dennis, Mr. Thaddeus Holt and the Native American Rights Fund that included Mr. John Echohawk and Mr. Keith Harper to bring a federal lawsuit forcing reform and an retroactive accounting of the trust funds belonging to individual Indians. The case became known as Cobell v. Salazar and in 2010 the President Obama administration offered a settlement of \$3.4 billion of the longstanding class action suit. As of July 2011, notices are going out to the hundreds of thousands of individual Native Americans affected. Most will receive settlements of about \$1800, but some may receive more.

In 2009, when the award and settlement was reached, Eloise Cobell said: "Although we have reached a settlement totaling more than \$3.4 billion, there is little doubt this is significantly less than the full accounting to which individual Indians are entitled. Yes, we could prolong our struggle and fight longer, and perhaps one day we would know, down to the penny, how much individual Indians are owed. Perhaps we could even litigate long enough to increase the settlement amount. But we are compelled to settle now by the sobering realization that our class grows smaller each year, each month and every

day, as our elders die and are forever prevented from receiving their just compensation."

Ms. Eloise Cobell passed on Sunday evening, October 16, 2011, in Great Falls, Montana after a brief battle with cancer. She will be remembered for her perseverance and persistence to never give up the

fight as her ancestors have shown her by their examples. The fight continues as Native Americans continue to stand for their rights as landowners and as U.S. citizens and tribal members. She will be remembered as one of the strongest female Native Americans honoring all of Women Nation.

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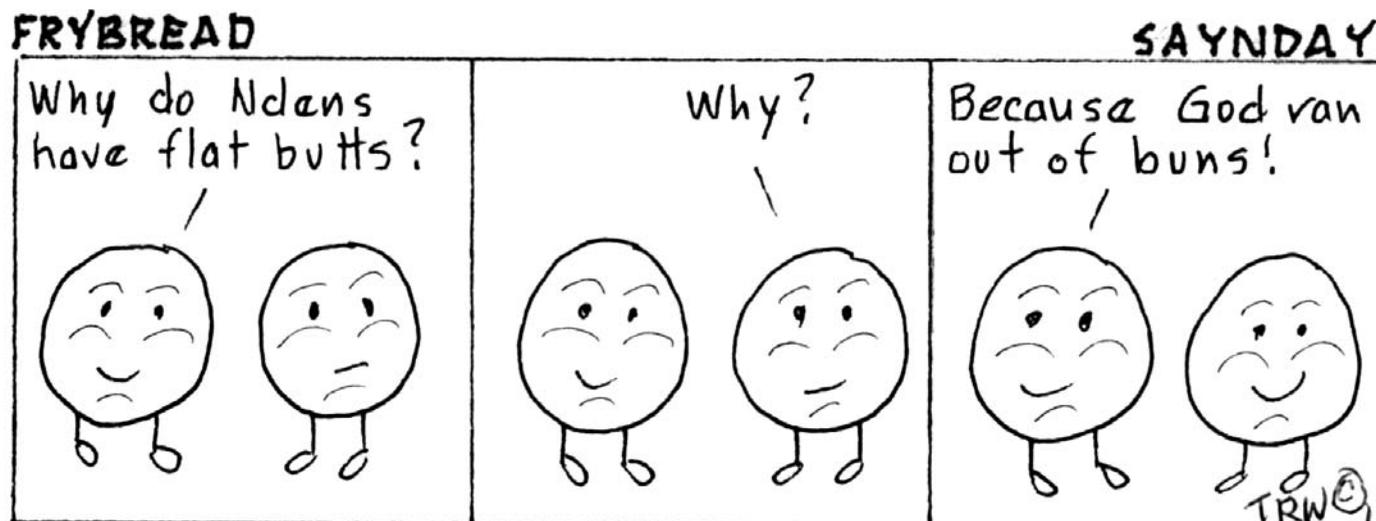
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