

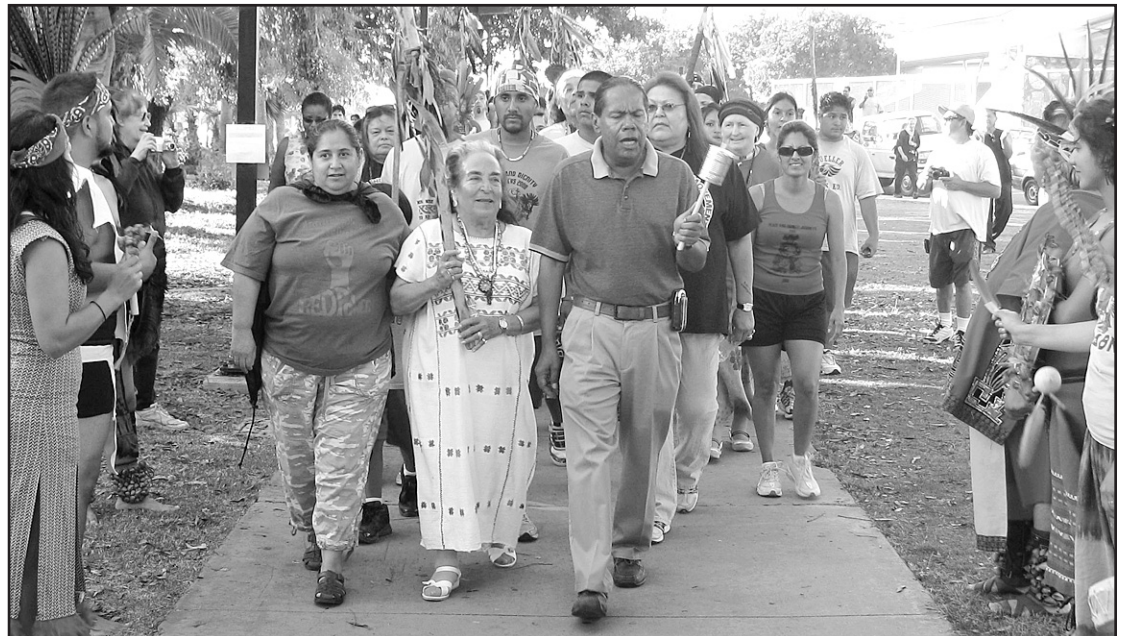
Prophecy of the Eagle and the Condor

Prophecy Unfolds as San Diego Welcomes Peace and Dignity Runners

Peace and Dignity Journeys organizes spiritual runs every four years that start simultaneously in Alaska, USA and Tierra del Fuego, Argentina and culminate at the Panama Canal, Panama City, Panama. These runs are dedicated to a specific theme. This is an international event that links countless indigenous communities before, during, and after the run, cultivating lasting relationships among individuals, families, communi-

ties, and nations. The journey travels to a different indigenous community at least once a day for six months. Thousands of people participate in Peace and Dignity Journeys as runners, supporters, and organizers. Each community stop represents and recreates sacred insight and healing that comes from having been part of such a vast linkage of traditions and communities.

In 1990, the first Continental Commission of Indigenous Nations and Organizations with over 200 representatives from throughout the western hemisphere met in Quito, Ecuador. At this conference the idea of spiritual running to unite indigenous people across the continents surfaced through elders present at the meeting. Elders from North, Central, and South America remembered and talked about a prophecy that foretold how indigenous people



Mary Oyos, Gracia Molina de Pick and Stan Rodriguez lead the procession of Peace and Dignity runners to the welcoming ceremony at Chicano Park.

will come together and reunite as one... "We are like a body that was broken up into pieces and this body will come back together to be whole again."

This is the prophecy of the Eagle and the Condor which entails how the ancestors

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Gathering at San Diego Indian Health Center

By Marc Snelling

On July 16th, the corner of First and Maple was the site for a community gathering hosted by the San Diego American Indian Health Center (SDAIHC). The gathering brought together a larger than expected group of roughly one hundred health-care professionals, advocates and patients. Traditional drumming was provided for the event by the Red Warriors.

The ceremony began with SDAIHC Chairwoman Paula Brim opening the ceremony, followed by the Honorable Vice Chairman Kenny Meza of the Jamul Indian Village delivering an opening prayer in the Kumeyaay language, and presentations by Joe Bulfer, clinic Director, urban Indian advocate the Honorable Randy Edmunds and Margot Kerrigan, California Area Director of the Indian Health Service (IHS).

The evening was used to highlight the many services offered by the center. SDAIHC operates as a medical, dental and



Joe Bulfer, the Executive Director of the clinic, addresses the community gathering hosted by the San Diego American Indian Health Center.

behavioral health clinic seeing an estimated 8,500 patient visits a year. It is also a location for culture workshops, talking circles and support groups.

Paula Brim emceed the evening. "If not

for the efforts and endless work of Randy there would be many more American Indians who would be homeless and

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Indigenous grandmothers to solicit Pope for support

By Jodi Rave

Thirteen indigenous grandmothers from around the world will arrive at the Vatican on Wednesday to ask the pope to end more than five centuries of "power and domination" over indigenous people.

"We carry this message for Pope Benedict XVI, traveling with the spirits of our ancestors," said the women in a statement to the pope. "While praying at the Vatican for peace, we are praying for all peoples. We are here at the Vatican, humbly, not as representatives of indigenous nations, but as women of prayer."

The International Council of Thirteen Indigenous Grandmothers will gather in St. Peter's Square for prayer in the morning. They also plan to deliver a 632-word statement to the pope asking him to repeal three Christian-based doctrines of "discovery" and "conquest" that set the foundation to claim land occupied by indigenous people around the world.

The grandmothers said the documents - a series of papal bulls written by the Catholic church beginning in the 1400s - continue to affect indigenous peoples on all continents. The papal bulls "set into motion perceptions and

relationships based on power and domination that are still the basis of legal systems all around the globe," according to the council.

The trip to Rome isn't the grandmothers' first attempt to reach out to Vatican officials. In 2005, they asked Cardinal Walter Kasper in a letter to recognize the rights of indigenous peoples. But the Vatican has never publicly acknowledged that the church's documents laid the foundation to destroy indigenous cultures and land bases, said Steven Newcomb, co-founder of the Indigenous Law Institute in San Diego.

"Those documents provide a template and cornerstone to federal Indian law and policy and the way it has been developed in the United States and other nation states through the use of the doctrine of Christian discovery and dominion" said Newcomb.

The United States, Canada, New Zealand and Australia are among the countries whose treatment of indigenous peoples is "directly tied to the papal bulls," said Newcomb, author of "Pagans in the Promised Land: Decoding the Doctrine of Christian Discovery."

The U.S. Supreme Court in 1823 declared the European "discovery" of

inhabited land "gave exclusive title to those who made it." In the United States, for example, Indians were allowed to remain on the land once others discovered it, but Natives could not control it without federal approval. Today, the Interior Department holds 55 million acres of Indian land "in trust" for American Indians, a system that puts politicians and government bureaucrats in charge of managing the land, including collecting money for any income earned from it.

Newcomb said if the pope were to revoke the papal bulls, it would end a pattern of domination that continues to "plague the planet to this day," including genocide and ecological devastation.

Meanwhile, the council of grandmothers was aware they might not be allowed to meet with the pope, who canceled a scheduled public appearance Wednesday. Still, the women were prepared to perform and participate in traditional ceremonies. "Setting a prayer down there will pave the way for future dialogue," said Janet Weber, an assistant to the council.

The women's council represents several regions from around the world, including the mountains, deserts and

rainforests of Africa, Central America, Asia and North America. Many of the grandmothers share prophecies when "the voice of the grandmothers will restore balance to the Earth," said Weber. "This is a global energy that's moving."


While in Rome, the grandmothers will be praying for healing of the Earth, all its inhabitants and for the children of the next seven generations. They hope to see an end to the "unprecedented destruction of our Mother Earth and the destruction of indigenous ways of life."

The planet is in ecological "dire straits" said Newcomb. Ecosystems all over the world are being destroyed "because of the dominating lifestyle that is predicated on greed and just wasting the resources of the planet with no regard to future generations."

He said it's significant that the grandmothers have stepped forward because they are all tied into their culture and ceremonial practices. Indigenous knowledge and wisdom provide an alternative to what's happening to the planet.

"What other alternative is there?" said Newcomb.

Reporter Jodi Rave can be reached at 1-800-366-7186.




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Letter regarding the status of the Tribal Liaison position at the University of San Diego

Dear Colleagues and Community Members,

We are sending you this letter to update you on the activities engaged in at the University of San Diego regarding the Tribal Liaison position. Our hope is that this letter will provide transparency surrounding this issue. We are deeply committed to serving the community and recognize that this issue is one that has arisen from substantial community consultation. Thus, it is in the spirit of deep community respect that we send this letter.

Formal discussion of the Tribal Liaison position arose immediately once USD's first full-time American Indian faculty member was hired in Fall 2006. Dr. Michelle Jacob and Ethnic Studies colleagues Drs. Alberto Pulido, Gail Perez, and Jesse Mills began discussions to seek ways to help our campus be more welcoming and engaged with American Indians generally, and local reservation and urban peoples specifically. The lack of an American Indian presence at USD was obvious to Ethnic Studies faculty and, to us, it represented a shameful history of exclusion that many institutions of higher education have.

In the Fall 2006 semester Ethnic Studies, under Dr. Jacob's leadership, began its service-learning partnership with the American Indian Recruitment Programs. Through this partnership, but also through faculty involvement with community events and other organiza-

tions, Ethnic Studies faculty had discussions with community members about ways in which USD could be more welcoming to Indians. The community consistently pointed to a model that had successfully been used at CSU San Marcos, the implementation of a full-time Tribal Liaison position along with a Native American Advisory Board for the university. These recommendations were heard most formally at the American Indian Educational Issues forum held at USD on April 21, 2007 and at the President's Advisory Board on Inclusion and Diversity on November 16, 2007. Both of these important meetings involved community leaders giving testimony of how important the Tribal Liaison position would be, given that San Diego has more sovereign Indian reservations than any other county in the United States as well as a large urban Indian population. Both meetings yielded some successes for the initiative. For the April 2007 forum: recommendations were recorded and widely distributed across campus and within the community; Dr. Jacob presented a formal request to Vice-President Vazquez asking for resources to support the Tribal Liaison position. Vice-President Vazquez consulted with Provost Sullivan and Dr. Jacob was directed to present the initiative to the newly formed President's Advisory Board on Inclusion and Diversity (PABID) in the Fall 2007 semester. The PABID meeting, in

November 2007, resulted in a unanimous vote of support for the Tribal Liaison position, which was then forwarded to President Lyons, who has since written a formal letter stating that USD is "deferring action on the proposal" with no final decision date given. At the end of the 2007-08 school year USD has failed to implement a plan of action for any of the community's recommendations, including the Tribal Liaison position.


The efforts to work collaboratively across campus to demonstrate support for the Tribal Liaison position have been great. Over the 2007-08 school year and using release time granted by Dean Healy, Dr. Jacob and Ethnic Studies conducted meetings and communications with several colleagues on campus, including representatives from Admissions, Student Affairs administration, Academic Affairs administration, Liberal Studies, Anthropology, Sociology, School of Nursing, School of Leadership and Educational Sciences, and Community Service Learning. All colleagues and administrators express great interest and support for the initiative. Many have even written formal letters of support to Provost Sullivan and President Lyons. Additionally, ongoing efforts to collaborate with the local American Indian community have continued, in order to sustain the community-based scholarship model that Ethnic Studies holds. Such meetings have

resulted in several drafts of a Tribal Liaison job description. We have done the work of careful listening and collaborating. We are perplexed why USD's administration will not heed the advice of the community and our colleagues. We hope that the administration will, in the near future, be moved to institutionalize USD's support of Native students and the community through the Tribal Liaison position. Perhaps the position could be included in the next budget cycle.

We are hopeful that this letter has shared valuable information. We recognize that diversity and inclusion benefits everyone within an institution. We ask that you continue to share your valuable advice and input on this issue. Please continue to address all further communication regarding the Tribal Liaison initiative to: Dr. Michelle Jacob at: mjacob@sandiego.edu or 619-260-7742. Please feel free to also contact our key administrators: Vice-President Carmen Vazquez at: carmenvazquez@SanDiego.edu or 619-260-4588; Provost Julie Sullivan at: jsullivan@sandiego.edu or 619-260-4553 and

President Mary Lyons at: mlyons@SanDiego.edu or 619-260-4520.

Sincerely,
Michelle M. Jacob, PhD (Yakama),
Assistant Professor, Ethnic Studies
Jesse Mills, PhD, Assistant Professor,
Ethnic Studies
Gail Perez, PhD, Associate Professor,
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Alberto Pulido, PhD, Professor,
Ethnic Studies



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Kalmath River Dams

As many of you already know, Native peoples of northern California have been battling PacifiCorp to remove four dams on the Klamath River. The dams have not only blocked the migration of salmon and steelhead that return annually to critical spawning grounds but also are responsible for the degradation of the river's ecosystem. In recent years the negative impact on the river has worsened with the rapid spread of toxic algae that originates from the dam reservoirs and now is found through out the river system.

PacifiCorp, owner of four dams have been applying to Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for a re-licensing of the dams and over the past few years have effectively delayed FERC final ruling. During this process they have been granted at least three of unprecedented one year extensions for their operations. This week PacifiCorp, in what many believe to be another delay tactic, withdrew their required California State Clean Water Act application and thereby have effectively stalled the State's 401 public hearing process and prevents many opponents of the dam re-licensing from forwarding their concerns in public forums scheduled through out Northern California. With the pulled permit application the State Water Resources Control Board has CANCELLED the planned hearings in Sacramento, Yreka, Klamath and Orleans.

We need your help – PacifiCorp needs to be held accountable for its toxics-producing dams. Please write to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission asking that any application by PacifiCorp to extend its annual one-year operating licenses for the dams be denied. Also, insist that FERC require PacifiCorp comply with California State Clean Water Act's 401 public hearing process. Your E-mails can be sent directly to FERC at: customer@ferc.gov or a letter can be mailed to the below address.

Thank you for your prompt response to this matter.

Christopher H. Peters, Pres. and CEO

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Prophecy

Continued from page 1

envisioned a reunification of all indigenous people through a journey of the human spirit, guided by symbols of the eagle (representing the northern continent) and the condor (representing the southern continent). This prophecy has its roots in very old time where codices described the past and foretold the future.

Indigenous community organizers and activists working for sovereignty and self-determination in their respective communities were also present at this meeting and heard the elders speak about the prophecy. With the elders approval, they took it upon themselves to breathe life into the prophecy and created what is known today as Peace and Dignity Journeys. The first intercontinental journey was organized

in 1992 and was dedicated to 500 Years of Resistance by Indigenous People.

This year's run is the fifth run and it's theme is Honoring Sacred Sites. There were six tributary runs this year: one going from Alaska down the coast of California, one going down the central valley of California to New Mexico, one going through the central plains states from North Dakota through Texas to New Mexico, one going from New York through South Carolina and Tennessee across the Trail of Tears to New Mexico, one that ran a route through Baja California, and one that started at the San Ysidro border and met up with the Alaska runners who came down the coast of California at the Centro Cultural de la Raza in Balboa Park to run on down into Chicano Park. The runners who went through New Mexico will meet up with the runners from the coast in Mexico and finish the run together into Panama in November, 2008.

The runners from the coast of

California entered Riverside county from Anaheim, CA. stopping at the Pechanga Reservation for a water break before continuing on to the Cahuilla Reservation to spend the night. The community greeted the runners with Bird Singers and hosted dinner. The next day the runners entered San Diego county where the first stop was in Warner Springs. The community of Los Coyotes Reservation greeted the runners. The run continued on carrying the prayers of the people from all the previ-

ous meetings to the Santa Ysabel Reservation where a delicious lunch was served. After being blessed with song and prayer, a group of runners went to visit a lone elder on the Inaja and Cosmit Reservation. A group of youth runners from the Cahuilla Reservation ran the steep mountain road for the visit with the Mesa Grande Reservation, and were joined by members of the community for a water break. The journey

then headed west to connect the prayer with the La Jolla Band of Indians where the runners visited with the community at the La Jolla Trading Post. The run then descended into Pauma Valley, connected with the Rincon and San Pasqual Reservations in Valley Center, and continued on to the Pauma Reservation where prayers were offered. After a rest was taken, the day was finished at Pala Reservation where an overnight stay was hosted by Tubby Novato. On Wednesday, July 23, 2008 the runners arrived in Chicano Park where they were greeted by a delegation of indigenous leaders from the San Diego community, including Kumeyaay elders led by Stan Rodriguez and Gracia Molina de Pick, urban Indian community members, and Aztec dancers, and a festive and spiritual celebration was held before the journey continued on.

Mary Lou Finley – Eve Cannella
Robin Wilson Yaa Yis Nook

This is the prophecy of the Eagle and the Condor which entails how the ancestors envisioned a reunification of all indigenous people through a journey of the human spirit, guided by symbols of the eagle (representing the northern continent) and the condor (representing the southern continent).

Police Help Applauded by NAACP

By Jane Prendergast

Cincinnati police got a standing ovation at the end of the recent NAACP convention for a reason: officers were told to do everything reasonably possible to ensure the guests a good time.

That included carrying luggage, carrying handicapped people up steps and into the Barack Obama speech at the Duke Energy Convention Center so they could avoid waiting in the heat and driving hungry people in police vehicles to get fast food in Northern Kentucky after Cincinnati's restaurants closed.

Dozens of officers worked the convention on duty and on overtime.

"We told them this is the easiest duty you're going to have," said Lt. Col. James Whalen, the assistant chief who supervises the patrol bureau. "Just smile, be nice to people."

"Anything that was even remotely reasonable that we could handle for a guest, we did it."

Officers were given those instructions at roll call before every shift.

At one, Whalen said, a supervisor asked any officers to confess if they were in a bad mood so he could assign them elsewhere.

That approach helped prompt hundreds of NAACP members to jump to their feet Friday morning during

Cincinnati Mayor Mark Mallory's breakfast address. He thanked everyone from downtown ambassadors to city employees and NAACP leadership.

But when he got to the police, he said, the "crowd just went crazy. It was beautiful."

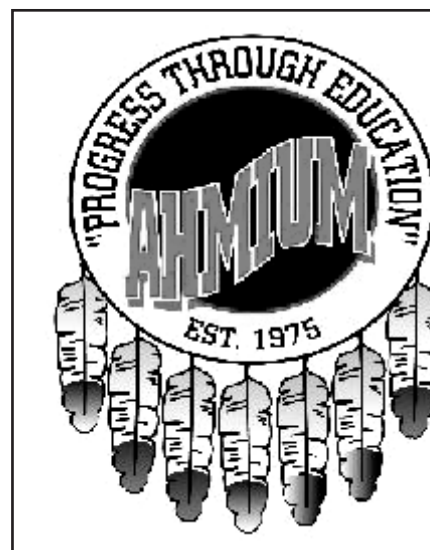
The response brought a tear to his eye. He needed a moment to compose himself before continuing.

It wasn't that long ago that the reaction to Cincinnati police from a crowd of African-Americans might have been very different. After Roger Owensby Jr. died in police custody in 2000 and Timothy Thomas was fatally shot by an officer in 2001, riots ensued and groups called for police use-of-force reforms. Some pushed a boycott against spending any money in the city.

The resulting six years of outside monitoring of the police force has worked and should end, independent monitor Saul Green said in a report released just before the convention began.

Whalen didn't know exactly how many officers worked the convention or how much money their presence cost.

The department often declines to give out numbers of officers assigned to events, citing the need to keep some security details private.



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Rebel With a Cause: Rincon Wins Vital Lawsuit That Could Legally Define “Fair Share” in Future Compact Negotiations



By John D. Currier

On April 29, 2008, U.S. Magistrate Judge William McCurine, Jr. of the San Diego Federal District Court ruled that Governor

Schwarzenegger's administration “failed to negotiate in good faith” with the Rincon San Luiseno Band of Mission Indians by attempting to impose a tax as a condition of compact negotiation. The decision has huge positive ramifications for Rincon, will have probable effects for other tribes throughout California, and could even be meaningful on a national level as a standard in compact negotiation. If this ruling is upheld, the effect is expected to bring great detriment to the State of California's agenda of imposing taxation on Indian tribes in gaming compact negotiations.

History will show that gray area gaming, the victories of propositions 5 and 1A, and the signing of the 1999 compacts were huge legislative and political endeavors by California Indian tribes and paramount to California Indian Gaming. But from a standpoint of legally defending gaming rights in California in compact negotiations, no other single event is as momentous to California Indian gaming rights as this judicial pronouncement of complaint. Although this is a great first level court decree, Rincon will have to wait for the outcome of an appeal by the state of California, which could take as long as three years. But when the U.S. 9th District Court of Appeals upholds Judge McCurine's decision, Rincon will have been provided justice. This justice will specifically include a playing field for

compact negotiations just as Congress intended it to be.

Rincon, along with other tribes, will no longer have to sit and be bullied and plundered at a lopsided negotiating table and no longer face extortion by the state's misuse of their role in compact negotiations, therefore leaving the tribe as the primary beneficiary of their gaming operations, which is one of the principle Indian policies of the U.S. Congress.

When Congress wrote the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA), although they did provide a role for the “State's Interest” in compact negotiations, they only intended a limited interest for the state and had a specific concern to protect the interest of Indian tribes. If one were to read the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA), they would find that Congress intended that a state, a sovereign, specifically not tax an Indian tribe, another generally equal sovereign, specifically to gaming rights.

Background

Prior to the Schwarzenegger administration taking office, former Governor Gray Davis, on September 10, 1999, entered into landmark historical compacts for Indian gaming in California with what would soon be 61 tribes, including the Rincon San Luiseno Band of Mission Indians. This compact, which is a legal contract, was approved by heavy bi-partisan support from both the California State Assembly and Senate. Both bodies of the state legislature further approved an amendment to the California Constitution, which had to be put to a vote and approved by the California voters. In March of 2000, the voters of California overwhelmingly approved proposition 1A with over 66%

of the voters supporting the exclusive right for Indian tribes to game throughout California, allowing each tribe to operate up to 2,000 class III gaming machines. Although the 1999 compacts were ambiguous and not perfect, they provided significant concessions and benefits to the California tribes, the people of California, and provided for the state's regulatory interest, as was intended by the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act. About six years ago, Arnold Schwarzenegger ran a campaign that was disingenuous to federal law, promising California voters that he was going to make Indian tribes pay their fair share. Although federal law, specifically IGRA, stated to the contrary, the future governor was clear from the get go that he wanted to siphon taxes from tribal gaming operations.

This promise of taxing tribes was based on creating a false illusionary premise that tribes weren't paying their fair share, thus creating a perceptual, not legal, interpretation of what fair share is supposed to be. The truth is that “fair share” is supposed to be the state's interest in regulation, not taxation, with the broadest involvement being limited to making sure that there are reasonable mitigation protections for environmental related impacts in the areas that they affect, not redistributing tribal gaming funds throughout the state of California as they deemed fit.

Regardless of the law, shortly after Schwarzenegger won his bid for election, his administration, by intentional disobedience to the law, concocted a strategy to first only negotiate with tribes that would likely agree to pay high taxes and agree to a generally modeled compact that would be shoved down all other tribes'

throats in a take-it-or-leave it, “under my thumb” fashion.

This one-size-fits-all negotiating position of taxing tribes as a primary goal was an atrocious abandonment of what the U.S. Congress intended when they passed into federal law the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA) in 1988. Equally unconscionable was this administration's unethical and tragic reproduction of history where once again a state mocked previous legal agreements, just as they did treaties, which were entered into between a previous administration and an Indian tribe.

Instead of Schwarzenegger's administration respecting Congress' deliberate intent to make sure tribes were the primary beneficiary of their gaming operations, his administration attempted to take back Rincon's 1999 compact and the concessions that it contained, giving it a new hairdo, only to resell the same compact to Rincon for about 18 times more than what Rincon originally paid.

The state's insistence of mocking Rincon with these appalling offers only produced a cornered badger that had to defend its lawful territory and created a David that had to use every ounce of his diligent wit and energy to bring this Goliath down. If Rincon is successful at the appellent level, and I strongly believe they will be, then we in Indian Country can say that we witnessed justice with regard to Indian rights during a period when it is needed most. Rincon, stay the course because it is the legal, moral, and right business thing to do for your people and Indian gaming rights.

John D. Currier is the former Rincon Tribal Chairman and Lead Gaming Negotiator for the Rincon San Luiseno Band of Mission Indians. He can be reached by calling (619) 985-4770 or email currierplumbing@aol.com.

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Indian Health Center

Continued from page 1

unemployed" she said of Edmunds, recognizing him for his contributions to Indian health and welfare and also for being a fellow Oklahoman. Edmunds moved from Oklahoma to Los Angeles in 1971 to work as the director of an Indian Relocation Program. His work there focused on providing American Indians with needed services that were not offered by the city and the county agencies.

Edmunds began his speech noting his heritage and that he was "part white, but can't prove it", which drew laughter from the crowd. He spoke of his work with the city and county as well as the Port District to give Indian issues a voice in San Diego.

Brim introduced the SDAIHC Executive Director counting the center "lucky to have a Director as seasoned as Joe Bulfer". Bulfer was recognized for his business acumen and his two decades of service working with Indian health organizations in San Diego and other areas in California. In 1988 Bulfer began his work in the field

with the Southern Indian Health Council (SIHC). After 15 years at the helm of that organization and other Indian health projects, he brought his expertise to the urban clinic in San Diego.

Bulfer introduced key department staff members Dr. Edwin Cabrera, Medical Director, Dr. Joel Switzer, Dental Director, Naomi Lake, LCSW, Behavioral Health Director and Brad Gaeddert, Chief Fiscal Officer. Bulfer thanked all employees for their efforts in arranging for the Community Gathering and Open House.

"I've spent most of my life working for Indian clinics and believe I've made a difference" said Bulfer of his 20 years working with San Diego Indian health clinics. He spoke of the vision he shares to make the clinic a place that heals not only the physical but also the "mental, spiritual and emotional". He also highlighted the fact that the healthcare services offered by the clinic are open to the community as the SDAIHC is a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC). The urban Native American population, a community that SANDAG reports as 46,000 strong, accounts for 65% of SDAI-

HC visits.

Bulfer views Native American healthcare as a responsibility of the U.S. government, established through treaty obligations and Federal trust responsibility. It's a position that brings him into conflict with the Bush administration officials who do not see the value of urban Indian health programs. The position of the Office of Management and Budget is that urban Indians should go to other community clinics and that federal funds should only go to rural centers.

Funding has steadily decreased for Indian healthcare and for the past several budgets President Bush has proposed completely eliminating all federal support for the urban American Indian clinics. For SDAIHC, which derives 42% of its funding from federal sources, that would be a fatal blow.

While acknowledging that urban Indians have many choices for healthcare, Bulfer points to the traditional healing practices offered at SDAIHC. Herbal remedies, song and ceremonies are among the services the clinic offers. He contends that the

culturally sensitive environment at SDAIHC makes some American Indian patients feel comfortable seeking care who would otherwise go untreated.

Patients who are uncomfortable seeking preventative care often see their conditions worsen until an expensive emergency room visit becomes necessary. It is Bulfer's belief that eliminating funding for this and other urban clinics would actually increase the overall cost of healthcare. Bulfer is making an appeal for clinic donations to offset decreases in federal funding and applying for additional grants to increase services and operations.

Ms. Kerrigan of the California IHS office greeted the gathering and thanked the clinic for inviting her and the IHS staff to the ceremony.

Ms. Kerrigan spoke of the need for urban Indian health programs and their part in delivering total healthcare to American Indians. Ms. Kerrigan spoke of the newly confirmed Indian Health Service (IHS) Director Robert McSwain. McSwain, a member of the North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians, is the first IHS Director who is a non-physician according to Kerrigan.

FISA: Bush Signed. The ACLU Sued.

The ACLU filed a landmark lawsuit last week to stop the government from conducting surveillance under a new wiretapping law that gives the Bush administration virtually unchecked power to intercept Americans' international e-mails and telephone calls.

The FISA Amendments Act of 2008,

passed by Congress and signed by President Bush, not only legalizes the secret warrantless surveillance program the president approved in late 2001, it gives the government new spying powers, including the power to conduct dragnet surveillance of Americans' international communications. And, by grant-

ing telecoms immunity, it has greatly harmed the chances of ever learning the extent of the administration's lawless actions.

Our lawsuit was filed on behalf of an impressive array of professionals – journalists, human rights organizations and lawyers-- whose ability to perform their work will be greatly compromised by this new law.

Our clients include The Nation magazine and two of its contributing journalists, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, the Service Employees

International Union (SEIU) and more.

Because of the nature of their calls and e-mails, our clients believe that their communications are likely to be monitored under the new law. Even the looming possibility of this surveillance disrupts their ability to talk with sources, locate witnesses, conduct scholarship, and engage in advocacy.

The ACLU took out a full-page ad in the New York Times, with over 65,000 signatures, to expressing our outrage at this abandonment of Constitutional principles.



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National Clean Energy Summit at UNLV

Nevada Senator Harry Reid, UNLV President David Ashley and the Center for American Progress Action Fund are hosting the National Clean Energy Conference, to be held at UNLV on Tuesday, August 19. This summit will bring together major industry leaders, scientists, policy experts, citizens and the media to participate in a dialog about our nation's clean energy future.

"I am hopeful that this event will result in some consensus ideas and principles that participants can carry to the parties' political conventions and on into

the next Administration. As the Majority Leader, clean energy -- and Nevada's central role in this revolution -- will be a top legislative priority of mine for the next Congress," Senator Reid said.

Senator Reid believes Nevada can be the world leader in clean renewable energy, drawing upon its vast solar, wind and geothermal resources to provide clean, stable power while creating thousands of jobs for our state's economy. Read more about Reid's efforts to support renewable energy in Nevada and across America.

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In Loving Memory

William "Bill" Mesa

Crystal Dawn Roberts-Mesa

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."

John 14:27

If Ever There is Tomorrow

If ever there is tomorrow when we're not together... there is something you must always remember. You are braver than you believe, stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think. But the most important thing is, even if we're apart, I'll always be with you

William "Bill" Mesa and his daughter-in-law Crystal Dawn Roberts Mesa were killed in a motorcycle accident over the July 4th weekend. Bill's memorial service took place on July 11 and Crystal's on July 12. Bill was chair of the Jamul Indian Village. Crystal recently received her MS degree in Public Health at SDSU. Bill's son and Crystal's husband, Robert, wished that donations be given to the American Indian Recruitment Program.



**San Diego Inter-tribal Singers
Pow Wow Song Practice
at the Indian Education
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Diego CA 92116
Call: 619-469-5838**

**Every Wednesday
6:00- 8:30 pm**

Contact: aisource@nethere.com

We have been singing at the Wednesday culture night for the Indian Education program for the past year. We are invited to sing for their Soaring Eagles summer pow wow dance and regalia program. We extend an invitation to all singers, Northern and Southern to feel welcome at the San Diego Inter-tribal drum. We will have a good time and help our Indian community too.

The San Diego Inter-tribal singers are able to greet past singers: Terry Hinsley, Ben Nance, Richard Decrane, Roy Cook and Tyler. We welcome any new faces to the drum. Appropriate songs are sung to the benefit of the dancers and the requests of the dance instructors. It is a very nice experience to be at the drum again for the benefit of our American Indian children.

Grass dance, shawl dance, round dance, crow hop, more shawl dance, women traditional, more round dance and fun specialty songs are sung for the entertainment and instruction of the Soaring Eagles Dance Class dancers. Some are shy and reluctant but by the ending of the song, many are dancing! Wow, participation, that is the true measure of success. Everyone knows it is not easy but it is worth doing well and the satisfaction is in the achievement.

The basic context of our singing is the

Southern Plains "powwow." We do have a fair selection of Northern songs in our song 'bag' and we enjoy bringing them out at the appropriate time. Wachipi and Powwows are associated with the plains cultural groups, both Northern and Southern, and have evolved into the contemporary pan-Indian activity they are today.

The powwow experience often echoes these traditional Tribal qualities: Respect, Generosity, Truth, and Courage.

Canada, Alaska, Lower 48 and Middle America are traditionally Indian Land with hundreds of thousands of Indian people. When we come to the drum with a good heart and true humility our path will be wonderful. This understanding, fellowship and intertribal respectful appreciation are an added benefit of coming to the drum

We welcome participation and if you just want to visit and listen, well, that's your choice. However, we are not teaching classes in Indian Songs or attempting to entertain anyone per se. That understood, observe and listen and of course-enjoy the songs.

Finally, It is with great appreciation that we acknowledge the opportunity to contribute to the Tribal cultural experience of our Indian children. Mehan, Ah ho, Thank you.

Death of Free Internet is Imminent - Canada Will Be Test Case

In the last 15 years or so, as a society we have had access to more information than ever before in modern history because of the Internet. There are approximately 1 billion Internet users in the world and any one of these users can theoretically communicate in real time with any other on the planet.

The Internet has been the greatest technological achievement of the 20th century by far, and has been recognized as such by the global community. The free transfer of information, uncensored, unlimited and untainted, still seems to be a dream when you think about it. Whatever field that is

mentioned- education, commerce, government, news, entertainment, politics and countless other areas- have been radically affected by the introduction of the Internet.

And mostly, it's good news, except when poor judgements are made and people are taken advantage of. Scrutiny and oversight are needed, especially where children are involved. However, when there are potential profits open to a corporation, the needs of society don't count.

Take the recent case in Canada with the behemoths, Telus and Rogers rolling out a charge for text messaging without any

warning to the public. It was an arrogant and risky move for the telecommunications giants because it backfired. People actually used Internet technology to deliver a loud and clear message to these companies and that was to scrap the extra charge. The people used the power of the Internet against the big boys and the little guys won.

However, the issue of text messaging is just a tiny blip on the radar screens of Telus and another company, Bell Canada, the two largest Internet Service Providers (ISPs) in Canada. Our country is being used as a test case to drastically change the delivery of Internet service forever. The change will be so radical that it has the potential to send us back to the horse and buggy days of information sharing and access.

In the upcoming weeks watch for a

report in Time Magazine that will attempt to smooth over the rough edges of a diabolical plot by Bell Canada and Telus, to begin charging per site fees on most Internet sites. The plan is to convert the Internet into a cable-like system, where customers sign up for specific web sites, and then pay to visit sites beyond a cutoff point.

Research reveals that the 'demise' of the free Internet is slated for 2010 in Canada, and two years later around the world. Canada is seen as a good choice to implement such shameful and sinister changes, since Canadians are viewed as being laissez-fair, politically uninformed and an easy target.

The corporate marauders will iron out the wrinkles in Canada and then spring the new, castrated version of the Internet on the rest of the world.

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Sycuan Second Traditional Gathering 2008

By Roy Cook

Sycuan Tribal land is the Southern California location of this two-day gathering, June 28-29, 2008, of fine friends and relatives for this traditional Yuman singing and dance. The Sycuan people hosted visitors and friends to their second annual Traditional gathering. There is an excellent breakfast and a hosted lunch of catered: salad, bread, buns fixings for the hamburgers and hotdogs, corn on the cob, baked chicken, barbecue ribs and soda pop or bottled water. Danny Tucker, Sycuan Tribal Chairman, is attentive and happy to see so many visitors attending. This weekend is a blessing from the Creator. All we can desire, need and enjoy is evident in the company of the most beautiful people in the world: Tribal People.

Saturday afternoon and it is a bit warm and sunny in the arena. However, today is a day to enjoy the richness of the local cultures custom and tradition. Tomorrow is another day and it will mostly see the finals to some of the serious competition from Saturday. Yes, it is wonderful to experience this energy and vitality in the presence of this continuity of culture. All around the arena we see: Children smiling in play, Grandparents being protective and instructive to all children. Also, most evident, the women are always the strength and first in tribal country.

This year there is a fair like atmosphere to the booths and attractions. There are games galore: spin the wheel, pop the balloon, sand craft of rainbow colors, throw this, catch that, bounce here, dunk the guy in the tank or find out who can help or provide information on education, health and Indian programs like TANF or SCAIR and many other organizations. But beyond this are many entertaining events throughout the afternoon for all age groups.

There is a competition of beautiful babies for all to ooh and ah. Also there is Good ole Rock and Roll from the East county Arrowhead Band. Tug of war between Bands and age groups, watermelon eating contest, gunny sack races, and egg in a spoon races, serious horse-shoe competition provided many Kodak moments.

Wonderful butterflies of color come to mind as we see the dancers in the arena, bouncing and dipping in response to the songs.

The songs for the competition are lead by Leroy Elliot, Chairman of the Manzanita Band and Wally Antone, Quechan and their support singers. These songs are the Yuman song styles of Tucuk "Bird song". Most will agree many of the songs have a distinct identity with the Colorado River or Mohave presentation series. Yet at the same time each style is identifiable to the region singing

the song: Northern or River or Tipai Kumeyaay.

Yuman song style very often is generally labeled Bird songs. There are from 12 to 14 variations of the Yuman song style: Tucuk, Lightning, Salt, Lasha, Wildcat and various Northern tribes variations of songs. Yuman or Bird Song singers are a vital element in the Kumeyaay custom and tradition in the Southern California Native American social structure. Bird Singers occupy responsible roles. Traditionally, early in life, potential singers are introduced to established lead singers. During these associations young singers are evaluated to determine: commitment, capacity to learn, and qualities essential to group singing as opposed to individual performance.

Essentially, the Yuman or Bird songs in their traditional role are a series of epic song cycles in the oral tradition. These songs also fulfill a social role as entertainment and many times are sung just for the joy of the occasion. Further, these Bird songs may also be sung as a Kumeyaay Traditional Community presentation. At these occasions protocol is formally defined.

There are regional variations in Yuman song but essentially the lead singer and helpers or singers begin by standing or they are seated in a row. After a series of songs, variable to the occasion, the lead singer will rise and dance forward in a series of small steps. Then they will dance backward until they contact the seats or close proximity to the starting point.

Also, a facing row of dancers will often assemble, mostly female, and guided by the gourd rattle and song complete the balance and the presentation. The dancing is often inspiring to the moment and lead singers' song selection.

So often I have over heard comments on Bird Singing from outside observers to the culture, "They all sound alike." also "They just go back and forth, over and over." Yet to the informed observer, these songs are a complex sophistication of multiple related songs. The singer may or may not elect to bring out double step, or triple step songs, spins or turns.

There is beautiful regalia and ribbons in complex designs. Tribal tradition is visible in each smile and proud glance, everywhere in glorious splendor. There are many friends and familiar faces, all of us a little older but still enjoying our Indian ways.

Peon songs are sung in the evening into the early hours of the morning. Often the youth will form into teams and start games early in the evening and later the adult teams organize and they will warm up well after midnight.

"Peon" is a highly competitive game of complex strategy, skill and calculation.



It is played with eight players - four on each side, with an additional man or woman to act as umpire (Koymi). The two sides are usually made up of male or female players from different tribes or bands. The object of the game is for one side to win all the tally sticks.

Much betting accompanies the game among both the men and the women. The game may be won in a short time, or it may - as frequently happens - prolong itself through an entire night, until the early morning, with several hundred dollars changing hands!

How Peon is played:

Someone will select a smooth vacant place and build a small fire and spread his blanket and sit down. He will then holler "pe-own-e." No one seems to pay any attention to him. By and by, he will again holler "Pe-own-e." Then perhaps someone will come and sit down with him and hold his blanket on his lap. Eventually a couple more players will come until there is a full team on each side. There seems to be no hurry. Each side has a blanket. Support singers or friends and family from each team - or band - will come and stand behind the players while the game is in progress and sing the "Peon Songs" as the game is in progress. The songs have meaning and tell a story. They also set the mood for the game.

Tally Sticks:

The Koymi, or referee, man or woman, by the fire (at the head of the two lines of players) has fifteen tally sticks which are divided between the two sides - seven to one side and eight to the other.

These sticks are about fourteen inches long, and a quarter of an inch in diameter, having either the tip or sometimes the entire length painted in red, or in decorative designs.

Peon Sticks or bones:

The game itself is played with eight "peon sticks"- four white, and four black (usually made of sheep bone or coyote bone). They are about three inches long and a quarter of an inch in diameter.

Each Peon stick/bone has a hole through the center with a string drawn through. The string is slipped over the wrist in a slip noose, the object being to prevent any possibility of trickery when the call comes to "show" (by shifting the stick from one hand to the other).

Playing Peon:

When all the players are ready to begin the game the end players take up the blanket, and hold it in their teeth. Behind each blanket, the players slip the noose over their wrists, holding the stick in their hands, which they then conceal under the armpits.

The players chosen to do the guessing must then guess in which hand the white or black stick is concealed. When he or she has made up their mind they clap their hands and point to where they have decided the black or white stick should be and at the same time calling out their decision to the Koymi, or referee.

The Koymi, at the end awards tally sticks corresponding to the number of correct guesses from one side to the other. The game is won when one side wins all of the tally sticks.

These songs echo in the Sycuan canyons of time immemorial. They are calling to all our relations: Here we are once again, we are what you taught us, we are what has been, and we will continue to be, Indian people. Thanks to the Creator for the time to be here together again. I am very glad I was there this afternoon! Mehan, Aho, Thank you.

Yahoo Shamu! Picnic at Sea World 2008

By Roy Cook

It's a bright, breezy, beautiful Thursday June 26, 2008 at the San Diego world class attraction Sea World. By noon most of the Urban Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, TANF participants have picked up their tickets and are in the tide of the crowds in the park scattered to the ebb and flow of the attractions and thousands of visitors.



Photo: Gary Ballard-calie.org

The picnic at Sea World is sponsored and coordinated by Southern California American Indian Resource Center, SCAIR, which both administers and participates in partnership affiliations with the Urban Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, TANF services. SCAIR administration and learning center is located in Alpine and has two satellite offices. The SCAIR San Diego Center satellite office is located at 4265 Fairmount Ave. Suite 160, San Diego, CA 92105 and the Escondido office is located at 637 N. Escondido Blvd. All are under the direction of Wanda Michaelis, Executive Director of Southern California American Indian Resource Center SCAIR. She along with Vickie Gambala, Antoinette, Melissa Aleman and Tracy Stevens were parts of the team in charge of the SCAIR/TANF groups' picnic.

The journey to Atlantis splash ride is very popular with the young and not so young too. This ride is just around the corner of the Polar bear plaza but more on that later. Also close by is the pets stadium and the wild arctic encounter, as well as Shamu, Sesame Street, sharks, sea lions and otters, dolphins and the sky tower ride. All through the Sea World park there is too much to see. What a wonder of cultures, kids, languages, kids, international regalia, kids, gulls and touristy beach apparel there is.

So about 4:30- 45 pm TANF folks start to gather at the Garden Plaza west. Vickie Gambala and her team check off participants and Gary Ballard, CALIE-SCAIR photographer and Webmaster poses some of the folks there for family portraits while we wait for the 5:30 buffet. The Garden Plaza provides refreshing open-air access to a lovely

garden setting. The indoor/outdoor feature offers weather security with a high-vaulted ceiling. The picnic at Sea World and Buffet dinner is underwritten by a special grant from the Southern California Tribal Chairman's Association.

The children are loudly describing the things they have seen and that they need to go to the bathroom now! A few are smearing their face painting with tears of weariness. It does feel good to just sit for a while and look around at the happy faces. Forty-five or more of the hundred attending are here now. Most of the happy faces are looking toward the buffet tables and smelling the ribs.

This was a picnic and a day to remember, with adventure and laughs and a wonderful meal with friends. The special pricing included an all-day admission, a private picnic location, an all-you-can-eat buffet, a costume character visit, parking and all tax and gratuities. There are a wide variety of menu items including hot dogs, barbecue ribs, beans and baked chicken. There is also a magnificent selection of salads and fabulous white frosted cake.

Later, Laura, a Sea World representative said we would soon be having a special visitor. Strolling over to the pavilion is Shiver;



Photo: Gary Ballard-calie.org

seven feet tall white Polar Bear with a blue muffler. This is the featured costume character. The bear circled and posed for pictures with the children. The kids were wary at first of the bear. Then the kids are excited and overly familiar with 'their' bear. Then the bear sat in a chair and I thought I heard, "Who's been sitting in my chair?" But, at my age, sometimes I don't hear too well. Finally there was just too much for the bear to bear and it shuffled off and barely made it out of the area. I tell you, it was just too much fun for one heart to bear.

Some of the kids are winding down and may need a nap soon. Maybe the adults will get a chance to catch a ride or two since the park stays open until 11 at night. We hope to see each other at many more of these happy events with good food, good company and a great time together, Mehan—Aho—thank you.

San Ysabel Chili Cook Off

Santa Ysabel Casino hosted their first Annual Chili Cook Off June 28, 2008. It was an all day event with Live Entertainment, vendor booths and lots of chili! 1st place-\$1,000, 2nd place-\$500, 3rd place \$250.

Santa Ysabel Casino is challenged all Native American Casinos to a Chili Throwdown – the spectators were the judge of which casino had the best chili and the winner has bragging rights and received an authentic trophy. Also, the Julian Fire Dept. had challenged all other fire depts. to a challenge of who has the best chili.

What a big surprise! The winner of first place in the chili cook off was the Santa Ysabel Casino's kitchen.



A Personal Note from Leonard Peltier

I want to thank all of you who have shown your concern and answered my call for help. This medical problem has been going on now for some time, at least a year or so. As you know, a diabetic coma is usually fatal. I am feeling a whole lot better now, so thank you for helping me. You can stop contacting the BOP or Lewisburg officials.

Let's get back to concentrating on other important things. Again, thank you very much.

In the Spirit of Crazy Horse.

Doksha,
Leonard Peltier

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First Tribal TANF Wedding San Diego Indian Center Out-of-Wedlock Prevention Program



By Roy Cook, Opata-Oodham, Mazopiye
Wishasha: Writer, Singer, Speaker

This is a glorious day for a wedding. The sun is shining and the steady Barona breeze is keeping the air clean so you can see the surrounding mountains clearly.

This is a fine day at 1pm May 28, 2008 to do things right.

Leroy Elliott, Manzanita Tribal Chairperson, is officiating at this traditional Indian wedding of Miss Rietta Marie Carmen, Maidu and Mr. Norman Eugene Amador, Pascua Yaqui. The couple has been together for some time.

Chairman Leroy Elliott smudged the groom and bride before the ceremony with burning white sage smoke and an

eagle-feather prayer fan.

Mr. Elliott purifies the couple and counsels them on this step in their life they are taking for themselves and their family.

Inside the chapel there are feelings of excitement and anticipation. Laughter bubbles up and a lot of children and smiles are seen in every pew and corner of the Barona Wedding Chapel.

Preceding the exchange of vows Leroy calls upon Devon Alto, Tipai, and Louis Guassic, Ipai, to sing four appropriate Tukuk Bird songs for the occasion.

Vows and kisses completed the happy married couple exit to more laughter and bubbles of rainbow colors and lifted hearts.

The wedding was coordinated by the San Diego Indian Center and the Southern California American Indian Resource Center, Inc. The program is funded by the Southern California Tribal Chairmen's Association, Inc and Tribal TANF Program.

Colorado tribes perform Native American blessing marking one month until 2008 Democratic National Convention

Denver CO - With just one month to go until the start of the 2008 Democratic National Convention, Convention organizers were joined by Barbara O'Brien, Lieutenant Governor, Colorado; Leah D. Daughtry, CEO, Democratic National Convention Committee; Frank LaMere, Chair, Native American Caucus, Democratic National Committee; Boyd

Lopez, Spiritual Leader, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe; Byron Red Sr., Executive Officer, Southern Ute Indian Tribe; Dave Jollette, Vice President, Venue Operations, Kroenke Sports Enterprises; members of the Ute Mountain, Ute and Southern Ute Indian Tribes for a Native American blessing at the Pepsi Center, Friday, July 25 at 9:45 am.

Sandra Stoneburner new Los Coyotes EPA Director

Los Coyotes has new Environmental Director

Melody Sees has resigned from her position as the Los Coyotes Environmental Director. We wish her well. Sandra Stoneburner will be acting director and would like any future busi-

ness correspondence sent to the following email address:

loscoyotesepa@yahoo.com

Thank you-Los Coyotes EPA

News from the California-Arizona Node

On July 1, the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) California-Arizona Node hosted a day-long conference titled "Historical Trauma: Healing Approaches in Native American Communities," funded by a supplement from NIDA. The Native American Health Center, located in San Francisco and Oakland, worked with the CA-AZ Node to organize the event, which was sponsored by Walden House. Nearly 170 participants attended from a number of areas, including California, Oregon, Washington, Arizona, and New Mexico. The conference, which was held at the Presidio Officer's Club in San Francisco, centered on the role of historical trauma in the treatment of substance use disorders.

Keynote speaker Maria Yellow Horse Brave Heart, PhD, Associate Professor of Social Work at Columbia University, spoke on "Historical Trauma and Unresolved Grief Theory and Intervention Research." Other speakers and their topics included:

- Ethan Nebelkopf, PhD, Native American Health Center, Oakland – "Holistic System of Care for Native Americans in an Urban Environment."

- Michele Maas, MSW, Native American Health Center, San Francisco – "Firewater and the Sword: Implications of Historical Trauma in Urban Native American Communities"

- Karina L. Walters, PhD, MSW, William P. and Ruth Gerberding University Professor and Director of the Indigenous Wellness Research Institute at the University of Washington – "Historical Trauma and Indigenist Stress-Coping Processes: Preliminary Research Findings from the Honor Project Study"

- Nelson Jim, MFT, of the San Francisco Department of Public Health – "Cultural and Traditional Healing Approaches for Urban Native Americans"

- Theda New Breast, MPH, of New Breast Consultants in Babb, Montana – "The Four Generation Solution"

- Joseph P. Gone, PhD, Assistant Professor of Psychology, University of Michigan – "Re-Viewing Historical Trauma: Bridging Scientific Skepticism and Colloquial Claims"

The conference was videotaped, with the intent to post it on the Indian Health Services Web site.

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The Next Firestorm

As the keepers of our regions land, we have no choice but to learn how to live with fire.

By Marc Snelling

Southern California's hot dry climate and chaparral covered hills make it a natural tinderbox. Scientists believe this climate has existed here for over 2000 years. The hottest and driest months from late spring until the first rains in fall are when most wildfires start.

As another wildfire season heats up, blame is being laid for last season's destructive wildfires. This week, Cal Fire investigations are faulting San Diego Gas & Electric's power-lines for the 2007 Witch Fire. SDG&E has already been named in lawsuits seeking to recover damages.

Cal Fire and San Diego County were the targets of lawsuits following the region's last major wildfire. The 2003 Cedar Fire burned 280,000 acres and killed 14. It was the largest in California history. The County was sued unsuccessfully for negligence in their response to the fire.

The fire was started by hunter Sergio Martinez, who lit it to signal rescuers while he was lost in the Kessler Flats area of Cleveland National Forest. Martinez, a construction worker from West Covina, didn't have enough money for lawyers to

target him with lawsuits. The courts penalized him criminally with jail, fines and community service instead.

One fire starter who did have enough money to sue was Johnny Cash. In late June 1965 Cash was fishing in the back country of Los Padres National Forest near Fillmore. His camper truck overheated triggering a grass fire. A fire control officer met an intoxicated Cash at the scene. He explained his truck, which he nick-named "Jesse" had started the fire.

"The Adobe Fire" would continue for a week, burning 500 acres. Air tanker drops were used to extinguish it. Cash was later prosecuted by the Federal Government. When the judge asked Cash why he had done it, he replied "I didn't do it, my truck did, and it's dead, so you can't question it." The government was awarded \$125,000 in damages. Cash's insurance companies later paid a reduced fine of \$82,000.

Cash's fire was minor in comparison to the wildfires that have ravaged San Diego. If the Cedar Fire cost the same amount per acre to fight as the Adobe Fire, it would have cost over \$300 million dollars to fight in 2008. A San Diego Institute for Policy Research places the cost of fighting the Cedar Fire even high-



View from hills in Crest looking towards Sycuan reservation after 2003 Cedar Fire

er, estimating it cost \$1.5 billion.

These massive fires and their associated fallout are becoming a familiar pattern in Southern California. Every devastating wildfire brings a new round of finger pointing, lawsuits, and government reports. In 2005 the City of San Diego published updated Brush Management Regulations. The rules require residents to clear 100 feet of brush around the perimeter of their homes.

This is what the San Diego Fire Department expects from you to make your home defensible during a fire:

This rule is one of the latest in Southern California, which has had fire laws on the books for over 200 years. The first fire control regulation was proclaimed in 1793 by Governor José

Joaquín de Arrillaga, from Mission Santa Barbara in what was then Alta California.

The missionaries there sought to put an end to the Chumash practice of setting fire to grasslands. They wanted the land as pasture for their animals. But what was "pasture land" to the Spanish was seed gathering land to the Chumash and had been for thousands of years. Arrillaga issued this proclamation on May 31:

With attention to the widespread damage which results to the public from the burning of the fields, customary up to now among both Christian and Gentile Indians in this country, whose childishness has been unduly tolerated, and as a consequence of various complaints that I have had of such abuse, I see myself

SEE Firestorm, page 16

Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department Crime Prevention Vacation/Travel Tips— Things to know before you go

Your thought have turned to VACATION and having fun and taking a break from your day to day routine. The word "vacation" must be everyone's favorite word and with good reason.

There are lots of things to do and think of when planning for time away. Here is a short list of things to know before you go.

- Learn as much about your vacation spot as you can. Have adequate maps, attraction information, and the like before you go. Take along any phone numbers or addresses that relate to where you are going so that you are not scrambling around for information when you need it. Utilize a travel agency if making in-depth plans.

- Clean out your wallet / purse so you are only carrying things that you will need on your trip. For example, travelers checks and one multi-purpose credit card are easier to keep track of than lots of cash and several cards. Make copies of your ID and credit cards, (front and

back), so if you do lose something you can report it correctly right away. Also, if you won't be using your car / house keys, leave them behind in a secure location.

- Take a telephone with you. If renting a car, ask to rent a phone if you don't have one. Most car rental agencies offer that option. Always have a phone and know the area code and phone number of that phone and numbers you might need.

- If you do rent a car, make sure you write down the make, model, license and VIN number so if it is stolen you have that info. Do not keep that information inside the car when unattended. Also, know what car rental agency you are using.

- Mark your luggage clearly and lock it if possible. Do not leave luggage, bags, etc, in vehicles where they will be visible to others. Keep items of value in your hotel room at night rather than in your parked vehicle. Thief's like hotel parking

lots full of goodies.

- If flying, make sure you know about your ground transportation options. They vary in type and price, so make these decisions ahead of time if you can. Don't get into cars, cabs, shuttles, etc. that are not legitimate businesses.

- Travel restrictions may be in effect for certain destinations. Consult a travel agent if you are heading to a destination that may be in question. Pay attention to travel warnings or advisories that may be in effect. Err on the side of caution.

- Choose hotels carefully. The surrounding area should feel comfortable to you - if not, don't stay there. Check out the hotels security features and use safety deposit boxes or room safes if you need to.

- If lost, seek assistance from legitimate sources such as hotel employees, restaurant workers, police officers, etc. Avoid depending upon strangers to help you out.

- Always be aware of your surroundings and remember that every city has good / bad places and people. Some criminals prey on folks who are on vacation - this can happen anywhere!

- If using a hotel pool, do not leave items of value unattended. For example, your room, key, ID, and money can quickly disappear while you swim. This

goes for the beach, too! Also applies to health clubs, massage areas, etc - anywhere you will be separated from your belongings for a period of time.

- Be careful about ordering pizza from your hotel room. Many pizza "vendors" work out of home garages and do not have any health certifications at all. These vendors thrive in hotel areas and place flyers under your door.

- Do not keep your money, travelers checks and credit card in one place. Keep some separate so if you do lose some, you won't lose it all. Keep a stash of emergency cash not for souvenirs, but for emergencies!

- Check the Internet for more vacation safety tips. You can find safety information that applies to what you will be doing, such as taking a cruise, that you probably have not thought of before. Remember that your vacation destination is not going to brag about safety problems so sometimes you have to do your homework.

- Ask others who have been where you are going if they have any advise to pass along.

Traveling wisely is something you will be glad you did. Make sure it is not something you wish you would have done! Oh, don't forget your camera and video recorder!

UPTOWN VIEW

The 5th Story

UPTown View of the 702 • Edited by Kena Adams

Calling All Fifth Street School Alumni

The city of Las Vegas Redevelopment Agency is currently searching for students of the historic Fifth Street School when it served as the Las Vegas Grammar School from 1936 until 1966.

The Redevelopment Agency will recognize these individuals during a rededication event to be held this fall celebrating the building's renovation and conversion into an urban "cultural oasis." The revitalized Spanish Mission-style building will include offices as well as various spaces such as a gymnasium, gallery, courtyards and Centennial Plaza that will be available for rent for private and public events. The school will also house an assortment of local arts and architectural organizations including the

Nevada School of the Arts, UNLV Downtown Design Center, the American Institute of Architecture and the city of Las Vegas Office of Cultural Affairs.

Portions of the historic building will also house historic photos, memorabilia and the recorded recollections of people who attended the school. If you, or someone you know, can provide historical mementos and interesting anecdotes, or if you are a school alumni who would like to attend the rededication ceremonies as a special guest, please fill out the online form that can be found on the Fifth Street School Web page at www.lasvegasnevada.gov/5thstreetschool. Alumni can also call (702) 229-4955 for more information.

Las Vegas Indian Center Honor the Elders

The Las Vegas Indian Center thanks you for your support of the 15th Annual Honor the Elders Banquet established to recognize American Indian Elders and members of our community that preserve American Indian culture and promote socio-economic advancement. This year's event was held Saturday, July 26, 2008 at the Stan Fulton Building on the UNLV campus. The spectacular evening began at 5:00pm with a silent auction and reception including a "meet and greet" autograph signing with world renowned entertainer, Bill Miller (Mohican), a songwriter, painter and grammy award-winning recording artist. Early birds secured their bid on impressive and unique items. At 6:00pm we began our honoring ceremony with a blessing by Leroy Spotted Eagle (Paiute), followed by a full-course dinner and top notch entertainment. Distinguished flutist John Bear (Choctaw/Apache) & Tim Blue Flint (Kiowa), and our very own Native Dance Troupe rounded out the entertainment.

The Annual Honor the Elders Banquet unites elders, adults and youth from the Indian community with our friends and supporters; provides a unique cultural experience for all who attend; and also generates needed funding for the Las Vegas Indian Center. For more than 30 years the LVIC has suc-

cessfully provided self-sufficiency services that address our communities needs: Employment and Career Development, Substance Abuse Treatment, Temporary Housing Rentals, Basic Needs, Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drug Prevention, and Scholarships.

We thank the community for your support of this established event.

Through sponsorship packages, advertisement, and silent auction donations and four levels of sponsorship: Eagle Feather \$5,000, Dream Catcher \$3,500, Native Drum \$2,500 and Beaded Moccasin \$1,500, we were able to offer this exciting program to our community.

Tables of 10 were purchased for \$500 or individual seats for \$50. Sponsored tables provided seats for American Indian Families who could not afford to attend.

Don't forget next year! In addition to the sponsorships, we offer program advertisements ranging from as little as \$50 for a black and white business card size to the full color page back cover. Donations of items for the silent auction were greatly appreciated; all donations tax deductible.

Mark your calendar and join us for this unforgettable experience next year. Thank you for your interest and continued support of the American Indian Community.



Harrah's Entertainment's Inducted to Nevada Minority Business Council's Hall of Fame as Corporation of the Decade

Medals of Honor also presented to Harrah's Fred Keeton and Tony Gladney for their contributions

Las Vegas, NV—Harrah's Entertainment was inducted to the Hall of Fame as Corporation of the Decade by the Nevada Minority Business Council on Friday, April 18, 2008 during the Nevada Minority 13th Annual Excellence Award Ceremony held at Caesars Palace.

The Nevada Minority Business Council selected Harrah's Entertainment as their first ever, Corporation of the Decade, for their fifteen year dedication to diversity and inclusion. The owners of Caesars Palace, the first Strip property to join the Council, have extended their commitment to inclusion to the company's associates, customers and suppliers.

"It was our pleasure to induct Harrah's Entertainment into the Minority Business Hall of Fame," said President of Nevada Minority Business Council Dianne Fontes. "Harrah's continued support throughout the years reflects their commitment to be star supporters of diversity, enduring equality among minority businesses which is a testament to the Corporation of the Decade that is very well deserved."

Fred Keeton, Vice President of External Affairs and Chief Diversity Officer and Tony Gladney Vice President

of National Diversity were also awarded Medals of Excellence for their contributions to the company's diversity efforts.

The purpose of the Nevada Minority Council event was to celebrate and honor the achievements of Nevada's top minority businesses and major corporations that have been champions of supplier diversity and inclusion. Awards were handed out in categories including; New Minority Business, Construction Company, Professional Services Company and Minority Business of the Year. In the Major Corporation category there were Buyer/Purchasing Agent, Community Relations Specialist, Supplier Diversity Program and Corporation of the Year.

"We are honored to receive such an esteemed award," said Gladney. "At Harrah's Entertainment, we are committed to increasing diversity and inclusion among our valuable partnerships by providing the necessary means to strengthen minority businesses in Nevada."

The Nevada Minority Business Council Inc. (NMBC) is a nonprofit, tax-exempt corporation who's sole purpose is to increase the purchase of goods and services between minority suppliers and the private and public sectors. Its major objective is to help build a stronger, more equitable society by supporting and promoting minority business development.

Las Vegas Ward 5 Chamber of Commerce Phenomenal June Luncheon 2008

Councilman Ricki Barlow enlightened guests at the Las Vegas Ward 5 Chamber of Commerce Luncheon held at the Nevada State Museum and Historical Society. Through his slide presentation he educated members and attendee's about new and future redevelopments within Ward 5. East Fremont District, Molaski Tower, World Market Center and the World Jewelry Center are just a few of the new completed redevelopment projects in Uptown Las Vegas. In the future look forward to the Smith Center for the Performing Arts, Lou Ruvo Brain Institute and the Fifth Street School project. Mr. Barlow also stated that Ward 5 should see a grocery store

in late August. A job fair is planned for August 16 for residents of Ward 5 to fill positions for the proposed store located in John Edmond Town Center. The Urban Chamber building is due to be open by the end of the year. If you haven't looked at all the great improvements take the time to do so, just as Town Tavern puts it, Ward 5 is "A Diamond in The Desert". With the birth of the Uptown Las Vegas Community Development Association (created by W5CC) comes a shared vision of economic redevelopment of Uptown Las Vegas, which includes Uptown Walk of Fame, The King Center and affordable housing components.

Pet Tip of the Month

This month we have a little horse sense to offer. As far as feeding your horse, Richard, manager at Jones Feed & Tack, suggests a grass mix all year long. If you ride your horse a lot then you want to obviously feed them alfalfa during each feeding. If you ride occasionally stick with the grass mix during the afternoon and feed the horse a small amount of alp alpha during morning and evening feedings. Blanketing a horse here in Las Vegas is not suggested due to the effect it has on the growth of the coat during the season changes. Jones Feed & Tack offer "Noah's Choice" a wood pellet that soaks up 3X its mass. This product is great for corrals! Shop your local feed store today! Jones Feed and Tack 702.645.1992.

Public Announcements always welcome. *Indian Voices* is distributed between the 1st through the 5th each month. Please send all announcements to kenaadams@indianvoices.net by the 20th of the month. 702 787-6365

DC Circuit permits Freedmen to pursue claims against both Cherokee and U.S. Officials

In its July 29th decision, the US Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit stated "the Thirteenth Amendment and the 1866 Treaty whittled away the tribe's sovereignty with regard to slavery and left it powerless to discriminate against the Freedmen on the basis of their status as former slaves ... (the Tribe) lack any sovereign interest in such behavior."

The Court ruled that the Freedmen's suit could go forward against Cherokee Nation officials including Principal Chief Chad Smith preventing officers from discriminating against the Freedmen in violation of the Thirteenth Amendment or 1866 Treaty.

The decision is a victory for the Freedmen and individual Indians who have won their day in court to enforce their treaty right to their identity, citizenship and equal treatment as Cherokees.

The relief the Freedmen participation including the right to run for office

Cherokee Freedmen Plaintiff Marilyn Vann states, "This is a victory for the Freedmen people and our birthright as Cherokees. This decision answered the question again, that the Freedmen's treaty rights trump the right of our elected officials to oppress. I pray that the healing of the Cherokee people begins and all Freedmen, including the 23,000 currently locked out, are reintegrated into the Nation."

Jon Velie, lead counsel for the Freedmen states, "The Court created an opinion that protects both tribal sovereignty and individual Indian civil rights. The treaty of 1866 coupled with the 13th Amendment prohibits Cherokee officials from denying fundamental rights to the Freedmen citizens. We can now proceed against the U.S. and Cherokee officials without toppling the principals of tribal sovereignty. This is a great day for Indian Country."

UNLV offers buyouts to staff members to cut costs

By Lawrence Mower

UNLV is offering buyouts for some of its long-term faculty and staff in the latest effort to cope with budget cuts affecting the university, officials announced Friday.

Nearly 300 professional faculty and staff, including 200 tenured faculty, are being offered the buyouts, University of Nevada, Las Vegas President David Ashley said.

"We need to develop some flexibility for what's coming down the road," he said. "We wouldn't do this if we didn't have financial stress right now."

The buyouts announced Friday are not the first this year and will probably not be the last, Ashley said.

Ninety-seven employees were offered buyouts during the spring and summer, and officials plan on offering buyouts in the near future to classified staff, which mostly consist of lower-level office workers and support staff, Ashley said.

UNLV is being forced to cut roughly \$60 million over its 2009-11 biennium as the state budget shortfall has ballooned to more than \$1 billion.

Officials at the university have said they will also be forced to slash class

sections and eliminate part-time faculty in order to cope with the cuts.

The buyouts this week are aimed at longer-serving professional staff.

Those eligible must be either:

- At least 60 years old with at least 10 years of service to the university, or:
- Have their age plus years of experience total at least 75.

The employees would get 110.5 percent of their salary for the next year and have their termination take place nearly immediately, according to information on UNLV's Web site.

Ashley said the extra 10.5 percent comes from the amount the university would normally pay into the employee's retirement account.

He expects between 10 and 50 people to take up the offer, saving the university between \$1 million and \$5 million per year.

Because of the current uncertain economic climate, "not everyone's going to be interested in it," Ashley said.

Other institutions in Nevada have offered similar buyout incentives, including the University of Nevada, Reno and Truckee Meadows Community College in Reno.

Question of the Month

Comes from a lifetime resident of Uptown Las Vegas

He asks, "Why is auto insurance so much higher in 89106 than any other zip code?" Have no fear concerned resident, "Indian Voices" has the answer for you compliments of the Cedric Gay Agency 702.461.7408

Answer:

The "price" a company charges an individual for auto or homeowners insurance is based on a number of different risk factors, and different areas of town have different risk potentials for floods, crime, accidents, etc.

An Insurance company will evaluate a local area's risk based on previous claims data. Example: An insurance company might experience a high level of claims in one area part of town and very little claims in another part of town. They will include those local differences in the premiums they charge (along with individual personal characteristics such as driving record, claims history and the type of auto). The higher a risk is to a company the higher the cost of the insurance.

To submit a question for Question of the Month email kenaadams@indianvoices.net

Arapaho Healer Blesses Utah Hospital

Dorian Two Horses Sanchez, father of a local Las Vegas trustee school board candidate blessed a local Utah Hospital in May of 2008. He blessed employees and cancer patients as religious representatives from various denominations conducted a multifaith service at St. Mark's Hospital in Salt Lake County. As I talked to Caroline, his daughter, a local resident of Las Vegas and trustee candidate explained how she can help multicultural people unite here in Las Vegas. "There was a time when we had to be ashamed of who we are. Now is our time to stand up and come together and

unite for our children's sake." Caroline can help the unity of this community through her candidacy. She suffered relentless attacks as a young child and believes through this strength she can guide the school board on fair education for all students, including our disabled, which too often are forgotten. She urges that Native Americans and parents with disabled children attend school board meetings because they are a powerful voice. For more information email csanchezrangen@cox.net website is www.csanchezrangen.com

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VOTE-VOTE-VOTE-VOTE-VOTE

CAROLINE SANCHEZ-RANGEN

702-553-7314

Arapaho Tribe

Daughter of DORIAN TWO HORSES SANCHEZ

Arapaho Healer

Clark County School District Board of Trustee - District E

Co-Host Talk Radio • Special Ed. Issue's
KLAV 1230 DIAL 4-5 p.m. Saturdays

VOTE-VOTE-VOTE-VOTE-VOTE

Firestorm

Continued from page 13

required to have the foresight to prohibit for the future all kinds of burning, not only in the vicinity of the towns, but even at the most remote distances... to uproot this very harmful practice of setting fire to pasture lands... advise the Christian Indians and the Gentiles of the neighboring rancherias about this proclamation and impressing upon them that those who commit such an offense will be punished.

The early Spanish settlers wrongly assumed the land was in a wild state. The fires were not "childish" as the missionaries thought but were timed to occur after seed gathering season in early summer. The fires actually encouraged growth of important seed bearing plants in the following seasons.

One especially important plant to the Chumash that responds well to fire is *khutash*. The seeds of the plant are black and shiny, and are called red maid seed in English, and *pil* in Spanish. A Chumash legend tells that Coyote asked to be given *khutash* and ate it as he pounded the seeds.

Stories told by Chumash and Kumeyaay elders paint a picture of the Southern California region before the arrival of the Europeans. It is not one of a wild land, but one where fire, erosion control and irrigation were used to make

the land more useful for its human inhabitants.

Fire had a variety of uses: as tool to encourage the growth of certain plants, to keep land open, to fell trees, and as a hunting tool to force game into blinds. The fires were not lit randomly but in a regular pattern driven by seed gathering season. Factors like wind and humidity were also taken into consideration.

Kumeyaay elders describe how oak and pine groves were regularly burned to improve the soil quality and removed undergrowth, making it easier to collect the acorns. The regular burns also prevented fuel from accumulating year to year, eliminating the fuel to cause destructive wildfires.

Kumeyaay stories also tell how they sought to control erosion and the limited water supply of the area. Rows of rocks were aligned in the valleys to collect rain-water and silt. These areas then became fertile and were used for planting. Streams were dammed with boulders and brush at narrow portions to preserve water in pools. Trees were planted near springs to shade the water from the sun and slow evaporation.

Anthropologists who sought to learn the ways of the Kumeyaay wrote that they worked in council, sharing information



Before Brush Management



After Thinning and Pruning

about different resources and determined what needed to be done for each season. The Kwaaypaay or band chief was responsible for organizing the necessary work force to accomplish land management tasks such as lighting fires.

Early European visitors to San Diego County's valleys tell of small bogs, wet meadows and knee high grain. Many of the same areas today have become deep eroded gullies choked with vegetation. The areas do not retain ground water long after a rain. Springs that used to appear at the base of mountains have also disappeared.

Only recently has mainstream culture begun to adopt some of the wisdom of the old ways. After hundreds of years of trying to prevent all fires, the US Forest Service began to use controlled burns as a tool in the 1950s. The practice of controlled or prescribed burns started in the Florida Everglades. It soon moved to California where researchers determined that certain species of Sequoia don't regenerate without fire.

Small patches of fire burn underbrush but do not get hot enough to burn established trees. When fire is suppressed year after year fuel builds up making a much hotter fire possible. Eliminating that brush year to year is the only way to prevent small fires from getting huge. But not everyone agrees.

County Supervisor Diane Jacob whose district includes most of San Diego's fire-prone areas sees it differently. Her opinion is that the region will continue to experience huge fires. "You could have the best vegetation-management plan that there ever was and you're not going to prevent another major firestorm in the region," she said in an April 17th San Diego Union-Tribune article.

In the years prior to the disastrous Cedar Fire San Diego politicians diverted brush management money to other locations. City officials diverted money from the brush management program to prop up their controversial pension system. The County went even further completely ending a program that organized County inmates in honor camps working to cut fire breaks and fight fires.

The program is pointed to by many to be the most effective weapon San Diego has had against wildfire. However, county officials began to close the camps in the 80s and the last one closed in 2001 after

a unanimous vote by the County Supervisors. Supervisor Diane Jacob argued that the camps were too costly.

She claims the honor camps were closed due to funding reasons. But audits have shown that the cost of keeping prisoners in work camps is actually lower than the cost of keeping a prisoner in jail. Prisoners who cleared brush were paid \$0.70 a day or \$1.50 an hour if a fire was burning. The County was actually able to make money by contracting the workers labor to other agencies.

It is hard to imagine how a program that pays workers so little and costs less than a jail could be too expensive for the County to maintain. Some have suggested that the honor camp closures contributed to the severity of the 2003 wildfires.

Rudy Reyes, a candidate for Santee City Council has been a critic of this decision. Reyes has been at the forefront of the wildfire issue since his recovery from severe burns sustained during the 2003 fires. He pointed to a San Diego Grand Jury Report on the two devastating wildfires in the region released in May.

The report found that probation officers who ran the honor camps had warned County officials repeatedly about the dangers of closing the camps. It also faults County officials for failing to make progress on organizing a unified fire protection agency.

The Grand Jury report is the second to address the need for a unified fire fighting authority. The Governor's Blue Ribbon Commission came to the same conclusion in 2004. Reyes addressed recent comments from supervisor Diane Jacob pledging to have a regional fire protection agency in place by 2012. "She will be termed out in 2012" he says "her response is "wait until I'm out of office."

"The County doesn't know the solution" continued Reyes "they are a group that was found negligent by the Grand Jury". He is not alone in his opinion. In fact the grand jury report goes so far as to call them "serial non-learners when it comes to fire preparation."

As our region's leaders struggle to come up with a solution to prevent future firestorms, they would do well to reconsider the old ways, to view fire as a part of our ecosystem to use for our benefit, instead of an enemy to fight. As the keeper's of our regions land we have no choice but to learn how to live with fire.

National Clean Energy Summit

UNLV
UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA LAS VEGAS

Center for American Progress Action Fund

U.S. SENATOR
HARRY REID

Cox Pavilion
University of Nevada Las Vegas
Las Vegas, NV
Tuesday August 19, 2008

Special Remarks by President William Jefferson Clinton,
New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, and T. Boone Pickens

Industry leaders, scientists, policy experts, citizens, and the media will gather in Nevada at the national summit hosted by the Center for American Progress Action Fund, U.S. Senator Harry Reid (D-NV), and University of Nevada, Las Vegas, to chart a course for our nation's clean energy future. This is a pivotal opportunity to focus on defining a policy agenda that accelerates the development of renewable energy, energy-efficiency technologies, and robust clean energy markets in Nevada, the nation, and the world.

cleanenergysummit.org