OUR 23ND YEAR

SPECIAL INAUGURATION ISSUE
MULTICULTURAL NEWS FROM AN AMERICAN INDIAN PERSPECTIVE

FEBRUARY 2009

Obama Inauguration Goes Native

Perhaps more than anyone else, the Native American community faces huge challenges that have been ignored by Washington for too long. It is time to empower Native Americans in the development of the national policy agenda.

~ Barack Obama

On Monday Jan. 19th the American Indian Society of Washington DC welcomed the arrivals to the inauguration at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City Hotel. 400 tribal leaders attended an all-day meeting while Native families began drumming, signing and dancing in the lobby.

Leaders discussed federal policy and budget concerns while focusing on Native inclusion in President Barack Obama's economic stimulus plan.

Spokesperson for the American Indian Society Nedra Darling greeted the visitors. "Every four years, we celebrate our new president and with that comes celebration of our resiliency as tribes we are still here, We remain. We have people here who have driven from Montana, Wyoming, and North Dakota. I hope that we can provide the best time for all people who are here to attend."

"Native America is ready for a change" said Shoshone Tribal Chairman, Ivan Posey of Wyoming. He along with other tribal members marched in the parade in honor of Obama. "He has inspired our confidence. We're hoping for bigger and better things that will help people of color" he said before the ceremony.

The Crow's adopted Obama into the tribe when he visited the reservation on May 19. During that campaign visit, he was given a Crow name, which translates to "One who helps people throughout the land." Members of the family that adopted Obama were special guests of his at the DNC.

"We've got to make sure we are not just having a BIA that is dealing with the various Native American tribes: we've got to have the President of the United States meeting on a regular basis with the Native American leadership and ensuring relationships of dignity and respect."

The UTTC delegation did join a total of 10 American Indian and Alaska Native groups that had been announced to appear in the inaugural parade. American Indian groups and individuals also had



President Barack Obama among his many supporters.

their own inaugural ball and pow wow in Washington, during which they looked forward spending time with their brother Obama Black Eagle himself..

Marc Macarro of the Pechanga Band in California stated "We just got through

eight years in the wilderness – of basically not being on the radar of this Bush administration. In Indian Country, there's a real urgency, collectively, to see real

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When History and Hope are reaching for one another a New Moon may be born...

by Cherrie Richardson Collazo

As this Nation has now embraced the new path of togetherness within its 44th President Obama, we are all inhaling new breaths of life, many now eagerly look forward to a "New Hope" and we at Indian Voices share the anticipation of what this turning of pages will mean for Native Americans and the future of Cultural Diversity.

The representation of Native Americans at the inauguration was infatuated with sweetness, filling the spaces surrounding, with the timeless spirit of our people and their Voices as well...one of those voices was Jana Mashonee!

Jana performed and represented proudly at the American Indian Inaugural Ball January 20th in

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Jana Mashonee sang "A Change is Gonna Come" at the Native American Ball.

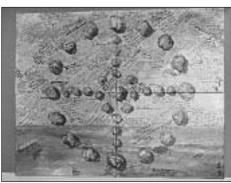
Healing Panel

During the Presidential Inaugural festivities hosted by the AIS, the artwork, "Boundless Healing, North South East West," created a stir as the attendees gathered to leave their mark, signature and prayers on the panels. The healing panels depicted a medicine wheel on a background of mostly sky.

"I didn't create this, Spirit gave it to me," said Connie Neely, spiritual healer and painter of the healing panels. Currently, she and her partners are preparing the framing for presentation to President Obama. According to Neely, they will use two types of wood with healing properties appropriate for the gift

"This gift has been imbued with so much love and healing by everyone that we want to honor everyone's prayers and intention when it is given to the President," she said. Ms. Neely, her sister Kristen Peterson and partner, Patricia Sagastume are co-founders of The Other Channel, a media company dedicated to providing digital and electronic programming for healing. The three ladies are currently preparing the video, framing of the healing panel and signatures to share on the Internet.





Top Photo left to right: Patricia Sagastume, Connie Neely, former U.S. Senator Ben Knighthorse Campbell and Kristen Peterson

Middle Photo: The unframed "Boundless Healing, North South East West"

Right photo left to right: Patricia Sagastume, Connie Neely, Kristen Peterson, founders of The Other Channel

The Other Channel

Along with their gift of the Healing Panel and other artwork, Connie Neely, Patricia Sagastume and Kristen Peterson also debuted the formation of their new company called The Other Channel.

"We thought it was important to be here for such an historic event because what we are focusing on is healing and who more than any group speaks the language of healing better than Native Americans," said Patricia Sagastume, one of the three co-founders. Ms.Sagastume is an award-winning television producer and has joined sisters, Connie Neely and Kristen Peterson, both intuitive healers and artists to form the media company, The Other Channel.

"Our first step is to launch ten minute digital-on-demand healing vignettes on cable TV that could be used to facilitate guided meditation for empowerment, drumming and alpha tonal sound therapy for clarity and peaceful thinking and storytelling by renown artists to recover cultural identities, among other things," said Ms. Neely, the painter of the Healing

Canvas

"Once we decided to do this, everything started happening at the speed of light," said Ms. Peterson. "We still have to launch our web site but first we're finishing the video of the Healing event and it will be on the Internet very soon."

According to Peterson, they will be encouraging communal prayer events and outreach opportunities for identifying environmental illnesses as another part of their programming. The three ladies based in Florida are accepting inquiries from healers and content for programming. For further information, contact Patricia Sagastume at

hugamook@bellsouth.net.



February Black History Month



Senator Harry Reid (far right) in attendance at presidential signing

Washington, DC – Nevada Senator Harry Reid today made the following statement on the eve of the beginning of Black History Month:

"Each year in February, we set aside a month to mark the achievements of African-Americans and their contributions to our shared history. The beacons of our freedom and prosperity could not shine today without the work of so many in the African-American community.

"Yet this year, a transcendent event begs to be commemorated in a manner equal to its significance. The election of Barack Obama as the 44th President of the United States of America stands alone in its importance not only to the African Americans or even to our country, but to the entire world. President Obama stands upon the shoulders of many, from those we know like Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to those whose names history did record, but whose effort and sacrifice will never be forgotten.

"While we rightly celebrate this milestone on our nation's path, we also remember the work still to be done for

African-Americans throughout the United States. The crises we face in foreclosure, in health care and in unemployment disproportionately affect the African American community. We are working hard on a comprehensive economic recovery package right now to help so many Nevadans and Americans struggling to feed their families and stay in their homes.

"I urge all Nevadans and our nation to pause in reflection of all African-Americans have accomplished despite hardship and challenge in our nation. We will continue working for people of all races, religions and ethnicities, so that no matter where we come from, we all have the opportunity to achieve the American Dream."



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History and Hope

Continued from page 1

Washington DC...pouring as always her heart, spirit and dare we say it her very soul into a most captivating performance!

This young Native American woman has reached into the spirits of listeners and fans worldwide with her stirring and empowering performances, and presence a true role model to build after! Jana Mashonee is a part of history in the making...steadily moving forward and bringing awareness to the goodness that life is intended to be.

Jana is an enrolled member of the Lumbee Tribe, and set her eye to break the molds that captive to many of American Indian artists when at the start of a new millennium she found success with chart stopping club hits like "More Than Life" and her cover of Led Zeppelin's epic, "Stairway to Heaven," earning her the honor of being the first ever Native American female to land on the Billboard dance charts.

Her powerful voice, her uplifting messages, exotic beauty and style garnered Jana widespread press attention. This began to pave a path of ongoing musical success, Now a 7 Time Native American Music Award Winner – Female Artist Of The Year – Single Of The Year – 2 times Best Pop Recording Of The Year -Record Of The Year – Best Producer For Production Of American Indian Christmas, And Best Music Video as Jana wound up recording several notable albums such as American Indian Christmas, a very unique album of ten traditional Christmas carols, each sung in a different Native American tongue, and with this bringing true awareness to how important the preservation of Indigenous languages is!

"I thought it would be special to do this album since many people have never heard, let alone heard sung, a Native language," she says.

Recorded with a full orchestra and traditional Native American instruments, this holiday album continues to receive rave reviews from press and fans alike worldwide.

In 2006 Jana again turned the charts and attention of Music Media when the

release of her GRAMMY-nominated concept album, American Indian Story, since then Lumbee Indian singer-songwriter has not had a moment's rest. Amidst her demanding touring schedule which has taken her to 48 states as well as to Europe and Canada, she found time in 2007 to shoot a video for American Indian Story's first single, "The Enlightened Time." Which met with critical acclaim and enthusiastic fan response, the video has won numerous film festival awards, as well as a NAMMY for Best Short Form Music Video, Jana's seventh Native American Music Award, and one of my personal favorites.

Despite of all of the travel, crazy scheduling and Jana's fast-paced career, Jana has still found time to give back by establishing her non-profit organization, Jana's Kids, in 2002. Jana is the founder of the non-profit organization which awards Native students the only educational scholarship in the United States in all three categories; academic, artistic and athletic achievement.

Through the foundation, she helps Native American youth achieve their dreams. Starting in 2007, Jana's Kids began awarding the David L. Boyle Family Scholarship to Native students, additionally has Jana's Native Youth Motivational Presentation become the most successful presentation of its kind in the country. Her unique blend of music, dance and motivational speaking is reaching young people everywhere.

"I hope to raise more money so that I can fund a full two to four years of schooling for each person receiving a scholarship. That's my current goal."

These are indeed exciting times for Jana with her newest album release of New Moon Born set to take her career to new heights. Despite this, she is decidedly peaceful. When I asked what inspired her to create a completely different muse this time her response was as follows;

"This album is my most personal record to date. It reflects many aspects of my life so far and what I've seen and experienced in other people's lives. I believe that there will be many people who can relate to what I wrote on this record and I hope that it touches their souls in some way positively."

Although it is a more "mainstream" record, there are subtle Native elements, as all of the record's music and artwork, including the title does depict it.

What's the meaning of the album's title, "New Moon Born?"

"New Moon Born is about rebirth and renewal -it is a metaphor about the cycle of life, a traditional Native theme for the circle of life."

"This album represents a new "phase" in my life and a new exciting direction for me. New Moon Born is also a lyric from one of the songs on the album."

Much like the many changes we are all embarking upon, so Jana too felt the inevitable draw to change, but what do these changes in direction mean for Native Communities, how do you feel your branching out and going mainstream will affect Natives?

"I hope that I will continue to represent Native people in the most positive, non-stereotypical way that I can – this has always been my mission to stay true to my roots and show us Natives that we are living, breathing people who honor our past, but who thrive in the present."

In addition to finishing this album, you recently recorded a cover of Sam Cooke's "A Change Is Gonna Come" with Juno-award winning Mohawk blues rock guitarist Derek Miller. How was that experience? What does the song mean to you, especially given the current world context?

"A Change is Gonna Come is a very special song that is symbolic of what people around the world are wanting for so badly - change. It truly does represents what my New Moon Born album is about - looking at mistakes from the past, reflecting on them, and making that change within yourself and having hope that everything will be ok, not only with yourself but with the world. Derek Miller is a very talented artist that I had the pleasure of working with- we had been talking for the past few years about working together but nothing seemed to pan out – then I had the idea of doing this song and Derek was the perfect, and only choice of who I wanted to play on this song.'

What message would you like your listeners to get out of your music, both Native and non-Native?

"I want the listeners of my album to feel as though they know a little bit more about Jana Mashonee, that they didn't know before – there are many aspects to my music, and this one is a very deep, personal reflection. There is heartbreak and challenges on this record, but there are also songs that will make people believe again."

The talk left contemplation that it sure to linger, as this young inspirational woman will continue to grow, and go beyond her own expectations...within the last minutes I wanted to know...what is it that you would like to have most heard within your voice of Indian voices...

Jana responded with no surprise to

"Jana's kids projects!!! Which guarantees the future of Indian Voices as it is our youth...it continues to grow and offers scholarships for Native youth. I accept applications throughout the year and would love to see more Native youth apply. My website is janamashonee.com, my myspace is myspace.com/janamashonee, and you can buy the record at either one. The video for A Change is Gonna Come will be up on youtube, myspace, and my website.

I will be touring in support of this record later this year so watch my website for tour dates! And continue to read Indian Voices, in closing I want to leave everyone with this...

"Find the inspiration within yourself first and then you can help others," she says.

"I believe everyone has the responsibility in their lives to influence other people positively."

Jana Mashonee is truly the embodiment of the ancient Lumbee proverb: -- "She walks in beauty in two worlds." An Indian Voice echoing thru space and time, and having created the Birth of a New Moon...

To continue forward with us here at Indian Voices following Jana's ongoing Journey especially pertaining to Jana's kids please be sure to Listen to the winds and come here to read...

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Obama's pick for EPA chief says her role won't be symbolic

"... The most important

thing right now is to find

a way to empower the

agency workforce again

to make them know that

they're really important."

by Josh Margolin and Claire Heininger The Star-Ledger

WASHINGTON, DC – After Barack Obama became the first Afro-American president, Lisa Jackson became the first Afro-American to lead the Environmental Protection Agency.

"I only feel like part of a much larger picture," Jackson said in her first extended interview since Obama nominated her for the EPA job last month. "My symbolism gets lost in his symbolism. His symbolism is extraordinary."

Jeff Haynes/Getty Images Presidentelect Barack Obama looks on as his choice to run the EPA, Lisa Jackson, speaks during a press conference at the Drake Hotel last month in Chicago. Jackson, who most recently served as Gov. Jon Corzine's chief of staff, said her position as the first African-American administrator of the EPA will be much more than symbolic. She'll be dealing with environmental problems some say have resulted in poor and minority

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communities having the worst air and water quality.

"(Obama) is literally and figuratively changing the face of the environmental movement in this country, which has for a long time been the province of people who could afford the luxury of worrying about the environment," said the 46-year-old Jackson. "What I think we know really well in New Jersey...is that it's not a luxury at all. Clean air and

clean water is every day. It probably impacts people who don't have money more often."

Jackson served as commissioner of New Jersey's Department of Environmental

Protection since 2006 before being named Corzine's chief of staff, a job she held for just two weeks before Obama nominated her for the EPA post.

"I'm a Jeopardy question," she said with a laugh.

Jackson won bipartisan support at a Senate confirmation hearing last week and a vote by the full Senate on her nomination could come any time after Obama's inauguration Tuesday.

During the Senate hearing, Jackson promised to aggressively pursue Obama's five key environmental objectives: reduce greenhouse-gas emissions, reduce other air pollutants, address toxic chemicals, clean up hazardous waste sites and

protect water quality.

Afterward, the Princeton chemical engineering graduate called the hearing prep "like every final exam you've ever had."

Even though "she will be confirmed, no doubt," according to Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D-N.J.), Jackson said there is still much to learn. A member of Obama's transition team who dealt with the EPA, Jackson said she was "in and

out of the agency a lot" until it became clear she could be selected to lead it.

"I sort of pulled back from that, just out of respect for the place," said Jackson, who also worked 16 years at the EPA before she came to the DEP.

"There will be plenty of time to start thinking about changes in policy and administration and how you might do things differently. The most important thing right now is to find a way to empower the agency workforce again to make them know that they're really important."

With the pressure does come a few perks.

Jackson, her husband, Kenny, and their sons, 13-year-old Marcus and 12-year-old Brian, got a military escort and prime spots for most of the big inaugural events, including Sunday's concert, when Jackson sat behind Obama and close enough to touch Bruce Springsteen.

She said her boys are taking the changes in stride, so far. At least until the end of the school year, Jackson plans to commute back and forth to New Jersey and will move into a Washington apartment next weekend.

While she was well-known in Trenton, the day-to-day relative anonymity she enjoyed in New Jersey is already evaporating. She's heard her name as she walks by on the street.

"It's just strange," she said.

But Jackson said she is less concerned about the high profile than the high expectations, with Democrats eager for dramatic change from the environmental policies of George W. Bush.

"I do think a little bit more than I ever did at the state about what I want people to say about me in two years," she said. "What I'm looking forward to at some point -- I don't know if that will happen in a month or a year or two years -- but at some point, I hope I just have a chance to take a breath and go, 'OK, let's do a reality check. Are you doing what you wanted to do?"

One piece of that, Jackson said, is safeguarding children in urban areas who are growing up with a "quadruple whammy:" air pollution, lead paint, contaminated water and no open space to play.

"On a small level, I feel like it's part of my job to make sure that those issues not only aren't forgotten," she said, "but are seen by all people as what environmentalism is."

Teachers Use Art to Educate Children on Water Conservation

SAN DIEGO, CA – Students throughout San Diego are sharpening their colored pencils and stockpiling their crayons in preparation for the City of San Diego Water Department's Ninth Annual Water Conservation Poster Contest. The contest is designed to help all public, private, and home-school teachers use art to teach their students about the benefits of water conservation. The Water Department will accept contest entries through Wednesday, March 25, 2009.

Luis Generoso, City of San Diego's Water Resources Manager, is excited for the upcoming contest: "During the last eight years we have received thousands of excellent art pieces from students around the city that have the power to inspire new ways of thinking about water conservation. This year's theme, 'Living in a Drought,' was selected for its ability to stimulate ateacher-student dia-

logue on ways to conserve our most vital natural resource now during a drought."

Each student creating a poster to enter into the contest will receive a certificate of participation. Then, 18 winners will be selected and recognized at a City Council Meeting and receive a U.S. Savings Bond, four tickets to the Reuben H. Fleet Science Center and a Certificate of Excellence. Winning posters will be on display in the lobby of the City Administration Building, the San Diego Watercolor Society's Gallery, and the San Diego County Fair Kids Best Art Exhibit. (Specific dates to be announced.) Winning posters will also be featured in the 2010 Water Conservation Calendar.

Additional information about the Annual Water Conservation Poster Contest, entry form and free activity book are available online at



www.sandiego.gov/water/conservation. For more information, call the City of San Diego Water Department at (619) 533-5312. The Water Conservation Program reduces water demand through promoting or providing incentives for the installation of hardware that provides permanent water savings, and by providing services and information to help San Diegans make better decisions about water use. For more information about Water Conservation, visit http://www.sandiego.gov/water/conservation or call (619) 515-3500.

It's Not About Obama

by Kimberley H. Stiemke

January 20, 2009, forever changed the face of America. No longer can the existence and contributions of people of color in America be denied. For so long, Blacks, Native Americans, Asians, Mexicans, Filipinos, and others of non-Anglo descent have been treated like an "invisible people." Their thoughts, deeds, concerns, contributions, and overall existence have long been overlooked or blatantly ignored in all aspects of mainstream society including education, business, media, and government to name a few.

Barack Obama's campaign to be the new commander in chief forced Americans to take a critical look at how they view each other, and how the world views them. Americans were forced to see beyond black and white and acknowledge the presence of Indians, Latinos, Asians, and others. For the first time, Americans had to bear witness to its multiracial heritage and the injustices that were committed against people of color. Americans were challenged to think, reflect, and act without bias or prejudice to choose what was right for their country.

The election of Barack Obama, the first Black president, made it possible for other first; the first Indian and Latino president, or the first woman. His election made it possible for children of color to want to do better and be better. Americans proved that people could be judged on their principles and qualifications rather than their race, family structure, or socioeconomic status. His election proved that Americans could unite behind a common purpose.

I was in shock when Barack Obama won the Nov. 4 election. I wanted him to win, and I knew he deserved to win, but I wasn't so sure that he wouldn't be cheated out of the election. Once he clinched the nomination, all I could do was hope and pray that he lived to see the day that he would become the 44th President of the United States of America. On January 20, 2009, I had the honor and the privilege of attending the 56th Presidential Inauguration in Washington D.C. Despite my reservations, I booked my flight, searched endlessly for winter clothing, and headed to the airport.

The moment I stepped on the plane, I knew that I had made the right decision to attend the Inauguration. One look at all the beautiful, smiling faces, representing diverse cultures, languages, and religions from all over the world was a testimony of God's grace and mercy. There was no denying the presence of a greater power at work in each of us. The peaceful gathering of over two million people without incident was nothing short of a miracle. That moment was about so much more than any one man or woman. It was

about faith.

Imagine the faith that it took for a Black man to have the courage to run for a position in a country where genocide was inflicted upon the native people and Blacks were considered less than human; a land where hate crimes against people of color are more common than we would like to acknowledge. Imagine the faith that it took for a wife to stand behind her husband, knowing the daily threats that were made against his life. Imagine the faith of a people to vote for change in a time of great uncertainty, and an unknown candidate. Imagine the faith that it took for two million people to stand on the lawn of the U.S. Capitol with terrorists waiting for the perfect opportunity to strike. President Obama is a testament to the fact that anything is possible with faith.

Kimberley H. Stiemke is a high school teacher from Vista and was a seatmate with Indian Voices on the flight from San Diego to Washington DC. She agreed to share her thoughts with Indian Voices.

Activist San Diego's Throws a Gala Event

On Saturday, January 24, 2009 from 7:00p. m. – 11 p. m. The people of San Diego came together at the Balboa Park Club Ballroom to Celebrate the

End of an Error. Throwing off their psych shackles and showing off their spontaneous, unconstrained selves they celebrated like freed slaves, while commemorating a new political beginning. Julio Waters from North Park expressed his feelings while taking turns on the dance floor. "I didn't think this day would ever come. I am in total disbelief ... I'm going to party till it sinks in."

The evening was short on speeches and long on festivities. Martin Eder extolled everyone to party hardy and they followed his direction.

Democracy is under construction and folks came together to inaugurate grassroots social change!

It was all about food, entertainment and culture with fabulous dance music by Agua Dulce!

Always mindful of survival of grassroots sustainability Martin made a pitch for a grassroots stimulus plan in the form donations for Activist San Diego to assure that the good work of the organization can continue with renewed energy.









The San Diego Activist community jumped into a party mood and rocked the house.

Dream Realized for Native American Artist

I was born as William Adrian Grindstone on May 7, 1965, in Fort Yates, North Dakota, and enrolled as a member of the Standing Rock Sioux reservation of the Hunkpapa band of the Lakota tribe from the Running Antelope community of Little Eagle, South Dakota. I was named after my grandfathers William Kills Crow and Adrian Looking Elk. I was adopted shortly after birth at the young early age of three weeks old and was raised in a non-native environment (urban) by my adopted parents Pauline and Richard Hoff, thus given my adopted name of David Hoff. I was raised primarily in southern New Mexico (Las Cruces, Alamogordo and

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Obama Inauguration

Continued from page 1

positive concrete change. Tomorrow represents a lot of hope and opportunity that's long overdue in Indian Country.

Alaska Natives were prominently involved. Nicole Hallingstad, vice president of the SeaLaska Corp, in Juneau Alaska was there to work with federal lawmakers on a lad deal that would return approximately 85,000 acres of land to Alaskan Natives.

Before after the Swearing in Ceremony Washington DC reflected the Obama administrations commitment to its relationship with indigenous people

The Massive POW Wow on the eve of the Inauguration was celebrated by the attendees whose numbers Washington DC had not seen since the opening of the Native American Museum was an inspiring testimony to the resilience and traditional spiritual essence of our Native People.

When History and Hope are reaching for one another a New Moon may be born...

The Native American Ball the following night offered an opportunity to continue honoring the past while opening a path for the youth to continue the traditional path while embracing a modern theme. During the festivities many of our Native American talents gave their voices, which included Joanne Shenandoah, Michael Bucher, Bill Miller, Shear Keck, Derek Miller, Levi and the Plateros, Gary Farmer, Hawk, Keith Secola, Martha Redbone, Micki Free, and left part of their spirits as a manifestation of that a Change just became visible over the Horizon of time ... and this testimony, was clearly brought across when one of Native Americas talented voices represented at the Ball sang " a Change is Gonna Come".

Inductees Announced for 8th Annual San Diego County Women's Hall of Fame

The San Diego Women's Hall of Fame proudly announces the inductees for its 8th Annual Induction Ceremony as Joan Arrington Craigwell, Charlottes Baker, Kate Yavenditti, Marisa B. Ugarte, Edith C. Dabbs, Li-Rong Lilly Cheng, as well as the Spirit 2009 Monique Henderson.

The Women's Hall of Fame annually inducts women who have made outstanding volunteer contributions, and who have improved the quality of life for the people in San Diego County. The categories are Trailblazer, Empowerer Of Women, Creator Of Structural Change, Builder Of Multicultural Understanding and Cultural Guardian.

The honoree in the 2009 "Trailblazer" category is Joan Arrington Craigwell. She is a highly decorated Vietnam Veteran, a devoted counselor to veterans suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and has improved conditions for nurses, women and people of color.

• Charlotte Baker, San Diego's first woman physician and the only woman president of the San Diego County Medical Society has been selected as "Empowerer of Women". Founder of the SD YWCA, she worked to eliminate prostitution, led the building of Balboa Park's Children's Home, and helped found the San Diego Zoo.

- Kate Yavenditti is a "Creator of Structural Change" to better women's lives. Lawyer and pioneer in the field of domestic violence in the 1970s, she devoted her career to advancing pro bono family law services to the disadvantaged. She founded the first domestic violence restraining order clinic and was a co-founder of County's Task Force on Domestic Violence.
- Marisa B. Ugarte is also an inductee as "Creator of Structural Change" for her work as founder and executive director of the nonprofit Bilateral Safety Corridor Coalition. The BSCC Mission states, "to preserve the dignity and well being of commercially and sexually exploited women and children through prevention, intervention and education."
- Edith C. Dabbs, "Builder of Multicultural Understanding," taught ESL and citizenship classes from 1956-2003 in the Continuing and Adult Education Division of the San Diego Community College District. She has also devoted decades to the San Diego Woman's Club, and many other organizations.

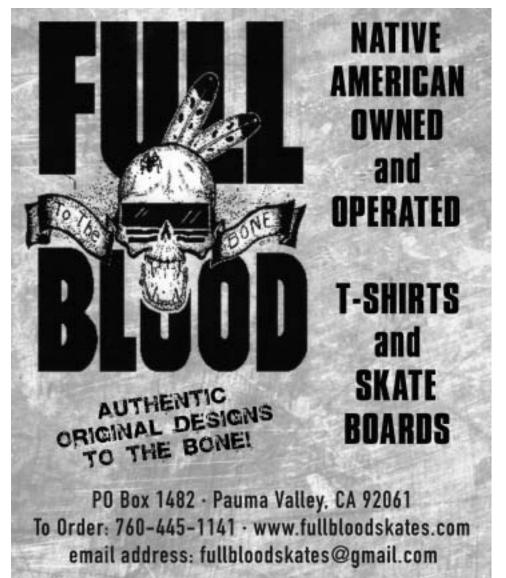
- Li-Rong Lilly Cheng, is the "Cultural Guardian" for contributing to the maintenance and integrity of her community, and promoting multicultural bridges. As Professor of Communicative Disorders, she has received rewards and keynote speaking honors for her expertise in disorders of language in multilingual populations.
- Monique Henderson will be the 2009 Spirit of the Hall of Fame. Monique is the only 4-time California State Champion in the 400 meter dash. She was the first high school athlete to make the US Olympic team since 1976 and was ranked as one of the top two freshmen in the US while attending UCLA

The induction ceremony will be held on March 28 at UCSD in the Price Center Ballroom. Tickets for the event are \$75 for individuals, (\$65 for Museum Members), \$40 for students and seniors and \$1000 for a sponsor table of eight. Prices include dinner, ceremony and entertainment. Reservations and additional information are available by calling (619) 233-7963 or on-line at www.whmec.org/whof. Email inquiries can be sent to sdwhof@gmail.com

NAACP - "We are 100"

SDSU Africana Studies Department will be presenting a series on the "NAACP 1909 - 2009: A Century of Struggle for Civil and Human Rights" at the Malcolm X Library on Thursday evenings in February, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. The classes are free but you are encouraged to register at http://www.rohan.sdsu.edu/dept/afras/re g.php if you would like free course materials (for the first 50 participants) and/or are interested in receiving academic credit. You may also contact Marc Chery at the Malcolm X Library at 619.527.3405 or the SDSU Dept. of Africana Studies at 619.594.6531.

The NAACP SD Branch will be having its February meeting on Thursday, February 05, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. at the Malcolm X Library so that the membership can attend the first course titled "An Overview of Major Events of the NAACP". We hope you will join us for this meeting and througout the year for our Centennial Celebration (1909 - 2009). We regularly meet at the Mountain View Recreation Center (41st Street and Boundry Streets) at 6:00 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month.



Dream

Continued from page 5

Hobbs) and the Chicago area throughout my life.

At the age of 12 years of age I discovered my motivation in life as a developing young artist, drawing everything from animals, portraits, anatomy and cartoons; developing my sketching talents thru contour, anatomy, water color and portraiture. I am a graduate of the Class of 1983 of Las Cruces High School in Las Cruces, NM. I then decided to further my talents as an artist and enrolled in the Institute of American Indian Arts of Santa Fe, NM, where I furthered my education in the art field (two dimensional program). My influences were from other Native American artists which have broaden my perspective as an artist such as Lakota artists Daniel Long Soldier, Jim Yellowhawk and Del Iron Cloud and good friends Mitchell Zephier of Rapid City, South

My dream of developing as a native American artist has come full circle. Since I returned to San Diego in 2008, I recently picked up the pencil and pen again and started drawing portraits and delving into Lakota native designs and portraitures. I have volunteered my time and effort to the San Diego urban native American community. I am strong in the spiritual path I walk in my traditional Lakota ways of the Red Road. I am focused and strong in the urban recovery movement always helping the native American brothers out to realize their potential as human beings and steer their focus off drugs and alcohol. I have aspirations of one day becoming a drug and alcohol counselor in the near future to help continue with my vision of every native American becoming abstinent from drugs and alcohol.

I am currently am enrolled at Grossmont College in the Computer Science program and minor in Graphic Design. I am a 2007 graduate of Mesalands Community College, Tucumcari, NM in PC Maintenance Repair technician and Computer Publishing Support Specialist programs. With the support of my peers in the Native American community I will continue to develop as an artist and evolve as a strong spiritual person. For further information to contact me I can be reached at my e-mail is www.dvhoff43@gmail.com or (619) 674-1749.

VACATIONS INTO DONATIONS Click on: www.indianvoicestravel.net

Homelessness in San Diego County increases 9% 2006 to 2008

- 7,582 homeless persons in San Diego County on January 31, 2008
- Nine percent increase in homelessness compared to the 2006 count
- African-Americans disproportionately represented in homeless population
- Homeless seniors more than tripled from 2006 to 2008

SAN DIEGO, CA – The Regional Homeless Profile, released this week by the Regional Task Force on the Homeless, reveals that least 7,582 persons were homeless in San Diego County on the morning of January 31, 2008, when the most recent count was taken. This represents a 9 percent increase in homelessness compared to 2006, when the previous Regional Homeless Profile was released.

The next point-in-time homeless survey is scheduled for Friday, January 23, 2009.

"This report confirms the National Alliance to End Homelessness report released last week and what we are seeing throughout San Diego County over the past six months—homelessness is on the rise," said Walt Sandford, executive director of the Regional Task Force on the Homeless in San Diego.

Anecdotal evidence also supports this. "Demand at local food banks and homeless shelters is up significantly from previous years, and the City of San Diego Police Dept. has noticed that the number of people living downtown has doubled,"

Sandford added. "Equally disturbing, at Project Homeless Connect in December 2008 attendance tripled to 670 people, compared to 195 in 2007."

The 2008 count represents a "point-in-time" or "one day" count of homeless individuals, the most comprehensive census of homeless persons ever attempted for the San Diego region. The count includes people found living on the street as well as data from more than 90 agencies that provided detailed information about homeless people who spent the night in the agencies' emergency shelters or transitional housing programs.

More than half of the people counted (54 percent) were in the City of San Diego, which includes the communities of Nestor, Otay Mesa and San Ysidro. Roughly 16 percent of the homeless live in the North County region. For San Diego, the count totaled 4,082, followed by Escondido, 809; Encinitas, 546; Chula Vista, 460; and Vista, 386.

In addition to those included in the count, approximately 1,000 farm workers or day laborers were not counted due to the inaccessibility of their locations. The "hidden homeless" are also difficult to count, because they typically reside temporarily with relatives or friends, have not reported to shelters, requested assistance from service agencies, or live on private property inaccessible to enumerators.

The 2008 point-in-time count found 523 homeless families comprising a total

of 1,282 persons in the San Diego County region. Of the total homeless households living in county shelters, 56 percent (713) included children under 18 years old. Single mothers made up 89 percent of the homeless families, and 86 percent of the homeless families were in the City of San Diego. A significant proportion (20 percent) of those living in emergency shelters and transitional programs reported that they were victims of domestic violence.

Roughly 60 percent of the homeless population surveyed were white, although African-Americans were disproportionately represented on the street, in emergency shelters and transitional program. The number of homeless seniors more than tripled from 2006 to 2008, rising to 463 compared to 146 in 2006.

"The Obama Administration is considering increased funding for homeless programs in light of the current economic crisis," Sandford said. "The Task Force is interested in working with the new administration to help make employment opportunities available to those who are homeless."

Eighty percent of homeless living on the streets of the county region were male. More than a third of transitional housing residents were Latino. Roughly one in six (17 percent) of the homeless were military veterans, and nearly onethird of all emergency shelter residences were veterans.

Nearly one out of four homeless per-

sons (23.7 percent) are considered "chronically homeless". HUD defines chronic homelessness as a person who has been homeless for a year or more, is not part of a family, or has had at least four episodes of homelessness during any three-year period.

Chronic homeless is correlated, in part, with poor mental heath and substance use. Participants in emergency shelter programs reported the highest incidence of mental illness. Combined rates of alcohol and drug use among the region's homeless adults ranged from 29.9 percent for substance use to 36.9 percent for alcohol use. The proportion of homeless persons recovering from substance abuse is significantly higher (51-72 percent) among those residing in transitional housing. Residential settings are often associated with treatment program for alcohol and drug dependency.

The next homeless count is slated for Jan. 23, when more than 400 enumerators will fan out across the county to count the homeless. Preliminary reports from agencies suggest that there are many "first time" homeless to be counted who are recent victims of the economic crisis and are despondent, embarrassed and struggling to access services.

The Regional Homeless Profile for 2008 and a fact sheet are available online at www.rtfhsd.org under Publications.

About Regional Task Force on the Homeless, Inc. - The Regional Task Force on the Homeless collects, analyzes and disseminates data regarding the homeless population and related services in the San Diego region. Offices are located in the United Way of San Diego building at 4699 Murphy Canyon Road in the community of Kearny Mesa. For more information, phone (858) 292-7627 or visit the website at www.rtfhsd.org.

Del Mar Fairgrounds seeks naming rights sponsor

Opportunities available for appropriate company

DEL MAR, CA – Del Mar Fairgrounds is actively seeking out a partnership opportunity for the naming rights of the 346-acre facility. This opportunity will be awarded to the company/organization interested in the growth of the region and one that delivers high impact marketing and community relations results.

In an effort to reach this goal, the Fairgrounds has tasked Front Row Marketing Services (FRMS), a leader in naming rights marketing and sales, with the responsibility of selecting a corporate partner that will obtain the greatest impact for Fairgrounds' guests.

"We're very excited to be working with the Del Mar Fairgrounds to identify a strategic naming rights partner that will open doors to national and internationally renowned events and broad based audiences," said FRMS Regional Vice President, Jon M. Hennessey. "The Fairgrounds not only attracts more than three million visitors annually, but it is in a prime location – 90 miles from Los Angeles, 20 minutes from San Diego, blocks away from the ocean and right off of Interstate 5. It is a perfect opportunity for any company interested in growth and impact marketing."

Once the partner has been determined, the rights will entail the "branding" of the Fairgrounds. This will include the use of the partner's name and logo on interior and exterior signage, as well as Fairgrounds' marketing materials, staff uniforms etc. The

Fairgrounds will continue to handle all operations of the facility, and maintain full control over the events that will potentially be garnered through this partnership.

"This is a great opportunity that is not utilized enough in the Fair industry," said CEO and General Manager Tim Fennell. "This sponsorship will benefit the company, but will essentially benefit the community. Revenues from the sale of naming rights will go toward upgrading the facility, improving programs and most importantly, will help off-set costs and keep events at a reasonable price for everyone."

In the past 16 years, sponsorship opportunities have generated nearly \$25 million (with current sponsorship revenues bringing in \$2.6 million annually) and have allowed for a number of advancements at the Fairgrounds including new stables, upgrades to exhibit buildings, and as of recently, the funding for new sewer systems.

The idea to sell these naming rights originally began in the mid-1990s when the idea was still fairly new to the fair industry. In March 2008, the 22nd DAA

Board of Directors revisited the idea and approved the contract with Front Row Marketing Services.

"The Del Mar Fairgrounds hosts and produces more than 300 events annually, including the award-winning San Diego County Fair and the Del Mar Thoroughbred Race Meet. The new name will be one that embraces all those events and presents the facility as the diverse venue that it is," said Fennell.

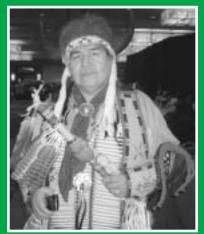
The 22nd District Agricultural Association is a State of California agency that owns and operates the Del Mar Fairgrounds, Surfside Race Place, Horsepark Equestrian Center and the Del Mar Golf Center. The 22nd DAA produces five events each year: The San Diego County Fair, the Del Mar National Horse Show, Professional Bull Riding (PBR), The Scream Zone and Holiday of Lights. The Fairgrounds hosts more than 350 events annually, the largest of which is the live horse racing meet each summer, which is operated by the Del Mar Thoroughbred Club for the 22nd DAA and the State of California. For more information, visit www.sdfair.com.







































Inauguration Events

















Barona honored by the California Hotel and Lodging Association for Environmental and Community Service Programs

"Winning these awards is

a real testament to our

strates the commitment of

the Barona Band of Mission

two very important causes -

Indians and Barona Valley

Ranch Resort & Casino to

the environment and the

community,"

SAN DIEGO, CA - Recognizing Barona Valley Ranch Resort & Casino's achievements in environmental stewardship and community contributions, the California Hotel & Lodging Association (CH&LA) has awarded Barona with two Lodging Property Achievement Awards. Barona received the Good Earthkeeping award for the second year in a row, as well as the Community Service award for a large property. The awards were presented at the CH&LA's annual 2008 Stars of the Industry Awards dinner in Anaheim, Calif.

"Winning these awards is a real testament to our amazing staff and demonstrates the commitment of the Barona

Band of Mission Indians and Barona Valley Ranch Resort & Casino to two very amazing staff and demonimportant causes – the environment and the community," said Rick Salinas, general manager of Barona Valley Ranch Resort & Casino. "We are honored to be recognized by the

California Hotel and Lodging Association, as we continue the traditions of protecting and cultivating Barona's beautiful landscape and surrounding valley and giving back to the San Diego community.'

The Good Earthkeeping Award recognizes lodging properties that have developed a culture toward integrating environmental management practices that improve daily operations while maintaining quality service and meeting guest expectations. The program must demonstrate success in one or more of the following areas: energy conservation, solid waste reduction, effluents and emissions, water conservation, purchasing and business issues.

Some of Barona's award-winning features for this award include its commuter programs, use of natural light throughout the hotel and office spaces and green cleaning efforts. Barona also has a state-of-the-art water conservation program and on-site water treatment facility, which saves and reuses nearly every drop of water run-off at the hotel and Barona Creek Golf Club.

The CH&LA Good Earthkeeping Award adds to a long list of prestigious awards that Barona has received for its environmental programs, including the United States Environmental Protection Agency's 2007 National Clean Water Act Recognition Awards, the San Diego Earthworks Earth Award and two SANDAG Diamond Awards. Barona Creek Golf Club has also received an Audubon International Bronze Signature

Sanctuary Certification, as well as the Environmental Leaders in Golf Award from the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America and Golf Digest.

The Community Service Award from the CH&LA recognizes hotels and resorts that are responsive to the local community by helping local or national service organizations, charities and community groups to benefit the area. Barona has always placed great importance on positively impacting the community and through the years, has donated millions of dollars to charitable organizations in the San Diego region and has also contributed countless hours of services and volunteer support. In

> 2008, Barona was a major sponsor of several high profile community events including Balboa Parks December Nights, the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve's Toys for Tots, Epilepsy Foundation's Gingerbread City and Foundation for Women.

As a winner of the CH&LA Good Earthkeeping and Community Service Awards, Barona's nomination will automatically be entered in the national Stars of the Industry Awards competition, presented at the American Hotel & Lodging Association's Summer Summit in Chicago on June 24,

Ranked "Highest in Satisfaction in the Southern California Indian Gaming Experience" in the J.D. Power and Associates 2008 Southern California Indian Gaming Casino Satisfaction Study, Barona Valley Ranch Resort & Casino blends the best of San Diego's most elegant resorts with the gaming excitement of Las Vegas. Barona is San Diego's leading destination resort featuring 400 luxury guest rooms and suites, nine award-winning dining options, the AmBience Day Spa, a full-service events center and the 18-hole championship Barona Creek Golf Club, rated the 3rd best resort course in California by Golfweek magazine. For current progressive amounts and Barona Valley Ranch Resort & Casino reservations and information, visit www.barona.com, or call toll free 888-7-BARONA (722-7662).

Barona Valley Ranch Resort & Casino received the highest numerical score among casinos with a minimum of 2,000 slot machines in the proprietary J.D. Power and Associates 2008 Southern California Indian Gaming Casino Satisfaction Study[™]. Study based on 1,766 responses from gaming players who visited an Indian casino in Southern California between December 2007 and June 2008. Proprietary study results are based on experiences and perceptions of consumers surveyed in May-June 2008. Your experiences may vary. Visit jdpower.com.

Sycuan Casino is San Diego's **Daycation Getaway**

Sycuan Unveils New Advertising Campaign

EL CAJON, CA - In a day and age when vacations are few and far between for most people, Sycuan Casino is positioning itself as the alternative. And when you consider Sycuan's unrivaled proximity to San Diego, there's no better place for a quick and fun-filled escape. That's why Sycuan is San Diego's Daycation Getaway.

"We have always catered to daytrippers, so positioning ourselves as San Diego's "daycation" getaway, was a perfect fit. Considering the economy, this made all the more sense, since vacations are impossibility for many San Diegans," said Michael Tabor, Director of Marketing for Sycuan Casino.

The advertising campaign will revolve around a fictitious television show called "Getaway San Diego." It will have its own hostess, Christina Lopez. She will be the central component on advertising and in-house promotional materials, both in English and Spanish. Sycuan is also launching a totally revamped website, www.playsycuan.com.

As of Wednesday, January 28th, Sycuan Casino will begin billing itself as San Diego's Daycation Getaway, or El

Escape Vacacional de San Diego, En Un Solo Día!

Open 24/7 and just 30 minutes from downtown San Diego, Sycuan Casino offers an array of exciting gaming activities, entertainment and delicious food. In addition to our 2,000-plus slots, we have a total of 63 table games, including blackjack, pai gow, and mini baccarat in addition to a 24-table non-smoking poker room. The 1,250-seat Bingo Palace provides traditional and video bingo. And customers have a choice of dining in our international buffet, Wachena Falls Café, Sunset Deli or Bingo Snack Bar.

The Sycuan Tribal Government operates the region's premier Indian gaming and resort facilities, the Sycuan Casino and Sycuan Resort. Sycuan demonstrates its strong commitment to the San Diego region through its support of civic and charitable organizations. The Tribe also seeks to reinvest back into the San Diego community with a progressive business development effort. The Tribe also owns and operates Sycuan Ringside Promotions; the country's first tribally owned boxing promotion company. Sycuan Funds is a publicly traded and professionally managed mutual fund. Combined, these enterprises now employ nearly 4,000 San Diegans.

SANDAG INVITES NOMINATIONS FOR 2009 DIAMOND AWARDS

Recognition for Businesses that Help Reduce Traffic Congestion

The SANDAG Ridelink program is inviting nominations for its annual Diamond Awards honoring San Diego County businesses that go the extra mile to help reduce traffic congestion.

"There are many organizations in this region that have taken it upon themselves to help fight congestion, ease commutes for their employees, and help the environment at the same time," SANDAG Executive Director Gary Gallegos said. "This is their opportunity to get publicly recognized for the good work they quietly do every day.'

Award winners promote alternatives to commuting alone to work, including vanpooling, carpooling, use of public transit, teleworking, walking, and biking. Some companies provide incentives, subsidies, or pre-tax deductions to their employees to encourage participation.

Nominations are open to all individuals, businesses, organizations, and public or private agencies that maintain an

employee transportation program in San Diego County. Up to two winners may be named in each of the five categories: program excellence, innovation, marketing, ongoing commitment, and best new

Applications are due by Friday, February 20, 2009, at 4 p.m. This year's winners will be honored at the March 27, 2009, SANDAG Board of Directors meeting. For more information and a nomination form, visit www.ridelink.org and click on Diamond Awards.

About SANDAG - The San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) is the San Diego region's primary public planning, transportation, and research agency, providing the public forum for regional policy decisions about growth, transportation planning and construction, environmental management, housing, open space, energy, public safety, and binational topics. SANDAG is governed by a Board of Directors composed of mayors, council members, and supervisors from each of the region's 18 cities and the county gov-

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From a tale told by the Maya Indians of southern Mexico, Yucatan, Guatemala, Belize, Honduras:

Why are hummingbirds so small, so beautiful and so different from other birds?

Long and long ago when the world was not quite finished, the Maya Great God looked around the sacred place where he had been making the different kinds of birds. He had made birds of every sort and size, each one good in its own way, and now he thought the making of birds was finished.

But just then he spied a few scraps of grayish feathers, a long thin beak, some tiny bits of bone and muscles and such that had not been used. He could not bear to waste even these small scraps, and so he took them in his hands gently, joining this to that to form the birdshape, and adding the long beak last of all. Then he gave this new small bird the gift of life.

It fluttered its tiny wings, opened its bright black eyes and looked up at its maker. And the Great God smiled down, thinking how small it was, how very small. Smaller than any other bird he had ever made. Even with that long beak it measured no more than the length of a man's thumb!

The Great God frowned, wondering if a shorter beak would have been better, but then shook his head. This small one was designed to feed on the nectar of flowers--good food that no other birds could reach easily--and a long beak was needed. And so was a long tongue that could reach out even beyond the beak tip to flick off bits of yellow pollen dust for added nourishment and to aid in catching insects buried in a flower cup or flitting past in mid-air.

To gather such food, the small one needed unusual flying skills, as well as the long bill and tongue. So the Great God made sure it could fly forward or backward, straight up or straight down, on a zigzag, or even upside down for a quick turnabout, and he also gave it the ability to hover almost endlessly in midair. Oh, yes! What this small one lacked in size, it more than made up for in talents

With an upward toss of his hand, the god sent it flying off to find its place in the world. For a moment it hovered there, just above his fingertips, the wings whirring so fast that the air passing through the feathers played a little humming tune that sounded like 'dzu-nu-ume, dzu-nu-ume!' The Great God smiled to hear it, for he knew the Mayas would call this smallest one Dzunuume, 'The Hummer.'

Of course the Great God knew one bird of a kind is not enough. Every creature has to have its mate. He called on his magic powers and before him were more grayish feathers and tiny bones and a long beak, just like the ones he had used before. He put them all together in the same way and gave this new little bird the gift of life, too, so that Dzunuume would have his mate. Then he told the two of them to make this their wedding day and live happily ever after. And off he went to attend to other matters.

Some birds who had been lingering nearby heard the word "wed-

ding" and came fluttering down eager to see the bride and groom and have a part in the celebration. First a sweet-voiced Solitare Thrush offered to sing its flutelike song for their wedding music. Then a gentle breeze came along and began to shake down fragrant flower petals for a carpet. Bright-winged butterflies gathered in a dancing circle to mark out the room. Even some spiders wanted to help and began spinning their most delicate webs to decorate the bridal pathway, telling the bride that she could use them afterward to build her nest. And the great sun overhead held himself ready to send down his rays for a blessing.

"Oh, everything will be so beautiful!" chirped a little brown-streaked House Finch with cap and throat as red as chili peppers. "Everything beautiful for a beautiful bride and a handsome groom. The most beau-" And then he stopped short, as if he wished he could swallow his tongue or take back the words. For Dzunuume and his little mate were not beautiful. Not in the least. Their feathers were a dull, drab gray. No pretty colors at all.

The House Finch looked around at the other birds and the other birds looked back at him, all very much concerned. Something had to be done. Somehow these two small gray ones had to be made beautiful.

The long-tailed Quetzal bird, the most splendid bird in all Maya land, was the first to speak. "Please help yourselves to some of my feathers," he offered, spreading his long green tail plumes.

"And take some of mine, please," called a Violet-green Swallow, skimming low enough for them to pluck the pearl-white feathers from her breast. The kind offers were accepted the moment they were made. In a trice the bride and groom were feathered in glistening green and white.

"Now you need some of my red feathers for a scarf," exclaimed the House Finch. He promptly gave so many red feathers to Dzunuume that he could



spare only one or two for the little bride.

Before anyone else could add any other colors, the sun came out from behind a cloud where he had been waiting impatiently and pronounced the two little greencoats married forever and always.

For a blessing he sent down his most dazzling rays straight to little Dzunuume's throat, making the red scarf feathers flash red and gold like a leaping flame

"Oh-h-h! Ah-h-h!" cried the birds and butterflies and spiders and the breeze together in wonder. And then another dazzling ray made the green feathers on each small back shine like polished jade.

"Oh-h-h! Ah-h-h!" they all cried again.

And then they heard the voice of the sun making a solemn promise.

"The feathers of all hummingbirds will always gleam with this fire-and-jade magic," he said, "so long as they look toward me, face to face. But whenever they turn away from the light, their feathers will darken again to remind them of the gray feathers they first wore-and would still wear if it were not for the unselfish gifts of their new friends."

And so it was on that day when the world was young, and so it has been ever since. When the Great God saw how beautiful these first humming-birds had become, he made other tiny long-billed hummers with radiant hues, giving their feathers all the shining colors of the rainbow, every tint and shade and mixture of red, orange, yellow, green, blue and purple. He asked the sun to give each one his magic fire-and-jewel blessing, and the sun did so gladly. To this day, whenever hummingbirds turn away from the sun's light, some of their shining feathers darken to drab, like fire turning to ashes.

21st ANNUAL GROSSMONT COLLEGE POW-WOW FEBRUARY 28, 2009 - STUDENT CENTER

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Dry Creek leaders seek to protect ousted tribal members

by Clark Mason, The Press Democrat

The leaders of the Dry Creek Rancheria, which owns Sonoma County's only Indian casino, say they hope the tribe will reverse plans to kick out 13 percent of its adult members.

In a controversy that has played out increasingly within tribes where casino payments and other benefits are at stake, 73 individuals were recently put on notice by their fellow tribe members that they do not qualify for membership.

The issue has pitted cousins and other relatives against each other, generated hard feelings, threats and a lawsuit.

And now, it has put the five-member board of directors of the 965-member Dry Creek Band of Pomo, which owns River Rock Casino, seemingly at odds with the recent vote by the members authorizing the disenrollments.

"This board to my knowledge has never wanted to remove any person in this tribe," Chairman Harvey Hopkins said this week. "We always put our arms around each member, as a member of Dry Creek, and still do that today."

Ousted members face being cut off from cash payments generated by the casino — approximately \$600 per month for the 565 adults — as well as potential tuition, housing and medical

benefits. They also face losing the cultural heritage and identity that comes with being a tribe member.

Betty Arterberry, vice-chairwoman, said she has at least a dozen relatives, mostly first and second cousins, threatened with being ousted.

They are hurt, she said, and many are "very, very angry."

"If you take them off the roll, the question is where are they going to go?" she said. "The board is trying to say 'Why would you take them off the roll? What harm have they done?'-"

Directors said they will ask at a meeting scheduled for today for the tribe to begin developing language for a referendum vote that would allow the targeted to be "grandfathered" in and remain.

Hopkins said directors often get blamed unfairly for casting out tribal members. "When you hear about a tribe removing its people, it's not because the board did it all of a sudden," Hopkins said. "It's the membership (that) said 'Do it.'-"

Directors say that is what happened three weeks ago in a special general membership meeting. Slightly less than 120 tribal members in attendance voted by a 2-1 margin to oust 73 people.

The individuals were sent certified letters notifying them that a consultant's

audit found they did not qualify for membership and they had 30 days to appeal to the board of directors.

The action followed a federal lawsuit filed last year by Dry Creek members who live in Idaho seeking to force the board of directors to purge the tribe of unqualified members.

"The legitimate members want their power back," one of the plaintiffs, Lisa Shinaver, stated in an e-mail. "Tribe hopping for the best deal is not o.k and that is what over 50 people did when they dropped out of their original tribe to enroll into the Dry Creek Rancheria after the casino was built," she wrote.

To be members of Dry Creek, individuals have to demonstrate they are descended from persons who were

counted in a census when the rancheria was established in 1915 by the federal government as a home for landless Indians.

But according to the tribe's constitution, written in the early 1970s, members cannot have been in another tribe in the past.

The problem is that some some Indians moved onto the property after the rancheria was established. Or, they may have had parents from separate tribes.

"We are going to impress on everyone the importance of saving all the people," said Hopkins. "We are going out now to try to figure out the next steps that will save the whole tribe."

You Can't Hold a Hiking Stick and a Rock in the Same Hand



Alen, Sam, Maya, Eugenie, Kaley, Andrea and Norrie

by Norrie "Doc" Robbins

'Twas the week after Christmas. Time for the year-end hike up Viejas Mt. with the Viejas Reservation Explorer's Club kids and friends. Time to discover what field clothes would be needed following a freezing Christmas week. Would icicles hang down our noses like they did several years back? What animals would reveal themselves to noisy us? What heavy rocks would have to be carried back down? How many band-aids would be needed? What adventure would mark this years' annual event?

Viejas Recreation Center personnel, Derrick Monty, Chris Welch, and Justin Amador led at the front. Geologist Doc and her physicist-friend Heide Doss brought up the rear. Sandwiched in between were 17 children, pre-teens, and teens.

Rec personnel decided the hike would start from the Viejas side rather than from the standard trail head. So

after the dirt road ran out, we had to create our own path up. This meant hard slogging around big bushes and over giant rocks. Anthony Santiago (10) spotted rabbitfur-rich coyote poop. Spiders and spideregg-cases attracted George Dumas (10), Eugenie Gonzalez (9),

and Cane Thomas (5). Plants were the focus of TravelingWolf Weber (8) and Kyramae Rumbley (5). Robert Santiago (8), Cane, and Chance Thomas (8) loved the magnetite that was concentrated along rills where rain-water once flowed. Raven Reading (7) focused on far distant views across the valley. Cheyenne Thomas (7) collected white quartz.

The highlight of the slow climbers was the cave. After making a lot of noise to scare out any sleeping animals, flash-light equipped Eugenie and Sam Doss Hammel (9) led Tionee Weber (6), Sam, Maya Doss Hammel (7), Alex (14) and Andrea (12) Garcia, Kaily Banegas (12), and Doc (not telling). Doc missed Wyatt Banegas' warning about water in the cave and went in right up to her

Great weather marked the day. Hot chocolate and cookies back at the Rec ended it. No mountain lions, no snakes, and few band-aids—perfect winter day hiking up the much-loved mountain.

BARONA'S 2ND ANNUAL COMMUNITY CULTURE NIGHT

Bringing our communities together through culture"

Please Join us for Bird Singing, Dancing, and Dinner

Thursday, February 19th 2009 Barona Gymnasium The event starts at 5pm

Main Dish is provided, but feel free to bring a side dish, drinks, or a dessert if you desire.



This event is open to all Southern California Tribal and Community Members and Tribal Members of the Yuman language Family. If you have any questions or would

like more information contact Rich @ 619-443-7003 ext.2

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Choctaw Stickball

4649 Hawley Blvd, San Diego, CA • 4:30 p.m (Meet in Park)

Activities -Council Announcement Wild Cat Month (chata) Feb Choctaw Shirt by Eileen

Program - Clothing Exchange (Bring Items to exchange)

Barter Services

Sign Up - Choctaw Stickball

Gen. Info - uBanumpa Mahlu Holisso Tok-Chihowa a haknip imma isht ai in tikba uhleha

Words from above-Creator is above all (chata) (Choctaw Bible)

Hours - Every Wed 4:30 p.m. Spring & Summer

Donations - 619-825-9235 • cell 619-417-7738

Volunteers/Staff

Choctaw Institute Culture Bobby Highfill & Family& Friend(Chata/Commanche), Ronnie Murphy (Assiniboine), Eileen George (Chata), Nichol Minyard (Chickasaw), Carol Wesley (Chata)

The 1-21-09 practice turned out nice. We did stretches with the kobocca. A story on the legend of the Game of "Toli". "Chikasha & Chata two brothers were out together, it involve observing an alligator preying on its prey and the brothers together form the hickory stick and leather ball (source Dr. Ken York-Chata) by Bobby Highfill - Coach Carol Wesley sang a ole chata verse for the group one of her mother's baby chata song!

YouTube video brings message of destruction on reservation

The Schaghticoke Tribal Nation
Preservation Committee would like to
inform you that we have established a
YouTube channel in which we have placed
a video of some of the destruction that has
been occurring on our Reservation. I
would like to invite you all to view this
video as well as asking you all to circulate
the site to your friends, family, and supporters to view as well. It is very heartbreaking to watch.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WZ 16KGv8vGA

In Peace, Katherine Saunders, STN Preservation Chairman

Make your voice heard: Early Stage Town Hall Meeting

On Saturday February 21st 2009, the Alzheimer's Association is hosting the first ever local open forum for people with early memory loss, Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. If you have early memory loss, early stage Alzheimer's or a related dementia, this is a chance for you to connect with others who understand the Alzheimer's experience; discuss the issues that matter most to you; and help the Alzheimer's Association best serve you. A panel featuring a clinician, a physician and a person with Alzheimer's will also be available to respond to your questions and concerns

Register by February 14, 2009 for this

free-of-charge, one-day only event. Saturday, February 21st, 2009 • 10:00am – 1:00pm

University of San Diego Manchester Conference Center

5998 Alcala Park, San Diego, CA 92110

To register call: 858.492.4400 *refreshments and a light lunch will be provided.

Anouncing or new AIR Program website

Dear Community Partners,

We would like to announce our newer AIR Program website. It provides all our content that we have had before and additional information for our community on what we have accomplished, our stats, and a calendar of our events. We hope you enjoy this. Finally, our AIR Sr. and AIR Jr. program schedules are posted for this spring and our tutorial program information is posted as well. If you have any questions please contact us at info@air-programs.org and visit our website at www.airprograms.org. See you soon.

Sincerely, Dwight K.Lomayesva, Executive Director

American Indian Recruitment Programs www.airprograms.org • info@airprograms.org

619-300-6927

Be inspired to be the change you seek.

Registration for volunteers, exhibitors, sponsor and advertisers and the Children's Earth Day Parade is now open online at http://earthdayweb.org

Other special areas open for registration are: eARTh (earth art) and the Cleaner Car Concourse.

The EarthFair in Balboa Park is produced by the efforts of hundred of volunteers in service for the San Diego EarthWorks mission: creating a clean, healthy, prosperous future.

Contact: Carolyn Chase 858-272-7370, cdc@earthdayweb.org

Special needs: Seeking volunteer coordinator for the Children's Earth Day Parade

Be fun, have fun, do fun: http://www.earthparade.org

Candlelight Vigil draws groups from throughout Indian Country

John Gomez, Jr. and Rick Cuevas contributed to this story

TEMECULA, CA – Nearly 150 people, Indian and non-Indian alike, gathered in front of the Pechanga Resort and Casino on January 24th in a peaceful protest for Indian civil rights. Those in attendance represented tribes from throughout California and other parts of Indian Country.

"It gives me great pleasure to be involved in this event," stated Allen Mitchell, Muscogee Creek (Freedmen) who was kicked out of his tribe in 1979. "The presence of so many elders and children from the many different reservations makes a statement to Indian Country and our elected officials that this issue needs to be addressed or many more will fall victim to the actions of corrupt tribal officials."

The event, which was advertised as a candlelight vigil, was called to draw attention to the growing number of human and civil rights violations occurring in Indian Country. The violations, which include the denial of such basic rights as due process and equal protection, have contributed to the growing number of disenrollments, banishments, and denial of membership that have swept through Indian Country. In California alone, nearly 2500 Indian people have been stripped of their tribal citizenship since the approval and expansion of Indian Gaming in 2000. Additionally, thousands more have been denied their birthright as tribes close their roles in an attempt to limit the number of those who benefit from Indian Gaming.

"Considering the weather, it is good to see so many people willing to brave the cold and the possibility of rain and come together for such an important issue. There are people here from tribes up and down the State of California , and there are even representatives from tribes in Arizona , Oklahoma , and Nevada ," stated John Gomez, Jr., one of the events organizers.

While the protesters braved the elements and lined the sidewalk across from the casino, Tribal leaders were inside at a

reception for U.S. Senator Daniel Inouye (Dem- HI) and his wife. The reception was the culmination of a two-day conference on self governance and working with the Obama administration.

"Many of the people you see here sent in requests to Senator Inouye and the Obama administration requesting to meet with them while they were here for the conference. We received no response from Senator Inouye nor from the Obama Administration," said John Gomez, Jr. "I and many other Obama supporters in attendance held out hope that the President and his administration would be true to his word regarding basic rights and grass roots campaigns. Unfortunately, it looks like the same old politics."

Hundreds of passersby honked and waved to those gathered, and many asked for information while stopped at intersections at both ends of the event. Event attendees handed out leaflets and flyers describing the violations of basic rights committed by tribal officials, and many people were directed to visit internet sites such as the Original Pechanga Blog, Pechanga.Info, and TribalCorruption.com to get more information.

At the close of the vigil, thanks were given to all those who attended and commitments were made to hold more events and to continue the struggle for Indian civil rights.

"It would have been nice if Senator Inouye or the Obama Administration would have responded to our requests, but this event was a good start to 2009 and provided an opportunity to re-connect with old friends and to welcome new people to the fight for Indian rights. This event was also significant in that it was filmed and many of the attendees were interviewed for an upcoming documentary chronicling the growth of rights violations in Indian Country," said Gomez. "Now it's on to Sacramento for a February 5th event at the State Capitol."

For more information about this event and the February 5th event in Sacramento visit original pechanga. blog or www.pechanga.info.

KPBS is working with American Indian tribes in the San Diego area

WE SHALL REMAIN is a five-part, primetime PBS television series which will be broadcast this coming April, 2009. The program will present a multifaceted look at native ingenuity and perseverance over the course of more than three centuries. Each of the episodes focuses on important historical events and concludes with a short contemporary story that links the past to the present.

KPBS has launched a media and outreach campaign focused on the documentary WE SHALL REMAIN. Through this project, KPBS is working with American Indian tribes in the San Diego area to increase understanding and appreciation of the people, culture and history. They have established a WE SHALL REMAIN Working Group comprised of local Native groups and tribes, libraries, schools and educators, cultural

institutions, and others. The goal is to provide the public with resources and information and hold a high-profile, community-wide event under the banner of WE SHALL REMAIN.

The event will take place on Thursday, March 26th from 5:30-8:00 pm at the KPBS studios. KPBS is located at 5200 Campanile Drive in San Diego. This screening event will include clips from the program, native speakers and a panel discussion. Light refreshments will be served. The event is free and open to the public, and it will be first come, first served. For more information, please call 619.594.2487

UPTOWN VIEW

UPTown View of the 702 • Edited by Kena Adams • 702-787-6365 • kenaadams@indianvoices.net



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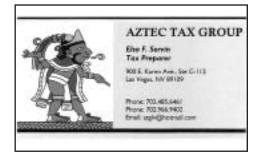
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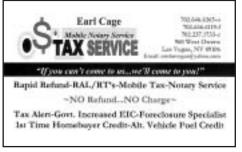


Manage Bland of Parates Vocational Rehabilitation Project INPLIT









Senator Reid reaches out to Tribes while pushing sustainable energy

Nevada has a deep heritage written into the earth beneath our feet. From the Great Basin to the Sierra Nevadas to the rocky hills that create the Las Vegas Valley, our state and the people who live in it know the richness of its landscape. Among our natural gifts is an abundance of sun, wind and geothermal energy waiting to be tapped. These energy resources are abundant and renewable, and they are clean and sustainable for future generations. Using these clean resources not only makes full use of the resources of our land, but also creates new jobs, protects us from spiking energy prices, and makes our state the leader in a global energy revolution.

The importance of our clean energy future, though, goes beyond all of this. The effort to foster change in the way we fuel our cars, heat our homes, and power our industries is the great challenge and opportunity of our time. It is the very future of Nevada, of the United States, and of the planet that we share.

In August, I hosted the National Clean Energy Summit at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. I looked forward to a time when the Congress, the president, and the people of America were ready to fundamentally change the way we see energy. With this new Congress and the inauguration of President Obama – those trusted with creating the change demanded by Nevadans – that time has come. I am working now, more than ever, to put Nevada at the forefront of clean and renewable energy.

In these times when all Nevadans,



President Barack Obama and Senator Harry Reid come together Inauguration Day

particularly those living on rural reservations, have been hit hard by economic downturn and unemployment, the development of a renewable energy industry has never been more critical. If just 20 percent of our nation's power came from renewable sources by 2020, we would create hundreds of thousands of direct jobs. With each new megawatt of geothermal power, 10 new jobs are created and each megawatt of solar and wind power create at least six new jobs. I know many tribes in Nevada and throughout the nation have begun to identify their resources and explore ways their communities can develop and use independent and sustainable energy sources. Developing these resources will provide jobs and improve housing, stabilize health care delivery and emergency services, and grow reservation economies. Today in Nevada, there are 57 operat-

Today in Nevada, there are 57 operating renewable energy projects, producing 400 megawatts of electricity. This power heats and cools 200,000 homes. But this is just the beginning. We are working in Congress to support solar, wind and geothermal energy to make them more viable and affordable. We have enough alternative energy projects planned in Nevada to make our state a net energy exporter in just seven years. Imagine the possibilities that creates for communities in our state that most need the hope of a brighter day.

All my work in Washington is driven by needs in Nevada. I will continue to make investments in clean energy technology a priority in Congress so that Nevada, including Nevada's tribes, can lead the way to a more sustainable and independent future.



Senator Reid hosts Nevada constitutents during inauguration.

We are astronauts on Spaceship Earth

by Jim Bel

Like any well-designed spaceship, ours has a life support system. Our planet's life support system is a solar powered recycling system. In this system the Sun provides the energy to recycle and renew the air we breathe, the water we drink, the food we eat and everything we want or care about.

Our planet's life support system is fundamental to everything we are and will ever be. It is the foundation of all history, culture, art, science, religion, and even the very process of consciousness becoming.

I believe we can create economies and ways of life that are fair, just, respectful, humane. We must work together to make it happen. When good people come together, the only limit is our imagination and consciousness. I am committed to taking a leadership role in this effort. I invite you to join me. We'll all feel better, and our children and future generations will thank

Download my free book Creating a Sustainable Economy and Future on our Planet. www.JimBell.com

Soaring Eagle Dance Project Appreciation

2008 Commitment for the Indian Children

by Roy Cook

The Soaring Eagle Dance and Regalia project is a Tribal cultural social dynamic. In this last days of the new 2009 year we reflect and state our sincere appreciation to those organizations and individuals who have demonstrated their commitment and dedication to the success of the Soaring Eagles, This support acknowledged below and the participation of committed members of the urban and rural community is in the best practice of the traditional Inter-tribal commitment process in action. We can see positive results in the character and interactive skills of the students compared to our summer beginning classes. No single effort by am individual can outshine the success of the group community commitment.

Traditionally in many American Indian communities many group projects and special tasks are done by social contract. In general context a volunteer is often defined as an unpaid helper. In the American Indian community public announcements are made at social gatherings and very often persons will pledge to participate and be a part of a Tribal group effort to accomplish goals for the betterment of the Tribe. Sometimes it is necessary to produce seed money to start the process and someone willing to shoulder the responsibility will call for a special song or pass

the hat for that agreed goal purpose.

Our constant intertribal future and motivation is our Indian children. We must do what we can to help them find their way in this modern society. Too many times the children and Indian families find themselves away from their home tribe for many social and individual reasons. Confidence and pride in our social identity is important to our continued survival as Indian people. But only with continued commitment will we see our young eagles continue to take wing.

Our sincere appreciation to those organizations and individuals who have demonstrated their commitment and dedication to the success of the Soaring Eagles is acknowledged with a Soaring Eagle feather for all our committed helpers!

2008 financial supporting organizations:

- Southern California Tribal Chairman Association, Inc, SCTCA
- Southern California American Indian Resource, Inc, SCAIR
- San Diego Unified School District Title VII Indian Education

2008 dedicated helpers:

- Vickie Gambala family
- Randy Edmond family
- Paul Razo family
- Frank Gastelem family

Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians: Securing the Future for Generations

Rincon would be the first American Indian Reservation to set ambitious targets and action plans to restore, preserve, reuse, reclaim and innovate to create a totally sustainable community by 2020. A community, which combines healthy, culturally relevant, family living, business and jobs, within the rural setting of the 5,000 acre Rincon Reservation.

As such, both the planning process and model would serve as a stimulant and example for other tribes.

More importantly, the Rincon people will be prepared to face the changes expected to come from climate change, energy and water shortages, and at the same time rediscover their ancestral pride, unity and ability to turn major challenges to the environment and existing social and economic structures into opportunities and sustainability for generations to come.

Sustainability Summary of elements for goal setting and implementation of a Vision statement and plan for the year 2020

Note: The green models and action are only cursory examples for use by the Rincon Sustainability Task Force and Green 2020 Community Plan

Goals

- 1. Carbon reduction/sustainable energy
- 2. Sustainable water
- 3. Waste reduction
- 4. Sustainable transporting
- 5. Sustainable materials
- 6. Local and sustainable food
- 7. Economic development
- 8. Sustainable culture and heritage
- 9. Health and leisure
- 10. Natural habitats and wildlife



2008 financial support from individuals and social clubs:

- San Diego Intertribal Singers
- Green River Singers
- American Indian Source.com
- American Indian Movement
- TONKAWA Council of Elders
- American Indian Warriors Association







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Empowering American Indian Families and Guardians of American Indian Children in San Diego County

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 - Residing within San Diego County?
 - Low income or guardian of an American Indian minor in need?

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