IndiVisible: African-Native American Lives in the Americas

The National Museum of the American Indian will launch the long anticipated opening of the Smithsonian Traveling Exhibition IndiVisible on November 13, 2009 in Washington D.C.

by Rose Davis

In association with Smithsonian IndiVisible Exhibition, a series of genealogical lectures researching blended families of African and Native American families began in September at the Smithsonian in Washington, DC and at the Gustave Center in New York. The lectures will continue until May 2010.

This is an important and enlightening exhibition about the intersection of African American and American Indian peoples and cultures. IndiVisible: African-Native American Lives in the Americas explores contemporary and historical stories of peoples and communities in the U.S., Central America the Caribbean, and the northern coast of South America.

The timing of the production is fortuitous as it will prepare the world for the Mayan prophecies to take place around December 2012 that predict that a new beginning will open a channel for universal energy to flow through the earth, cleansing it and all who dwell upon it. This will be a rebirth and start of the world of the Fifth Sun. This comes at a crucial period in time. Our society is unraveling at the seams, racial divisiveness reminiscent of Jim Crow America abounds. Our communities are awash in domestic violence, civil strife and social disharmony. The war between the enlightened and the frightened is escalating at an astonishing rate. Our mainstream media is choked by the dictates of gluttonous corporations with morbidly obese bank accounts who muffle any attempt to educate and inform the public of the realities of the world around them. Instead the void has been filled by crafty performers and self-proclaimed social commentators who have secured themselves as the voice of the nation while filling the airways with self serving divisive rhetoric. They are rewarded with ratings and money while suppressing the nations IQ.

In the meantime, social critics have been relegated to observing on the sidelines of society and have been waiting for the bubble to burst so that the truth of long suppressed cultures can be revealed and the medicinal power of education can be spread to those hungry for historical authenticity.

Phil Fixico Continues His Journey

How exciting it is that our own Indian Voices contributor and supporter and Peace Belt supplier, Trooper Phil Wilkes Fixico, Seminole Maroon Descendant, has been selected from among thousands of African-Native American descendants to be the subject of a meticulously done research project commissioned by the Smithsonian Institute’s Museum of Native American History and Culture. The exhibit will circulate throughout the Western Hemisphere where enslaved Africans escaped to local indigenous peoples and formed alliances, relationships and communities. The show is intended to demonstrate what happened and what is the result of this occurrence. It does this by revealing the documented histories of Indian and African forebearers and comparing their story with contemporary descendants. Phil was chosen to represent the Seminole Maroon experience. His researcher Professor Kevin Mulroy is the world’s foremost authority on this topic and he researched six generations of Phil’s family. The original essay was approximately 8,000 words which has been presented and is currently waiting to be published by the prestigious Society of Ethnohistorians. After publication, it will be included in the curriculums of universities around the world. The edited version is about 1,300 words. It is made to fit an exhibit containing a total of 27 essays, all of them, speak to various pairings, such as: African-Cherokee, African-Apache, etc, and other group combinations found throughout the Caribbean, Central America and Northern South America, such as: African-Taino and the African-Garifunas of Central America. This show will be conducted by the Smithsonian Institute’s Traveling Exhibition Services and will run for approximately five years servicing the areas that gave birth to these histories. It is a major and ground breaking effort.

The exhibit opens in Washington, DC, and New York City on November 10th, 2009. The book will soon be available in bookstores across the United States. It is scheduled to run in Los Angeles starting in March of 2011 at the California African American Museum. Thank you so much for your support and guidance Phil. Good luck and continued success.
Continued from page 1

The National Museum of the American Indian and the National Museum of African American History And Culture are bringing us that illustrous and historical moment.

The organizers and curators are:

Gabrielle Tayac, Ph.D. (Piscataway)
Dr. Tayac is a historian for the Smithsonian’s National Museum of the American Indian. Her work centers on historical approaches to identity issues with indigenous societies.

Robert Keith Collins, Ph.D. (African-Choktaw descent)
Assistant professor of American Indian Studies at San Francisco State University. Dr. Collins’ research includes African and Native American interactions in North and South America, as well as the formation of individuals’ public and private identities.

Penny Gamble-Williams (Chappaquiddick/Wampanoag)
Ms Gamble-Williams is the executive director of Ohke Cultural Network, Inc. An educator, artist and community activist, her work focuses on Native and African American historical connections.

Angela A. Gonzales, Ph.D. (Hopi)
Dr. Gonzales is an assistant professor of Development Sociology and American Indian Studies at Cornell University. Her latest research explores the creation and manifestation of conceptual categories of race.

Judy Kertesz
A PhD. Candidate in the history of American civilization at Harvard University and assistant professor of History at North Carolina State University, Ms. Kertesz’s work focuses on colonial, revolutionary, and antebellum U.S. cultural history, American Indian histories and cultures, Public History, Material Culture, and African American Studies.

This team has created an exhibition that sheds light on the dynamics of race, community, culture, and creativity and addresses the human desire to belong. With compelling text and powerful graphics, the exhibition includes accounts of cultural diffusion and integration as well as the struggle to define and preserve identity. Stories are set within the context of a larger society that, for centuries, has viewed people through the prism of race brought by European settlers to the Western Hemisphere.

By combining the voices of the living with those of their ancestors, the exhibition provides an extraordinary opportunity to understand contemporary perspectives and the history of people of African and Native American descent.

Buffalo Soldiers

Buffalo Soldiers originally were members of the U.S. 10th Cavalry Regiment of the United States Army, formed on September 21, 1866 at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. The nickname was given by the Native American tribes they fought; the term eventually came to include six units:

- 9th Cavalry Regiment
- 10th Cavalry Regiment
- 24th Infantry Regiment
- 25th Infantry Regiment
- 27th Cavalry Regiment
- 28th Cavalry Regiment

Although several African-American regiments were raised during the Civil War to fight alongside the Union Army (including the 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry and the many United States Colored Troops Regiments), the “Buffalo Soldiers” were established by Congress as the first peacetime all-black regiments in the regular U.S. Army. On September 6, 2005, Mark Matthews, who was the oldest living Buffalo Soldier, died at the age of 111. He was buried at Arlington National Cemetery.
Kumeyaay at Point Loma

Cabrillo Day 2009

by Roy Cook

Auka, friends and family. Champion Wildcat singer Jon Meza Cuero fulfilled all expectations September 26, 2009. Invited by the US Parks Point Loma committee to be a significant part of the 46th annual Cabrillo Day recognition. Superintendent Tom Workman is there to greet us. He and Karl Pierce are familiar faces from the Parks service. All the singers are pleased to be part of this recognition again.

Jon respectfully greets Tribal elder Jane Dumas and exchanges pleasantries in Tipai. They are both native fluent speakers of the local dialect. Jane Dumas continues to demonstrate her commitment to this celebration again and again. She participates in many of the activities that offer avenues to tribal traditional ways. She is a very traditional tribal person. She is an outstanding representative of the ongoing drama of tribal Americans in a complex urban context. She has endured for many decades. We are blessed each time we can be together. The wind blows free, the sun warms our backs, the rocks remain and the songs sound again. We can look out across the bay and see the historical event carried by the songs selected by Jon Meza Cuero. We are convinced there are ancient ears listening to the songs. Our goal is to comfort and entertain all past, current and future peoples who hear these timeless Niemii songs.

Tribally-Owned Commercial Print Shop – Hi Rez Digital Solutions

Hi Rez Digital Solutions opened its doors to the public in October 2003 as the first collaborative for-profit business venture with The Southern California Tribal Chairmen's Association (SCTCA), a non-profit agency representing 18 Native American tribes in the San Diego County area. Located in Vista, CA, Hi Rez Digital Solutions provides high quality, fully digital printing and marketing services which include design, wide-format printing, and mail-house services to customers nationwide while generating job training opportunities and income for the local tribal community. Hi Rez Digital Solutions is part of the Tribal Digital Village that emerged from a three year partnership between the SCTCA and Hewlett Packard. Our goal is to provide growth, opportunity and profitability for our customers by creating innovative marketing solutions. We can help you achieve superior results by being dynamic, flexible, fast and cost-effective.

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Indian group says it will abandon ancestral home

by Cain Burdeau, Associated Press Writer

NEW ORLEANS, LA – After 170 years fishing and crabbing in southern Louisiana's swamps and marshes, a group of American Indians repeatedly flooded by hurricanes says it is intent on moving from its ancestral island home.

The band's chief said Sept. 22 that the group is seeking to start a new life as a community behind levees on higher ground.

A migration inland would symbolize one of the most obvious defeats in south Louisiana's losing battle with land loss and hurricanes. The Mississippi River Delta, on which south Louisiana sits, has lost about 2,000 square miles of marsh and swamp since the 1930s.

But relocation was inevitable, said Albert Naquin, the chief of the Isle de Jean Charles Band of Biloxi-Chitimacha-Chocataw. He said the marsh community had been flooded five times in the past six years. About 25 families still call it home.

Naquin said the tribe hoped to use about $12 million in federal aid to build 60 homes on 50 acres in Bourg, which is about 10 miles inland.

But many details had to be worked out and the plan was not a done deal. Naquin said Terrebonne Parish and state officials would have to sign off on it.

State Sen. Butch Gautreaux, D-Morgan City, said he was working with the tribe and Louisiana congressional members to get the relocation plan executed.

Christina Stephens, a spokeswoman for the Louisiana Recovery Authority, said she was unfamiliar with the tribe's plans, but that funds for relocation could come from a variety of federal sources. Michael Claudet, the Terrebonne Parish president, said he was unfamiliar with the details.

Officials with the Federal Emergency Management Agency did not immediately comment.

Windell Curole, a coastal manager and hurricane expert, said Isle de Jean Charles would be the latest town in a long list to retreat from Louisiana's sinking and hurricane-threatened coast.

"We've been retreating a lot in south Louisiana," Curole said. "People have moved to the high ground."

Naquin said the road to the village has been battered and reduced to one lane. Even in modest bad weather, the road can flood, he said. The church was relocated after Hurricane Rita in 2005, and the fire station has been closed.

"I don't think they want to spend any more money out there," Naquin said about federal officials.

He said the relocation plan calls for moving the band of American Indians into prefabricated homes.

"These are real homes," he said. "We won't have to move for a couple of hundred years, hopefully."

Moving to Bourg, he said, might bring the community back together. He said many residents had been displaced and were scattered.

Moving to the land in Bourg "would be a displacement, but it wouldn't be as much if we went way out into a subdivision," he said.

C. Ray Brassieur, an anthropologist at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, said there was the danger that Louisiana's traditional folk were being displaced by land loss.

"We need to watch if the indigenous population will be replaced with these weekend fun seekers," he said. "If they are bumped out so we can have some big fancy marinas placed there, that doesn't seem right to me."

He said a plan to remain close to the marsh was a good one. "Id rather they do that than go into some mobile home park in a metropolitan area," Brassieur said.

The tribe's first families, made up of French and American Indians, moved to the island around 1840, Naquin said. The tribe remained sequested for the next century when a road was built to it in the 1950s, Naquin said.

Naquin, 62, recalled how secluded the location was. "We didn't get electricity until I was 16 years old."

The tribe, as with many other American Indians in south Louisiana, is not recognized by the BIA.

Documentary on Gang Violence

by Latasha James

Jimmie James is one of Los Angeles' outstanding photographers and videographers. He is CORE/California staff photographer and news director and video news cameraman. Mr. James has worked with many celebrities such as Frank Sinatra Jr. and Sid Milton. He also worked on various video productions. Jimmie James has experienced violence in a way that most of us never will. He has seen it on the streets, and he has seen the way it affects kids. All around him, he has seen gang violence destroy families and lives. So he decided to do something about it.

James used the most powerful tool at his disposal to combat violence in the streets, his camera. With no budget and little help he put his heart on his sleeve and went to work. For his efforts he received the Award of Distinction from the Videographer awards. Mr. James work was selected from over 2,300 entries in the April 2006 competition. As a free lance videographer and a member of the PPAGLA, Jimmie James wrote, produced, directed, shot and edited the documentary titled “OG refuses to Give up The Shop”. The 50 minute documentary on Gang Violence provides, improves and ultimately prevents the need for foster care, is seeking an Administrative Assistant in our Indian Child Welfare Programs (ICWP) office located in Broomfield, CO. This Administrative Assistant will provide administrative and accounting support to ICWP team members located in various Casey Family Programs offices.

Qualifications: High School Diploma and at least three years of experience in an administrative support position are required, along with excellent communications, interpersonal, writing, grammar and word processing skills.

How to Apply: Please visit our online job board at www.casey.org/AboutUs/WorkAtCasey, click on Employment Opportunities, and search for “Administrative Assistant”.

www.casey.org/AboutUs/WorkAtCasey
Manzanita 2009 Matyayum

by Roy Cook

Mountain chaparral defines the Manzanita Indian Nation green environment. This, September 19, 2009, is a joyful celebration of youth, tribal culture and long time friends gathering to be what we are, Indian people. A revitalization phenomenon is the organized programs of language, song, and culture on many of the 21 San Diego Indian reservations.

Anthony Pico

There is a good representation of families and dancers who attend the Soaring Eagle dance classes here today. They enjoy the opportunity to learn the Intertribal songs and dance styles. The Soaring Eagles group is sponsored by: Southern California American Indian Resource, SCAIR. Organized by Vickie Gambala, SDUSD Indian Education. Residents of Campo and Manzanita and Viejas travel to Old Town San Diego on Tuesday night for the dance classes. They are free and everyone is welcome to attend.

In the late afternoon, there are happy youthful faces with the evidence of pies devoured. They were pleased to win prize tally sticks. In the watermelon and pie eating contest later that night. The term “Peon” is from the associated identification of the European to the hidden bones in the guessing game. They thought they looked like pawns, as in chess. Baja, and youth teams were assembled and redefined for the competition. 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.

During the dinner break, Anthony Pico provided the blessing and spoke to the group. He related how it felt good to be able to gather joyfully and not just at a wake or funeral. Yet, at the same time, we must keep our relatives constantly in our hearts and minds. Their wisdom and struggles were for our benefit. Just as we must keep in mind our future hopes, our Indian children.

This is a good day to see faces from our 60s generation group. Some familiar friends from this reservation have been under health care recently. Both Leroy and his brother Nick Elliot had the plumbing of their tickers over hauled. We are very glad to report that both are coming along better and their hearts are doing well too.

Leroy Elliot led off the Bird singing with family and friends from near and far in the line of singers. There were other styles and singers of Southern California and Colorado River songs sung this evening. Some sang as counterpoint, at the same time, and others as a distinct variation of the Bird song.

There was a fine turn out of teams gathered for the Peon contests later that night. The term “Peon” is from the associated identification of the European to the hidden bones in the guessing game. They thought they looked like pawns, as in chess. Baja, and youth teams were assembled and redefined for the competition. 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.

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The Last Indian Trader Ruined by Park Service Incompetence

Lawsuit Filed to Unearth Suppressed IG Report into Agency Misconduct

WASHINGTON, DC — One of the very last authentic Indian traders was put out of business by a misguided and inept National Park Service (NPS) investigation, but the attempt to right the wrongs has stalled in years of bureaucratic foot-dragging, according to Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER). Today PEER filed a federal lawsuit against the Interior Department Office of Inspector General (IG) under the Freedom of Information Act to force it to release its long-completed report into the fiasco.

Billy Malone was one of the last of the real Indian Traders formerly employed by Western National Parks Association (WNPA) as the resident trader at Hubble Trading Post National Historic Site in Ganado, Arizona. Indian traders are a vanishing tradition of the Old West, and the national historic site at Hubble Trading Post was a congressionally-mandated effort to keep that tradition alive.

By all accounts, Malone was one of the most experienced and trusted Indian traders on the Navajo Reservation, renowned for commitment to old-time trading ways that had long been encouraged by the National Park Service and even former WNPA officials. But he got crosswise with Jim Babbitt, brother of a former Interior Secretary and then chair of the WNPA board. The Association sparked a formal Park Service probe when it claimed large losses attributable to an alleged embezzlement scheme by Malone. The assigned NPS Special Agent, Clyde Yee, bungled the job, failing to assess if a theft had even occurred, and compounded matters by using false information to support a search warrant and then seizing from Malone a life-savings in personal property not even listed in the warrant.

Malone was fired and kicked out of his home but no charges were ever brought against him. After a year and a half, another Special Agent was brought in to take over the investigation, uncovering glaring defects in the earlier investigation, including the concealment of exculpatory evidence and finding the losses claimed by WNPA were likely the result of their own accounting errors. Since high-level NPS officials were also implicated in the misconduct and cover-up, this re-investigation was taken over by a special unit of the Office of Inspector General in November 2006. That report was completed in 2008 but never released.

On August 27, 2009, Billy Malone filed a wide-ranging civil lawsuit in federal district court in Arizona against individual current and former Park Service employees, two government attorneys, and the Western National Parks Assn. and its top officials, including Babbitt. The suit alleges violation of constitutional rights, defamation and conspiracy and asks for punitive damages as well.

Meanwhile, for the last three months, PEER has attempted in vain to obtain the same IG report exonerating Malone and castigating the actions that led to his ouster. Today, PEER filed a separate lawsuit to force its disclosure.

“The Inspector General is supposed to be part of the solution to government malfeasance but in this case the IG is part of the problem,” stated PEER Executive Director Jeff Ruch, whose organization has two other Freedom of Information Act lawsuits pending against the Interior IG. “President Obama promised his administration would act with renewed transparency, but this IG apparently never got that memo.”

Reservation Transportation Authority

Serving Southern California Tribes

In Southern California, Native American tribes, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), and the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) are taking an active approach to building relationships and improving coordination in transportation planning. Tribal governments established the Reservation Transportation Authority (RTA), a consortium of 24 tribes, in order to pool resources and more effectively coordinate on transportation issues.

Reservation Transportation Authority
28860 Old Town Front Street
Temecula, CA.
Phone: 951-308-1442
Forcing the Task Force

by Joey Racano

Having arrived a day early, I found myself first staring at a blazing San Francisco sunset and then at hearing the next morning to a multitude of hungry fisherman hauling poor shark after shark out of the bay and slamming them unceremoniously to the asphalt pavement that was Pier 28. I wrestled with the notion of running over and tossing them back into the life-giving waters, but knew it was no use. I turned away, feeling like a friend was dying in the street - and I guess he was.

In Deep Water

Most people will tell you they know the oceans are in deep water. Some will say we need more studies. Of course, the people who say more studies are usually the people who actually do those studies for a living and even when they do them, they always conclude by saying, “The results of our study show ‘more studies needed!’”

As he fends off hecklers and nuts with automatic weapons who stand outside his speeches, President Obama has finally gotten around to creating and mobilizing his “Inter-Agency Ocean Policy Task Force”, whose job it is to listen to the scientists, experts and public, and use that input to shape ocean protection, scientists and biostitutes force listened as elected officials spoke of many around to creating and mobilizing his ‘Inter-Agency Ocean Policy Task Force’, whose job it is to listen to the scientists, experts and public, and use that input to formulate an all-encompassing plan to do no less than save the oceans.

The first meeting of the IOPTF was held in San Francisco yesterday at the Hyatt Embarcadero, same place the California Coastal Commission voted to deny San Diego another sewage ‘waiver’ last month, and yes, I was there. Waivers of the Federal Clean Water Act, like the one San Diego uses to dump filthy human sewage into the ocean, are part of a pattern of reckless behavior that has led to oceans in crisis.

And of course, the corruption runs deep too, instead of cleaning up the sewage, San Diego Mayor Jerry Sanders has re-submitted another waiver application, and the Coastal Commission will hear it -yet again - on October 7th, at Carlsbad California City Council chambers. And yes, I will again be there! But surely, I digress...

Historic Meeting

Zipping up and down the State of California in our ‘Scacciaibong’ (RV), we made sure to attend this historic meeting as well as the Ocean Protection Council meeting held just prior. Inside, the task force listened as elected officials spoke of ocean protection, scientists and biostitutes spoke of new things to study, and environmentalists from far-flung places detailed their struggles.

But many of the standing-room only crowded were ordinary citizens, some young, some old, but none of them were really buying into what amounted to a bill of goods being sold there at the Embarcadero Hyatt.

Like the taxis waiting along the curb out front of the palacial digs, somehow out in the shadows, toxic polluters, long liners, shark finners, dolphin killers, Navy sonar whale-ear blasters, they were all lined up out there too, waiting for the lip service to be over.

Waiting for the media lights to point back at the latest abduction, school murder or winner of American Idol, so they could resume their struggles.

Real Hope

The real hope, I knew was outside the building, where a mob-scene of colorful acoustic costumes swam the streets of San Francisco, now leaping clear of the waves, now duck-diving ‘neath a passing MUNI Bus or Trolley. Winding my camera and nursing a coffee, I jogged out into the city air, where hope wore the costume of a Sockeye Salmon and tomorrow held a surfboard emblazoned with the words:

HEALTHY OCEAN=HEALTHY SURFERS.

I gathered 30 or so of the different species into a school and snapped the above photo, one that I knew would reflect the desperate mood of a melancholy ocean, gasping for breath.

And of all the messages given and taken from the first listening-session of President Obama’s Inter Agency Ocean Policy Task Force, perhaps the most simple and straight forward was the one I gave on the 5:00 evening news, to KTVU Health and Science Editor John Fowler: “What’s the message of all this?”

No Nukes

Matters of Controversy presents
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with Special Guest:
HELEN CALDICOTT
NUCLEAR POWER IS NOT THE ANSWER TO GLOBAL WARMING!
Friday Oct 23, 2009 7:30 pm
The single most articulate and passionate advocate of citizen action to remedy the nuclear and environmental crises, Dr Helen Caldicott, has devoted the last 38 years to an international campaign to educate the public about the medical hazards of the nuclear age and the necessary changes in human behavior to stop environmental destruction.

Born in Melbourne, Australia in 1938, Dr Caldicott received her medical degree from the University of Adelaide Medical School in 1961. She founded the Cystic Fibrosis Clinic at the Adelaide Children’s Hospital in 1975 and subsequently was an instructor in pediatrics at Harvard Medical School and on the staff of the Children’s Hospital Medical Center, Boston, Mass. In 1980 she resigned to work full time on the prevention of nuclear war.

While living in the United States from 1977 to 1986, she co-founded the Physicians for Social Responsibility, an organization of 23,000 doctors committed to educating their colleagues about the dangers of nuclear power, nuclear weapons and nuclear war. On trips abroad she helped start similar medical organizations in many other countries. The international umbrella group (International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War) won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1985.

Author of seven books, she also founded the Women’s Action for Nuclear Disarmament (WAND) in the US in 1980. Helen Caldicott: http://www.helen-caldicott.com/about.htm

Global Network Against Weapons & Nuclear Power in Space
http://www.space4peace.org/
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858-279-4816
Kearny Mesa
Soaring Eagles Savor Seaweed

by Ray Cook

The Soaring Eagle parents, students and supporters of the dance-regalia program took a break from the pow wow trail. For some this was a kickoff weekend at the 15th Annual Pacific Islanders Festival, PTF. Yes, several food dishes contained seaweed.

The Soaring Eagles have been attending the local and some Arizona pow wows for the past summer. Encouraged by the enthusiasm and commitment of the students and parents, the Soaring Eagles Savor Seaweed.

The stated purposes and objectives of the Pacific Islander Festival Association is to provide charitable, educational and cultural resources to everyone, to actively participate in the promotion and perpetuation of the traditional cultures, ancient historical data, languages, attitudes and values of the Indigenous People of Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia.

Hunger at Home Gala II

Our mission is to reach out to our community and create awareness about the hunger crisis our world is facing, and educate the community on health and nutrition in their everyday lives. To become one as a culturally diverse community in recognition of hunger as an international concern, while creating an immediate focus locally.

All proceeds raised will go to the following charities and Non-Profit organizations that help feed and educate the hungry in San Diego, CA: Network for a Healthy California; 211 San Diego; San Diego Rescue Mission; Feeding America; Embrace, and Monarch School.

For further info contact Ewell Sterner sanphunger@hilton.com 858-450-4521

Walk of the Warrior draws a courageous and committed base

While Walk of the Warrior has been in prelaunch mode it has caught the attention of many socially concerned beings, eager to preserve the indigenous culture, while offering healing to those who have been damaged by the ravages of drug and alcohol abuse. Gradually this assemblage of supporters are coming together under the watchful eye of founder Wolf. "We are gathering a special group of healers, practitioners and advocates who understand and incorporate the spiritual lifestyle in their everyday life," he says.

Two people who have demonstrated an interest in being actively involved are Lonnie and Verna Street. Lonnie says "we are starting our journey as a drug and alcohol free family." Lonnie, who is Meskwaki from Tama, Iowa, has been Sun Dancing for seven years and is a Northern traditional dancer. Verna is from the Eastern Bank of Cherokee in North Carolina and is a Fancy Shawl dancer.

Not only has this duo been through recovery but they are traditionalists who are committed to a life free from drugs and alcohol. They are looking to give back to the community by choosing a career in drug and alcohol education. They are seeking the path to school to receive credentials to become drug and alcohol counselors. The strength that they possess is magnified by their strong tie to the indigenous culture. As pow wow dancers they are in tune with their spiritual selves and disciplined enough to balance their life in a healthy way.

It is this caliber of moral power and courage that will sustain Walk of the Warrior as it grows and develops," says Wolf. "I look forward to working with Lonnie as a member of the Board of Directors of Walk of the Warrior."

Several other candidates are lined up as Wolf builds the organization, which will include a 12 step model of recovery for alcohol and substance abuse, outreach brought from Native Americans to Natives, instruction in tribal ceremonies and healings for the purpose of cleansing, purification, and detoxification from alcohol and chemicals.

Awareness pow wows on reservations with tribal dancers, drum groups, bird singers teach and encourage self-empowerment. Details can be found on Walk of the Warriors' website www.walkofthewarriors.com.

Walk of the Warrior is looking for resources both human and financial. Your contributions give strength. Contact Wolf for further information 310-866-7057.

Look forward to the next issue for a new WOTW profile

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Indian Voices • October 2009

The 13th Annual Soboba Payomkawichum Powwow. What a grand setting for a celebration of our American Indian culture. This Indian Nation is located across the dry river and at the foot of 10,000 feet San Jacinto. The Soboba Elders, Tribal council, powwow Chairperson Rosemary Morillo and the Soboba Casino hosted this September 17-20, last days of summer, expression of Tribal pride and hospitality. This is truly a fine place to winter!

Included in the first presentations on Saturday are many members of the Soaring Eagle tots, Moms and babies. A number of Dads’s also held the hand of this picture perfect contest where all are winners.

Soaring Eagles parents and teachers appreciate this opportunity to share our pride of the Indian children dancers at the Soboba Powwow. The Soaring Eagles group is sponsored by: Southern California American Indian Resource, SCAIR. Organized by Vickie Gambala, SDUSD Indian Education. The head instructor is Edward ‘Chuck’ Cadotte. Randy Edmonds is the, SCAIR Senior advisor and many times provides the blessing for the Soaring Eagle evening gatherings.

The Soboba Elders awarded a gift for all the winners. Bags of goodies were hauled away by the tiny tots with smiles and respectful handshakes.

Our Soaring Eagles dance group is pleased to participate and support the Soboba annual powwow. Our good friend Ernie Salgado is a member of this reservation. He has long been associated with: AHMIUM Education, Inc. This education program was established in 1975 and has proudly served the indigenous California Native American Indian community for more than 33 years.

Ernie is also the CEO of APAPAS Development Co. This is a privately owned Native American Indian company. They specialize in professional consulting services, strategic communications for government and cultural relations. Also, they offer effective marketing strategies in the Digital Age. APAPAS is located on the Soboba Indian Reservation in Southern California.

On June 19, 1883, the United States by Executive Order established what is now the Soboba Reservation. They celebrated their 126th Anniversary on July 26, 2009. The Soboba Community Sports Complex also hosts the NIAA (National Indian Athletics Association). Another part of the Soboba Community is The Oaks Retreat, which has several sports fields and facilities that can be used for conferences and sports activities.

Soboba Powwow Emcee, Tom Phillips explained, “How the dancers finish a song is crucial. It has to be instant with the drum beat.” He has emceed close to 30 powwows a year for the last 25 years. “I am a Kiowa-Apache and Muscogee Creek from Oklahoma, so these pow wows are part of my culture. It comes naturally.”

The Jingle dance originated with the Ojibwa Nation in the Great Lakes and traditionally is a dance for healing people with health problems that witnessed the dance. Ezhi - piitendaagwak Bmaadzawin-precious life.
The Kingbird singer songs and the jingle dancers brought wellness into the arena. Tom Phillips announced that Jim Red Eagle had a health crisis the day before in the arena. Jim is a long time Northern traditional dancer and organizer. We all wish him a quick recovery from his heart complications. Tom asked for wellness, for all to dance and have a good time at the Soboba Pow wow.

The Honor guard at the grand entry consisted of Northern and Southern Traditional dancers in regalia. They led in a huge number of dancers in all of the competing categories: Women and Men Traditional, Buckskin dress, cloth dress, Grass dancers, Jingle dancers and Fancy feather dancers. All age categories were represented along with Tiny tots and Elders.

The fresh west breeze kept the arena comfortable for socializing with new and long time friends like Louie Andrade. Along with him are our friend Ron Andrade and his sister. Ron secured the first Title IV Indian Education program for the San Diego Unified District 25 years ago. This is a very fine afternoon and evening at Soboba.

Mieyu, Mehan, Aho and thank you my friends and relatives.

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CSEA, one of San Diego Unified School Districts Unions, a Positive and Necessary Force in our Community

by Erika Culley, CPRO, CSEA Chapter 759

The California School Employee Association is the largest classified school employee union in the United States and the second largest union in California. CSEA represents about 230,000 members in 750 volunteer run chapters. This union was started in Oakland, California in 1927 by a group of custodians who felt the need to have rights and benefits for the classified school employee. As you can tell, this union is still going strong. We joined the AFL-CIO in 2001. There are 3 chapters in San Diego Unified School District. Next to Los Angeles, San Diego Unified is the second largest school district in California. The chapter I belong to, Chapter 759 San Diego Paraeducators also belongs to the local labor council.

There are over 2700 Paraeducators in the San Diego Unified School District. Who are Paraeducators and what is it that we do? We are the support staff for teachers in helping children reach their potentials. I am a special education technician. I work with young adults 18 – 21 with special needs out in the community. The program I work for TRACE (transition resources for adult community education) would not be successful if not for the Paraeducators. I have been doing this work for almost 10 years. I have been a member of the Union for about 7 years. What brought me to being part of the Union? I was paying dues and I wanted to see what the union was doing for me. Unbelievably the union did a lot.

SDUSD has one of the best benefit packages in the state. The Union working with the school district negotiated this package at a time when the cost of health-care was very challenging yet we do it because we love our jobs and the children we help. Without us, teachers would not be able to do what they do nor would children have the extra support that is crucial for them. But when it comes to budget cuts, we are one of the first group on the chopping block. This is a sad state of affairs for a very important group of workers that work just as hard as teachers in helping children reach their potentials.

A “Teen” Drive For Diabetes

by Earl Heath

MASHANTUCKET, CT – They came from all corners of the Northeast. Part-time golfers, full-time businessmen and women took the day off to participate in the fourth annual “Drive for Diabetes Golf Tournament” at the beautiful Lake of Isles Golf Course at Foxwoods and MGM Grand at Foxwoods hosted by the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation.

David LaVine came from Orange, New Jersey to meet with friends. He was part of the 280 golfers in the tournament. “It’s for a great cause,” said LaVine. “I also get a chance to challenge a great course.”

The Reese Jones designed course is a marvel and can challenge any golfer with its steep hills and wide sand traps. Other participants included former New York Giants O.J. Anderson, Felipe Sparks, Boston Red Sox Louise Tiant and former NBA Rookie of the Year Ernie DeGregorio. Also present was former UConn star and Chicago Bull Scott Burrell. Burrell played with Ray Allen of the Celtics.

“Diabetes hits everyone,” said Richard Sebastian, MPTN Tribal Council member. “It has no holds barred and can strike at any moment in someone’s life.”

Over 57 million American adults have pre-diabetes. With weight loss and increased physical activity they can prevent or delay diabetes. Hispanics are at greatest risk at over 26% with whites at 25%, African Americans at 23% and American Indians at 16.5%. It has been discovered that American Indians are greatly affected by region with diabetes being at a low 6% among Alaskans.

The star of the day was 14 year old Brittney Falcigno. She has diabetes since the age of one. Now in her teen years, she has a pump inside her that gives a continuous flow of insulin so she can have a lot of normal days.

Falcigno is also a softball pitcher which is one of the most stressful positions on the field. On pitching days she discards her pump. “My biggest fear is to be on the pitchers rubber and fall flat on my face,” said Falcigno. “I also fear hitting someone with a wild pitch. I have to try to correct my blood sugar before each game.”

Young Brittney is gallant. She may not be able to drive like most teens, but she sure has the desire. The teen hopes to help others with her disease. Her closing statement said it all.

“Today we are here for the same dream. Let’s make it a reality. My name is Brittney Falcigno. I am fourteen years old and I have diabetes.”

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Our goal is to help our participants develop the spirit of the Salvadorian woman who is beautiful, progressive, cultured and intellectual.

Miss El Salvador-USA reaches more than one million households in the U.S. that also reflects the international interest by Salvadorians living in countries throughout the world and in El Salvador itself.

Mayor Villaraigoza, the mayor of Los Angeles will choose one of our candidates to be crowned Queen of the Day of the Salvadorian.

Miss El Salvador - USA takes place in October 9th at the Grand Wilshire Hotel in Los Angeles, California and is accompanied by an advertising campaign by leading media, television, Internet, radio and print.

Contestants of Miss El Salvador USA should have one of her parents be Salvadorian, and be between 15 to 24 years of age. Unimagined opportunities for Miss El Salvador USA are an excellent gateway to the world of beauty contests, exposure to many benefits and the ability to participate in other international contests such as Miss Turismo in the Dominican Republic, and Miss Latina in Ecuador among others.

One of the biggest prizes our winner receives is a trip to El Salvador to cast for the Miss El Salvador in El Salvador.

In previous years we have ranked to be the first and second runner up in Miss El Salvador in El Salvador. Because of this, they traveled to China to represent El Salvador in Miss Asia International where our delegate won “Best Talent”.

Jennifer Contreras
Director of Miss El Salvador-USA
President & Director of Jennifer Events International
Indian Voices • October 2009

ANNOUNCEMENTS
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The Washington Center (TWC) partners with colleges and universities with significant Native American/Alaskan Native student populations nationwide to invite outstanding undergraduates to participate in this program. Spring/fall internships last 15 weeks; summer internships last 10 weeks. For more information, please visit TWC’s website: www.twc.edu/agencies/special_initiatives.shtml

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11th Annual Native American Men & Women’s Wellness Conference
Thursday, October 29th 2009
Barona Valley Ranch Golf Event Center
1932 Wildcat Canyon Rd, Lakeside, CA 92030
For more information contact Helen Fields 619-659-9782, hfields@sich.org

Historical Marker Ceremony in El Campo
The Order of E Clampus Virus organization is dedicated to promoting California History and is responsible for many of the Historical Markers you see around the state. The Marker in front of the Old Stone Store across the street from Camp Lockett would be an example of their efforts.

On October the 24th, this organization will have a Marker unveiling ceremony in front of Camp Lockett. The Marker will highlight the importance of Camp Lockett and its significance of being the last home of the mounted cavalry in the United States. That calvary being of course the 10th and 28th cavalry regiments, the Buffalo Soldiers.

CIAE student researching parallels between Metis and Ainu of Japan
REGINA CAMPUS –International exchange student Dr. Shunwa Honda of the Open University of Japan (Hoso Daigaku) visited the Centre for International Academic Exchange (CIAE) at the First Nations University of Canada.

Dr. Honda is researching the political, social, and cultural development of the Metis of Saskatchewan. Over the past couple of days, he was able to tour the Batoche heritage site and meet Metis leaders. Dr. Honda will apply his research findings to the Ainu people of Japan in their quest for recognition as Indigenous people by Japan’s central government.

We wish him success in his efforts for the Ainu of Japan.

CSEA
Continued from page 10

care was not as much as it today. Right now, that great benefit is in jeopardy because the cost of healthcare has skyrocketed and cuts in the school budget from the state as well as the federal funding. Classified employees have not had a pay raise in a few years, the last one being a little over 1%. Even though the cost of living has gone up our pay has stayed the same or our hours have been scaled back.

At one time California had one of the best education programs in the United States, now we are at the bottom of what we spend per capita per child ranking 49th I believe. Proposition 13 changed all that. And of late, because of the foreclosures, there is less tax money being collected which also adds to the wees of state budgets. You would think with all the wealth there is in California this would not be the case, but let’s face it, our tax dollars are coming off the backbones of the dwindling middle class who are paying the brunt of the taxes.

But CSEA is still a strong force. We helped formed a grassroots campaign to get rid of Arnold’s initiatives a few years back. We were instrumental in getting rid of Alan Bersin and created headaches for the present school board. The Union worked to see the democratic process working.

THE TRAFFIC: AS THE SATELLITE SCHOOL BOARD
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Motherland Music is a small importing company consisting of four employees and the owner Dan Rice, located in Culver City CA.

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3. Sales and service

We have been importing traditional drums from West Africa since 1990. Dan Rice is a craftsman and works directly with the drum makers in Nigeria, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Mali and Senegal. Our focus is and always has been to achieve a standard of the highest quality musical instrument possible. This is why we have been in business for eighteen years.

We are a community oriented business. For more than eight years we have been at our Culver City location open to the public.

The New Mission Valley Certified Farmers Market Opens with Over 85 Vendors

Goals of becoming the community center for the residents of Mission Valley.

The new Mission Valley Certified Farmers Market is now open and has a wide selection of fresh organic produce, fresh cut flowers, fresh fish, local artis-sans, local musicians, and plenty of prepared foods for take home or ready to eat. One of its primary goals is to become a community gathering for the residents of Mission Valley.

It will start October 2, 2009 located at the Westfield Mission Valley Mall in the east parking lot near Macys, Bed Bath and Beyond, and behind Bennigans. The Mission Valley Certified Farmers market is the first market to come about in the Mission Valley area for years. With thousands of new residents in the Mission Valley area the need for a Farmers Market is growing.

It is the goal of the market to become that community gathering place that does not really exist in Mission Valley. Working closely with Westfield, the manager of the market is focused on providing a place for residents to enjoy the freshest local produce, local arts and crafts, gourmet foods, and local musicians.

“This market is necessary for this community. I can’t wait to see seeing people on a regular basis and know them by name because they come to the market weekly for their fresh produce and to just relax a bit.”

Mission Valley Certified Farmers Market: The Mission Valley Certified Farmers Market boasts over 85 vendors, and has given priority to locally grown certified produce, locally handcrafted arts and crafts, and locally prepared foods. It is the only farmers market in the Mission Valley area and is centrally located at the Westfield Mission Valley Mall east parking lot. Open every Friday from 3pm -7pm rain or shine.

Mohegan Sun Hosts Hall of Famers

by Earl Heath

UNCASVILLE, CT – This year’s Basketball Hall of Fame class was the enshrinement of some special people. We caught up with the class at the Mohegan Sun Casino. Actor/singer Tyrese Gibson was on hand and said, “This group ended up inspiring the world.”

At the top of the list was Michael Jordan, a six-time League Champion and five-time MVP. Jordan was on hand and said, “I got a chance to bless my kids on the stage.”

As for his career; “I missed Kareem Abdul-Jabbar on the other side (early career) and I missed LeBron [James] on this side but, I did have Michael in the middle.”

C. Vivian Stringer inductee, with future Hall of Famers, Karl Malone

C. Vivian Stringer and Jerry Sloan were the two coaches in the Class of 2009. Sloan is the only coach to win 1,000 games with one team. Stringer is the only coach to lead three different teams to the final four, the first being with Cheyney State.

Cheyney and power house Immaculata were true rivals. Immaculata was coached by Hall of Famer, Cathy Rush. “We had the best crowds ever. We had some of the toughest games,” said Rush. “She’s so competitive. She had so much happening in her life and she’s risen above it all. I’m so proud of her and her family and what she’s accomplished.”

Stringer had 825 wins and makes sure her players graduate. “I hope it [enshrinement] has brought recognition to the women’s game,” said Stringer. “Everybody will be tuned in with Michael, David Robinson and Stockton. People will say ‘Wow, they have women in there too!’”

Everyone Wins in October at Viejas Casino

3-Day $60,000 Instant Bonus Giveaway and 99-cent buffet all month long

SAN DIEGO, CA – Viejas Casino loves winners, and to kick things off in October Viejas is giving away $60,000 in Free Play Cash. To add to the excitement, for the entire month of October everyone is a winner with a 99-cent buffet.

Viejas Casino is excited to give players more chances to win big! Any player can become an instant winner at Viejas Casino October 2-4, when $1,000 in Free Play Cash will be given away to four lucky winners every hour between 7 p.m. and midnight each night. Instant winners must be a V Club cardholder and be actively playing with their V Club card at the time the Instant Bonus hits.

All this fun at Viejas will probably stir up an appetite, so to attack that hunger (but not the wallet), Viejas Casino is offering a 99-cent buffet with play! For the entire month of October, players who earn just 15 points on their V Club card can enjoy Viejas’ award-winning Harvest Buffet for only 99 cents. The same buffet that Viejas guests know and love will be at their disposal at this record-breaking price – every day in October.

Not a V Club cardholder? No problem! Any guest is welcome to sign up for a free V Club Card at any V Club booth at Viejas Casino. And just for signing up and earning 5 V Club points on the same day, Viejas will treat you to a FREE buffet.

Viejas Casino also features thousands of slot machines; over 80 table games such as $1 and $2 Blackjack, PlayCraps with 10 x odds; no-commission EZ Baccarat and Pai Gow; a newly upgraded Poker Room on the main floor; off-track betting facility, bingo hall; and six delicious restaurants. Viejas comes alive with live entertainment at three concert venues: the V Lounge, DreamCatcher and Concerts in the Park, featuring local, regional and national acts.

For more information on Viejas Outlet Center, visit www.shopviejas.com or call 619-659-2070.
A Glimpse from the Past

Native Americans inhabited Las Vegas for hundreds of years before the first westerners arrived. The new arrivals were probably a trading party led by Antonio Armijo, about 1829. Other explorers followed, and by the 1830s, the Old Spanish Trail led through the area known as Las Vegas, or “the meadows.”

The name, Las Vegas, was derived from the abundant water to be found in the valley—a welcome relief for many early traders. In 1844, John Charles Fremont first entered the valley, noting the name for the first time in his expedition journal. After publication of his journal, many Americans traveling overland to California used the route he described, known as the Old Spanish Trail.

The first non-Native American settlement in the area was a fortified mission started by Mormon colonists sent by Brigham Young. The colonists hoped the fort would provide a link between Utah and Mormon settlements in California. Numerous difficulties led to the abandonment of the fort in 1857. Though the settlement lasted only two years, the subsequent owner, Octavius Decatur Gass, established a working ranch that flourished throughout the rest of the nineteenth century. An adobe remnant of the original complex built by the Mormon colonists is the oldest building in Nevada and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

One of the first passenger trains to Las Vegas came for the townsite auction held on May 15, 1905. Mrs. Helen Stewart eventually owned Gass’ ranch. In 1902, she sold most of her 1,840 acres to Montana Senator William Clark’s San Pedro, Los Angeles and Salt Lake City Railroad. The railroad laid out a town, Clark’s Las Vegas Townsite, and held a land auction on May 15, 1905. In two days, the 110-acres bounded by Stewart Avenue and Garces Avenue and Main Street and 5th Street (now Las Vegas Boulevard) were sold. The auction founded the modern Las Vegas Valley. It superseded a community begun the year before by surveyor J.T. McWilliams, as the railroad controlled the water supply from Big Springs, the source of Las Vegas Creek.

Las Vegas was part of Lincoln County until 1909 when it became part of the newly established Clark County. Clark’s Las Vegas Valley is comprised of five jurisdictions: the city of Las Vegas; unincorporated Clark County; the city of North Las Vegas; the city of Henderson, and the city of Boulder City.

From the large mission-style depot on Fremont Street, the city’s main business corridor, to the three-story concrete ice plant on Main Street, the railroad dominated not only the physical landscape but also guided the town’s growth and development. Las Vegas’ first housing tract of 64 bungalow-style homes was constructed in 1910 to house railroad workers. While only a few are still standing, the structures (now known as the “railroad cottages”) are representative of the industry that once dominated the city. The railroad continued to be the focus of the community until the mid-1920s when the main yards were moved to Caliente, Nevada, and hundreds of railroad workers were laid off.

Abandoned by the railroad and feeling the effects of the Great Depression, the future of the town was uncertain. However, three events would soon change the face of Las Vegas. Gambling became legal in Nevada in 1931, and the first legal casino, called the Northern Club, was opened. At the same time, divorce laws were liberalized making a “quickie” divorce attainable after only six weeks of residency. These events combined with construction of Boulder Dam - later named Hoover Dam - brought an influx of federal dollars and construction workers into the fledgling city.

World War II brought additional federal funding in the form of the military and defense industries. In 1941, Las Vegas Army Air Field, now called Nellis Air Force Base, was built on the site of Western Air Express Field, located in the northeast part of the valley. In what is now the city of Henderson, the Basic Magnesium Plant began operations in 1941 to supply raw materials to the United States War Department.

After World War II, many new hotels and casinos were built, mostly on the “Strip.” These resort properties offered unmatched entertainment and accommodations. Tourism became the lifeline of the community. In the 1960s, another transition occurred when an act of the Nevada Legislature allowed publicly traded corporations to obtain gambling licenses. Gambling developed into “gaming” and evolved into a legitimate business opportunity. Corporate investment in the hotel/casino industry kept the economy strong throughout the 1970s and 1980s. Las Vegas reinvented itself as the entertainment capital of the world.

Shows and nightclubs, gaming and outdoor activities were offered to visitors of all ages from around the nation and around the world. In addition to visiting Las Vegas, an increasing number of people started to call Las Vegas home. A period of unparalleled growth began in the 1990s with annual population increases averaging over 6 percent.
A Tribute to Ted Kennedy

by Senator Harry Reid, Special to Indian Voices

On August 25 of this year, I lost my good friend and the patriarch of the U.S. Senate, Senator Ted Kennedy. Senator Kennedy and his brothers fostered a legacy of service to the people of this country and to America’s Indian tribes – a legacy born out of a strong sense of social justice and responsibility.

At a time when the nation was particularly divided over education and race, Ted Kennedy believed in a government that would do right by all its citizens. With respect to Native Americans, he believed that the United States government should fully live up to the government’s trust responsibilities. A poignant sign of his commitment to equal treatment under the law, Senator Kennedy assumed chairmanship of the Senate Special Subcommittee on Indian Education, following in his brother’s, Bobby Kennedy’s, footsteps after his tragic assassination.

One of Ted’s most significant and lasting acts while serving on the committee was to publish a report on the state of education for American Indians. A landmark study, “Indian Education: A National Tragedy – A National Challenge” recognized “that the ‘first American’ has become the ‘last American’ in terms of opportunity for employment, education, a decent income, and the chance for a full and rewarding life.” The report spoke to the harsh conditions in federally-funded Indian schools and provided recommendations that highlighted the need to reinforce, and not tear down, native cultures, native languages and the central role of family and community to address chronic under-achievement and high dropout rates for Indian youth.

This report was the basis for the Indian Education Act of 1972 which served to reverse the negative effects of federal education policy on Native American youth and authorize tribal schools. The Act helped to fund curriculum development that integrated tribal culture and language with lessons and support tutors, teaching aids and special programs. This Act ensured that tribal schools would receive permanent funding from both the Departments of Education and the Interior.

His early efforts to bring about equal rights and treatment for Native Americans helped to end the tragic and terrible federal policy of tribal termination and lay the groundwork for the era of self-determination. The Voting Rights Act protected the right to vote for those who only speak Native languages, and the American Indian Religious Freedom Act protected the religious practices of Native Americans and sacred sites on public land. Ted’s efforts in the 1970s on many social welfare, health, and justice issues improved the lives of individual Native Americans and strengthened native communities.

I worked alongside Ted for my entire Senate career and we shared a vision of the equal treatment of Native Americans and tribal sovereignty. We worked together to promote better health care in Indian Country, support hospitals and treatment centers, and fund special programs afflicting many Native Americans living on reservations and in urban areas. Preventing suicide on reservations has been something that I am personally dedicated to, and Ted and I led the Senate in making mental health care more accessible to those most in need. Ted and I helped to expand scholarships and loan programs to encourage more American Indians to enter health care professions and participate in community service programs.

Senator Kennedy believed as I do that the government should make good on all its responsibilities to American tribes, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians. He worked throughout his career to improve access to education and health care and maintain the sovereignty of tribes. The loss of such a giant committed to social justice is felt throughout the country, and particularly in Indian Country, but we will strive to continue his legacy of advocacy and equal treatment for all.

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Nevada National Guard Helicopter Airlifts Hazardous Junk Cars from Carson River

CARSON CITY, NV – The Nevada National Guard used a helicopter training exercise Friday to airlift rusty junk cars from the Carson River that have lurked for years below the water surface, threatening the safety of whitewater rafters, kayakers and marring the river’s natural beauty.

A CH-47 Chinook helicopter flew over several miles of the river downstream from the Deer Run Road Bridge and plucked out 18 vehicles illegally dumped in the river that could not be removed from shore. The aircraft deposited the cars at an onshore site to be hauled to the dump.

“This project gave the Guard an unusual opportunity to fulfill our requirement for aircraft slingload training while also making the river safer for people to enjoy,” said Chief Warrant Officer Sean Laycox, an operations officer for the Army Aviation Support Facility in Stead. “Removing the cars was a difficult exercise, but they couldn’t have been pulled out any other way and we love being able to help out our local communities.”

The Guard removed the junk cars without charge to Carson City, accomplishing a task that was prohibitively difficult and costly for local government to undertake. Division of State Lands agent Rick Murray, who arranged for the removal project, said private helicopter companies would have charged $8,000 to $10,000 an hour to remove the cars. The National Guard has an innovative readiness program that allows them to use federal training dollars to increase their mission readiness, while performing select community service projects. State Lands has authority over river bottoms and banks to the normal high water mark.

“Carson City has tried for years to find a way to get those horrible junk cars out of the river before they caused a boat wreck that hurt or killed someone,” Carson City Supervisor Pete Livermore said. “The National Guard has performed a valuable community service that has removed dangerous objects and restored the river’s natural beauty, and we are very grateful.”

Removal by helicopter was the only way to get the cars out of the riverbed, where many had lain for years, oozing contaminants into the water and filling the rusted bodies with heavy sediment.

“In the spring, when river flows are at their highest, junk cars below the surface expose whitewater rafters and kayakers to an invisible hazard that could rip apart their boats and trap them in swirling last-moving water,” Ed James, general manager of the Carson Water Subconservancy District, said.

The Carson River Regional Recreation Steering Committee, organized by the Nevada Commission on Tourism, works on projects to make the Carson River safer and more accessible for recreational boating. Examples include a boat launching ramp, paved parking, and restrooms that Carson City is building at the Morgan Mill Road river put-in area and parking and restrooms in Dayton at the Santa Maria Ranch subdivision boat take-out area.

Serving on the committee are officials of the Carson City Board of Supervisors, Carson City Department of Parks and Recreation, Carson Water Subconservancy District, Lyon County Engineering Department, Nevada Commission on Tourism, Nevada Division of State Lands, Resource Concepts, Inc., and the Western Nevada Resource Conservation and Development, Inc.
The Moapa Band of Paiute Indians resides on the Moapa River Reservation. We are a recognized Indian tribe organized under a Constitution approved by the Secretary of the Interior on April 17, 1942.

The tribal lands originally set aside in 1874 consisted of two million acres, but in 1876 it was reduced to a thousand acres. In December 1980, under the Carter Administration, an additional 70,000 acres were provided. The current total land base is 71,954 acres.

The tribe’s primary business enterprise centers on the Moapa Paiute Travel Plaza, which includes a casino, convenience store, cafe, gas station, and firework store with the largest and most comprehensive selection of fireworks in the West.

Tribal Council governs the tribe.

The Land

Moapa Valley is the prehistoric flood plain of the Muddy River, which flows through the valley and drains into Lake Mead. The region surrounding the reservation is famous for its sandstone rock formations. Nearby Valley of Fire is a sacred area.

Moapa Paiute Travel Plaza, which includes a casino, convenience store, cafe, gas station, and firework store with the largest and most comprehensive selection of fireworks in the West.

Come visit the Moapa Paiute Travel Plaza, exit 75 on Interstate 15, just 30 miles north of the Las Vegas Valley.

The Moapa Reservation is located about eight miles west of Glendale, junction of State Route 168 and I-15, near the Valley of Fire State Park.

Moapa Band of Paiutes Business Office:
1 Lincoln St
P.O. Box 340
Moapa, NV 89025
Hours: (8:00 AM to 4:30 PM)
(702) 865-2787

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