

## San Diego American Indian Youth Center Opens

by *Melanie J. Cain, Ph.D*

On Monday, July 13, 2009, the San Diego American Indian Youth Center (SDAIYC) proudly opened its doors. SDAIYC, which is sponsored by San Diego County, has been praised as the first urban American Indian youth center and is the newest addition to the San Diego American Indian Health Center (SDAIHC).

Visitors have raved about the state of the art atmosphere at SDAIYC and how the youth center is able to fill an unmet need in our Native community. The mission of SDAIYC is to guide Native American youth towards their full potential as healthy, well-rounded young adults through the use of culture, tradition, and alternative healing. SDAIYC provides various activities designed to promote healthy cultural identity and

emotional wellness among urban American Indian youth.

Our youth members represent numerous tribes from across the country. In addition, our staff is Native American, Brazilian, and Hawaiian, which provides a multicultural perspective. Staff members are Melanie J. Cain, Ph.D.; Santa Clara Pueblo/Jicarilla Apache (Registered Psychologist/PEI Coordinator); Maira Moss; Tupa Guarani (M.A., Therapist); El Bisarra; Native Hawaiian (M.S., Group Facilitator); Christopher Scott; Rincon (Outreach Coordinator); Erica Charley: Hualapai/Navajo (Youth Counselor); and Kellen Hernandez; Luiseno Indian (Youth Counselor).

During the first week of operation, Culture Camp commenced, which was filled with three days of outdoor and

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"Cultural Arts and Crafts Class" taught by Sparrow and Charley Narcomey at the newly opened San Diego American Indian Youth Center.

From left to right: Patricia Correa, Sheilah Dasher, Michael "Isaac", Sparrow Narcomey, Cameron Charley, Kellen Hernandez, Joseph Currier, Erica Charley, Gabriel Mendoza.

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COVERAGE INSIDE

## 4th of July Moapa Style



by *Kena Adams*

Moapa Paiute Travel Plaza is well known to locals as one of the best places to be during 4th of July. You can buy fireworks, food, gas, gifts or almost anything the heart desires while you relax with family watching some of the best fireworks Nevada has to offer.

Despite the triple digit heat hundreds of people from all over the Southwest

flocked to this quaint little plaza located 30 miles north of Las Vegas. People lined up from one side of the plaza to the other patiently waiting their turn to purchase their goodies. The 60 acre launching pad was lined with families enjoying the holiday and fireworks, theirs and Moapa's. The smell of BBQ filled the air. Live bands, 97.5fm radio, food and jewelry vendors and free information was provided

for this epic event. Next time your south stop by Moapa Paiute Travel Plaza to satisfy even the smallest need with a smile. And don't forget about Indian Taco Wednesday's at the restaurant. The fireworks is one you have to see to believe spectacular. Located on Interstate 15 exit 75 "Valley of Fire."

See celebration photos on page 9

# NCO awarded Silver Star for courage under fire in Afghanistan

by Capt. Joseph Sanfilippo, 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment

VICENZA, Italy – Rows of soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment, stood at attention as the U.S. Army recognized Staff Sgt. Conrad Begaye for bravery under fire in Afghanistan.

During a June 30 ceremony at Caserma Ederle's Hoekstra Field, Maj. Gen. William B. Garrett III, commander of U.S. Army Africa, fastened the Silver Star to Begaye's uniform in recognition for his leadership and valor during an enemy ambush Nov. 9, 2007, in Nuristan Province.

"There are people who have passed on that deserve this," Begaye said. "There were five men who died. I'll accept and wear it in honor of them, not for my actions, but for theirs."

Begaye said he would have preferred a simple handshake or a pat on the back. After all, infantrymen don't fight for medals, they fight for each other. That's why Begaye felt grateful to have soldiers from his unit, Chosen Company, behind him on the parade field during the ceremony.

"What happened there is something I think about every day, it's not easy to

forget about," Begaye said, recalling events of that day.

Begaye's unit had just met with local Afghan leaders. They were hiking eastward along a small path on rugged terrain when his squad, his platoon's headquarters sections and a squad of Afghan National Army soldiers, began taking fire from enemy positions above.

Pinned down at first, Begaye was struck in the arm while returning fire and directing his men. Begaye bound over a cliff, calling to his troops to follow him down the rocky slope to find cover.

He kept his composure against overwhelming odds, directing and encouraging his fellow soldiers under heavy fire. One paratrooper had been shot in both legs and was still taking fire. Begaye called out to him to play dead, knowing the enemy would shift their fire away if they thought the soldier was killed – quick thinking that likely helped save that soldier's life.

Ignoring his own injuries, Begaye moved a wounded soldier to a nearby cave to protect him from enemy fire. Using a radio, he called his higher head-



Photo Credit: Capt. Joseph Sanfilippo, 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment.

Staff Sgt. Conrad Begaye stands before rows of fellow Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment, during a ceremony on June 30, 2009. Begaye was awarded the Silver Star for his valorous actions during an enemy ambush Nov. 9, 2007, in the Nuristan Province of Afghanistan.

quarters and directed mortar fire onto enemy positions - essentially ending the battle. Then he motivated a soldier to organize a defensive perimeter of Afghan soldiers to prevent their unit from being harassed or overrun.

Twenty-one months later, with his comrades standing quietly on the parade ground behind him, Begaye listened as Garrett spoke.

"Today, we honor a noncommissioned officer whose bold actions turned the

tide of battle and saved the day ... whose courage under fire and fierce loyalty to his men still astounds us all," Garrett said.

"Outnumbered, wounded, and initially pinned down in the kill zone of an enemy ambush, he didn't hesitate to leap forward, literally, and take charge of the fight."

Garrett spoke of the "warrior ethos," ideas that guide soldiers – placing the

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**PUBLISHED BY BLACKROSE COMMUNICATIONS**

Member, American Indian Chamber of Commerce

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# Traditional Kumeyaay Uses of Native Plants at the New Kumeyaay Museum in Tecate

by Eleanora (Norrie) Robbins

A Kumeyaay museum is coming to the picturesque border town of Tecate, Baja California. This was one of the important messages provided to the group of 30 Californians and Baja Californians who attended an event in Tecate called "Traditional Kumeyaay Uses of Native Plants." The museum will become part of the Tecate Community Museum, which is just 11 walkable blocks from the border crossing in Tecate at the Tecate Cultural Center.

Kumeyaay people from several local indigenous communities were the instructors. We visitors were divided into 6 groups, each of which was placed in front of a big metate having numer-



Theodora Cuero teaches us acorn processing

ous manos. A big stack of acorns was given to each team. My group sat with Teodora Cuero Robles from La Huerta. She showed us how to crack the acorns, peel away the outer coating of the nut, and pound/grind the acorn nuts. Then she collected the acorn flour from all the teams, placed the flour on cloths, and showed us how to leach out the tannins. By the time lunch was prepared for us, she had the delicious acorn mush ready for all of us to eat.

Other teams of Kumeyaay people taught us how to prepare cooling drinks from native plants. For chia drink, we watched seeds being roasted over a wood fire. Manzanita berries were used to make another

refreshing drink.

Norma Meza taught us uses of native plants. There were a lot of experts in the room, so the discussions were lively. We learned about traditional uses of laurel sumac, yerba santa, buckwheat, white sage, elderberry, and creosote bush. Professor Claudia Leyva from UABC, an ecosystem management professional, provided any requested technical information.

The stories behind the building of the museum were just as interesting as the information they taught us.

Dona Julia Meza of San Jose Tecate was the original inspiration behind the concept. In 2004, Mike Wilken and Lynn Gamble of San Diego State University carried out extensive interviews with Julia and other cultural authorities of the Tecate region and found that all

were concerned about long-term preservation of cultural materials and the revitalization of Kumeyaay culture. The Kumeyaay and the SDSU team joined forces with Corredor Historico CAREM, a Tecate-based community organization that had long dreamed of creating a



Plant teacher Norma Meza, and student Judy Alvarez

community museum. World renowned San Diego architect James Hubble has actively collaborated in the design of the Kumeyaay Museum. The Baja California

SEE **Kumeyaay Museum**, page 4

## Youth Center

Continued from page 1

cultural activity throughout the city of San Diego. Trips were made to Torrey Pines, where Mr. Barrie a professor at Mesa Community College led the youth on a hiking tour; Birch Aquarium; Barona Cultural Center and Museum; Museum of Man with a presentation by "Native Talk," a morning of games at the beach and a trip to the IMAX Theater.

In addition to Culture Camp, We offer various activities such as, homework help, physical activity like "Boot Camp" and other outdoor activities, Salsa dance classes, healthy cooking classes, cultural arts and crafts classes, and we have a brand new Apple computer lab. Other activities include therapeutic groups, which are designed to promote emotional wellness, as well as, individual therapy. We have other fun

events planned, such as, a "Back to School Beach Party" and a "Halloween Party." Other projects which the youth center is hosting are a youth media project, a youth mentorship program, and future community service. In addition, we plan to collaborate with other local colleges and universities for youth tours and other activities.



A "Native Hawaiian Cooking Class," taught by El Bisarra. From left to right: Cameron Charley, Joseph Currier, Steven "Spike" Gloria, El Bisarra, Jesse True, Rachel True.

We welcome Native American youth between the ages of 10-22. Youth center staff members are often seen at various outreach events, like Soaring

Eagles, SDAIHC Community Nights, and other tribal Pow-Wows. If you have any questions please feel free to stop by and ask one of the staff members. We are open Monday through Friday from 2 p.m. - 7 p.m. Any youth who are interested in signing up, please call (619) 531-1938 to schedule an intake appointment. Thank you and we look forward to meeting you!

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# Buffalo Field Campaign – Protecting America's Last Wild Buffalo

*Yellowstone Bison  
Update from the Field  
July 16, 2009*

## Obama Signals Change for National Parks; Names New Director

Last Friday, July 10, was a potentially momentous day for America's only population of continuously wild bison. In a move that could end the National Park Service's role in the slaughter of thousands of bison, President Obama nominated Jon Jarvis to fill the currently vacant post of National Park Service (NPS) Director.

Jarvis, a 30-year NPS veteran, has served as Superintendent of Mount Rainier and Wrangell-St. Elias National Parks as well as Craters of the Moon National Monument. Since 2002 he has been the Director of the NPS' Pacific Northwest Regional Office, where he earned a reputation as a defender of the NPS Organic Act mandate to preserve "unimpaired the natural and cultural

resources and values of the national park system for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations."

During the Bush years Jarvis risked his career by vocally opposing administration attempts to weaken the Organic Act to allow for more resource-extractive park policies. In April he testified before Congress on human-induced climate change, which he said, "challenges the very foundation of the National Park System and our ability to leave America's natural and cultural heritage unimpaired for future generations."

In light of the winter of 2008, when the Park Service slaughtered more than 1,400 wild bison from within Yellowstone National Park, it is hard to imagine a more imperiled natural or cultural icon than the bison. In naming Jarvis as NPS director, President Obama has sent a strong signal that the Park Service's era of pandering to industrial interests at the expense of park resources is coming to an end. As The New York Times suggested in an editorial earlier this week (see "Last

Words" below) Jarvis' first act should be to replace Suzanne Lewis as Superintendent of Yellowstone. Replacing Lewis, who oversaw the slaughter of more than 2,800 wild bison to appease Montana's livestock industry, would be a quick and effective way for Jarvis to convey his intentions for the parks under his care and realign the park service with its mission.

## Earth Friends Wildlife Foundation Offers Challenge to BFC Supporters, Funding to BFC

If you are on our mailing list, you should have received BFC's 2009 Newsletter by now. If you did, you're probably aware of the Earth Friends Challenge Grant, an incredible opportunity for BFC to raise much-needed funds

and for supporters to increase the value of your donations.

The Earth Friends Wildlife Foundation has agreed to provide Buffalo Field Campaign a much-needed grant if we are able to raise \$75,000 among our community of supporters. While this may seem

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photo 2009 courtesy of Lance Koudele

## 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

## Kumeyaay Museum

Continued from page 3

Secretary of Tourism has agreed to provide funds for the basic construction of the museum. CAREM is actively seeking funding for the exhibit and other aspects of the museum.

Next to the new auditorium where the workshop was hosted, the volunteer team from CAREM had already turned another building into a library with internet access, all provided for free to the Kumeyaay and other Tecate residents. Tecate resident Zella Ibañez, Gabriela Schneider, a German librarian living in Baja California, and a team of other Tecate residents have created a local library with books on the history and culture of Baja California. Through



Roasting chia seeds over open fire



Theodora Cuero with students and Mike Wilken

much hard work, they have found people and organizations willing to donate time and money to support the budding historical/cultural center. The book collection of the library is growing and they are always looking for donations of books on the history of Baja California. Contact Zella@prodigy.net.mx for more information about the project and the library.

## Silver Star

Continued from page 2

mission first, never accepting defeat and never quitting, never leaving a fallen comrade.

"These are just words to some people," Garrett said. "But the warrior ethos is a way of life to Staff Sergeant Begaye," Garrett said. "Amazing acts of bravery and valor were commonplace that grim day. But this morning, we recognize Staff Sergeant Begaye for his courage - and we are thankful for the opportunity to serve with such a man."

After the ceremony, Begaye's wife, U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Idellia Beletso, a flight medic based at Aviano, hugged her husband. Hundreds of red-bereted paratroopers lined up to shake Begaye's hand, many who served with him while in harm's way.

Begaye, a Navajo from Black Canyon City, Ariz., enlisted in the infantry 10 years ago. An airborne ranger, Begaye arrived in Vicenza in 2003. He deployed for year-long tours with Chosen Company to Iraq in 2003 and Afghanistan in 2005. In 2007, he deployed to Afghanistan's Nuristan Province with Chosen.

For younger soldiers, Begaye hopes his story helps them understand the importance of training, leadership and motivation, he said, and a sense of reality of war for troops eager to see combat.

"It should open their eyes. A firefight is a life-altering experience - one that I'm still living through," Begaye said. "soldiers should understand ... this is real life and people do die."

## Wild Buffalo

Continued from page 4

like a daunting task in these difficult times, it is important to remember that the majority of our annual budget comes from individual supporters like you who value wild bison, want to see them treated with respect, and understand the importance of BFC's field, outreach, and policy work to protect America's only continuously wild population of bison.

With the number and amount of donations down in recent months, and with foundation grants on a sharp decline, the Earth Friends Challenge couldn't come at a better time. Many non-profits have been forced to close their doors in the past year and countless others have had to scale back on their programs. Buffalo Field Campaign, accustomed to accomplishing a great deal on a shoestring budget and on the brink of achieving many of our goals for the bison, cannot afford to scale back now.

Please DONATE NOW, and help BFC meet the Challenge offered by the Earth Friends Wildlife Foundation.

### Federal Government Reinstates Montana's Brucellosis-free Status

On Friday, July 10, Montana was declared "brucellosis-free" by the US Department of Agriculture. The state had lost its status in 2008 after brucellosis was detected in two cattle herds. In neither case, nor in earlier cases in Wyoming and Idaho, were bison responsible for the infections.

Brucellosis, a cattle disease native to Europe, has been present in Yellowstone wildlife since at least the first decades of the 20th century. While the disease has little, if any, effect on Yellowstone bison, it is used as an excuse by Montana's powerful livestock industry to kill bison that cross the Yellowstone/Montana border and enter the state. Despite the fact that wild bison have never transmitted the disease to cattle, Montana has adopted a zero-tolerance, kill-on-sight policy that has resulted in the slaughter of more than 6,600 wild bison since 1985.

The purported reason for this archaic policy is to protect the state's brucellosis-

free status and save cattle producers the cost of extra testing procedures. Yet the bison slaughter didn't prevent the state from losing its coveted status and in one of the many great ironies associated with Montana's bison management, the additional costs of losing the status amount to less than the cost of slaughtering and keeping buffalo out of Montana. The Montana legislature approved \$2.4 million to reimburse ranchers for the additional testing requirements while the Bison Management Plan costs upwards of \$3 million per year, gives the state a black eye in the national media, and jeopardizes the future of America's only continuously wild population of bison.

### Last Words

Newly nominated Park Service Director Jon Jarvis "should begin by replacing Suzanne Lewis, the superintendent of Yellowstone, who is doing the legacy work of the Bush administration..."

-- New York Times editorial, July 14, 2009

### Kill Tally

AMERICAN BISON ELIMINATED from the last wild population in the U.S.

2008-2009 Total:	22
2008-2009 Slaughter:	3
2008-2009 Hunt:	1
2008-2009 Quarantine:	0
2008-2009 Shot by Agents:	2
2008-2009 Highway Mortality:	16
2007-2008 Total:	1,631
Total Since 2000:	3,702*

\*includes lethal government action, quarantine, hunts, highway mortalities

### For more information

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P.O. Box 957  
West Yellowstone, MT 59758  
406-646-0070  
bfc-media@wildrockies.org  
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BFC is the only group working in the field every day in defense of the last wild buffalo population in the U.S.  
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# Buffalo Soldiers

The Greater Los Angeles Chapter of The Buffalo Soldiers 9th & 10th (Horse) Cavalry consists of some of the surviving "Original Buffalo Soldiers" from the World War II and Korean War era. Other members served during Vietnam and the Iraq War.

On the far right stands Trooper Phil Fixico (soon to be featured in the Smithsonian Institute's "IndiVisible" exhibit) a non-veteran, he was inducted into the chapter for his community service as a soldier in the "War on Poverty" working in Watts to help re-build the community after the riot. He also is eligible as a relative of the Seminole Negro Indian Scouts, they were Special Forces for the Buffalo Soldiers during the Texas Indian Wars. In addition, his ancestry consists of two members of the "First Indian Home Guard". This was a Tri-racial unit composed of mostly Indians, some black interpreters and white officers. It was formed and operated in the Civil War.

The By-Bloods and Blacks had fought their way out of Indian Territory at the

inception of the War where they had been lead by the Creek Chief Opotheyahola. They were popularly known as the "Loyal Indians". Black tribal members played a crucial rule in the unit as interpreters, since the white officers were unable to issue commands without their service. The black members of this unit engaged Confederate troops before the black troops of the 54th Massachusetts, which was the unit depicted in the movie "Glory".

Prior to the Civil War most of the Indian agents in place were from the South and since the North withdrew their troops as the conflict was about to begin most of the tribes sided with the Confederacy, as in the case of the Cherokee General Stan Watie, they were the last troops to surrender. The importance of the By-Bloods and Blacks who fled to Kansas on the "Trail of Blood and Ice" to fight for the Union was that this group of combatants gained a place at the treaty table at the end of the Civil War for their respective tribes.



The Greater Los Angeles Chapter of The Buffalo Soldiers 9th & 10th (Horse) Cavalry. This photo was taken during their July meeting in Inglewood, CA, at Will Rogers Park.

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# One-on-one with Queen YoNasDa: A Special Story of Trials, Triumphs and Music

**Brother Jesse: Who is Queen YoNasDa?**

**YoNasDa:** I am a proud Ogalala Lakota Native American and Black female rap artist. My mother who passed in 2003 was a full blooded Native American from Pine Ridge, South Dakota and my father was an African-American from Brooklyn, NY. My mother Wauneta Lonewolf worked for Muhammad Ali and that is what introduced her to the Nation of Islam. She began working for the Nation of Islam and the assisting Hon. Min. Louis Farrakhan on the re-development of the Nation of Islam during the early 80's. The federal government didn't like what Farrakhan and the Nation was doing so they had to find someone with some type of record to try to see if they could have someone snitch and they found my mother. Because there wasn't anything to say nor did my mother say anything she was sentenced to several years in a federal prison.

During that time the Farrakhan family adopted my brother and I. During all the trials and tribulations of my life, living from house to house, experiencing the feds taking my mother, being adopted by a beautiful and loving family, losing my mother to lung cancer, being a single mother, being homeless, and trying to make my name in a male dominated industry, music has always been my escape. And because of the freedom of hip hop that was my way to tell the truth, and my testimony.

**Brother Jesse: How does it feel to release your first album?**

**YoNasDa:** Oh my God! Praise God! This has been a dream that has come into a reality! It still hasn't hit me yet, but I am sooo excited! I am blowing up my team like "Ok what you got working?" "What am I doing, next?" etc. etc because it doesn't just stop at your album being

in stores. Oh no I'll be a fool to think that. This is just the beginning. I worked 5 years on this album with no budget. I revealed a lot of myself on this project, its all a true story, nothing sugar coated. I now want the world to hear it because I believe through my story and my music, the next person may identify through it and it may change their choices for the best.

**Brother Jesse: What unique flavor do you bring to the music industry?**

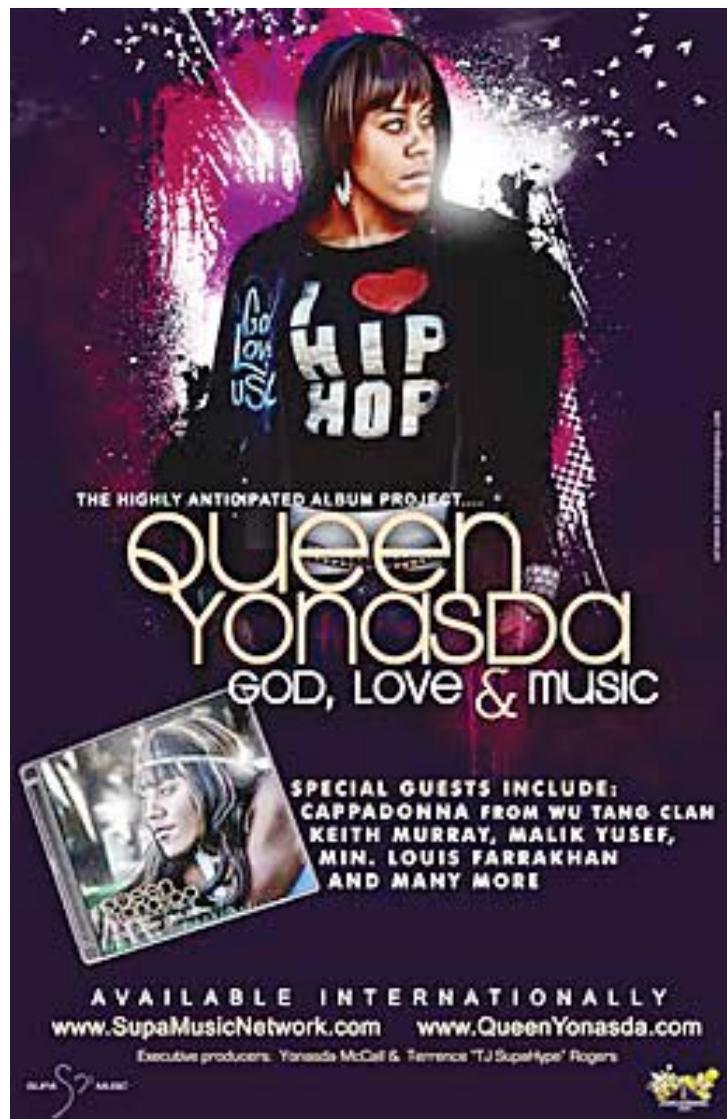
**YoNasDa:** Its funny you ask that. I am still learning as I'm growing. But I have a fusion of soul, R&B, rock, salsa, hard-core, club, etc, sound to me. My distribution company heard my album and was like "we don't know who your demographics are because we believe everyone can relate to your sound." I told them that is how hip hop is supposed to be. A mixture of it all.

**Brother Jesse: What are your two favorite songs on your album? Why?**

**YoNasDa:** Mmmm. Thats a good question. I think "Presence of You". It is a love song about when you first meet someone and you want to tell them you want them to be yours, but you don't wanna move too fast to rush them away so you just gotta be in the presence of them and cherish it. The second one is "Struggle in Progress". It's a true story for me. Its about when you have a baby out of wedlock and even though you and the other parent are going through it, the child is the blessing.

**Brother Jesse: Who has influenced you musically?**

**YoNasDa:** Michael Jackson, Queen Latifah, Big Daddy Kane, Janet Jackson, Lauryn Hill, Salt N Pepa, Cappadonna. Man the list can go on and on!



**Brother Jesse: How can people find out more about your album?**

**YoNasDa:** It's available now on all digital sites, iTunes, Rhapsody, Amazon, www.101d.com/ all digital sites and August 25 it will be dropping in all retail stores. You can also check out my upcoming events on www.queenyonasda.com/ and www.supamusic-network.com/

**Brother Jesse: Thank you.**

*(Blogger's Note: According to her distribution company, 101 Distribution, female Hip Hop artist Queen YoNasDa (pronounced Yo-Naja-Ha) is bringing back heart and soul to the*

**Brother Jesse: As a motivational speaker, what are some of the messages you deliver?**

**YoNasDa:** I talk about the close relationship of the African and the Native American people. I talk about the influence of females in Hip Hop. I speak about my life and the trials I have been through and how I triumphed from them.

*culture. Her debut album "God, Love & Music" was released worldwide digitally in early July and she hosted a major album release party in Phoenix. I attended and sat down with her to get a deeper understanding of the great young woman behind the album that has received positive reviews.)*

*Reposted from: <http://jessemuhammad.blogs.finalcall.com/2009/07/one-on-one-with-queen-yonasda-special.html>*



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# Queen YoNasDa

As I am flipping through my tv channels and the radio and watching BET, MTV, VH1 and listening to popular radio stations to satellite radio I ask the question, “how come there isn’t enough female rap artists?” Even more deeper “how come there isn’t any Native American artists in mainstream entertainment?” So, as a Native American and African American female rap artist where do I fit in this large entertainment industry?

Greetings Relatives,

My name is YoNasDa LoneWolf McCall aka Queen YoNasDa (pronounced Yo-Naja-Ha) my late mother Wauneta LoneWolf was full blooded Oglala Lakota from Pine Ridge, South Dakota and my father Theadius McCall is from Brooklyn, New York. I was the only girl born during the American Indian Movement’s The Longest Walk in Washington DC. My mother was Muhammad Ali’s public relations director during the prime of his career. My father was a fine artist but also he was in and out of prison all my life. I didn’t have the typical story of living in the same neighborhood, met someone that put me on, sold drugs, etc. etc. etc. My mother was on the run from the feds and we lived a little bit of everywhere. She met Min.Louis Farrakhan who asked her to help redevelop the Nation of Islam in the early 1980’s. When the federal government was looking to try to pin Min. Farrakhan with something and they couldn’t find anything they went to my mother and try to get her to talk. She didn’t say anything and because of that she was sentenced to 4-6 years in prison. When that happened the Farrakhan family adopted my brother and myself. We were living in Phoenix, AZ and had to move to Chicago, IL.

Now, with all this being said I went through alot of ups and downs in my life. But my escape was and still is hip hop. Hip Hop has given me some sort of sanity. Hip Hop was created when Latinos and Blacks had to escape their

conditons of poverty . So they needed to create something to keep a smile on their face. When America shunned out Latinos and Blacks and put them in the projects and they thought they gave them no voice. Blacks and Latinos used Hip Hop as a way to speak and let the world know we are not extinct! You cannot shut us out!! If you look at Hip Hop today it is worldwide, not only Blacks and Latinos but Asians, Whites even Native American are all apart of a culture called Hip Hop.

I remember when I was a young girl and I first saw a 13 year old Roxanne Shante, or when I watched Beat Street and saw the three females rappin’ on the mic. I knew I wanted to be apart of hip hop. Or like when we were staying in LA, while my mother was protesting we stopped in Venice Beach and I saw the Rock Steady Crew West Coast poppin’ and lockin on the boardwalk. I fell in love with hip hop. Even in my circumstances seeing my father hit my mother and my mother having us stay with various family and friends, my escape was listening to Michael Jackson and Run DMC. When I moved to Chicago with the Farrakhan family we were allowed to listen to Public Enemy and KRS One. When I saw Queen Latifah take the stage in Chicago for the Nation of Islam’s Annual Saviours Day event I wanted to rock the mic like her. She wasn’t flaunting any skin. Her dancers had grace and they wore these African fez’s. I nearly fainted when I saw Big Daddy Kane, and I would dance, sing and rap in the mir-

ror so I can rap fast like Kane, have grace like Latifah and have the moves like Michael Jackson.

On July 7th my debut album God.Love and Music dropped on all digital stores (I-Tunes, Amazon, Rhapsody, etc and 101d.com) and it hits retail on August 25. I do not know how my sales are going thus far, but I do know that the hip hop I fell in love with isn’t dead but it needs a balance, it needs “queens”! The Hon. Elijah Muhammad once said that “No Nation Can Rise No Higher than its women”. That’s why hip hop feels so dead. Everyone has a similar style and sound. I can’t knock anyone’s hustle on getting into the game. But I believe that the culture of hip hop has been lost because as a nation we have lost our culture. They don’t teach the trans-atlantic slave trade in school. They don’t tell the real story of the genocide of the American Indian. Many young Latinos don’t know the struggle of Cesar Chavez. Its not demanded like it was in my earlier years. Many young people believe that hip hop is gold teeth, fly cars and a fly big booty chick next to them. I understand we all have bills to pay and families to provide for, but we cannot sell out who we are, who our



ancestors fought hard and died for. We cannot sell out for a house and car because that’s all material things.

So, in an industry filled with digital world technology and digital sound, how can a Native American and Black female rapper with a live sound withstand in this business? I was raised on the west coast, midwest and the east coast. Who will accept me? I am a mother and an activist. Will the young people understand my trials and tribulations? Its funny how my last name is Lonewolf, a wolf away from the pack .. who stands on their own. So by the grace of God, I hope through my testimony that I am able to lift a nation and lift a sound that can echo throughout the lands to take us back to truth, wisdom and understanding and back to God.Love and Music.

Mitakoye Oyasin  
Queen YoNasDa  
(pronounced Yo-Naja-Ha)

[www.queenyonasda.com](http://www.queenyonasda.com)

Choctaw Institute Culture September 2009

## A Choctaw Stickball Fan Forever

by Eileen George

Okle homa e’ hashi himuna “Red People’s New Year” (Choctaw-Chahta))

Definitely it is worth the trip.

August is the start of a New Year for Mississippi Choctaw since time immemorial. With the end of the last score of the choctaw stickball game, not only determine this 2009 Champion but bring in the New Year!

All Choctaw Stickball fans gathered at Warrior Stadium Choctaw, MS to see the World Series Game of Choctaw Stickball between Beaver Dam 2008 Champion vs Pearl River. The game has been held in

Pearl River community since federal recognition.

Today the game is played on the stadium field with two posts at each end and numerous referee ex-players themselves and some who are fans.

Practicing since the last World Series Champion game of 2008 the entire rez of the eight Choctaw communities and other communities nationwide, team players, coaches, and fans were on hand to witness the game as it has always been played. Now the teams have added players across the nation as well as other tribes. Visiting tribes got to experience the Choctaw culture bring in the New Year.

Exhibit halls were regal at the crafters show and got ribbons and cash. Food vendors carry on ancient recipes of hominy, corn bread, biscuits, frybread and yummy southern menus. Favorites were beef, pork, chicken, and veggies cooked in pots over fire.

Families had the chance to visit and cherish old friends from afar and make new ones. Old chants and dancers came from afar to carry out ancient steps of the past.

New ambassadors for the Tribe across native communities met and a new Princess was selected.

A show of “Little Brother of War” was exemplified as Pearl River was defeated by Beaver Dam.

Thus began a new year in Choctaw, Mississippi, and for all fans of Choctaw stickball as we vow to:



1. Forgive the past
2. Pray for all
3. Do your best
4. Enjoy each day
5. Get in some “kobocca” (Chahta stickball) practice
6. Sew new attire
7. Get a job
8. Acquire new ride to the 2010 game

# Las Vegas Indian Centers “How to make a Drum!”

Las Vegas Indian Center (LVIC) Director Debra Reed has been thinking about a drum for the center for quite sometime. Some time ago Debra recall's meeting Nathan Morris, a local attorney & drum maker, discussing that very same subject. With the idea always there ironically the Las Vegas Art's Council had some available grants to promote cultural history in the Valley. It was then that the dream of a drum for the LVIC became a reality. As Debra put it the drum is the heartbeat of the community. Congratulations LVIC & Southern Nevada on your new drum.



Rebecca from the Las Vegas Art's Council talks with Debra Reed, Director of LVIC.



Step 1: Bless the Drum.



Step 2: Give the drum a voice or also known as the breath (breath hole).



The Voice of the Drum.



Step 3: After totally emerging the moose skin in water lay on a flat even surface.



Step 4: Use hoop as an outline on wet moose skin.



Step 5: Cut skin with sharp blade or utility knife.



Step 6: Punch holes for lace.



Step 7: Lace both peices of skin together on both sides of the hoop, you will tighten the laces many times.

# 4th of July Moapa Style



United Credit Education Services.....thanks Emma for being such an outstanding community member.



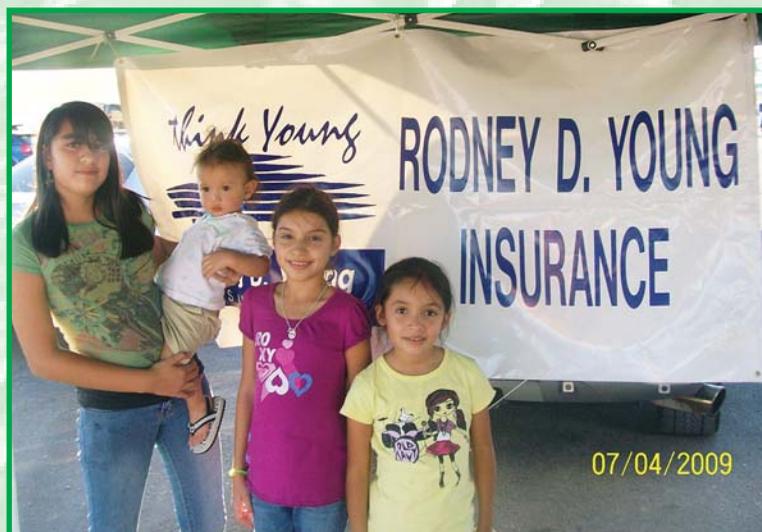
The Gonzalez family, one of the many that lined the 60 acre launching pad.



Deanna Domingo of the Moapa Cultural Committee keeps busy while awaiting firework fun.



Moapa Band of Paiutes Vocational Rehabilitation.



Rodney D. Young Insurance.....thanks Emma for helping servicing our community in so many diverse ways.



James or better known as WONDER BOY, has plenty of 4th of July sparkle with his beautiful beaded jewelry designs.

## TITLE VII INDIAN EDUCATION

## Full Moon Over the SCAIR Soaring Eagles

by Roy Cook

Over us tonight, 8/5/09, is a glorious, gargantuan, golden Indian Moon with a rabbit clearly visible. Our Indian ways are as old as the rabbit in the moon. There is a Mayan story that tells when the rabbit tricked jaguar and was so happy thinking of how he had fooled the jaguar that he didn't notice when jaguar took a great leap and pulled on the elastic vine that rabbit was playing on. Jaguar held with all his strength and then suddenly let go. The rabbit went up and up through the air holding his belly and laughing, and finally the rabbit reached the moon. That is why on nights when the moon is full you can still see the rabbit bending over holding his stomach with laughter. This story is from Mayan people in the state of Yucatan. Maya children still see a rabbit in the moon, though children of other cultures believe there is a man there, or that the moon is made of cheese. Summer nights, summer skies and summer hearts fill with the traditional songs of our American Indian culture.

Wednesday evening there were many announcements and recognition of our Soaring Eagle dancers achievements at

the Peach Springs Havasupai Pow Wow and selection of them to responsible positions at upcoming events.

There were so much activity this evening that it brought back memories of commodity times. There were many 'cheesy' grins and smiles for the picture taking by AIWA member William Buchanan and a whole bunch of parents and friends.

The enthusiasm continues at the SCAIR, Southern California American Indian Resource, and



Soaring Eagle dance program. Our program continues in August 2009 on Wednesday at 6:30 pm in the Normal Heights Community room. The SCAIR hosted and voluntary potluck meal continues at the beginning of the evening

with a blessing by an elder or designated spiritual person. All are welcome to enjoy and participate in these SCAIR hosted free Soaring Eagle American Indian Dance classes. There is an open invitation for everyone to drop in. We will look to see you and your family next week.



SCAIR dance instructor, Edward 'Chuck' Cadotte continues to mentor each dancer to do their best and encourage each category of dance style: Women and men traditional, grass dance, jingle dress, shawl dance, Southern women, adult and children round dance.

The Soaring Eagle drum, are encouraged by the excitement and enthusiasm of the parents and Soaring Eagle dancers. We have had a good response to our constructed 'loaner' regalia items for use at the dance practice: dance sticks, wing fans, flat fans and gourd rattles. Soaring Eagle singer Ben Nance continues to fit belts and bell straps for

the Soaring Eagle dancers. All are welcome around the drum. However, to have a seat at the drum will require one to sing or at least try to 'catch' the tune then the song and finally the words to be a singer at the drum.

AUG 14 & 15: Barona Gathering, Barona Reservation

August 15 & 16: 2nd Annual Pala Pow-wow, 760-742-1590

September 4, 5 & 6: Barona Powwow, Barona Indian Reservation, Lakeside, Ca, Info: 619/443-6612

September 11, 12 & 13: Sycuan Powwow, Sycuan Indian Reservation, 5459 Sycuan Rd., El Cajon, Ca, Info: 619/445-7776

September 18, 19 & 20: Soboba Powwow, Soboba Casino, San Jacinto, Ca, Info: 951/654-2765

September 26 & 27: 16th Annual American Indian Powwow & Craft Fair, William S Hart County Park, 24151 Newhall St., Newhall, Ca, Info: 661/298-3014 or 661/255-9295

September 25-27: Morongo Thunder & Lightning Powwow, Cabazon, Ca, For additional information please call (951) 755-5340, Ext. 23800. Hours: Friday, Gates open at 4:00 p.m. Grand Entry at 8:00 p.m.; Saturday, Gates open at 10:00 a.m. Grand Entry at 1:00 & 8:00 p.m.; Sunday, Gates open at 10:00 a.m. Grand Entry at 1:00 p.m.; Open to the Public. Admission and parking is free. [www.morongocasinosort.com](http://www.morongocasinosort.com)

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# A Circle Complete; The power of a Native American, Tonemah.

by *Cherrie Richardson Collazo*

Native American cultures grasp that life entails a circle that is ongoing without end, and connecting all things. This principle is applied by Native Americans and indigenous peoples worldwide. Its embodiment can be felt. Seen, and found in almost every aspect of existence. Darryl Tonemah is an embodiment of the circle that encompassing the very essence of Native American intelligence, passion, fortitude, endurance, and will to transcend the status quo. He is a scholar, a visionary, an artist, an entrepreneur and complex individual, a Native American man who brings us the gifts that lie within him. "A Time Like Now", "One in Every Crowd", and "Welcome to Your Rainy Day" are just some of the nuances of the music that has come from this multi dimensional man. He has won several nominations and several music awards for his compelling lyrics and his overall work.

Darryl Tonemah a Kiowa-Comanche Tuscarora man was brought up in New York, the Dakotas, and Oklahoma. He received a strong influence from his parents, that influenced his musical talent. His mother played the piano in a church. Darryl never thought he'd be a successful musician but still had dreams of performing as a young boy. "I learned bass to back her up. I taught myself guitar in my bedroom, but kept my rock star aspirations to myself. An entertainment career wasn't foremost in my mind then."

This mind set took Darryl into higher learning, and wanting to achieve. Tonemah earned bachelors degrees in psychology, sociology and gerontology; a masters degree in community counseling; and a Ph.D in counseling psychology and cultural studies from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He earned the title of doctor, and worked at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center. "Diabetes is a very big problem and health issue within the Native American communities" as many Natives have a predisposition to diabetes. Exercising 30 minutes a day and losing 7% of one's body weight will prevent diabetes 58% of the time.

I was brought up to believe that you develop the skills that the creator gave you and then give back" Darryl explains. Tonemah continued to discover other parts of himself that would help native people and also bring joy and pride to them. He wrote politically themed songs at Northern State University in South Dakota where he studied, and his lyrics always encompassed something that the people young and old could relate to. For example "PowWow Snag" is a song that popped into his head and Darryl actually wrote the lyrics on a Wal-Mart receipt. "At that time I was going to

speak to a teenage group, and that song speaks about flirting at pow wows. I pulled the car over and just wrote the lyrics down. When I played the song, the kids responded very well, so for a while I incorporated songs into my presentations." This ultimately led to Darryl not being able to keep songs and presentations separate as too many people began requesting his music. It was the turning point to add yet another facet to Darryl's existence. So many people asked him for cd's that he finally made one. Oddly enough, "Pow Wow Snag" was not on the first cd, and when Darryl actually put it on "One in Every Crowd", it became an instant hit. Since that time cd after cd has been produced and Tonemah's unique blend of Folk, Blues and Rock, combined with the undeniable essence of a Native American man tapping into Native lives, his music is stirring to the spirit at best. "Welcome to Your Rainy Day" won the best folk album at the 2007 Native American Music Awards.

"When I am not doing diabetes and wellness presentations, I am on the road with a very modest acoustic group." Playing the guitar himself, with his brother LP Tonemah on congas, and second guitarist Ed Koban, Darryl delivers more storytelling with the music. With the full band there is more synergy with the audience but being on MTV is not one of Darryl's goals. "I am content with my work and the music that I create, and glad when it makes other people happy and gives them pleasure."

Darryl Tonemah's accomplishments speak for themselves as they include an array of different plateaus. In 2000 Tonemah made it to the shortlist when nominations for the 1st ever Native American Music Grammy was to be awarded Hewas the first artist to be featured on the "Grammy Sessions Live" national radio show and received rave reviews. Tonemah performed for 5 days at the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City, Utah. In Oct. of 2003, he received the Native American Recognition Days of Arizona's Community Pride & Spirit Award for Outstanding Community Event, for his Annual Native American Childrens Benefit Christmas Concert & Toy Drive. Tonemahs Annual Native American Childrens Christmas Concert & Toy Drive began 10 years ago in Phoenix AZ, to a few dozen people, and has now expanded to California, New Mexico, Oklahoma and, and gathers thousands of gifts for Native American young people. In 2008 Tonemah won the Native American Music Award for Best Folk Recording for the cd "Welcome to Your Rainy Day". In 2008 and 2009 he was awarded the Silver Arrow Award for Contributions to Native American Music. Tonemah was nominated in 2009 for

four Aboriginal People's Choice awards.

Tonemah had the lead role in the stage production Tribe, which toured nation wide & sold out all it's shows. Hehas appeared in 2 movies, The Last of the Mohicans and DMZ. He has performed with several national artists such as Foreigner, Three Dog Night, Hootie & the Blowfish, Creedence, Johnny Lang, Rusted Root, and Donna The Buffalo, among others. Tonemahs cd's are recorded and produced in Nashville. They have included production on songs by legendary producer George Massenburg (Phil Collins, James Taylor, Journey, Bonnie Raitt & more), and included performances by Pete Wasner (sought after keyboardist, as well as hit song writer for Garth Brooks & the Dixie Chicks) and musicians that have recorded and performed with Van Morrison, Bob Seger, Lyle Lovett and others. Longbow Guitar Company of New Mexico manufactures & markets the Tonemah Signature Model Guitar.

Tonemah and his road band practice a drug & alcohol free lifestyle, and perform at many benefits nationwide to promote wellness among the native community. He has created the "Music as Medicine Program" focusing on at risk Native youth, using basic music skills, and incorporating modern recording techniques to empower youth in a productive and creative manner. Tonemah is the director of the Special Populations Unit, and Family Medicine Faculty at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center. He has worked with the National Institutes of Health on diabetes prevention and lifestyle change research among Indian populations. He also works with Native groups across the United States and Canada promoting health and wellness. His life has been colored and shaped by the influence of a rich Native American heritage and community. Family and the wellbeing of a people is a



Darryl Tonemah

driving and motivating force for him. Darryl Tonemah's press reviews show that brilliance echoes through this Indian voice, his music and scholastic journey is only the beginning.

To learn more, to get to know and to become a part of the movement that Darryl is creating with his music, and humanitarian work, please reach out to the following, and make it a point to listen to this Indian Voice, as it speaks volumes within what Man can do if man follows the good road, his ancestors voices and gives freely of himself for the betterment of all.

Electronic Press Kit:  
[www.sonicbids.com/tonemah](http://www.sonicbids.com/tonemah)  
 Tonemah Website: [www.tonemah.net](http://www.tonemah.net)  
 Facebook Fan Page: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Tonemah/70847943181>  
 Myspace Page:  
[www.myspace.com/darryltonemah](http://www.myspace.com/darryltonemah)

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[www.Tonemah.net](http://www.Tonemah.net)  
 602.504.6707  
[info@tonemah.net](mailto:info@tonemah.net)

## Rincon Tribe Reaffirms Governmental Jurisdiction Over Reservation Boundaries

RINCON, CA – In three separate lawsuits over the past several weeks, the jurisdiction of the Rincon Band of Luiseno Indians and the authority of the tribe to enforce its governmental laws were challenged. Setting significant precedent for future actions of the tribe and other tribes, the Rincon Tribe prevailed in all three lawsuits.

These decisions advance the efforts of the tribe to establish and implement governmental policy within the reservation boundaries and was applied equally to tribal members and non-members, trust lands, allotments, and even non-Indian fee lands. In addition, the decisions provide clarification and precedent in areas that have remained unresolved about tribal government rights on reservation land, and would have continued to hamper the goal of the tribe to improve conditions within the community.

Commenting on the significance of these legal developments, Tribal Chairman Bo Mazzetti said, “These cases, collectively, demonstrate the Rincon Band intends to

exercise sound governmental practices, through policies and ordinances and make sure they are applied fairly and impartially through the courts, if necessary. Like any government, we feel the need to challenge any activity that threatens or has some direct effect on the political integrity, environmental protection, and economic security, or the health or welfare of the Rincon community. We have an obligation not only to our members and other residents, who live or do business on the reservation, but also to the neighboring communities.”

First, in Rincon Band v. Donius, the tribe pursued a civil lawsuit in the Inter-Tribal Court of Southern California against Marvin Donius. He was sued for violating the tribe’s signage ordinance on fee land property he owns within the reservation boundaries. Land, on which, he has operated and subleased many businesses in defiance of tribal law.

Donius filed an appearance challenging the tribe’s authority over him and over his non-Indian fee lands. Judge Anthony Brandenburg, of the Intertribal Court of

Southern California, held a hearing on the jurisdictional issues and ruled the Rincon Band has jurisdiction over both Donius and the fee lands. Donius thereafter failed to appear before the court. Default judgment was entered against him on June 29, 2009. He was ordered to remove the signs and after defying the Order, on July 21, 2009, the tribe physically removed the signs from the fee lands.

Second, in Rincon Mushroom Corporation of America v. SDG&E, the note holders of Donius’ fee lands filed a lawsuit in the California State Court against San Diego Gas and Electric because the utility had honored Rincon tribal law and refused to provide a power reconnect to the Donius property, without the proper tribal permits. The utility cross-claimed against the tribe in San Diego County Superior Court. The Rincon Band sought to dismiss the action because the tribe had not waived its sovereign immunity and state courts cannot resolve the issue of the tribal jurisdiction without its inclusion in the lawsuit. Notably, San Diego County was also sued

by SDG&E and the county joined in the tribe’s motions, averring that the tribe, not the county, has proper jurisdiction over the matter.

“The county agrees that the Rincon Tribe, has the ability to adequately provide public safety, at no cost to county taxpayers,” noted Mazzetti.

Superior Court Judge Michael Orfield granted the tribe’s motions and dismissed the case, stating that, “The Tribe has several ‘interests’ in this action which meet the standards of CCP § 389(a)(2), (state statute requiring a lawsuit to include all interested parties) including interests related to the same sovereign immunity and the tribe’s authority to govern the reservation, and the tribe’s ability to ensure fire protection and safety on the reservation.”

Third, in Rincon Band v. SDG&E, the tribe pursued a civil lawsuit against SDG&E, and tribal members, George, Rik and Candi Mazzetti for hooking up power to a pole that had been constructed without proper tribal public safety permits. Both SDG&E and the Mazzettis filed motions, challenging the tribal government’s ordinances and jurisdiction. The court denied the motions, rejecting the Mazzettis’ arguments that the tribe’s authority does not extend to allotments. That case will now proceed to trial.

Rincon Attorney General, Scott Crowell, who represented the tribe throughout the series of litigations, stated that, “It is an honor to represent a tribe so principled and so committed to the responsible exercise of governmental authority it needs to protect its legitimate interests. Undoubtedly, future challenges will be made, but these cases send the message that the Rincon Band will vigorously defend its sovereign authority, regardless of the court, the status of the individual or company, or the status of the land.”

## Have a Voice – Be Proud to be Counted

The 2010 Census questionnaires will be arriving at every household in March. The United States Constitution (Article I, Section II) mandates a count of every person residing in America every ten years. The information the Census obtains is absolutely confidential and protected by law. Not only is the Census safe, it is quick. The new form is only ten questions and takes about ten minutes.

More than 400 billion dollars are allocated each year to communities based on Census Bureau data. Census numbers are also used to apportion government repre-



### 2010 CENSUS: IT'S IN OUR HANDS

sentation. Gordon Belcourt, head of the Montana-Wyoming Tribal Leaders Council, agrees that “for us to have our fair share of what we need, organizations need to realize that we are here. The ten questions in the 2010 Census take only minutes to complete and help planners understand who we are, how we live and what we need.”

Native American communities need funding for children’s health, education and welfare. By filling out the form, it gives a voice to Native American communities that they have not had in the past. The Census also preserves cultural heritage. While your personal information is confidential and protected by law, it is also sealed for 72 years. One day someone can learn more about you. The Census builds a bridge to your children and grandchildren.

Former gold medalist and Oglala Lakota member Billy Mills encourages other native peoples to fill out their census form. “We are at an opportune time to touch almost all Native Americans with pride, to step forward and to be counted in the Census.”

## Sycuan Casino Unveils Off-Track Betting Facility

EL CAJON, CA – Even though the odds are down in the horse racing industry and handle is declining at every track in America, Sycuan is investing a lot of money in an Off-Track Betting facility inside its casino. The betting windows will begin taking wagers on Friday, August 7th at 11 a.m.

“Our customers kept telling us to bring back the Off-Track Betting, and while the industry may be down a little bit and some may question our decision, we will give our customers what they want,” said Daniel J. Tucker, Chairman of the Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation.

Sycuan’s new Off-Track Betting facility has the blessing of the California Horse Racing Board, which has expressed excitement over Sycuan’s involvement in the industry.

Members of the media are welcome to

the grand opening and to be part of the action.

*About Sycuan Casino: 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 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 Restaurant, 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 Funds, which is a publicly traded and professionally managed mutual fund. Combined, these enterprises now employ nearly 4,000 San Diegans.*

## AMA on Health Care

The American Medical Association has weighed in on the new health care reform bill.

The Allergists voted to scratch it, but the Dermatologists advised not to make any rash moves.

The Gastroenterologists had sort of a gut feeling about it, but the Neurologists thought the Administration had a lot of nerve.

The Obstetricians felt they were all laboring under a misconception.

Ophthalmologists considered the idea shortsighted.

Pathologists yelled, “Over my dead body!”

While the Pediatricians said, ‘Oh, Grow up!’ The Psychiatrists thought the whole idea was madness, while the Radiologists could see right through it.

Surgeons decided to wash their hands of the whole thing.

The Internists thought it was a bitter

pill to swallow, and the Plastic Surgeons said, “This puts a whole new face on the matter.”

The Podiatrists thought it was a step forward, but the Urologists were pissed off at the whole idea.

The Anesthesiologists thought the whole idea was a gas, and the Cardiologists didn’t have the heart to say no.

In the end, the Proctologists won out, leaving the entire decision up to the assholes in Washington.

I know this is a serious issue, but I just needed a laugh and felt you did as well.

Take care of your health

## Corridor of Hope Project Sees Measurable Success

by Candice O. Abraham, *The Urban Voice*

Homelessness is not new in Las Vegas, but the magnitude of today's homeless problem has increased shockingly due to our current economic downturn. The "tent city" on Foremaster and Main has become something of a tourist attraction, though it is far from a Disney World. In addition to the plight of poverty inherent in homelessness, the "residents" of the area are subjected to predators who use this situation to abuse, steal, rape, solicit prostitution, and sell drugs. The presence of these opportunistic criminals is a primary reason that Metro became involved in helping the homeless.

On April 17 the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department kicked off what came to be designated the "Corridor of Hope Project." Under the direction of Deputy Chief Gary Schofield, invitations were issued to local business owners, the media, faith-based organizations, relevant Las Vegas Neighborhood Services and Clark County employees, the Committee on Homelessness of the Southern Nevada Regional Planning Coalition, charitable foundations, and the homeless. Chief Schofield led this inaugural discussion, which covered such topics as: What works best in helping the homeless? and, What is the most immediate need which

must be addressed?

The second scheduled meeting was May 14, where a draft of the "Hope Corridor Alliance Strategic Plan 2009" was presented to attendees. Using the input from the April meeting, Metro compiled a plan whose vision was for "Safe Streets for all who live and work in the Corridor." The mission of the Corridor Project was defined to: "Implement a safe environment that will assist persons in the Corridor to work, access social services, and find shelter." Gary Peck, ACLU executive director, is represented at all Corridor meetings; his primary concern is protecting the constitutional rights of the homeless.

On May 26 the meetings were moved from Downtown Command to Bolden Station on Stella Lake, and Lt. Ted Snodgrass was introduced by Metro to manage the project together with Annie Wilson, Homeless Liaison for Metro. Meetings were stepped up to weekly, each Tuesday at Bolden Station. "Help Teams" were assembled under Annie Wilson's direction for interventions which were initiated May 27. These interventions would evolve into weekly Wednesday events at 6:00am and 6:00pm. Volunteers meet at Salvation Army Family Services on Main Street where they are divided into teams. Team

members have been trained to help each homeless person, initially by conducting an interview to determine his needs.

Once a team member establishes that the homeless client is not in need of medical aid, the client is conversationally questioned by use of a HELP of Southern Nevada protocol. Client answers lead team members to direct each client toward the services appropriate for them. These needs range from temporary housing, to ID acquisition, to signing up for bus passes or food stamps, to mental health counseling, to job seeking. Some homeless are eligible for benefits through a number of organizations including the VA, Social Services, and SSI. In many cases, these clients are unaware of their eligibility, or have no idea how to access the appropriate system. One pleasant surprise was hearing homeless men who attend the meetings assert that food is never an issue, as organized groups (Salvation Army, Catholic Charities, and more), churches, and individuals are constantly in the Corridor distributing food and water. One gentleman stated that he had gained 30 pounds since becoming homeless!

In addition to the Wednesday interventions, Shannon West, Regional Homeless Services Coordinator for Southern Nevada Regional Planning

Coalition, and Rich Penksa, an intensive case manager for HELP of Southern Nevada, have organized additional, bi-weekly interventions scheduled from June 22 through August 13. These additional interventions have already complemented the Corridor group, sometimes offering different services.

Primarily, the randomization of the visits by "help teams" to the Corridor has made it possible to assist a greater range of homeless individuals. One program offered by SNRPC targets homeless who have been on the street for a minimum of one year. Participants in this special program are "intensively managed" by SNRPC; this technique enjoys a phenomenal 80% success rate.

June brought some concrete progress to the Corridor. Tara Ulmer with Las Vegas Neighborhood Services assisted Annie Wilson to have Public Works deliver trash cans to the Corridor; Annie reported that high-density lights and new crosswalks would be installed on Foremaster. More trash cans were placed by Republic, who pledged to empty them whenever needed. City "Rapid Response" teams clean up frequently, and a rank of spot-o-pots was installed on Main Street beside Shade Tree Shelter. Annie Wilson expressed her gratitude, saying the "city of Las Vegas Neighborhood Services has been a great

SEE **Corridor of Hope**, page 15

## American Indian Recruitment program in the Laguna Mountains

by Roy Cook

A special place and a special person is Carmen Lucas at Kwaymii. A person who can explain everything about that location is what makes the experience special. Carmen Lucas is Kwaymii (a village of the Kumeyaay tribes of the Laguna mountain region). She lives on the site of the village that she is descended from. Historical and political circumstances determined that this village site is no longer recognized as a Federal Indian reservation. This location will forever be rich in heritage and culture.

The local Kumeyaay bands acknowledge Carmen's Tribal heritage and she works as a Native American monitor to ensure that dignity and respect is afforded to Native American remains and cultural items during construction type projects. She also participates in the Kumeyaay Cultural Repatriation Committee (KCRC); a group dedicated to seeing proper treatment is given to Native remains held by federal agencies. Carmen is fortunate to have received traditional tribal instruction and be recognized as an expert in the local tribal cultural geography.

Carmen took our AIR program on a tour of various sites within the Laguna Mountain range showing us the

Kumeyaay regions that were traveled from the ocean to the desert during various times of the season. These patterns show that the Kumeyaay traveled within this region based on seasonal changes and therefore occupied many locations based on any given season. The Kumeyaay territory is vast, from Baja Mexico to San Diego and Imperial Counties. We thank Carmen for taking us into her home, the Laguna Mountains and sharing her knowledge. We all gained a greater understanding of the Kumeyaay people of the Cuyamuc-Laguna Mountains.

### Bobby Levi Says...

Bobby Levi is a first time student within the AIR Program and has agreed (from time to time) to write on his progress in the AIR Program.

Hello, my name is Bobby Levi, I am Cahuilla and Hopi from the Torres Martinez Reservation. This is my



first year in the AIR Program and next week I will be getting my schedule for my freshman year of classes and talking to my counselor about this. What I will be asking him/her is about A-G requirements. Prior to the AIR Program I didn't know about required classes or courses to follow to get into college. By taking these courses and talking about them with my counselor I can be on track to qualify for college right after high school. It's never too early to prepare. I am learning a lot while in the AIR

Program about college, culture, and how to approach things in order to succeed. Thanks...

2008-09 AIR Program Officers:  
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# UPTOWN VIEW

VIEW OF THE 702

Edited by Kena Adams • 702-787-6365 • kenaadams@indianvoices.net



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## UNLV Celebrates American Indian graduates

The American Indian Alliance (AIA), American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES) and Native American Student Association (NASA) at the University of Nevada Las Vegas, in conjunction with the Office of the Vice President for Diversity & Inclusion, and the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs sponsored the 9th Annual Native American Convocation Ceremony on Friday May 8, 2009 at 6pm in the Student Union Theater. The theme for the event was "Go My Child" and honored 65 Native American Graduates from the Summer/Fall 2008 and Spring 2009 semesters. Of those 65, twenty graduates participated in these years events.

Approximately 200 community leaders, faculty, staff, students and families

came out in support of this momentous occasion. The event was MC'd by CSN Recruitment and Retention Specialist, Chuck Masoka. During the event families were given the opportunity to share their gratitude and support to their new graduates in an emotional and energizing component of the ceremony. Each graduate received recognition from US Senators Harry Reid, John Ensign and Nevada Congresswoman Dina Titus, Nevada Indian Commission Executive Director, Sherry L. Rupert, as well as recognition from AIA, AISES and NASA themselves. This year the group celebrated the achievements of several members including, Christopher Kypuros, NASA Faculty Advisor who obtained his PhD in Educational Leadership, Kyle Ethelbah, AIA representative and Chair

of the Southern Nevada Native American Educational Coalition who obtained a Master's in Public Health. Student Leaders Simone Boutang, Sipiwe Harris and Nic'Cola Armstrong all graduated with Bachelor degrees in Education, Hospitality Management/Psychology/Spanish and gaming management, respectively.

The committee is grateful to the American Indian community in Nevada for their continued support, and hopes to establish UNLV as a premier environment for American Indians in the state of Nevada.



Kyle Ethelbah

## Pet Tip of the Month

Dogs can't sweat the same way people do and it makes them prone to overheating. That is why you never leave a dog in a car when it is over 72 degrees - it only takes five minutes for the temperature in an enclosed car to reach 30 degrees above the air temperature outside if parked in direct sunlight. Cracking the windows doesn't help. It isn't just in the car, though, where dogs are prone to overheating. If your dog isn't in shape, taking him on a ten-mile hike isn't such a great idea. Your pup is likely to keep going until he collapses. Take frequent breaks and carry plenty of water with you on hot days - for the dog, too. If he is panting heavily or slowing down, look for a shady spot to relax together.

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## Colors of Lupus Nevada Gala



Dr. Rupesh Pairkh, Rupee Chima & Harpreet Bar at the COLN Gala.

With so many different symptoms it is even hard to know what to prescribe at times to provide relief. COLN is not only fighting for a cure but assist's over

13,000 affected residents with many resources inherent to someone affected. June 27th Indian Voices attended COLN Gala at the beautiful ballroom located inside the Treasure Island Hotel & Casino. I think beautiful is an understatement when describing the elegance the Treasure Island

Colors of Lupus Nevada (COLN) was founded by Hui-Lim Ang and is dedicated to finding the causes and a cure for Lupus. Because there are so many unanswered questions about this disease it devastates the lives of those who have it.

Ballroom induced on the esteemed guests and award recipients. The atmosphere was just as relaxing and dinner ... well just guess! COLN presented the 2009 Celebrating Diversity Awards sponsored by COLN and Las Vegas Hispanic Council. Senator Harry Reid, Mayor Oscar Goodman, Congresswoman Dina Titus, Manpower, Team Chima and 1st Internantional Bank were just a few to name who support COLN. This was COLN first Gala and was fantastic at a great location with an atmosphere out this world. I can't wait for the 2nd annual gala; I'll keep you posted on any future events. COLN is dependent on the support of the community to assist affected residents. Contact COLN to see what you can do to help at [www.colorsoplupus.org](http://www.colorsoplupus.org) or 702.966.3929.

## Elder's Meditation of the Day

**"I'm an Indian, I'm one of God's children."**

by Mathew King, LAKOTA

My Creator, today let me remember the reason I look into my own eyes and see the beauty You have thoughts. Being Indian is not the color of my skin. I heart, to think only the things You have taught, to vny. Being Indian is to walk in prayer, to talk to You Indian is to act and to walk in a sacred way.



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## Where can I get my copy of INDIAN VOICES in Nevada

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- Big Mama's Rib Shack-702.597.1616
- Public libraries in Las Vegas, North Las Vegas, Clark County and Henderson-702.938.4000-702.633-1070
- Las Vegas City Hall-702.229.6011
- Grant Sawyer Building-702.486.2800
- Moapa Travel Plaza-702.864.2400
- University of Nevada Las Vegas-702.774.4119
- Las Vegas Paiute Golf & Resort-800.711.2833
- Moapa Indian Reservation-702.865-2787
- Wireless Toys-702.932.8222
- Mario's Westside Market-702.648.1482
- Moapa Band of Paiutes Vocational Rehabilitation-702.307.6971
- The Las Vegas Tribune-702.369.6508
- Native American Community Services-702.443.3719
- Comprehensive Cancer Center's of Nevada-702.952.3444
- Indoor Swap Meet (Lake Mead Drive)
- Nevada Desert Experience
- Urban Voice Magazine-702.696.0043
- CSN Tax Service-702-237-1733
- Dairy Queen-702.737.0700
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- Colors of Lupus-702.688.0951
- Lloyd D. George Building/Senator Harry Reid-702.388.5020
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# Working Together to Preserve Our Water

*Special to Indian Voices by Senator Harry Reid*

It's no secret: Nevada is in the middle of a drought. The water levels at Lake Mead, in the Colorado River, and other major rivers continue to drop. The impacts that climate change make on Western water supplies are evident and will only grow worse if we fail to act. We must work urgently for a balanced approach to provide for the long-term water needs of all Nevadans. I remain committed to recognizing the oldest water rights and respecting the needs of diverse users – farmers and ranchers, tribes, irrigation and conservancy districts, state agencies and municipalities, wildlife and nature preserves.

We must work together across tribal nations and states. For example, ninety percent of the water used in southern Nevada comes from the Colorado River and only 10 percent comes from local groundwater. That means Nevadans must work with the seven other states and many tribes that rely on the Colorado for water to ensure reliable resources far into the future.

Almost twenty years ago, I helped enact a law to resolve water disputes

over the Truckee and Carson Rivers. While many parts of this law have been implemented over the years, just last year, the Truckee River Operating Agreement was signed by the United States, the State of Nevada, the State of California, the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe, the Fallon Paiute Tribe and the Truckee Meadows Water Authority. This agreement divides the waters between Nevada and California, helps to better manage and protect resources in the Truckee River Basin, and prevents future lawsuits regarding the division. This process quantified and secured the water rights of these tribes and will preserve a threatened water source for generations to come.

In the lands bill signed by President Obama earlier this year, critically important water settlement payments to the Shoshone-Paiutes Tribes of the Duck Valley Reservation and Navajo Nation were ratified. Decades of careful negotiations and compromises resulted in quantifying Indian water rights. This process authorizes restitution for past failures by the federal government to protect tribal rights and agreements that require coordination in managing and developing

water uses for municipal, agricultural, wildlife and habitat purposes. It is our responsibility to rectify injustice while looking for solutions to protect the rights of non-tribal water users who have come to rely on the resource – these settlements accomplished this lofty goal.

With the support of the Walker River Paiutes, I have worked throughout my Senate career to protect an important cultural and natural resource to them: Walker Lake, a desert terminal lake in Nevada. Our state's native peoples hold a deep respect for the environment and life in it. At Walker Lake, I am working with the Tribe and others to improve water flows necessary to restore the Lahontan Cutthroat Trout and Tui Chub, restore river shore habitat to draw the hundreds of species of birds in the Walker River Basin, and preserve a rare desert lake. By providing opportunities for businesses and water rights holders to better manage their water rights and improving efficiency, I am working with many interest groups to develop a balanced, respectful approach to ensuring that Walker Lake is maintained and restored.

Of course, healthy native communities also require safe and clean drinking water. I supported additional funding for tribal water improvement projects in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act signed into law earlier this year. From this funding, the Yerington Paiute Tribe will receive a grant of \$150,000 to improve drinking water on the reservation. The Tribe will use the funds to upgrade the piped drinking water in 71 homes, a significant number of homes on the reservation. I led the charge for this funding and now it is going where it is most needed, to put people to work in their own communities.

From the Truckee Agreement to the recent allocation for safe and clean drinking water, we have always worked on behalf of tribes, helping them reach and implement fair water solutions. All Nevadans depend on the water that comes from our mountains, our few lakes and rivers, and underground resources. As people of the high desert and mountains, we know the importance of protecting this resource for our children and their children.

## Corridor of Hope

Continued from page 13

help throughout the process and with clean-up."

Lt. Snodgrass explained that Metro and City Marshalls were supplying security to the area. Need for co-ordination, including a director for each intervention, was expressed. Pastor Dan Winckler of Works of My Father volunteered to have a web site set up for the Corridor project: [www.4master.ning.com](http://www.4master.ning.com) is now available for volunteer sign-ups, comments, suggestions, and contributions. Links are provided to city and county services, as well as links added to the site for groups offering jobs, food, and rooms.

Hundreds of ideas, criticisms, and "solutions" have been offered during these weekly Corridor meetings. Sue Markham, Salvation Army shelter manager, provides a meal each afternoon, housing, and a cooling station at 39 W. Owens. She says: "We must engage the homeless in caring for themselves," such as providing café tokens in exchange for work. Rich Ariola of One Way Riders pointed out that individuals and organizations that drop off piles of clothing and food on the sidewalk are causing problems, not solving them in an organized manner.

Dr. Joe D'Angelo of Living Waters Ministries has identified three acreage properties in North Las Vegas and Henderson which would be appropriate for a different kind of tent city, patterned

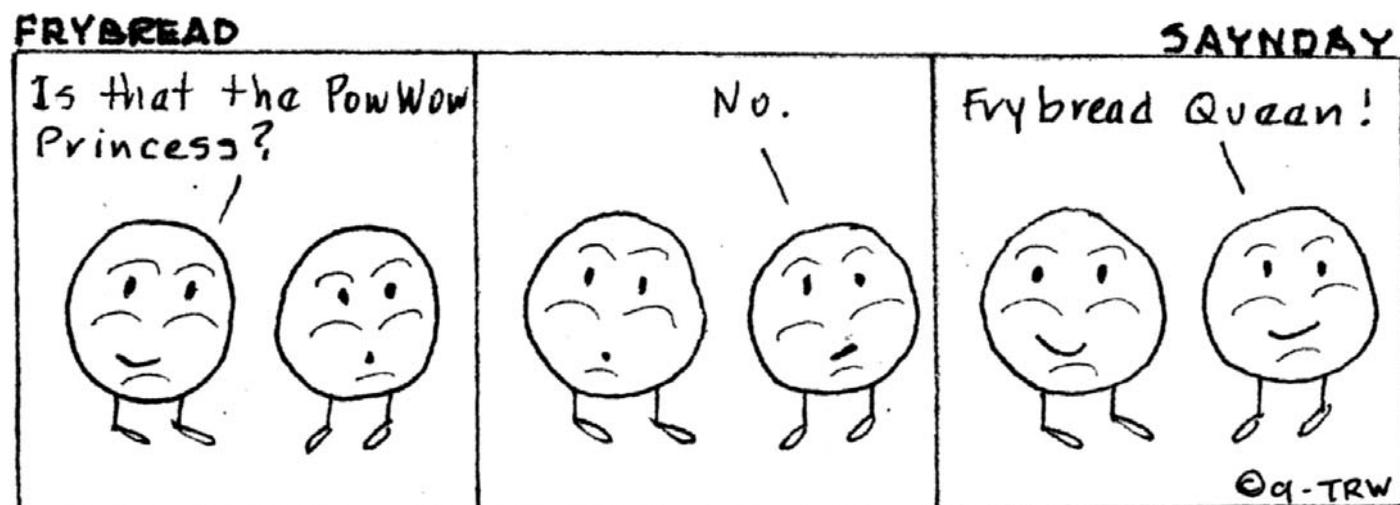
after a successful homeless project in Seattle. These tents (think the Trade Mart tents) would house the homeless in a residential setting, with tents specifically designated for women, men, and families. Each tent, or pavilion, would have key card security access. All the appropriate services would be available on site to help residents re-enter traditional housing and the job market. Clients could transition from the tents into affordable housing after receiving whatever help they need from government services or the VA.

Not all homeless will respond to this strategy, as a small percentage is "service resistant", wanting to avoid structure. The residential program run by Phil Hollan, director of Catholic Charities Residential Services, has received criticism by a few homeless men in atten-

dance because of the qualifying rules applied in order to receive free meals and beds. Professionals such as Phil, City Neighborhood Services workers Lynn Kerr and Stacey Youngblood, and Frances Boddie-Small (a volunteer psychiatric nurse) expect this reaction from the service resistant. They are very aware that service resistant often means rules resistant. However, along with such organizations as Family Promise of Las Vegas, Shade Tree Shelter, the Las Vegas Paiute Tribe, Bunkers Mortuary, and the Covenant of Love, these diligent and dedicated individuals continue their daily crusade to help the maximum number of homeless get off the streets and back to a safe, productive life.

The Corridor of Hope Project has not been the final solution to homelessness, but after three months of concentrated

planning and intervention in the Foremaster and Main Corridor, progress is measurable. At the July 14 meeting, Lt. Snodgrass asserted: "Lawlessness is coming to an end. It is safe to walk down the street in front of the Salvation Army or Palm Mortuary. And, a lot of people (homeless) who said they would never leave, have." The Corridor volunteers still have work to do, focusing on the week-to-week effort, and continuing to communicate among themselves so maximum co-ordination of services can be achieved. The prize for everyone who is contributing to the Corridor project is re-employment and re-housing for those living on the street, but the ultimate pay-back is the return of self-respect and productivity to our neighbors who will no longer be labeled "homeless".



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