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# INDIAN VOICES

OUR 38<sup>TH</sup> YEAR

MULTI-CULTURAL NEWS GLOBAL NETWORK

MAY 2024

## NEW BEGINNINGS

by Indian Voices New Beginnings Team

A quiet, peaceful, culturally enriching natural gathering of humans came together on Kumeyaay ancestral land in Balboa Park at the annual Balboa Park Powwow. Appropriately this ideology-free event took place during Mental Health Month.

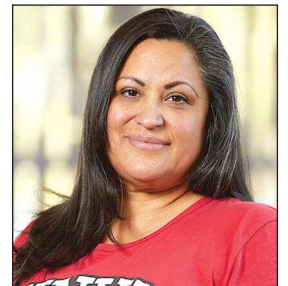
While the world's population is engaged in a cerebral balancing act, dealing with phobias and other adjustments which have taken a toll on many of us, it is reassuring to know that sanity prevails on Kumeyaay land and that storytelling is the ultimate form of communication.

The secure and balanced have

taken a lead in dealing with the task of life within the context of normalcy. It is a challenging task. A growing number of our fellows are not holding up nearly as well and becoming incarcerated, institutionalized, over medicated, and down right miserable while falling victim to power mongers who are perpetuating and busy making a



San Diego Indigenous student advocate



Tammi Tiger is the founder of UNLV's Native American Alumni Club

From left to right: Juawana Grant (Nevada Housing Coalition Director), Kena Adams (Indian Voices Regional Advertising Director), Corina Stiles (HUD Southwest Office of Native Programs Administrator) Adrienne Babbitt (HUD NV Field Office Director), David Passey (HUD Regional Administrator Region IX)



"When I think about why I am really here," Haaland says, "it's like I'm here because the ancestors felt it was necessary."

Photo: The Tyler Twins for The New Yorker

cottage industry from human discord. The visionary academics are trying to change course by encouraging dialogue and discourse to Stop the Hate. The great Democratic experiment inspired by the Indigenous vision and world view of the Seneca nation is being tested. As a people, we are forced into regurgitating

and ingesting the vestigial remains of a culture that stubbornly refuses to yield power to tomorrow's legion of youthful, compassionate, educated and spirited leaders, who are respectfully and patiently waiting in the wings.

Thankfully we are endowed by the Creator with

SEE **New Beginnings**, page 5

### THE INTERNATIONAL COTTON PICKERS' UNITE MOVEMENT! The Global Impact of Mississippi's Cotton Kingdom Conference/Workshop Proposal

Presentation by **KHAFRE, INC.**  
Lecture by **C. Sade Turnipseed, MBA/MS/PhD**

A monument (historic site) that pays homage to Mississippi Cotton Pickers, Sharecroppers, and Textile Workers does not exist in the United States, nor in any place throughout the world. These are the people who literally tilled the path to economic greatness in America, allowing it to become the Cotton Kingdom in the American South, and throughout the world. The Cotton Capital of Manchester, England, and Wall Street of New York were the greatest benefactors of the Mississippi Delta cotton. Hence, the mandate of Khafre, Inc. to initiate the International Cotton Pickers' UNITE Movement! (ICPUM).

The ICPUM is an initiative to erect a series of monuments, museums/interpretive centers, and an

international Historic Cotton Trail that embarks in the "Cotton Kingdom" AKA Mississippi Delta, USA trans-verses across the Atlantic to the "Cotton Capital" Manchester, England, to then disembark in "Cotton Motherland" Segou—Mali, re-visiting the Triangular Trade Route (in reverse).

This initiative began in 2009, when public historian Dr. C. Sade Turnipseed founded the non-profit organization Khafre, Inc., to lead the movement that intentionally showed a heartfelt respect and appreciation for the sweat equity investment of millions of people in the



cotton fields of the American South, and to include the tireless work of people in the textile industries around the world. These people we affectionately call "Grandmama'nem. It is no secret that they worked for unaccountable hours (from kin to kain't) planting, chopping, picking, and spinning cotton ... with no real profit or promise of a monetary return. Nor were there "trust funds" provisioned for them anywhere along the triangular trade route. To this day, none

received the respect and public remembrance they deserve ... It is time!

In 2010, the call went out to world-renowned monument developer and astronaut Mr. Ed Dwight, who provided the historic site plans and so much more. In 2012, Dr. Maya Angelou gave her blessings, voice, and original poetry to the initiative as the inaugural Honorary Chair. In 2014, Dr. B.B. King signed on to continue Dr Angelou's

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## Standing Rock Sioux Tribe Condemns Farmington High School's Removal of Native Student's Graduation Regalia

FORT YATES, ND — The Standing Rock Sioux Tribal Council has unanimously condemned Farmington High School for its removal of a Native student's regalia at her graduation ceremony. School officials barred Genesis White Bull from displaying her regalia — a beaded graduation cap adorned with a sacred eagle plume feather — on Monday, May 13 during the ceremony.

White Bull, who is Hunkpapa Lakota from the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe in North Dakota, was targeted by Farmington High School faculty during what should have been a celebratory moment that comes but once in a lifetime. It is common practice for families in Indian Country to pass down eagle feathers as gifts to young people completing high school or college to demonstrate appreciation for this significant achievement.

"To be humiliated during one of her young life's most celebrated moments is unacceptable, and we demand accountability and apology from the school," says Standing Rock Sioux Tribe Chairwoman Janet Alkire. "We stand with our relative, Genesis White Bull, and we condemn the actions of Farmington High School, which targeted one of our own because of her choice to express pride in her cultural identity."

According to the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, enrolled members of federally recognized tribes are permitted to receive and possess eagle feathers and parts of an eagle, with or without a permit. To receive a permit from the National Eagle Repository, which is managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, applicants must include certification of tribal enrollment from the

Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Enrolled members of tribes may also legally possess eagle feathers and parts acquired through other means, such as being passed down from within a family or received as gifts from other tribes. Tribes and enrolled members of tribes are not permitted to give them to non-enrolled members of tribes.

"Success rates in education remain grim throughout Indian Country," says Chase Iron Eyes, director and lead counsel for the Lakota People's Law Project. "The many reasons for lack of educational success include lack of federal and state funding and discrimination against Indigenous culture, including the suppression of cultural practices in simple celebrations such as graduation."

Many tribal nations and U.S. states have passed legislation permitting the use of wearing traditional tribal regalia or objects of cultural significance in public graduations, including Alaska, Arizona, California, Kansas, Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota.

Farmington sits on the border of the Navajo Nation, and many of its members, along with citizens of the Ute Mountain Ute, Southern Ute, Jicarilla Apache, and other tribal nations live and work there. According to reports published by Farmington Municipal Schools, American Indians and Alaskan Natives comprise approximately 40 percent of the student population.

Local Native people say that in the past, celebration of cultural identity has often been well supported in Farmington's schools. External communications from Farmington Municipal Schools after

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## Cotton Pickers' Unite

Continued from page 1

blessings and gave permission to create a children's novel in tribute to the cotton pickers tales of survival, and, in 2015, blues singer Dr. Bobby Rush followed the lead of his predecessors and became the current Honorary Chair for this Movement. The collective voice of these great Americans honors to the hardest-working people the world has ever known ... The Cotton Pickers.

After over 400 years of enslavement, neo-enslavement (sharecropping), and colonization, we at Khafre, Inc. realize the significance of the work of the Cotton Pickers and are fierce advocates for acknowledging their contributions through educational programs and economic development projects. Their unaccounted-for labor reflects the dignity,

determination, perseverance, pride, and distinct vision of hope held for generations. Khafre, Inc is committed to the idea that Cotton Pickers deserve the building of a series of monuments and museums worldwide. That is the topic of our proposed presentation for your conference, social gathering, et al.

The historical documentation, lecture, and PowerPoint presentation offer tools and remedies that respectfully acknowledge this work and presents with important instruction on how to move forward to protect and preserve the legacy of Grandmama'nem—The Cotton Pickers.

In conclusion, it is time to say "Thank you" to Grandmama'nem!

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## HUD Southwest Office of Native Programs (SWONAP) Welcomes New Administrator

by Kena Adams,  
Indian Voices Las Vegas Coordinator

On Thursday, May 9, Adrian Babbitt, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Nevada Field Office Director, invited Indian Voices to meet Corinna Stiles, the new Southwest Office of Native Programs Director. The round table took place in downtown Las Vegas, Nevada.

The weather was mild, and it seemed a perfect day to collaborate and help educate people about the awesome opportunities available through HUD right now with all the funding that was just secured last month for Indian Country.

The new administrator's jurisdiction is spread out among five states — Nevada, California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas. She definitely has her work cut out for her as she collaborates with so many states and tribes.

There are so many awesome things going on in Indian country right now, from Senator Mastos' bill securing dollars for missing and murdered indigenous women and mental health to the new money just awarded by HUD for Indian Country infrastructure here in the southwest.

The meeting went well. The Nevada Housing Coalition Director educated the new administrator on current projects with Northern Nevada tribes, while Indian Voices covered the Southern Nevada tribes, friends and partners that collaborate

within the multicultural and indigenous community in Southern Nevada and Southern California. The new administrator looks forward to collaborating with native communities in her jurisdiction to educate and assist tribal communities in accessing all the great things that HUD has to offer the indigenous community.

SWONAP ensures that safe, decent and affordable housing is available to Native American families. It creates economic opportunities for tribes and Indian housing residents. It also assists tribes in the formulation of plans and strategies for community development and assures fiscal integrity in the operation of the programs.

HUD recently awarded \$95 million to 55 communities through the Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG) Program. Grant funds may be used for infrastructure, community facilities, housing rehabilitation, economic development, and more to support Native American and Alaskan Native families on Indian reservations and in other Indian areas.

The ICDBG program is a competitive grant that provides a range of eligible activities on reservations and related areas. Eligible activities include housing rehabilitation, land acquisition, roads, water and sewer facilities, and single or multipurpose community buildings.

For more information, contact SWONAP at:  
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## Black Panther Party Monthly Review

Henry Lee Wallace V  
Chairman, San Diego  
Original Black Panther  
Party For Community  
Empowerment.



Dear Friends,  
Supporters, and  
Readers,

It is with great joy that I reach out to you as May rolls out.

The Black Panther Party is steadfast and committed to the mission of service and educating our community. I am getting the office reorganized to more effectively meet the needs and obligations of service and our mission of purpose. I am diligently working to refine the organizational structure. Projects are developing quickly. I have been busy on both sides of the border, working with citizens from various backgrounds to create a program to

facilitate procedures to protect our citizens who may inadvertently find themselves in a bureaucratic legal quagmire.

I will be explaining this in upcoming articles. We are continually networking and expanding relationships. We look forward to meeting with the newly minted Gray Panther party to share ideas, partnership and move mutual concepts forward.

We are excited to reach out to our youth to incorporate their vision of the future.

We continue to seek funds and resources to continue the struggle and reduce stress while depending on the music that ties humanity together.

My upcoming column will be a comprehensive overview of our visions and our upcoming social and economic equity plans.

## UCLA Powwow Experience

by Melissa M. Gonzales

It almost didn't happen. In the days leading up to the pow-wow, outsider student protests took place on campus. It was later reported that on May 2nd, UCLA Pro-Palestinian demonstrators established a Gaza Solidarity encampment. After 36 hours, Police dismantled the camp, necessitating drastic measures for campus safety. Increased law enforcement and security measures were implemented days before medics and the police force. The order was to keep the peace. Hardly any students were present, and "coco" robotic food delivery was in high demand across the campus.

During this time, UCLA Bruins Pow Wow princess contestants were able to pageant for the honorary crown. The pow wow student committee hosted the event, showcasing each of their tribes and passing on a brief history of the areas they lived, ways to harvest or hunt, each wearing handmade regalia typically worn by the women of the tribes.

The Golden State Gourd Society danced among all the dancers and led the opening prayer. Dancers came from all over in full regalia. Just a week before Mother's Day, vendors displayed gifts. This Pow Wow, along with Cal State Long Beach weeks before, we learn has a large presence with natives traveling from out of state to attend these annually.

As I began this journey, the faces became very familiar, and as a contestant, seeing the native community in Southern California being so tight-knit and welcoming was heartening. My anxiety leading up to my attendance got the best of me. Realizing that sometimes what's going on inside oneself can often lead to assumptions of not being accepted, or maybe even though I don't want to acknowledge a tiny bit of fear of judgment.

As I took a deep breath, clamming up

from being nervous, a kind hand from a fellow dancer showed an act of kindness and helped me get straightened out. I seriously held my breath and swallowed my tears before anyone could see them.

Walking out in silence, I began to pray, blanking my mind to picture myself hiding in a tree alone, barely letting the sun rays through, playing with a wind chime for the first few seconds as I tried to follow the other dancers' lead. After showing true humility in the arena, getting past the sweats, clammed palms, doing probably everything not as planned, I got through it. I was kindly reminded so quickly that everyone is moving with their intentions. My intention is in the spirit of dancing for those who can no longer, for healing, and for true humility.

After the new crowning took place, dancers danced, vendors showcased, and attendees gazed, ate, and appreciated our culture as they indulged in all the beautiful custom-crafted regalia, and complimented in passing as they asked for photo opportunities.

One new thing that proved to be noticeably unusual and disappointing to some of the prize-winning dancers announced was that they would receive their prizes in the mail at a later, undetermined date. This means that some dancers who traveled from afar were not only disappointed, they also weren't given information on what the prize would be. So, surprises without the prize. Days after, a dancer commented on the disappointment. It was openly stated that some of the college powwows had done this too.

No one was hurt. Safety was a major concern leading up to this powwow, and it was successfully delivered. This is a true testament to the prayer work that had been done by many elders, leaders, community supporters, drummers, singers, and dancers.

## Warm Springs Tribe Responds to Court of Appeals Decision

In February, the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon filed a brief with the Court of Appeals of the State of Oregon. The Tribe asked the court to send back the January 12 decision of the Land Use Board of Appeals (LUBA) to address issues that the Tribe has raised in connection with the proposed modification of Thornburgh Resort's Fish and Wildlife Mitigation Plan.

Today, the Court of Appeals issued its decision to return the case to LUBA for consideration of the Tribe's challenge. In response, please accept this statement from Robert A. Brunoe, Secretary Treasurer/CEO of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.

"We are pleased that the Court of

Appeals understands the importance of ensuring that land use decision makers respect our treaty rights, co-management responsibilities, and sovereign interests when it comes to the fish resources of the Deschutes Basin.

The Deschutes River and its tributaries are in our homelands, and we have lived and fished on these waters since time immemorial. The land and water impacted by the 2022 Fish and Wildlife Mitigation Plan lies within our ceded territory where we retain treaty-protected rights to take fish and to have fish to take. Our Tribal knowledge – both scientific and cultural – is essential to deliver a healthy fishery for our people.

*The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon is a federally-recognized, sovereign Indian tribe occupying the Warm Springs Reservation, which was reserved for its exclusive benefit by an 1855 Treaty with the United States. The Reservation stretches from the summit of the Cascade Mountains to the cliffs of the Deschutes River in Central Oregon.*

## Leonard Peltier Advocates Seeking United Nations Help

Advocates say federal prison officials are failing to address the 80-year-old Anishinaabe man's declining health

by Amelia Schafer, ICT + Rapid City Journal

Leonard Peltier has spent over half his life in prison. Now, at nearly 80 years old, his health has taken a downward turn leading advocates to call for his release.

Peltier is currently serving two life sentences at the Coleman Maximum Security prison in Florida in connection to the deaths of two FBI agents in 1975 on the Pine Ridge Reservation. The Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians citizen is considered by many to be a political prisoner.

Peltier's declining health has gone untreated by the U.S. Bureau of Prisons, said advocates from the Leonard Peltier Ad Hoc Committee.

"Leonard is in serious physical trouble," said Dawn Lawson, secretary of the Leonard Peltier Ad Hoc Committee, to ICT and the Rapid City Journal. "His diabetes has progressed to the point where he could slip into a diabetic coma. He hasn't seen a dentist in over ten years. He's in excruciating pain all of the time."

On April 12, Jenipher Jones, a lead

attorney for Peltier's post-conviction legal efforts, filed a Request for Communications with the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Torture and the United Nations Special Procedures group. The request asked for communication between the UN and United States regarding a denial of medical care to Peltier and a need for investigation of human rights violations in United States prisons.

Peltier has a heart condition, kidney disease, diabetes, high blood pressure, degenerative joint disease, injuries to his jaw and is experiencing vision loss. Advocates said each condition requires ongoing medical care, which the Bureau of Prisons has not been providing.

Advocates said if Peltier goes any longer without medical attention he may die in prison.

"The denial of medical care to prisoners not only violates the 8th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and the domestic disability provisions but also the Convention Against Torture and the Mandela Rules on the treatment of prisoners," Jones said in an April 16 press release.

*This story is co-published by the Rapid City Journal and ICT, a news partnership that covers Indigenous communities in the South Dakota area.*

## Standing Rock

Continued from page 2

Monday's graduation said it was committed to exploring options to allow cultural elements in student attire, including graduation caps and gowns.

"Genesis was targeted for displaying her cultural identity, including wearing a beaded graduation cap adorned with an eagle plume, just like our ancestors were," says Iron Eyes. "Since its inception, the American educational system has been anti-Indigenous — from the oppression of Native languages, to the whitewashing of our history, to the cutting of our hair. It's long past time to properly acknowledge

Native cultures and celebrate their beauty."

*About the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe: Straddling the South Dakota and North Dakota border, the Standing Rock Indian Reservation covers 2.3 million acres, stretching across endless prairie plains, rolling hills and buttes that border the Missouri River. Home to the Lakota and Dakota nations, the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe is committed to protecting the language, culture and well-being of its people through economic development, technology advancement, community engagement and education. In 2016 and 2017, Standing Rock gained international attention when tens of thousands of allies came to protest camps to oppose the Dakota Access pipeline, which continues to threaten the Tribe's sole source of fresh drinking water in Lake Oahe and the Missouri River. Follow the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe on Facebook.*

## International Workers Day In San Diego

by Alastair Mulholland Running Bear

Do you like getting paid overtime? I know I do. The reason that we have overtime is thanks to the efforts of anarchists, communists, and union members. On May 4, 1886, workers at the McCormick Harvesting Machine Company in Chicago went on strike to demand that they be paid overtime when working beyond eight hours of consecutive work. The resulting Haymarket Massacre spurred by the police suppression of the workers eventually led to the passage of overtime pay legislation in the United States and then around the world.

“The Marxist International Socialist Congress chose May 1 as their day of action in Paris in 1890 to commemorate the Haymarket Massacre in Chicago in 1886 which is credited for requiring overtime to be paid beyond an eight hour workday” writes Maite Knorr-Evans in an article titled “Why isn’t Labor Day held on May 1st in the United States?”. While workers in San Diego did turn out in numbers like in France, it was still an uplifting and educational day.

It was a beautiful International Workers’ Day in sunny Southern California. The temperature was mild in the afternoon as I glided on my bicycle through the city to unite with fellow workers in solidarity at the two marches held in San Diego on May 1, 2024. Students and workers and family members marched and rallied to celebrate past accomplishments but also to become better informed about current struggles and to show support for new urgent demands.

One of the marches was largely organized by Unite Here Local 30 and the SD Labor Council to demand the passing of a \$25.00 minimum wage law. The other march was organized by a broader coalition, which included SD Labor for

Palestine, Union del Barrio, the Black Panther Party, Jewish Voices for Peace, the Palestinian Youth Movement and others on the left. The march was in solidarity with Palestinian workers and trade unions. They demanded liberation for Palestine and an end to the occupation and genocide.

I first rolled upon the march for the \$25 minimum wage. Those in attendance numbered at around three to four hundred if I had to guess, and the mood was uplifting. The march meandered through the city as tourists and Padres fans looked on bewildered. Many were unaware of the significance of May 1st historically.

The march ended at the San Diego Civic Center Plaza where we chanted down Babylon, as represented by the oppressive, dull rectangular tower where supposed city officials who have the power to affect decisions sat in wonder or were perhaps not there at all.

I posted up, chatting to a young man who was a SDSU student. I asked him if he knew about the other march; he said he did not. I was then greeted by an International

Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) buddy who invited me over to some more IBEW contingent. He recognized me because I was representing by wearing my 569 IBEW shirt. There were about seven of us in total.

There were a couple elders, one of whom was the vice president of my Local 569. I hung out with them and listened to some of the hotel workers talk about how they had to work three jobs just to pay the rent and the strain it puts on them physically, emotionally, and mentally. It made me think of how much the mainstream media wants to stress the importance of mental health but seems unwilling or incapable of expressing the connection between mental health and the ever-increasing cost of living.

For example, a Consumer Affairs article titled “Comparing the Costs of Generations” states “Gen Z dollars today have 86% less purchasing power than those from when baby boomers were in their twenties.” After some time at the Unite Here rally, I rolled out to join the other march.

The SD Labor for Palestine march and rally began at the Federal Building in downtown San Diego. I didn’t catch the group until after they marched from the Federal Building through downtown and arrived at Chicano Park in Barrio Logan. Greeting the arrival of the marchers at Chicano Park was a group of Danza Azteca. Then different organizations took turns speaking about what they do.

Several speakers spoke about the links between the Zionist Settler Colonial project of Israel’s occupation of Palestine, the colonization of the Americas, and the apartheid-like situation existing at the San Diego/Tijuana border region. One woman who was battling cancer spoke on behalf of the San Diego Tenants Union. She fought back tears as she expressed the incredible difficulty she faced with not having enough time to work several jobs to pay rent for an apartment, which is falling apart and riddled with pest problems, to pay her hospital bills, and most importantly spend time with her children.

## Message from Congressman Mike Lawler

In recent months, we’ve witnessed a troubling surge in antisemitic incidents on our college campuses — culminating in the horrific scenes playing out at “elite” universities this spring. This wave of hatred, camouflaged as political activism, has sown division and left many Jewish students feeling unsafe.

Just a week ago, I joined Speaker (R-La.), House Education and the Workforce Chairwoman (R-N.C.) and Reps. Anthony D’Esposito (R-N.Y.), and Nicole Malliotakis (R-N.Y.) at Columbia University to hear directly from Jewish students and to meet with members of Columbia’s administration.

What I heard shocked me.

Jewish students said they couldn’t attend classes without facing verbal or physical assault and harassment.

Administration officials begged off of lax enforcement of campus policies, claiming negotiating with students was more productive than having consequences.

And this has all led to where we find ourselves today.

Non-enforcement of university policy and a twisted priority placed on not upsetting radical elements of student bodies across the country has allowed this extreme, hateful minority of students to hijack college and university campuses across the country for their own means.

From California to New York, Illinois to Massachusetts and Ohio to Washington, D.C., these impromptu encampments of hatred have sprouted up.

And all the while, their occupants have joined in antisemitic chants calling for the extermination of the state of Israel, carrying signs that read “” and “,” and have expressed support for terrorist groups.

Will we, as a country, root out and clamp down on these hate mongers, or will we let our country become a breeding ground for antisemitism?

I know where I stand on this issue.

Last October, shortly after Hamas’s horrific attack, I introduced the , which last night.

It very clearly defines what antisemitism is, preventing the Department of Education from pretending it can’t be defined. It establishes that the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance’s definition of antisemitism and its contemporary examples is the one to be used in enforcement of federal antidiscrimination laws.

It would also expand the authority of the Department of Education to go after antisemitism on college campuses, forcing compliance with federal statutes on antisemitism, and preventing weak-kneed college and university administrators from tolerating this hatred on their campuses.

Let me be clear. Never again is now. We cannot, as Congress, waver in our resolve and commitment to fighting hatred and antisemitism.

History will judge us for what we do at this moment. And the question for the Senate is simple: Will you stand up to the radicals spouting antisemitism and calling for a genocide of the Israeli and Jewish people?

I know what my answer is. And I know what our country’s answer must be.

Antisemitism is evil and the attacks we are seeing on Jewish students across our country is a disgrace. As I have said from the beginning, if campus leaders won’t act to protect the students under their charge, Congress must. Yesterday, on the first day of Jewish American Heritage Month we did just that, and sent a strong message that we’re not going to let politics get in the way of our children’s safety. I’m proud we were able to get this bill across the finish line in the House and I urge the Senate to move expeditiously so that we can get it to the President’s desk asap. As for me, I will never stop fighting for the safety of all our students and I will never let politics get in the way.

Michael V. Lawler

Member of Congress

17th District, New York

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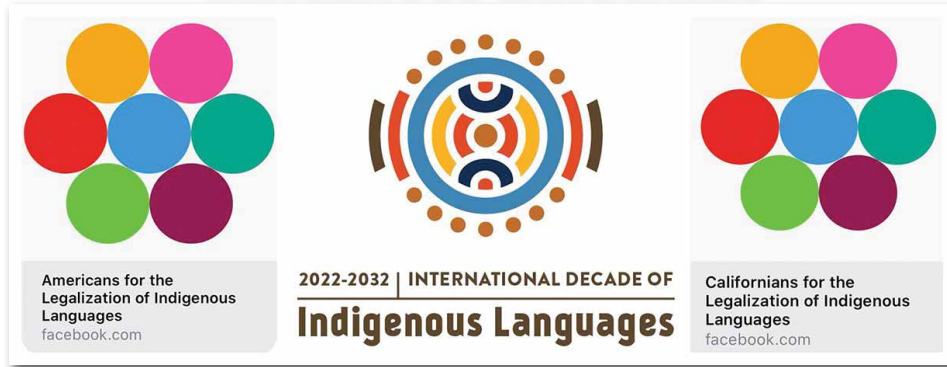
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## INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES



by Vincent McCarthy (jmvc16@aol.com)

# 'Emat Peyaa Aa Kwa'han The True Language of This Land



*A language can change your life, unlocking hidden insights into the world around you and the perspectives of those who came before. This is especially true of 'Iipay Aa, the original language*

*of this land. Here, briefly, is my story of learning 'Iipay Aa and why you should join me.*

Haawka 'iipay nyaamat! Uumall peyaam menyaawap nyuuniuwch nyaaypm 'eyay 'ehan. 'Eyuuhuy, 'estikm mat 'ekenaaph. Vincent wii nyechuuhii. San Diego kupaay. 'Enyaa 'iipay 'emaaw, 'etaat 'etaly hewakch 'emat 'ehini kupaays; 'enyaavech nyimvey peyii 'enyewaaypch 'emat peyaa 'emirriches. Nya'aastikm — 'iichachvu matwaam shahuk 'emaay 'ehinm 'enyewichkuh — kwachemuuyuuwvech nyukenaas heyaay, Millychish 'Epenyaaych nekemich hemir, 'iipay "Kumeyaay" wiich chuuhiiim peyii nyechewayp tenyeway. Nyaapum 'iipay Aavu 'enurhilly 'ars.

'Ehemaych Sam Brown 'iipay Aa kenaapem 'eyips — puuch nyaachemuuyuw "haawka", "memeyuu temewaa?" 'iih. Nyaapum 'ewaachemuuyuw 'ehapch Fraansees Aa, Latiin Aa, 'Epenyaay Aa 'estikm 'uuyaaws. Nyaapum 'epuwkch 'iipay Aa nyinyuych 'uuyaawhilly 'ars. Ted Courou uumallvu, 'iipay Aa 'Uchewayph, 'ehetuus. Nyepily matwaam saarrap matt hamhuk nepekewilly, 'iipay Aa 'ehmiiym 'uuyaawch, 'emirrch 'apesiiws. 'iichachvu aa peyaach 'eshash kwapesiiw: kupilly nyaamat 'iipay Aam 'aayphilly 'ar, nyii 'echamhilly 'arh 'emaaw. Pily 'uuyaawvu 'iipay marway 'inyhilly 'ars. Maa nyemach 'iipay Aa muuyaawhilly 'ar. Aa peyaa nyamuuyaawk, maa nyemach memirrh, meyay 'ehan.

Mu'yuum 'iipay Aa muuyaawha? Maa 'iipay meyuuvek, iinuypk menepaaw matt menekalych 'iipay Aa waaypm puu muuniuw maayphilly mar. Menemuush kumlayvech puwkvek, peyii tewaavek, maayaayp muchewaypha? Millychish aam nyamaaypem, puuch muuyaawha, nyawihch 'iipay Aam nyawaaypem, maach muuyaawha? Umaawvek, 'iipay Aavu muuyaawhm tuuyuw.

Heyaay kwathemiivech nyuk nesoom,

nekewaykh umaawh, miiches. Kumna, 'uuchuch 'ehmiiym wechaam, aa peyaach kenaaps. Iinuypvek nyuk menurs: matetay kwa'maay 'ehin, 'ekwiych ta'urvu nyachepittm, 'ekwiych tewaas. 'iipayvech matetay puu 'Ekwiichemak wiich chuuhii, nyaapum "Cuyamaca" 'Epenyaay aam weyuus — nyip nyuk menurkuhs. Nyaapum 'ily 'ehin tewaa, millychishvech nyaewupch, eyach kunemshap yaaypvi pemaanm ewups. Eyach peyap lyayk, mewas, nemeshap — 'uuchuch nyim hechaw wechuw perewiis. Millychishvech 'ily puu "cottonwood" wiich chuuhii. Heyaay 'iipayvech, peyii, nyii hechaw nyechewiichh umaaw. 'Ily peyaa nya'hwin ewups: 'ehaa helyepay hemiis, kuttapvi, matt 'ehaa kwenuw yirvi. Nyawihch nyayaaypem, 'ily peyaa 'eyalch lampuulaamp (kuyaaypch hepesuuyum 'eyall nyaamatech achewaallk - peyaa nyaewiim "lampuulaamp" wiis). Puknaach heyaay 'iipayvech 'ily peyaa halampuulaamp wiich chuuhii.

'iipay Aa memelyayvek, 'uuchuch peyap muuyaawha? Iinuypvek muuyaaw, "Ily peyaa 'iipayvech 'halampuulaamp' wiich chuuhii," pes mu'yuum 'iipayvech pewipvu muuyaawh umaawhs. 'iipay Aa muuyaawhilly mar, maayphilly mar, nyaapum 'uuchuch 'ehmiiych 'iwaalph.

Hoo, miich, pily 'iipay Aa 'uuyaawhilly 'ars, mu'yuum 'uuyaawha? Mema'wiik muuyaawk nyukenaahs: 'iipay Aa uumall kehmay. Uumall peyaa keleerr. Aa 'ehin nyamewuuk, memaally kepki'. 'Iiwaarm kepuwk, aa nya'hwinvu nyinyuy keleerr, nyinyuy kepki'. Nyaapum 'uuyuk nyatemam, 'uuchuch nyamewuuk, nyii millychish aam kiichah kemaaw! Pily, hellaaw 'uunya pekewilly nyamewuuk, maach miich umaawh, "Oh, there goes a bunnyrabbit." Umaaw! Maach miich, "Oo, puum hellaaw 'ehinch wenuw pa'aa." Kupilly nyaamat, aa 'ehin matt hewak wehaym kenur. Aavu menurh pema'wiivek, 'enyekachpayna!

Peyaa 'ehin kakekwi': 'iipay Aa muuyaawhilly march meyu? March mapesiiwvek, meyuuw. Iinuypvek 'ewirh, muuyaawhilly marvu mehemayvek, mechehepilh. Uumall peyaa muuyaawvek, 'enyekina, ii nyayhilly 'ar! Muuyaawhilly marvek, 'enyekina, 'esally nyinyhilly 'ars. Keyim ketarchach, kuuyaaw! Kupilly 'ehin 'enyaamatech aayaayp 'iipay Aam 'uchewayph. Nyipach.

## JOURNALIST'S NETWORK

### More 2023 Digital Innovation Awards Winners Announced!

This contest recognizes the best in local digital media in 11 categories such as Best Local Website, Best Event, Best Branded Content Strategy and more. It is a highly competitive contest designed to recognize both large and small media companies for their outstanding and innovative work.

We are excited to announce category winners over the next few weeks.

*Best R&D Partner - Media companies are asked to nominate an R&D company/industry provider that helped drive new digital revenue and results for their company.*

#### 1st place - Broadstreet

Judge's comments: Broadstreet is solving a crucial need for local publishers in its advertising offerings, and its partners have seen tangible impact in revenue generated and costs saved.

Client nomination: Broadstreet serves all of the direct sell (almost all) banner ads currently on our site. Their easy to use platform not only gives us the immediacy that we need to be competitive, they offer unique banner, video, and social media integrated ad templates for clients who want something unique. Their analytic reports prove the value of our offering in an easy to read and understand format. Clients renew because they know we can respond to their needs immediately AND have the analytics to prove their effectiveness.

#### 2nd place - David Arkin Consulting

Judge's comments: David Arkin Consulting is driving real results for its clients through its varied expertise on content, design, and sales.

### New Beginnings

Continued from page 1

the ability to walk in two worlds with strength to guide others.

It is refreshing to witness humans practicing civility and patient kindness in a sea of inhospitality.

Awareness is creeping into the collective consciousness in spite of an obstinate duplicitous cowardly media. Each one Teach One is the communication methodology that inspires the enlightened worker bees inside the governmental structure to walk the righteous path.

Universities are networking with the youth. Mark Wheeler at Sacramento State is keeping hope alive. Tamara Strohauer and the Native American Resource Center at SDSU are keeping the Indigenous cultural a reality. UNLV is a hub of cultural activity thanks to Tammi Tiger. Las Vegas is our natural ally.

We wait. Change is in the air and Indian Voices is getting our house in order to meet our obligations to fulfill our



Client nomination: Since we began working with David Arkin Consulting we have nearly tripled our web page views. That has had an impact on our revenue. We are currently implementing new sales strategies which we believe will be a game changer for our digital revenue.

#### 3rd place - Second Street

Judge's comments: Second Street garnered rave reviews from many of its partners championing how easy the platform is to implement, the diversity of its solution, and their hands-on approach to assisting its clients.

Client nomination: Julie at Second Street is one of the best partners we have. She is always very attentive and has solutions at hand. Most solutions come with a revenue model that can be deployed by any media organization.

#### Honorable Mention - Village Media

Judge's comments: Village Media is working to support small local news organizations by building a collaborative network of publishers while also building tools that help them do business.

Client nomination: Village Media provides us with digital focused teams including: development, creative, content and overall management. Village also provided us with a new CMS for our content. Their expertise as a digital news organization clearly was evident. We have also been included in their monthly Village Townhall meetings, which has proven to be very interesting.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR WINNERS!

mission.

We are creating a new outreach committee to re-establish relationships, networking and amplifying our pride in America and in being American.

We thank all who have been supporters and look forward to rekindling our connections with the business community and encourage them to reach out to us.

We are fortifying ourselves with good ole American Can Do Horse Sense and Indigenous Wisdom.

We are especially stimulated by those in the governmental bureaucracies such as the Dept of Housing and Urban Development who have reached out to us demonstrating that there are no barriers to cultural advancement.

Additionally community and local newspaper reporting is experiencing a revival, shining a light on the opportunity to establish an Indigenous Media Platform.

In keeping with Crazy Horse's prophecy, 'a change is coming and it is indeed a beautiful thing'.

visit: [Indigenousnetwork.org](https://Indigenousnetwork.org)



To improve the quality of life of those who recognize themselves and choose to be recognized by others as "Indigenous Peoples of Color of the Americas" and in support of The American Indian Rights and Resources Organization (AIRRO).

## Dr. Rosalyn Howard's Black Seminole in the Bahamas and Her Legacy

by Windy Goodloe, secretary, Seminole Indian Scouts Cemetery Association

"This topic has both personal and professional significance to me," Dr. Rosalyn Howard wrote in the introduction to her book *Black Seminoles in the Bahamas*. As one continues to read, Dr. Howard's close relationship, along with her profound care and attentiveness, to her subject becomes apparent.



Dr. Rosalyn Howard

*Black Seminoles in the Bahamas* was printed in 2002. The publication was the culmination of years of research that Dr. Howard had performed as an anthropologist whose subject of choice was the Black Seminoles who made the Bahamas their home.

In the first chapter of her book, she discusses the history and ethnogenesis of the Black Seminoles. Howard discusses how enslaved Africans, who were located in the Lowcountry Region of the United States, absconded to Spanish Florida in search of freedom. Upon their arrival in La Florida, they encountered and soon

formed an alliance with the Seminoles, which was a group of several indigenous tribes, made up of mostly Muscogees/Creeks, that had come together to form one tribe.

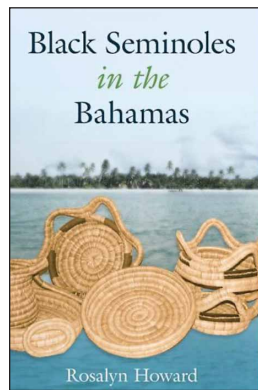
Because of Euroamericans' constant encroachment on the Seminoles and Black Seminoles in Florida, several kept traveling south. They would take what is known as the Saltwater Underground Railroad to the Bahamas, where several would make a home in Red Bays, Andros Island. Howard writes that ethnohistorian Harry A. Kersey believes that most Black Seminoles arrived in the Bahamas between 1821 and 1837.

Howard documents the people of Andros Island as they tell their own story in the third chapter of her book. She serves as a conduit through which the history of the Black Seminoles comes alive. She adds historical context as needed.

I revisited Dr. Howard's seminal work ahead of a special tribute presentation that took place on Wednesday, May 15. As the one-year anniversary of Dr. Howard's passing neared, I wanted to pay tribute to

her and her work in some way and thought that this was a good way to do so.

Everyone I reached out to responded with an enthusiastic yes, especially her son Jamil Smith, who embodies his mom's passion and intelligence and is a force in his own right. For the



*Black Seminoles in the Bahamas* by Dr. Rosalyn Howard

presentation, his words served as bookends, perfectly encapsulating the fact that, foremost, Dr. Howard was a loving mom. He was the first to speak about his mom, and then, he closed the tribute by reading a beautiful statement that had been sent in by Dr. Grace Turner, who was unable to attend in person.

Other speakers included Dr. Anthony Dixon, author of *Florida's Negro War* and the producer of the Black Seminole Project, who recounted his first encounter with Dr. Howard and how she challenged him to do the work. He also spoke about

how he admired her ability to engage her audience and how he aspired to deliver his lectures just like she did.

Living historian Matt Griffin called Dr. Howard "family." He first met her when he was a young. He even shared photos of the first day that they met.

Vickie Oldham spoke lovingly about her relationship with Dr. Howard. She read a beautiful tribute to her and then shared a humorous story about how she and Dr. Howard reacted, quite differently, to finding a lizard in a room while they were on a trip.

Dr. Wallis Tinnie honored Dr. Howard by speaking about how she'd written a moving recommendation letter for a grant that Dr. Wallis' Florida Black Historical Research Foundation, Inc. received. She also recounted how Dr. Howard surprised everyone when she attended last year's

## Gathering of Nations 2024, New Mexico

by Melissa Gonzales

The Gathering of Nations is renowned for being one of the largest gatherings, with over 500 Nations coming together for days of meticulously planned festivities. The Miss Indian World pageant provided a unique experience with highly educated contestants, showcasing talents that go beyond the typical pageant skills.

Attending this pow-wow was a dream come true for me, as I had always wanted to go since I was younger. It involved months of budgeting, planning, and a 12-hour journey by vehicle. With only a few hours of sleep and plenty of caffeine to keep me going, we stayed with relatives and a friend in Taos for one night to rest before the event, which was two hours away from Taos.

I saw this trip as a mini-break from the past year of carefully balancing home, school, and potential career opportunities. Taos, situated on Pueblo land, was exceptionally beautiful, making this my favorite trip to New Mexico thus far.

Accommodations in Albuquerque were decent and conveniently located. Despite the anxiety I felt leading up to the event, I made a conscious decision to leave my regalia in Taos and simply immerse myself in the experience.

Among the international attendees, the craftsmanship of custom regalia was ubiquitous. There was a wide array of vendors and information booths offering

Seminole Maroon Family Reunion in Jupiter, FL.

Dinizulu Gene Tinnie spoke after Dr. Wallis Tinnie, and he spoke about how groundbreaking it was for Dr. Howard to shape her anthropologic career after Zora Neale Hurston's example.

Stefan Moss, founder/project lead of the Saltwater Underground Railroad, spoke about how he reached out to Dr. Howard and how gracious she was to him.

And Jamil Smith read Dr. Grace Turner's statement. In the statement, she spoke about how Dr. Howard always respected her knowledge as a Bahamian and how she was her "big sister."

This tribute to Dr. Rosalyn Howard only solidified our determination to keep her memory burning bright.

valuable insights. However, I couldn't help but notice that some vendors were not mindful of ethical practices, particularly in sourcing materials. As someone deeply connected to my culture and teachings, I believe in respecting all aspects of nature and giving thanks to the creator for providing.

Growing up, I learned to appreciate the old ways of life, where nothing was wasted, and everything served a purpose. This mindset became even more evident during the COVID-19 pandemic when reliance on supermarkets highlighted our dependency on external sources for sustenance. I've acquired various skills such as self-canning, food preservation, and gardening, with the hope of one day achieving self-sustainability.

While attending the Gathering of Nations, I was reminded of the importance of planning ahead and adhering to venue guidelines. Security measures were stringent, with crowd control and metal detectors in place.

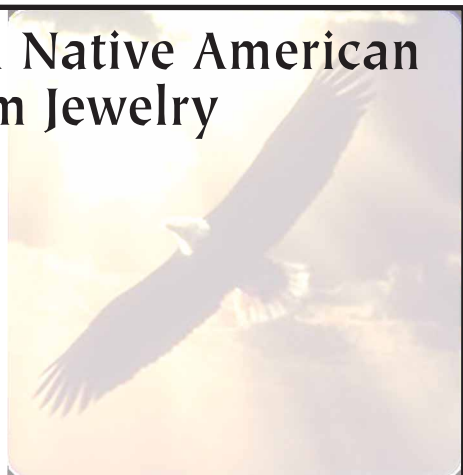
Though I didn't participate in the dancing this time, I found solace in watching others. Dancing has always been a significant part of my life, and I dance to honor, pray, heal, and soothe. Next year, I hope to plan my participation better.

Overall, the Gathering of Nations was an enriching experience, and I eagerly anticipate returning next year to continue my journey.

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## Indigenous Personal Journey



Hello, My name is Melissa Marcia Gonzales, and I wish to share with you a deeply personal journey sharing grief, resilience, and

the healing power of tradition.

Currently a proud member of the Patterson of the Kickapoo and Sac & Fox tribe family and I was born as a descendant of the bloodline of Surveyors, Roman Nose “Thunder” and Chief Dull Knife family. From the Northern and Southern Cheyenne Tribe, I carry with me the rich legacy of our ancestors. Their stories and their traditions are the very essence of who I am and who I strive to be.

But our journey took a turn on May 31, 2023, when my beloved mother, Marcia Nina Patterson, went on the spirit world. A master of many crafts—Southern Cloth Dancer, beader, fry bread maker, seamstress, and ribbon skirt maker—her absence left a profound void in my life. Her battle with cirrhosis of the liver, ending just a day before a transplant, shook me to my core. Witnessing her battles with her illness, I too faced my own diagnosis, and the challenges seemed insurmountable.

Yet, amidst the darkness, I found a guiding light in my father, David Patterson—a Gourd Dancer, drummer, teacher, and speaker. His unwavering strength became my beacon of hope, inspiring me to step out of my comfort zone and embrace dance as a form of healing. Guided by prayer and focus, I dance for her. Embarking on a journey of self-discovery and resilience. Always learning, making good, some mistakes along the way but not to far astray always keeping my heart open, she constantly is with me and never lets me forget it. Interestingly enough as I write this missing her, tears rolling down my face her fancy

## Language Access as Barrier for Indigenous Communities to Access Heat Resources

by Veronica Wood for IndigenousNetwork.org

Indigenous communities, like other frontline groups in the Los Angeles area, are vulnerable to the effects of extreme heat that is affecting the region but have a harder time accessing public resources available for heat relief because of language barriers.

, an Indigenous women-led nonprofit organization that works with Indigenous communities in Los Angeles, provides language services and resources to those communities and last year were asked to translate responses for a research study by

bag just fell over from across the room. Yes, and thank you for that reminder.

Working through missing my mom, I went from feeling loss trying to make her proud making my own regalia to then comforted when I earned and inherited her regalia. I truly wear it for her and dance because she no longer can.

On April 21, 2024, the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, hosted a Pow Wow named For the Planet— Thank you to Tami Tiger, and Shelly White for allowing our family to do an honorary “coming out” special. At my side displaying the coming out as a dancer, my aunt Yvonne Hawk Verjgan-elder Southern cloth dancer, my dad David Patterson gourd dancer, teacher, and drummer, family members and my trusted friends. I felt such gratitude and loving support from the community in Las Vegas, NV where I’ve made my home for the last 12 years. It is an honor to be an upstanding member of our native community and will continue to pass on our traditions through generations.

My journey into dance traces back to my childhood, where the vibrant spirit of our culture ignited a fire within me. I would get scolded for trying to grass dance on the sidelines at the pow-wow. I remember so vividly telling me to put my leg down and behave like a lady lol. She always wanted me to dance but not the grass dance. Despite my initial shyness, I found solace in healthy living, cooking, beadwork, handcrafts, and now as a Dancer. I am nurtured by my parents’ commitment to preserving our traditions.

In honoring my ancestors and embracing my cultural identity, I find purpose and resilience. My journey is a testament to the enduring power of tradition and the healing found within our heritage.

As I embark on my journey, recently visiting Cal State Long Beach, CA Pow , Gathering of Nations in New Mexico, and UCLA in California, I carry with me the lessons of the past and the hope for the future. My goals are to manage funds to travel and dance. Along the way I plan adding more to my journey as much as possible aside from giving back to the community and passing on traditions, sharing native crafts, sewing, and more.

Thank you for allowing me to share a piece of my heart with you.

the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA), regarding heat inequities.

Experts at CIELO provided interpretations for native speakers of Kiche’, Q’anjob’al Zapotec, and Yucatec from participating members of the focus groups. The study was conducted by the Labor Community Strategy Center at UCLA.

During one of the focus groups in the study, one participant said: “When you’re talking about disparities across neighborhoods, you can tell where the people of color and white people live just by looking at the tree coverage.” -

## Dr. Wilma J. Wooten Honored with Prestigious California Public Health Award

by Fernanda Lopez Halvorson, County of San Diego Communications Office



Dr. Wilma J. Wooten

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) honored County Public Health Officer Dr. Wilma J. Wooten with its highest recognition, the Beverlee A. Myers Award for Excellence in Public Health.

The Beverlee A. Myers award is presented annually for outstanding leadership and dedication to all aspects of public health.

During the award ceremony in Sacramento, CDPH leadership honored Dr. Wooten’s 23 years of County service, highlighting her leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic

“The COVID adversity did not just build her character. It revealed her character,” said Susan Fanelli, Chief Deputy Director at CDPH, during the award presentation. “Throughout her life, Dr. Wooten has broken barriers and has served as a role model for young people, especially Black American girls who wish to pursue a career in medicine and science.”

Dr. Wooten joined the County of San

## Memories of Mika Westwolf

As told by Carissa

“The mountains here put our mountains to shame,” is how Mika Westwolf described Nepal to her mother Carissa Heavy Runner. Due to her leadership ability, Mika was selected to spend 21 days as part of an Indigenous cultural exchange between the Blackfeet Nation and the Sherpa people of Nepal in 2019.

She got to work with Sherpas, the tribal people made world-famous for helping mountain climbers and adventure tourists climb Sagarmatha, named “Mount Everest” by the British.

Mika and her three other Blackfeets (her tribal nation) also went on the trip. They helped the Sherpas build a rock-climbing wall at the Khumbu Climbing Center. Carissa said that in Blackfeet tradition, “We don’t let a guest leave our home without a gift.” So, in that same spirit, she sent earrings and bracelets

Participant, Labor Community Strategy Center.

Trees and shade are known to protect communities from extreme heat, but low-income communities have traditionally had less tree cover and less access to parks. Even staff at CIELO, with offices located in South Central LA, can feel the disparities as their offices do not have air conditioning for the summer nor

Diego in 2001 and was named Public Health Officer in 2007.

She was born in rural Alabama and was the first person in her family to go to college. She

graduated from Spelman College in Atlanta with a degree in biology then earned her Master of Public Health from University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, where she also completed her doctorate at the school of medicine.

In her remarks, Dr. Wooten highlighted the support from her Public Health Services team and fellow health officers throughout the state. She was dedicated to following the American Public Health Association’s “10 Essential Public Health Services” and shared some of the “truths” that have served her well.

“Make sure to socialize what you think is a ‘great idea’ with those you think are supportive, as well as with those reluctant, opposed or impacted by your important policy, practice, or program,” she said. “And don’t agonize over things that you cannot change.”

The Beverlee A. Meyers award was established in 1993 in honor of the late Beverlee A. Myers and her 25-year career with CDPH.

for Mika to leave with her Sherpa hosts.

Mika also carried a Blackfeet Nation flag to gift the Sherpas. Carissa’s father, Mika’s grandfather (and former Montana state legislator), wrote a short speech for Mika to explain the meaning of the colors and symbols of the Blackfeet flag.

At the end of 21 days, Mika wanted to stay in Nepal. The Sherpas were hiring people and Mika was willing to train as a Himalayan guide.

But unable to stay longer, Mika returned to Montana. Nepal fired up her desire to live off the land in some remote, mountainous region of the Reservation. Her father dissuaded her from camping alone in the mountains, and instead they planned a garden and a chicken coop.

Unable to achieve that dream in this life, memories of Mika inspire Carissa to fight for a safer Montana (and beyond) for Indigenous people.

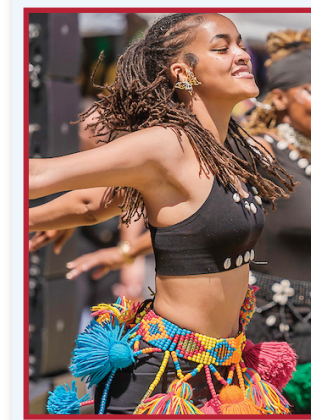
For more, see Mika Matters.org

a heater for the winter.

With ever increasing heat in the Los Angeles area, where according to the California Healthy Places Index, parts of the San Fernando Valley and Highland Park are expected to have the highest number of extremely hot days over 90 degrees in Los Angeles by mid-century, there’s a growing momentum for regional

# Earth Day

The 32nd Annual Multicultural Earth Day Celebration, hosted by the WorldBeat Cultural Center, returned to Balboa Park on Sunday, April 21st, 2024. This year's theme, "Call for Unity for Climate and Food Justice,"



highlighted the pressing need for collective action in addressing environmental challenges, especially in San Diego.

This year's eco village partners included San Diego Audubon, Tree San Diego, and San Diego 350.org.

Naleem Patil, an esteemed educator and advocate for sustainable practices, was the keynote speaker and shared insights into the Miyawaki method—a pioneering approach to afforestation. This method, championed by Japanese botanist Professor Akira Miyawaki, accelerated the growth of dense, diverse forests in urban areas, offering a rapid response to climate change.

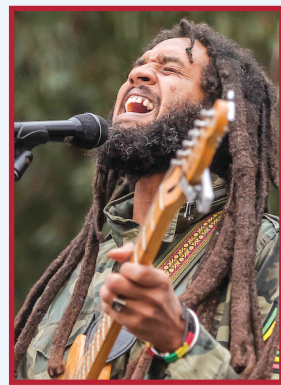
As the WorldBeat Cultural Center commemorated 38 years of promoting global unity through arts and education, Earth Day served as a



poignant reminder of our shared responsibility to safeguard the planet. The celebration featured incredible artists, including San Diego's favorite Sister Carol,



Michael Palmer, Rob Symeon, Empress Akua, Mono Verde, Josh David Barrett, local harpist



Mariea Antoinette, and Souplant. The event



# WORLDBEAT CENTER

## Inner and Outer Wellbeing

by Makeda Cheatom

At the WorldBeat Center on Saturday, May 11th, 2024, we honored Mental Health Awareness Month with a special event tailored for BIPOC individuals. The afternoon began with a heartfelt moment of gratitude, where we collectively acknowledged the land and our shared journey.

Led by ExceptionallyU, participants explored transformative wellness practices, including stress reduction techniques like the BARR method. These sessions were specifically tailored to address the unique needs and experiences of BIPOC individuals, recognizing the importance of culturally sensitive approaches to well-being. Attendees had the opportunity



to share and discover self-care practices that resonated with their cultural backgrounds and personal experiences,



nurturing their well-being in a supportive and inclusive environment.

Holistic practitioner and herbalist, Dr. Derah shared insights into mental wellbeing through an enlightening iridology and body cleansing presentation.

The experience concluded with a guided meditation and a soul-nourishing sound bath led by Titus, harmonizing body and spirit and fostering a sense of inner peace and mindfulness within our diverse community. This holistic event was important as it provided a space for BIPOC individuals to come together, celebrate mental health awareness, and recognize their strength and resilience. We extend our gratitude to Dr. Monica Hinton and Elizabeth Villalpando Ellison for co-organizing such a much-needed event.

## WorldBeat Center Collaborates with SoCal Heat Hub and Scripps Institute to Install Weather Station, Fostering Data

by Berenice Rodriguez

In an exciting endeavor to harness the power of data science and promote educational opportunities, the WorldBeat Center has announced its collaboration with the SoCal Heat Hub and the Scripps Institute of Oceanography UC San Diego. Together, they are set to install a cutting-edge weather station at the WorldBeat Center, marking a significant step towards advancing scientific understanding and community engagement, particularly in addressing environmental justice issues in BIPOC communities.

The initiative, spearheaded by the SoCal Heat Hub, aims to deploy weather stations across San Diego to gather real-time environmental data. These stations serve as invaluable tools for researchers, educators, and communities to better understand local weather patterns, climate change impacts, and environmental trends. Crucially, they also provide insights into urban heat islands (UHIs) — areas in urban environments that experience significantly higher temperatures than their rural counterparts.

The collaboration with the WorldBeat Center holds great promise for engaging diverse communities in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) fields. Through workshops, educational programs, and outreach initiatives, individuals of all ages will have the chance to interact with the weather station data, gaining insights into meteorology, environmental science, and data analysis.

"We are thrilled to be part of this innovative project that bridges science, culture, and



community," said Makeda Dread, Founder and Executive Director of the WorldBeat Center. "Installing the weather station aligns perfectly with our mission of promoting cultural diversity, environmental sustainability, and education. It's an opportunity to empower our community with knowledge and skills that can shape a brighter future."

The collaboration also leverages the expertise and resources of the Scripps Institute of Oceanography UC San Diego, a world-renowned center for ocean and earth science research. Scientists and students from Scripps will provide support in data analysis, quality assurance, and educational programming, enriching the learning experience for participants.

Understanding urban heat islands is particularly crucial for addressing environmental justice issues in BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) communities. These communities often bear the brunt of environmental burdens, including higher temperatures due to factors such as lack of green spaces, heat-absorbing infrastructure, and historical disinvestment. "Urban heat islands" occur when cities replace natural land cover with dense concentrations of pavement, highways,

buildings, and other surfaces that absorb and retain heat. This effect increases energy costs (e.g., for air conditioning), air pollution levels, and heat-related illness and mortality. By studying UHIs and their impacts, communities can advocate for policies and interventions aimed at mitigating heat-related health risks and promoting equitable access to cooler, healthier environments.

The installation of the weather station at the WorldBeat Center

represents a tangible commitment to promoting scientific literacy, environmental awareness, and community empowerment, especially in underserved communities. To collect data WorldBeat Center will be partnering with local K-12 schools, home schools and undergraduate students will help to share the collected data. As the project unfolds, it is expected to create ripple effects, sparking curiosity, innovation, and positive change in the local and global community.

For more information about the SoCal Heat Hub and its initiatives, visit SoCal Heat Hub

## Healthy Habitats for People and All Life

by Nan Renner, Ph.D

Environmental justice means people have the right to clean air, clean water, and a healthy environment. Some environmental justice issues can best be solved with economic support, environmental protection laws with oversight and enforcement, visibility through all forms of media, active democracy and civic engagement — people need to vote!

We create environmental justice in our neighborhoods in all these ways and more. At the local level, WorldBeat Cultural Center teaches people how to grow, cook, and eat delicious

nutritious food. Like WorldBeat's Healing Garden, all gardens can be an oasis. Now, WorldBeat is expanding our native plant garden, with Kumeyaay ethnobotany and habitat restoration for urban birds and other wildlife.

Edible gardens and native habitats cool local environments and create healthy places for mind, body, and soul. Stay tuned for native planting parties during fall 2024 as the next rainy season begins — that's the best time to plant SoCal natives.

Using ancient regenerative technologies and informed by today's knowledge systems, we can work with nature to nurture healthy habitats for people and the more than human world — on land, in the rivers and the ocean.



## LENTIL CURRY By Twintastic Twins

### INGREDIENTS

- 4 tablespoons of olive oil
- 1 small sweet onion, diced
- 4 carrots, peeled and chopped
- 1.5 cups uncooked green lentils, rinsed
- 2 cups of veggie broth
- 2 cups full-fat coconut milk
- 2 teaspoons of curry powder
- 1 bay leaf
- ½ teaspoon of turmeric
- ½ teaspoon of cumin
- 3-4 cups of baby kale
- Sea salt and black pepper to taste



### INSTRUCTIONS

- Heat the oil in a large pot and add the onions and carrots. Cook for 5-7 minutes or until fragrant.
- Stir in the lentils, broth and milk.
- Then add the bay leaf, turmeric, curry powder, cumin, salt and pepper. Simmer for about 25-30 minutes.
- Remove from the heat and fold in the kale.
- Serve with rice, bread or anything else you want! Enjoy !!

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This month we are partnering with the **WorldBeat Center** for our distribution event!

May 19th, 10AM-2PM

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## NETWORKING



## VETERAN NEWS OUTREACH

In collaboration with Jerry Ashton

## END VETERAN DEBT is a 501(c)(3) Non-profit Private Foundation Now Accepting Tax-Deductible Donations

*Our Mission: To Remove the Burden of Debt For Veteran Who Have Served Our Country.*

Jerry Ashton's foundation End Veteran Debt seeks to protect Veterans from debt and all its associated ills. And to this end, we are not alone! With your support, we will continue to bolster existing charities

and non-profits geared towards Veterans.

The members of our think tank Veteran Mission Possible are testament to the impressive network we have put together. By working together, we can make a difference in the way our Veterans are treated.

Donate here:  
<https://endveterandebt.org/donate>

## A Man Whose Footsteps Follow His Father And Grandfather Before Him



by Rosemary Stephens,  
 Editor-in-Chief  
 Cheyenne and  
 Arapaho Tribal Tribune  
 1-405-201-3143

Lawrence Homer Hart, Cheyenne Peace Chief, speaks in a quiet tone of

voice, a voice one is immediately drawn to, hanging on to every word he speaks.

He speaks of his life growing up, his deep love for his grandparents, parents, siblings ... his wife, his children and his grandchildren, but of his many accomplishments his says nothing. And there are many.

Lawrence is a member of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribal College Board of Regents and was the first Native American to serve on the Clinton School Board. He was the first full blood Native American to become a jet fighter pilot and served with the 2nd Marine Air Wing, Marine Air Group 24, Marine Fighter Squadron 114. Lawrence was instrumental in acquiring historical recognition to the site commonly referred to as the Battle of the Washita, though Lawrence prefers "not to call it a battle, but a massacre." He has authored Legacies of the Massacre and Battles at the Washita, published in the June 1999 issue of Oklahoma Today, he opened the 1998 Symposium on the Washita, was keynote speaker at the Susan Ferrell Memorial Luncheon, St. Thomas University School of Law, with his speech being published in the St. Thomas University Law Review in 1997. He has lectured at the Oklahoma City's

National Cowboy and Western Museum (formerly known as the Cowboy Hall of Fame), the Denver Historical Society and the Eiteljorg Museum in Indianapolis and has been featured in many television documentaries involving Native American programs and like his father and grandfather before him, Lawrence is a Mennonite minister ... and the list goes on.

Lawrence was born to Jennie and Homer Hart on Feb. 24, 1933 at the family's home place located along the Quartermaster Creek, north of Hammon, Okla. and south of a little town called Moorewood. His grandfather, John P. (Peak) Hart was a member of the Council of Forty-Four and was born in 1871 to Afraid of Beavers and Walking Woman, three years after the attack at the Washita. His great-grandmother, Afraid of Beavers, was in the group who searched for and found the bodies of Black Kettle and his wife, Medicine Woman. Medicine Woman was the sister of Afraid of Beavers and had survived nine bullet wounds during the Sand Creek Massacre.

"You can't go much further west or much further north of where I was born, along the Quartermaster Creek in the far northwest corner of Custer County," Lawrence said. "I was delivered by my grandmother, Cornstalk, who was a midwife ... she went all over delivering babies."

Lawrence was the second to the youngest of six children, Alvin, Lucy, Lenora, Christine, Samuel and Ramona.

To read the full story go to:  
[IndigenousNetwork.org](https://IndigenousNetwork.org)

## Tune Your Body The Way Musicians Tune Their Instruments. That's The Message Of Harmonetik

Harmonetik is a practice of breathing that tunes your body to reduce stress. You can start this life-enhancing journey here in San Diego. Jay Van Schelt, CEO of the Harmonetik Project in Connecticut is spending a few months here in San Diego, spreading the word about his passion, which he said helped him lose 80 pounds in a few months.

Jay is working with The Inn Spot, offering the teachings to military veterans. He describes the steps of Harmonetik in this way:

1. Easy Breath Protocol
2. Deepening neuroplasticity—more brain cells contact with each other
3. Repetition of techniques, like musical scales or chords, allows for building up to greater harmonies.
4. Sharing with others.

"The goal is for veterans to share with

other veterans."

If this format reminds you of musical training, you are right. The founder of Harmonetik, Dr. Jeffrey Zimmerman, worked as a classical double bass player in his teens and young adulthood before becoming a doctor of Oriental Medicine.

Dr. Zimmerman said he was encouraged personally to pursue medicine by the great conductor Leopold Stokowski, who shook the hand of Mickey Mouse in the movie Fantasia in 1940. Stokowski was an early U.S. advocate for acupuncture.

The Inn Spot offers acupuncture and other services that will accept benefits from the Veterans Administration.

*The Inn Spot*  
 3505 Camino Del Rio South, Suite 100,  
 San Diego, CA 92108 • Phone: 619-550-5200

## History of the Department of the Interior

Why was the U.S. Department of the Interior created?

The idea of setting up a separate department to handle domestic matters was put forward on numerous occasions. It wasn't until March 3, 1849, the last day of the 30th Congress, that a bill was passed to create the Department of the Interior to take charge of the Nation's internal affairs:

**The Department of Everything Else: Highlights of Interior History.**

The Interior Department had a wide range of responsibilities entrusted to it: the construction of the national capital's water system, the colonization of freed slaves in Haiti, exploration of western wilderness, oversight of the District of Columbia jail, regulation of territorial governments, management of hospitals



In 1789, Congress created three Executive Departments: Foreign Affairs (later in the same year renamed State), Treasury, and War. It also provided for an Attorney General and a Postmaster General. Domestic matters were apportioned by Congress among these departments.

and universities, management of public parks, and the basic responsibilities for Indians, public lands, patents, and pensions. In one way or another all of these had to do with the internal development of the Nation or the welfare of its people.

## Reclassification of Marijuana

The DEA recently took a positive step by reclassifying marijuana as a Schedule III substance like steroids or testosterone. But we don't want baby steps. That's why we're calling on the Biden administration

to pass legislation that decriminalizes marijuana and expunges past convictions. Join us: [stv.fm/453u9z](https://stv.fm/453u9z)

- JaRel at Hip Hop Caucus

visit: [Indigenousnetwork.org](https://Indigenousnetwork.org)

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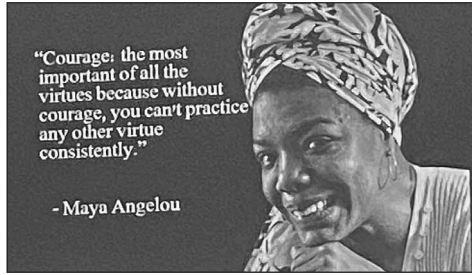
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- Native America Calling live at 10a M-F
- Pala Today local news and events M-F at noon
- Native music block Saturday mornings 7:30-10
- Rez Radio Reggae nightly 7-8p
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~ *On the Town with Camille* ~

by Camille Appling

**District Attorney Summer Stephens Presents Citizens of Courage 2024**



On April 29, 2024, I had the honor to sit with Catholic Diocese Bishops Ramon and Felipe and Mitsuo Tomita of the Japanese American Citizen League to celebrate the Citizens of Courage event presented by San Diego District Attorney Summer Stephens. The luncheon was held in the beautiful Liberty Station Area near the military base. The citizens who were honored survived heinous events that should have never taken place. Their triumph over tragedy is both inspiring and riveting. They showed “extraordinary courage in the face of crime.” Please join us in saluting the Citizens of Courage awardees! Cheers for Antonio Jasso, Tiffany Murphy, Natalie Ortiz, Rachel and Sofie Martinez and Melissa Spinelli for choosing to use courage for the protection of others!

**Day of Prayer: Downtown Fellowship**



The Day of Prayer was held at Ruocco Park by the beach this year and was blessed with prayer warriors from all over San Diego, including politicians, attorneys, first responders, pastors and homeless advocates. The prayers were filled with encouragement. The crowd prayed for the safety and progress of San Diego, our country and our friends overseas. Please join us again next year for the Day of Prayer to stand in agreement with blessings for our future. We are our ancestors' prayers!

**Foster Care Month 2024: Wear Blue Day President of People's Association of Justice Advocates for Shane Harris**

May is National Foster Care Month, and the People's Association of Justice Advocates came to address the vital issues concerning foster children. After a tumultuous upbringing in foster care, president and attorney Shane Harris has risen, like a phoenix, to defend foster children nationwide. A huge part of his

work has been dedicated to the safety and promotion of foster children.

Attorney Harris is in good company. This company includes County Supervisor Jim Desmond, Voices for Children CEO Jessica Munoz, Voices for Children Chief Philanthropy Officer Rebecca Rader, Grandparents Networks Shearl Lambert, Patricia Bevelyn of the African American Wellness Center for Children and Families, and former foster child Nikia Sunchild, who shared his harrowing story of

surviving being placed in foster care and his glorious reunification with his father.

The subjects that were covered on Wear Blue Day, which were included in the proclamations presented by County Supervisor Jim Desmond and Attorney Shane Harris, were:

Safety and Health for Foster Children, Wrap Around Services including housing, diverse education and job training programs, family reunification, financial assistance and extended care after emancipation or after turning eighteen. They include a guaranteed income program for foster children. The AB2906 program is meant to keep foster children's benefits and to remove the term “case” to keep children known as children and not cases.

The issues addressed advocate for the rights of children and ensure that they are treated humanely and with care. These programs work under the correct supervision. We hope for support from our communities for the innocent and abused to protect them under Jesus Christ.

If you are interested in supporting these issues, please contact [www.pajmovement.org](http://www.pajmovement.org)

**San Diego State University - Native American and Indigenous Graduation Ceremony**

On May 3, 2024, San Diego State University's Native American and Indigenous Students celebrated their graduation at the Majestic Mission Trails Visitor Center Outdoor Amphitheatre overlooking the canyons. The graduation began with the Kumeyaay Nation's Land Acknowledgment for the families, friends



and students. The students mastered areas including social work, school psychology, nursing, Indian gaming and plenty of other American Indian studies. There were beautiful charcuterie displays and a cupcake bar. Many shared stories of hope. We believe the students will use their education to improve society and be the answer to their ancestors' prayers. Please join us in celebrating their accomplishments. Go, Aztecs!

**University of San Diego Native Graduation 2024 - "We Are Our Ancestors" Prayers**

On April 26, 2024, the University of San Diego celebrated the 2024 Native student graduation with help from the faculty and proud parents. The University of San Diego has always supported the Native community and our students, who are multi-cultural and multi-faith. The dinner was beautifully prepared, complete with signature salads, fine meats and dessert. The students made film presentations of their studies, and the attendees were allowed to send well wishes to the students via video. We are so proud of their accomplishments. Please join us in supporting the students in their future endeavors! Go, Toreros!

**Arbor Day with Mayor Todd Gloria - Memorial Skate Park**

San Diego Mayor Todd Gloria hosted a heartfelt event this Arbor Day to encourage planting trees to beautify and improve local San Diego communities. The mayor was in good company with several military soldiers and local school children that arrived to learn and help plant trees and discuss the various proclamations to promote the mayor's agenda for safe and healthy communities. Arbor Day included community organizations and the San Diego Police and Fire Department. Children from the local Tubman Chavez school graciously listened to the mayor to learn how they can support Arbor Day and help their community bloom.

**54th Annual Chicano Park Day at the Fountain in the Placita**

This year's 54th Annual Chicano Park Day began with a powerful Land Acknowledgment and dedication to some of the barrio's finest leadership, extending

from the skatepark that memorializes important citizens to the streets and businesses of Barrio Logan. The day was filled with safe toy train rides for children, powerful speeches of resilience and the presence of culture and spirit of the community. The Barrio Logan Community has always embodied the tradition and livelihood of Chicano Park, where generations and generations of San Diegans have thrived and represented the community, religiously, politically and businesswise. The families enjoyed art, music and food. Look for next year's Chicano Park Day!

**San Diego Prayer Breakfast - Legacy Center of Mission Valley**

On April 13, the Legacy Center of Mission Valley hosted a splendid San Diego Prayer Breakfast featuring Greg and Jeri Mauro and Special Guest Pastor Garlow, who spoke of “Heaven and the Afterlife.” The Legacy Community enjoyed a beautifully prepared breakfast while listening to the thought-provoking subject of life after death for believers of God. This talk included the experiences of Winifred Garlow. If interested in their next Power of Pentecost Weekend, please visit their website at [legacyeventssd.com](http://legacyeventssd.com).

**World Beat Center - Earth Day**

On April 21, 2024, Queen Mother Makeda Dread organized a beautiful Earth Day Celebration at the World Beat Center. The event included gorgeous clothing and delicious food vendors, creative cultural art booths and lots of people in agreement with the importance of arts and culture for our planet. Music was provided by reggae artists Sister Carol and Rob Symeon. There was a heartfelt Land Acknowledgment by the Red Warriors. The theme this year was the “Call for Unity for Climate and Food Justice” to help with food insecurity and climate control. The event was filled with attendees who enjoyed information about helping the community through various avenues, including holistic medicine and music and art for real healing.



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## NEWS

from Las Vegas/Nevada

Kena Adams, Coordinator Las Vegas/Nevada

## AB37 Passes: UNLV Gets A Behavioral Health Workforce Center

by Sondra Cosgrove, PhD

Shortages of behavioral health providers are common across the United States, and the problem has been getting worse for decades. Higher education costs can be high, and Medicaid reimbursement rates for behavioral health services are low. Insurance companies often block access to behavioral health benefits for vulnerable populations. No one disputes these facts. So, the question is, if we know all these issues exist, why haven't we addressed them to solve our behavioral healthcare crisis? The answer is relatively easy and depressing: a lack of funding.

While the pandemic was a horrible experience that cost lives, careers, and even trust in our medical systems, it became a key for addressing our behavioral health needs because it brought funding. When federal money flowed down to the states for pandemic healthcare, the states paid for behavioral health services for many, especially children. Yet we lacked the providers to meet all our needs. Nevada advocates who have worked for years to build a stronger behavioral health workforce finally saw hope. They grasped an opportunity to connect local students with higher education to put them on a path to becoming our future behavioral health providers.

In 2023, Nevada's Rural Behavioral Health Policy Board Sponsored Assembly Bill 37. This bill proposed creating a behavioral health workforce center at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. The

legislature and governor passed the bill. This center will coordinate higher education institutions and K-12 schools to build a complete behavioral health workforce system.

AB37 advocates looked to Nebraska's behavioral health workforce program as a model Nevada could easily adopt. So, with a proven blueprint in hand, the Nevada System of Higher Education created BeHere, which means Behavioral Health Education, Retention, and Expansion Network of Nevada. BeHere's director, Dr. Sara Hunt, is diligently working to set up this new office as quickly as possible to connect interested students with practicing behavioral health professionals as mentors. BeHere will also advocate for a pipeline program that connects middle school students to our community colleges and universities in ways that will keep their student debt as low as possible.

We finally have a long-wished-for tool to address Nevada's last-in-the-nation rating for behavioral health services. Our task now is to protect and grow this tool. To do so, we must introduce our friends and family to new opportunities to become behavioral health providers. And with an election coming up, we must register to vote and ensure anyone running for our state legislature knows we cannot go back to ignoring the needs of our most vulnerable populations.

If you are interested in a career in behavioral health, don't hesitate to contact an advisor at the closest Nevada Higher Education institution to learn more about starting the next chapter of your life and enhancing our community's well-being.

*Sondra Cosgrove, PhD, is a history professor at the College of Southern Nevada and the executive director of Vote Nevada.*

## FYI ...

### Bishop Gorman (Las Vegas) and IMG Academy (Bradenton) Led All High Schools with Three Players Drafted

NEW YORK – With the conclusion of the 2024 NFL Draft, this year's class of drafted rookies will soon begin life in the NFL. Only one other school, besides Bishop Gorman, drafted as many players. While each drafted rookie enters the NFL from a different background, the one thing they all have in common is an outstanding experience playing high school football. A total of 232 high schools contributed to the 257 players selected in the seven rounds of the April 25-27 draft.

"Each year, the NFL Draft marks a transition from college football to the NFL," said NFL Vice President of Football Development Roman Oben. "The draft represents years of hard work and childhood dreams fulfilled, shared by families and entire communities."

CONGRATULATIONS to all the young men drafted from Southern Nevada!

### \*SAVE THE DATE

Historic Westside Legacy Park 2024 Inductee Ceremony  
Saturday, June 1  
8:30-10 a.m.

Historic Westside Legacy Park  
1600 Mount

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### Be Prepared

WINNEMUCCA, Nev. (KOLO) – The Bureau of Land Management is urging people in Northern Nevada to prepare their homes and properties for fire season. They say their warning applies to those living in Winnemucca District, which encompasses Humboldt, Pershing,

## CATHERINE'S CORNER

### Cortez Masto, Murkowski Push DOJ to Implement Savanna's Act to Improve Federal Response to MMIW Crisis

Washington, D.C. – On May 8, 2024, U.S. Senators Catherine Cortez Masto (D-Nev.) and Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) sent a letter urging U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland to implement key provisions of their bipartisan Savanna's Act—which was signed into law alongside the Not Invisible Act in October 2020—to help combat the epidemic of missing and murdered Indigenous women (MMIW).

The commission created by the Not Invisible Act issued a report with dozens of recommendations to improve the federal response to the MMIW crisis, and it highlighted critical requirements of Savanna's Act that the Department of Justice (DOJ) has failed to implement—including better data collection of MMIW cases and streamlining law enforcement guidelines to enhance inter-jurisdictional cooperation.

"Violent crime continues to disproportionately harm Native Americans and Alaska Natives across the nation. While we appreciate DOJ's ongoing efforts to address the increased rates of victimization amongst these communities, DOJ has fallen short in its implementation of Savanna's Act," said the senators.

"Savanna's Act was signed into law in October 2020. Despite the time frames allotted for DOJ to implement Savanna's Act, it is unclear how far along DOJ's implementation status is for multiple portions of the law," the senators continued.

"We cannot begin to reduce violence for Native Americans and Alaska Natives if we do not bring together inter-jurisdictional resources and streamline responses to crime. In order for law enforcement, Tribal members, and other stakeholders to best protect the public safety of Native

Americans and Alaska Natives, DOJ must fulfill its obligation to fully administer Savanna's Act. . . It is long overdue that the federal government take action to protect Native victims and their families," concluded the senators.

Senator Cortez Masto is one of the strongest champions for Native Americans in the Senate, and she has led bipartisan efforts with Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) to protect Native communities. Savanna's Act, named in honor of Savanna LaFontaine-Greywind, requires federal law enforcement to create standard guidelines on responding to these crimes and increase data collection on them. The Not Invisible Act creates a point person in the Bureau of Indian Affairs to improve coordination of violent crime prevention across federal agencies and established a commission comprised of law enforcement, tribal leaders, federal partners, service providers, and survivors who made recommendations to ensure that DOI and DOJ work together to protect Native women and to address the epidemic of missing persons, murder, and trafficking of American Indians and Alaska Natives.

The senator has also repeatedly called on the administration to do more to address the epidemic of violence against Native women and girls, including securing federal funding to protect Native communities, urging the administration to put together a plan to address this issue, and requesting the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to investigate the federal response to this crisis. She is pushing bipartisan legislation to support Tribal law enforcement and improve public safety in Native communities—one of the recommendations of the Not Invisible commission.

northern Washoe, and portions of Churchill and Lyon counties.

The Nevada Arts Council is hosting a new statewide arts conference called "Intersections: The Nevada Creative Conference," from Thursday, May 30, through Saturday, June 1, at the Renaissance Reno Downtown Hotel and Spa. In addition to typical conference

fare—for art professionals, that means sessions regarding topics like grant writing, advocacy and marketing—the event is also geared toward arts administrators, arts educators, arts advocates and fans. Registration is \$75. To learn more about "Intersections: The Nevada Creative Conference," visit [www.nvartscouncil.org/intersections](http://www.nvartscouncil.org/intersections).

**TRUCKEE RIVER CLEANUP EVENT**



# GET TRASHED

FRIDAY, JUNE 21 • 1:00-5:00PM





visit: [Indigenousnetwork.org](http://Indigenousnetwork.org)

**SAVE THE 99 CENTS STORES**

“Why did this store close? What is happening?”  
Well, I’ll tell you what is going on. Our 99-cents stores are closing because of shifting consumer demand and influential pressure.

In my opinion, closing these stores is not the right thing to do. Everyone cannot afford to shop at Target or Walmart. Lots of people go to 99-cents store to find cheap things like kitchen utensils, clothes, toys, food storage and more. If these stores close, 14,000 employees will lose their jobs. These stores will always have cheap and affordable things. Over 6,566 people are homeless because they are not able to afford a home, and with the 99-cent store being here, it would make it easier to get food, clothes and even water. So many people are homeless because of how expensive things are.

I would love to form a rally at the front of a 99-cent store. It would really help bring the stores back if I could. I would use signs that say, “Save the Store!”

It makes me sad to watch these stores go. I really love going to the 99-cent store. When I was younger, my grandma always used to take me there, which was the best. I could get whatever I wanted without spending \$200 at Walmart. My name is Kamia Catherine Gray, and this is my opinion!

**HELLDORADO DAYS PARADE: A LAS VEGAS TRADITION**

The annual Helldorado Days Parade took place on May 11, 2024, near downtown Las Vegas. The Commission for the Las Vegas Centennial is celebrating



Mayor Goodman, husband Oscar and Ms. Rodeo Nevada 2024  
Photo: Review Journal @Left\_Eye\_Images

the season with a new documentary titled “The Road to Helldorado Days.” The film is available online. Funded by a grant from the Commission, the new film by Heather Caputo Productions documents the history of Helldorado Days, from its



Zelzah Shriner-  
Photo: Review Journal  
@Left\_Eye\_Images

beginnings as a tourist attraction in 1935 to fund a new Elks Lodge to today.

The Helldorado Days Parade is an annual event celebrating our diverse city and its history, this year’s parade was Saturday, May 11,

from 10 a.m. to noon and took place on Fourth Street downtown between Gass and Stewart avenues. The parade featured over 107 entries, including horse groups, 10 marching bands, car clubs, colorful dance groups, Zelzah Shriner flivver cars and more! A new feature this year was that additional shade was made available for spectators and free spectator swag at the grandstand.

A committee judged the entries during the parade and prizes will be awarded, including \$500 for the best marching band and \$500 for the best historic Las Vegas-themed float.

May 15 was the 119th anniversary of the land auction in 1905, which marks the beginning of Las Vegas.

**A HOMELESS WOMAN OF FAITH**

“It was faith that kept me going.” Being homeless in Las Vegas is no easy task. We have extreme weather, either hot as heck or cold as heck, limited resources and laws banning people from sleeping on the street (until the shelter is full).

My subject preferred not to be named by her government name but referred to as the “Faithful Woman.” This faithful woman is a traditional Native American who has a strong tie to her traditional ways, as well as faith in whom she calls Jesus Christ. She is also over 70 years old.

The Faithful Woman said it was a very scary situation, not knowing where you are going to go at such an advanced age and health problems. Our Faithful Woman just had to take on a walker because she is struggling with a heart problem. Even through all this, she said she kept her faith in God and truly believed he would rescue her! And rescue her He did.

The Faithful Woman took the bus to Help of Southern Nevada, where she stood in line for hours. She did this for a week. Her patience and faith paid off. Finally, after her third day of standing for hours, she was assisted with temporary housing. As she progressed through her journey with Help of Southern Nevada, she eventually secured a Section 8 voucher. “There is help if you want it,” the Faithful Woman explained. “But there are rules, just like life.”

Being positive can go you a long way when suffering through hard times. You get more with honey than vinegar is one of the truest statements. We are living after the COVID epidemic. Mental and behavioral health resources has been lacking in Clark County for so long, but there are some amazing organizations trying to deal with this, Help of Southern Nevada, Salvation Army, Catholic Charities and Shade Tree Women’s Shelter to name a few. Senator Masto just secured funds for more mental health dollars here in Nevada, and we have a new behavioral health center at UNLV. There is light at the end of the tunnel. But like my woman of faith mentioned, you must follow simple rules and BE NICE!

For help in Nevada and local resources, dial 211.



*Indian Voices Newspaper* would like to welcome its new Nevada Tribal Coordinator, Yvonne Hawk Verjan (Southern Cheyenne). She was born in California Los Angeles and grew up in a small town in Oklahoma near the panhandle. “It would be an honor to work with Nevada tribes,” Yvonne explains. Yvonne says that she loves this community and looks forward to form lasting relationships with Nevada tribes. She teaches traditional sewing classes works with the Las Vegas Indian Center, Fifth Sun Project, Earth Day powwow and the Las Vegas Inner Tribal pow wow. She is a true community leader in *Indian Voices* is proud to bring her into their circle. Welcome Yvonne Hawk Verjan, *Indian Voices* new Nevada Tribal Coordinator.

**The Family Doing the ceremony**

Left to right: Friend Roberta Garcia Chumash, Pueblo, and Aztec; Aunt Yvonne Hawk Verjan Southern Cheyenne; Best Friend and relative Francis Tombo Filipino and Spanish; Brother Steven



Gonzales Northern and Southern Cheyenne; Bearded husband and big supporter Carlos El Salvadorian and Lebanese of Melissa Gonzales; To be presented Melissa Gonzales Northern and Southern Cheyenne; Sister Stephanie Rodriguez Northern and Southern Cheyenne; Gourd Dancer Dad David Patterson Sac & Fox, Kickapoo

**Tammi Tiger**

A citizen of The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, and descendant of Muscogee and Seminole people, Tammi Tiger is a community organizer supporting Indigenous-led programming in Las Vegas, the state of Nevada, and across the nation. She has 25 years experience in public service, coming to UNLV after working as an administrator for one of the largest counties in the U.S. In 2021, Tiger was appointed by the governor to serve as a commissioner to the Nevada Indian Commission, and appointed by the secretary of state to serve on the Advisory Committee on Participatory Democracy. Tiger holds a master’s degree in public administration from UNLV and is a founding member of UNLV’s Native American Alumni Club.



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## Zzyzx in the Grand Scheme of Life

by Norrie Robbins

Travelers along Interstate 15 between San Diego and Las Vegas pass a mysterious sign that says Zzyzx (pronounced Sigh-Six, but with a z sound). If you get off at this sign, the next sign tells you that you are entering the Mojave National Preserve (National Park Service). The dirt road leads to a parking lot that overlooks the stunning white dry Soda Lake. Birders often park there, hiking the marked trail to the freshwater pond named Lake Tuendae Lake that skirts the west side of the dry lake. If you have the gate key, you can continue on to the Desert Research Center that is cooperatively managed by the National Park Service and California State University Fullerton (CSUF)

The CSUF research station is around 20 old buildings, most of which are one-story dorms for visiting scientists like me. Still standing are a few decaying buildings were once part of the Zzyzx Mineral Springs and Health Spa owned by Curtis Howe Springer. In 1944 Springer changed the name of the site from Soda Springs to Zzyzx, a name he invented to be the last word in the English language. By the late 1960s, complaints about medical practices, tax evasion, and false advertising attracted the BLM in 1974 to dispute his mining claim permit that was issued strictly for mining salts. The white salts are sodium bicarbonate, which we use for baking soda, and sodium



carbonate used for detergent, soap, and paper.

Previous to this, Padre Francisco Garces traveled nearby with Mojave guides in 1776. They followed the Mohave Trail across the dry lake, traveling from spring to spring like people have done for millennia. Interestingly, the trail has undergone name changes as various outsiders used it. It next became the Old Spanish Trail, the Old Government Road, and

finally the Mojave Road. The trail, whatever it was called, led from the Colorado River to Cajon Pass between the San Bernardino and San Gabriel Mountains. Another path across the dry lake is the abandoned bed of the old Tonopah-Tidewater railway.

The dry lake that sits there today was once part of ancient Lake Mojave that was fed by the Mojave River intermittently for the past 18,000 years. For 10,500 years or more, the land was the traditional territory of the Desert Serrano. Stone tools and other useful ancient items were found around Soda Lake. After the lake dried up around 9,800 years ago, the presence of springs also brought Chemhuevi and Mojave people, as all Indian travelers in the Mojave Desert made their seasonal round to hunt, gather food and medicinal plants, and sow the next crops. When I visited the field station, at the spring were rushes (for baskets), sedges and cattails (for building materials), yerba mansa (for medicine), and mesquite (for food). Oh yeah, a Mojave rattlesnake came by to say hello.

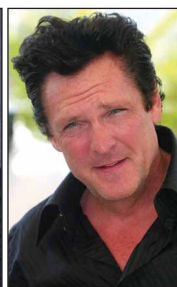
## Final Wager

Final Wager is a dark comedy feature film that will run exclusively on Vudu starting May 7, 2024. Thereafter in June, audiences will also be able to stream the project on Amazon, iTunes, Comcast, DirecTV, and more.

The film is the second feature directed by Kenny Yates. His last film, ReBroken, went on to win Best Picture and Best Actor at the Playhouse West Film Festival. Yates has pulled together an impressive

plethora of talent for this project. Lead protagonist Scott Hamm Duenas is both an award-winning actor and head of an indie

film production company, now in its seventh year. The female lead, Fernanda Romero, has been a staple on Spanish language TV for several years. Alongside



Scott on camera is Michael Madsen, whose legendary career in acting has spanned over forty-two years. Looking towards the supporting cast, actor Trevor Penick is making his on

screen debut here. Most will remember him from the boy band, O-Town. Lastly, audiences will get a good glimpse at actor and comedian, Tom Arnold, who never

leaves one without a laugh.

As to the premise of Final Wager, a former sports gambling addict, Chance, needs \$60,000 to save his mother from a nursing home eviction. So, he falls back into his old habits; only to learn he has never lost a bet on Christmas. Is this the Christmas miracle he has been waiting for, or just an addict who cannot control himself?

Film Trailer:

<https://vimeo.com/904991980/c809c6ce84>

IMDB: <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt20918380/>

## In Loving Memory

Ms. Maria Mona Mae "Kino'ole" Maertens, eldest child of the late Kamehameha Maertens (a recognized Hawaiian ali'i of the Beckley family) and Veronica Aflague was born September 6, 1938 at Queen's Hospital of Honolulu, Hawai'i. She was baptized at St Patrick Church of Kaimuki and attended Honolulu public schools, graduating from President Theodore Roosevelt High School in 1956 and in a statewide beauty pageant the same year was crowned "Miss Hawaiian Islands." Mona was shortly thereafter brought to Newport Beach by a women's Hawaiian sportswear company to manage stores on Balboa Island, Laguna Beach, and Palm Springs. A Hawaiian cultural practitioner, Mona was received into the Newport Beach "Kama'aina Club" sorority whose community service consisted in visiting and entertaining with choral music and hula performances shut-ins at local convalescent hospitals. In 1960 she was united in holy matrimony to Gerald Odegaard of Lakeview, Oregon at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church of Newport Beach, which union was blessed with three children but tragically ended in divorce 30 years later due to her husband's white supremacy.

An apartment building owner and manager, Mona also expressed her passion for

Hawaiian hospitality for the poor as an affordable housing businesswoman and also by cooking for youth ministries at the Presbyterian Church of the Covenant of Costa Mesa, singing in the Hawaiian a cappella choir for the Ainahau o Kaleponi Hawaiian Civic Club of Orange County and the Hui o Hawai'i of San Diego, as well as fundraising and indigenous cultural preservation and human rights activism with the Federated Women's Clubs of Bonsall and Oceanside, California. For a few years after her divorce Mona returned to the Roman Catholic faith of her youth, joining the Legion of Mary and teaching Sunday School at St. Mary Star of the Sea Church of Oceanside. In 2001 Mona was chrismated "Maria" into the Orthodox Christian faith at Sts Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church of Encinitas, California and was a patron of the Hawaiian Orthodox Christian mission. Although she quietly departed this life alone on Orthodox Holy Friday, May 3, 2024 martyred and warehoused at Brookdale Oceanside by her white-identified daughters Sheryl and Kristin, her Hawaiian cultural values are being perpetuated by her son Michael Odegaard. Memorial services were held at Orthodox Churches in both Encinitas and Irvine, and her body was interred at Eternal Hills Memorial Park in Oceanside.



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## LA County Library Observes Mental Health Awareness Month with Programs Promoting Mental Health and Wellbeing

In Partnership with LA County Department of Mental Health, Programs Empower Individuals of All Ages to Prioritize Mental Health and Build Resilience

Los Angeles County, CA – LA County Library is deeply committed to the mental health and wellbeing of all its neighbors. The Library recognizes May as Mental Health Awareness Month and proudly highlights the Mental Health Promoters Program, which is a transformative initiative created by the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health aimed at reducing mental health stigma in underserved.

“LA County Library has 86 locations that serve as trusted safe spaces for families throughout the County. The Library is a valued partner with the Department of Mental Health in supporting the wellbeing of Los Angeles County residents,” said Dr. Lisa H. Wong, Director of the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health.

“Throughout the year, and especially during May, which is Mental Health Awareness Month, we look forward to sharing resources and information through our Mental Health Promoters Program stationed in various libraries across the County.”

“No matter the challenge, LA County Library is here to support our customers,” said Skye Patrick, LA County Library Director. “By providing access to the tools and knowledge needed to prioritize mental health, the Library helps residents build a resilient future. The Mental Health Promoters Program is a key part of this



mission, equipping the community with the resources and support they need.”

Throughout May, the Library will host Mental Health Promoters Workshops that cover a wide range of mental health topics, from understanding and managing stress to neurodevelopmental disorders. Workshop participants will gain a deeper understanding of critical issues such as depression, anxiety, grief, addiction, and family violence. Participants will learn how to recognize symptoms, understand treatment options, and build resilience. Workshops also address crucial issues such as child abuse prevention, bullying, and suicide awareness, providing participants with a comprehensive view of mental health challenges. The program also offers specialized workshops for immigrant communities, focusing on the unique challenges they face. These sessions will address the specific needs of immigrants and help them navigate the mental health challenges they may encounter.

In addition, many LA County Library locations are offering their own programs in honor of Mental Health Awareness Month, including yoga classes and mindfulness-themed craft activities.

For more information about the Mental Health Promoters Workshops and other library programs, as well as curated booklists and films, please visit the Library's Mental Health Resources webpage at [LACountyLibrary.org/mental-health](http://LACountyLibrary.org/mental-health).

## Rescheduling Is Not Legalization, And The Existing Penalties For Cannabis Remain Unchanged

In October of 2022, President Biden made a series of historic cannabis-related executive actions, including initiating a review by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Department of Justice on how cannabis is scheduled under federal law. In August 2023, HHS recommended rescheduling cannabis from a Schedule I drug to a Schedule III drug and referred it to the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) for final approval.

Today, the DEA announced its decision to approve the HHS recommendation to reschedule cannabis to Schedule III. The proposal now goes to the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB), to review the rule. If approved by OMB, the proposed rescheduling would go to public comment before being finalized.

This historic announcement is the culmination of years of advocacy by Last Prisoner Project (LPP) and other advocacy groups to push the federal government to better reflect the public's view on cannabis. While the move is undoubtedly a step forward for the movement, it does not meet LPP's goal to fully remove cannabis from the Controlled Substances Act and its associated criminal penalties.

So then, what exactly does this schedule change mean for cannabis justice reform?

While the action could result in some favorable tax and banking reform for the cannabis industry and more dedicated research for cannabis patients, there are no changes in how the criminal legal system punishes cannabis users. Rescheduling is a peripheral change that signals the reevaluation of cannabis, but not the release of cannabis prisoners or

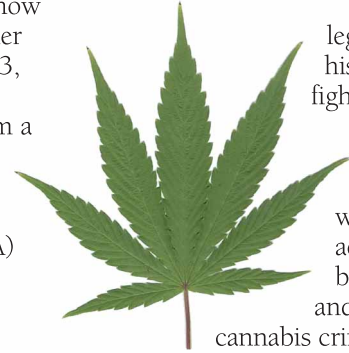
relief for those who continue to be burdened by the lasting consequences of the carceral system. In short, this announcement represents progress but not justice.

Despite not achieving full legalization, we must use this historic moment to push the fight for cannabis justice forward by broadening the scope of Biden's cannabis clemency action, working with Congress and certain administrative agencies to both provide retroactive relief and to reduce prospective

cannabis criminal enforcement, and incentivizing states to provide broad retroactive relief, particularly in states that have adopted a fully legal cannabis market. Learn more about ways cannabis justice advocates can leverage this change to advance reforms in our recent memo.

LPP is committed to continuing the fight for cannabis justice until everyone is fully free from the harms of the War on Drugs. This means advocating for cannabis to be fully descheduled. To ensure we keep the pressure on descheduling, retroactive relief, and full legalization, Last Prisoner Project helped organize the largest bipartisan group of cannabis advocates in Washington D.C. on April 18th, 2024 for our 420 Unity Day of Action to urge Congress and the President to take further action.

Last Prisoner Project believes that complete descheduling is a necessary step towards correcting past injustices and creating a fair and equitable criminal legal system. We will continue to leverage the momentum achieved from our advocacy to ensure that individuals burdened with past cannabis convictions have their records expunged and all cannabis prisoners are released, regardless of the federal scheduling decision.



### Team Feldspar

by April Nurse

The most common grit making up the Earth's crust is called feldspar. Some of the more popular and colorful gems on the market are part of this mineral family. If you're building a collection, feldspars are easily sourced and worthy additions. If you're lucky enough to live in Southern California, many varieties can be dug up in your own backyard or picked up on the beach.

Labradorite is a beautifully layered stone with a vast array of colors that “flash” across its surface, depending on how it's cut and polished. This (usually) charcoal-colored rock can flash every color of the visible light spectrum. Folk tales tell us that labradorite was used to capture the beauty of the rainbow, and it shows!

Red and purple are the rarer colors, with blue and gold being most common. The illuminated flash is called “labradorescence,” and it occurs because intrusive compounds make themselves at home within the rock as it's forming, creating minute spaces between the layers. A tiny amount of disorder creates a world

of color. Labradorite is hugely popular and widely available. It makes for flashy jewelry and stunning specimens.

Moonstone is arguably the most popular of the feldspar gemstone family. It occurs in many colors, ranging from black to white and opaque to perfectly clear. The legendary sky-blue flash has been highly sought after for centuries. Ancient Indians and the people of the Kush kingdom popularized the use of gemstones for personal empowerment. They knew moonstone as solidified moonbeams. The concentrated moonbeams could be carved and worn to conjure, to balance, and to protect. Moonstone pairs were given to lovers as wedding gifts; it ensured they'd always remain passionately entwined.

Sunstone sparkles like the most brilliant light. This red-orange gemstone looks like it is full of glitter. This effect is called “aventurescence.” Often copper and other minute metal bits get trapped within cooling rocks. The reflections give the appearance of confetti. In ancient India,

the stones were worn to protect and enhance the solar plexus chakra. Unlike Indian and Russian varieties, Oregon sunstones are stunningly clear and range in color from green blue to brilliantly yellow. Copper inclusions ranging from tiny glittering bits to splashes of red make this variation unique. To the first people, sunstone was not of the sun but of the blood. In the beginning, a great warrior caught in battle dripped his blood over the stones, leaving them stained. Sunstone became synonymous with strength and endurance. So it's no surprise that sunstone set into tools, masks and weapons (as well loose stones) have been uncovered all over the continent.

I hope that you consider these gems for your growing rock collection. These deeply sacred and beautiful minerals have a rich history and many a story to tell. We've spent centuries turning to bits of grit to bring us closer to the cosmos and our own powerful selves. Engaging in the appreciation of them honors our history and the contributions of the earth itself.

### Language Barrier

Continued from page 7

leaders to act.

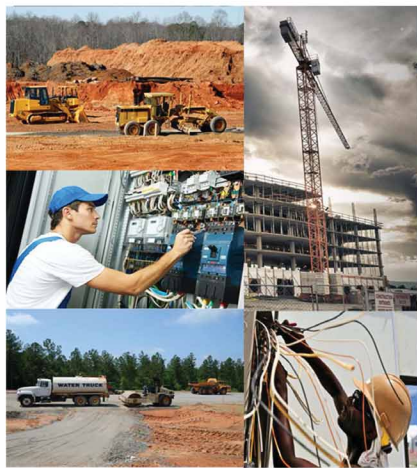
But the communities served by CIELO have not felt reached by Los Angeles heat resource information. “This is our first time getting any resources or conversations about these things in K'iche'.” - Participant, CIELO.

These communities have long been under-served, because of the erasure caused by systemic undercounting on Census forms. Often, they are categorized under ‘Hispanic/Latino’ which erases the Indigenous identity. This poses significant obstacles to their access to fundamental human rights such as language access. CIELO works to illuminate this data bias and create visibility for Indigenous communities.

To read the whole article, visit [indigenoustranslation.org](http://indigenoustranslation.org)

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## Honoring the Ocean

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**Head Woman: Melisa Aleman - Yaqui, Cherokee**  
**Head Man: Chandler Hood - Navajo**

**Teen Girl: Lili Franco - Yaqui**  
**Teen Boy: Antonio Gates - Yaqui**  
**Head Girl: Abbie Camacho - Yaqui/Kumeyaay bank of Mission Indians**  
**Head Boy: Kenneth Gates - Yaqui, Navajo**

**Tiny Tot Girl: Willow Garfield - Wuchummi Yokut & Mescalero Apache**  
**Tiny Tot Boy: Jaxton La Chappa - Kumeyaay - Sycuan band of the Kumeyaay Nation**

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## Oceti Sakowin Power Authority



Oceti Sakowin Power Authority (OSPA) has been working to establish and develop natural wind resources for over ten years. Their plans are now becoming reality with \$7 million in financing from Native American Bank and collaborative efforts with six other Sioux nations, tech giant Apple, and several other collaborators. While the unique capital arrangement presented a challenge for Native American Bank, ultimately, the project will move forward with plans to produce two Gigawatts of emissions-free electricity with a capacity to generate up to 60 CW of power on tribal lands.

The massive project will support economic growth, create numerous job opportunities, generate tax revenue, and create permanent high-skilled careers while reducing energy costs for tribal communities. The coming together of multiple tribal nations with Native American Bank's unique expertise has brought this project to life!

