



# INDIAN VOICES

OUR 38<sup>TH</sup> YEAR

MULTI-CULTURAL NEWS GLOBAL NETWORK

OCTOBER 2024

## UNITY IN THE COMMUNITY

### The Story Behind the Dress Sheinbaum Wore on Inauguration Day

President Sheinbaum wore a dress designed by Oaxaca artisan Claudia Vásquez Aquino at her inauguration

Claudia Sheinbaum, Mexico's first female president, took office on Tuesday wearing a dress designed by embroiderer Claudia Vásquez Aquino.

Originally from Santa María Xadani in the southern state of Oaxaca, Vásquez, 41, told the newspaper El País that about a year ago, she met some people from Sheinbaum's team, but didn't know who they were at the time.

Sheinbaum's team gave Vásquez



At her inauguration, President Sheinbaum wore a dress designed by Oaxaca artisan Claudia Vásquez Aquino. Photo: Edgar Negrete Lira/Cuartoscuro

guidelines for the design but did not reveal that it would be worn by Sheinbaum during her inaugural ceremony. Sheinbaum's team gave Vásquez guidelines for the design but did



Oaxaca artisan Claudia Vásquez Aquino

not reveal that it would be worn by Sheinbaum during her inaugural ceremony. (Lari guie' Arte hecho moda/Facebook)

"They asked me for a dress, they gave me guidelines so I could decide on the embroidery and the flower design. But I

didn't know it would be for [Sheinbaum]," she said.

The president's ivory inauguration-day dress, trimmed with colorful floral details, was made using the hand-knitting technique of crocheting on cotton fabric and elastane. "The embroidery features more than 100 flowers on the skirt and on the cuffs," Vásquez explained.

"I feel very proud," Vásquez remarked of her design.

Vásquez told El País that she learned to embroider at the age of 10. "Just as I was born with Zapotec [her native language], I was born with embroidery," she said proudly. "My mother taught me, first with needlework and then with weaving. My brothers

SEE **Sheinbaum Dress**, page 2

### Kamala Harris: The Road to the Presidency

Part Three of a Three-Part Series Exploring the Democratic Presidential Nominee's Life

by Windy Goodloe

On January 20, 2021, Kamala Devi Harris was sworn in as vice president of the United States by Justice Sonia Sotomayor. She became the first woman, African American, and Asian American vice president. Her first task as vice president was to swear in three new senators — Alex Padilla (her successor in the Senate), Raphael Warnock (Georgia senator) and Jon Ossoff (Georgia senator).

When Harris took office, the 117th Congress's Senate was divided 50-50. This meant that she was often called upon to exercise her power to cast tie-breaking votes between Democrats and Republicans in her role as president of the Senate.

President Joe Biden assigned Harris to work with El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras (also known as the Northern Triangle nations) and Mexico to address immigration on March 24, 2021. This effort was called the Root Causes Strategy (RCS). Although many news sources have called Harris a "border czar," she rejected the title. In June 2021, she visited Guatemala and Mexico. While in Guatemala, Harris stated, "I want to be clear to folks in the region who are thinking about making that dangerous trek to the United States-Mexico border: Do not come. Do not come." As a result of her work in



Kamala Harris being sworn in as vice president on Jan. 20, 2021.

Central America, task forces to address corruption, human trafficking, women's empowerment, and investment in housing and businesses were formed (Wikipedia).

In February 2022, Harris visited

Germany and Poland to rally support for arming Ukraine and imposing sanctions on Russia. In November 2023, Harris pledged that the Biden administration would place no conditions on US aid to Israel in its war against Hamas in Gaza. She did also criticize Israel's actions during the Israel-Hamas war in March of 2024.

When Biden ended his campaign for re-election on July 21, 2024, he endorsed Harris for president. In the first 24 hours of her candidacy, her campaign raised \$81 million. Harris officially accepted the Democratic nomination for president on August 22, 2024, which was the fourth day of the Democratic National Convention.

About Biden and Harris's relationship, National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan said, Biden "insists she be in every core

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## Departments of the Interior and Justice Convene Roundtable on Media Coverage of Missing or Murdered Indigenous Peoples and Human Trafficking

*Event Honors Commitment Made by Federal Agencies in Response to Not Invisible Act Commission's Recommendations*

WASHINGTON — The Department of the Interior and the Justice Department on Thursday convened a roundtable discussion with Tribal representatives, advocates, members of the media, and survivors to discuss how media coverage can be improved when reporting on the crisis of missing or murdered Indigenous peoples (MMIP) and human trafficking (HT).

The virtual roundtable was organized as part of the federal response to the recommendations of the Not Invisible Act Commission—a federal advisory committee established in November 2023 per the Not Invisible Act of 2019 to recommend strategies for combatting violent crime on Indian lands and against American Indian and Alaska Native people. During seven public hearings across the country as well as a two-day virtual national hearing that informed the Commission's recommendations, survivors and families impacted by the crisis of

MMIP and HT shared concerns about lack of media coverage and whether that may contribute to cases being ignored or going unsolved. The Commission in turn recommended the Interior and Justice Departments hold a roundtable discussion as a step toward developing a set of best practices.

"Since day one, the Biden-Harris administration has been committed to fulfilling our promises to Indian Country," said Secretary Haaland, who authored the Not Invisible Act while in Congress. "This roundtable is part of that promise as we act on one of the Not Invisible Act Commission's recommendations because a crisis that exists in silence will never be solved. Today is one step of many to ensure our missing relatives' stories are told."

"Public communication, news stories, and social media can be crucial in finding and investigating cases of missing or murdered Indigenous persons," said Attorney General Merrick B. Garland. "That is why, on the Not Invisible Act Commission's recommendation, we convened this roundtable to develop best

SEE **Missing or Murdered**, page 4

## Sheinbaum Dress

Continued from page 1

Carlos and María also learned and together we have undertaken a small textile project."

The project is called Lari Guie', which means embroidered fabric in Zapotec. The designer's Facebook page indicates that they sell online and at sales expos, and can be reached in Oaxaca city.

Vásquez is currently president of the Association of Indigenous Artisan Communities of the State of Oaxaca, which represents eight regions in the state.

This is not the first time that Claudia Sheinbaum has worn traditional clothing from the region. "From what I understand, the Doctor [Sheinbaum] obtains her pieces directly from artisans," Vásquez said, adding that it is a "privilege" that the new president wears "typical clothing" from the different regions of Mexico.

"I am very excited that this piece of textile, woven by my hands, my heart and my mind, will be worn by the president. It is a very strong commitment, so we ask her to also defend our textiles. She is the voice of the people," Vásquez said in a separate interview to news outlet Aristegui Noticias.

"I hope one day I can meet her personally and shake her hand," Vásquez said. "I admire her a lot and I wish Mexico well with the first female president."

The gold-colored national emblem on the presidential sash was also hand-embroidered. This work was carried out by First Auxiliary Soldier Evangelina Rentería de la Cruz, who also embroidered

the sash bestowed on Sheinbaum's predecessor, Andrés Manuel López Obrador, on Dec. 1, 2018.

byline: Mexico News Daily

Here are some indigenous tribes in Oaxaca, Mexico:

- **Mixtecs** - A prominent group in Mesoamerica during pre-Hispanic times, the Mixtecs lived in the western region of Oaxaca, as well as parts of Puebla and Guerrero.

- **Mazatecos** - The Mazatecos occupied parts of Oaxaca, Guerrero, and Veracruz, and their language is part of the Oto-Manguean language family.

- **Zapotecs** - The Zapotec civilization dates back over 2,500 years, and the name comes from the Nahuatl word for "inhabitants of the place of sapote".

- **Amusgos** - The Amusgo people have their own language and live along the Oaxaca-Guerrero border.

- **Huaves** - The origins of the Huave nation are uncertain, but some historians believe they came from Nicaragua or Peru by sea.

- **Chatinos** - A pre-Columbian people with close cultural and linguistic ties to the Zapotecs, the Chatinos are located in the southern part of Oaxaca.

- **Cuicatecs** - Closely related to the Mixtecs, the Cuicatecs speak the Cuicatec language and are part of the Otomanguean language family.

- **Mixes** - The Mixes live in the eastern highlands of Oaxaca and speak a variety of languages classified as Mixe-Zo

## Honoring America's Unsung Heroes: A Monumental Movement for Justice and Progress



by C. Sade Turnipseed, PhD

Monuments stand as enduring testaments to our shared heritage, immortalizing the achievements of extraordinary individuals and the pivotal moments that have shaped our nation's journey. With this profound understanding, we advocate for the creation of monuments to honor America's Reconstruction legislators—trailblazers who championed justice, equality, and progress during one of the most transformative eras in American history.

In the wake of the Civil War, during the Reconstruction period from 1865 to 1877, over 600 African Americans courageously served in state legislatures, and hundreds more held local offices. These pioneering leaders worked tirelessly to dismantle the racial caste system and uplift the economic conditions of the formerly enslaved. Their efforts laid the groundwork for the civil rights advancements that would follow decades later.

Among these remarkable individuals were:

- **Hiram Revels**: The first African American to serve in the U.S. Senate, representing Mississippi.

- **Blanche K. Bruce**: The first African American to preside over the

Senate in 1879, also representing Mississippi.

- **Robert Smalls**: A former enslaved man who escaped to freedom and later served five terms in the U.S. House of Representatives from South Carolina.

- **Henry McNeal Turner**, **Tunis Campbell**, and **Aaron A. Bradley**: Influential Georgia state legislators who championed civil rights and education.

- **Benjamin S. Turner**: An Alabama state representative who advocated for racial equality.

- **Josiah T. Walls**: Florida's first Black congressman.

- **Joseph H. Rainey**, **Robert Brown Elliott**, and **Robert C. De Large**: South Carolina state representatives who fought for civil rights legislation.

- **Jefferson H. Long**: Georgia's first African American congressman.


- **Frederick Douglass** (born Frederick Augustus Washington Bailey): An abolitionist, writer, and orator from Maryland who became a national leader of the abolitionist movement.

- **William Wells Brown**: A Kentucky-born writer and abolitionist.

- **Richard T. Greener**: A Pennsylvania attorney and educator, and the first African American graduate of Harvard College.

- **Jonathan Jasper Wright**: The first

SEE **Unsung Heroes**, page 3



# INDIAN VOICES

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## “Voices of the Land: Engaging Communities for Environmental Change”

*The Great Kumeyaay Nation stands with the Environmental Center of San Diego*

The 8th Annual Environmental Leadership Summit brought together a diverse group of leaders, innovators, and advocates committed to advancing sustainability and environmental stewardship. Over the course of the event, attendees participated in thought-provoking discussions and networking opportunities that highlighted the latest trends and challenges in the environmental sector.

Tribal keynote speakers shared inspiring stories of Tribal Ecological Knowledge that have made a tangible impact on local and global scales. Panel discussions focused on critical issues such as working with Indigenous Tribes, climate change, along with discussions of current ballot initiatives that will directly impact our environmental goals.

Participants also engaged in discussions aimed at developing actionable strategies for fostering environmental resilience.

The summit underscored the importance of collective action and the role of leadership in driving meaningful change. With a renewed sense of purpose, attendees left the summit equipped with new insights, connections, and a commitment to continue their efforts in creating a more sustainable future. Overall, the event was a resounding success, reinforcing the necessity of ongoing dialogue and collaboration in the pursuit of environmental leadership.

September 28, 2024 on the sacred land of the Great Kumeyaay Nation at San Diego State University tribes gathered. Erica Pinto and Bobby Wallace brought strong messages about the Indigenous, ancestral connection to the earth. Indigenous Intelligence prevailed while and Indian media platform was discussed



Erica M. Pinto Chairwoman, Jamal Villag; Jill Sherman-Warne (NAEPC); Bobby Wallace, Barona Band Mission Indians

A moving invocation by Chairwoman Erica Pinto opened the proceedings. Bobby Wallace imparted his knowledge and environmental concerns during a Panel: Tribal Civil Engagement.

Keynote Speaker Jill Sherman-Warne, Executive Director Native American

Environmental Protection Coalition gave an inspiring and unifying presentation.

The summit served as a platform for discussion on the intersection of indigenous rights, environmental stewardship, and community resilience in the face of climate change.

*Excerpts from ECSD website*

## Unsung Heroes

Continued from page 2

African American justice on the South Carolina Supreme Court.

These leaders played crucial roles in shaping their states' histories and contributed significantly to the advancement of civil rights during a time of immense challenge and change. By erecting monuments to honor their legacies, we affirm our commitment to equality, justice, and the preservation of our diverse history.

The Reconstruction era was marked by significant legal, social, and political challenges following the abolition of slavery. During this time, three pivotal amendments—the 13th, 14th, and 15th—were added to the U.S.

Constitution, granting citizenship and equal civil rights to formerly enslaved African Americans. However, to undermine these advancements, former Confederate states employed tactics of intimidation and violence to prevent African Americans from voting and exercising their newfound rights.

Despite these obstacles, Reconstruction legislators and social activists dedicated themselves to promoting racial equality, social justice, and economic opportunities for all citizens. Their unwavering commitment laid the foundation for the progress we continue to build upon today. By commemorating these giants with monuments, we ensure that their contributions are never forgotten and that the lessons of the past continue to inform our pursuit of a more just society.

Monuments serve as powerful educational tools, encapsulating historical narratives that shape our understanding of the world. Dedicated memorials to these Reconstruction legislators and activists would provide tangible and immersive

experiences, allowing visitors to learn about the challenges they faced and the victories they achieved. These educational resources would enrich our collective knowledge and foster meaningful conversations about the ongoing struggle for equality and justice.

Moreover, monuments honoring these individuals have the potential to bridge divides and foster unity within communities. By acknowledging their work in dismantling oppressive systems and promoting an inclusive society, these monuments can serve as symbols of healing and progress. They remind us of how far we have come and inspire us to continue striving toward a more equitable future.

These were people who defied the social norms of their time—African Americans, white allies, and individuals from various walks of life who joined forces to enact meaningful change. Honoring their contributions is a celebration of courage and an affirmation of the strength that arises from embracing our differences.

This is an opportunity to celebrate the extraordinary achievements of those who fought relentlessly for equality and justice. By preserving their memory, we ensure that their legacy continues to inspire future generations. Let us seize this chance to unite, heal, and demonstrate our commitment to building a better, more inclusive future for all.

*More about C. Sade Turnipseed, PhD, MBA, MS: Dr. Cassie Sade Turnipseed is a Public Historian (historic preservationist), who is continually conducting research on cultural narratives, and the significant social influences that created the world's largest economy that evoked musical traditions, e.g., the "blues," spirituals, country, jazz, soul, and hip-hop ... "all things cotton."*

*Turnipseed is currently a professor of Public History at Jackson State University; and occasionally serves as an adjunct professor at Mississippi Valley State University. Her true passion is her work with the youth. She often states, "If it doesn't involve young people, it doesn't involve me."*



*The Environmental Center of San Diego recognizes that we all rest on the ancestral homeland of the Kumeyaay Nation. The Environmental Center offers its respect and gratitude to the Kumeyaa people who have lived here since time immemorial.*

## Kamala Harris Rolls Out National Marijuana Legalization Plan, Pledging To Make It 'The Law Of The Land'

by Tom Angell for Marijuana Moment

Vice President Kamala Harris is pledging to federally legalize marijuana, ensuring that access to cannabis is “the law of the land.”

If elected, she will “break down unjust legal barriers that hold Black men and other Americans back by legalizing marijuana nationally, working with Congress to ensure that the safe cultivation, distribution, and possession of recreational marijuana is the law of the land,” the Harris campaign said in a press

release on Monday.

The Democratic presidential nominee's cannabis plan is part of what her campaign calls an “opportunity agenda” aimed at winning the votes of Black men.

To that end, the campaign says Harris will “fight to ensure that as the national cannabis industry takes shape, Black men are able to access wealth and jobs in this new market.”

Read the full details here: <https://www.marijuanamoment.net/kamala-harris-rolls-out-marijuana-legalization-plan-pledging-to-make-it-the-law-of-the-land/>

## Kamala

Continued from page 1

decision-making meeting. She weighs in during those meetings, often providing unique perspectives.”

Where does Harris stand on the big issues? She supports national abortion protections. She also supports LGBTQ+ rights and limited legislation to address climate change. She supports an earned pathway to citizenship and increased border security. Harris opposed the Russian invasion of Ukraine and supports continued unconditional military aid to Israel during the Israel-Hamas war. She

opposes an arms embargo on Israel. She supports a populist economic agenda (Wikipedia).

Vice President Kamala Harris is also a wife, stepmom, aunt, daughter, and sister. With ancestral wisdom and intelligence she may be our next president. The only way this can happen is if everyone exercises their right to vote. This election is one of the most critical events that will ever take place in our lifetimes. We know what the alternative is, and if we don't want a repeat of that, we must make sure that our voices are heard via the ballot box.

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



## 120 Months, 43 Students: The Mexican Government Is Guilty

Statement from ARE (Association of Raza Educators), Armadillos NUMM, Union del Barrio, Mecha SDCC, 43 San Diego.

**Until there is justice, there will be no peace!**

**Ten years of struggle for truth and justice.**



One hundred twenty months, 43 students, the Mexican government is guilty. We will neither forgive nor forget.

Early morning of Sept. 26, 2024, 10 years after the kidnapping and disappearance of 43 students, many gathered in front of the San Diego Mexican Consulate in solidarity with the families of the 43 missing students and the Mexican People.

“Ten Years of Struggle for Truth and Justice”—Statement from the protest organizers.

On the night of Sept. 26, and in the early morning of Sept. 27, 2014, a criminal organization with the support of municipal, state, and federal law enforcement (mostly the army) kidnapped and disappeared 43 students and murdered 6 more people in Iguala, Guerrero, Mexico.

The president, Enrique Peña Nieto, wanted to close the case quickly. To do so, he developed a theory known as “the historical truth,” which was riddled with falsehoods and rejected by national and international experts.

AMLO (President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador) promised to resolve the case when he met with the relatives of the 43 while he was still campaigning and then reaffirmed his promise as president. Now, at the end of his mandate, we denounce AMLO for not honoring his promise, for sabotaging the investigation, and for protecting the accomplices in the disappearance of the 43, the armed forces.

ALMO had the time, resources, and authority to complete the investigation and bring those responsible to justice. As AMLO spoke convincingly with the mothers and relatives of the 43, everyone hoped that the boys’ fate would be known and the guilty would also be punished. Unfortunately, none of this happened since, from the beginning, it was clear that the president was seeking to prolong the investigation and at the same time protect

the military forces. That wasn’t all.

The president sabotaged the investigation when he hinted at the work of Omar Gomez Trejo, the special prosecutor in charge of the investigation, to the point that he was forced to resign. This happened, in September 2022. In addition, the work of the Interdisciplinary Group on Independent Experts (GIEI), which had done so much during the previous government, ended once the Mexican army, with the support of AMLO, refused to hand over important documents. These documents, in addition to helping to find the students, demonstrated the participation of the armed forces in their disappearance.

In his attempt to protect the armed forces, AMLO accused the

representatives of the families of the 43 of obeying foreign interests and being part of an international campaign to discredit the armed forces. AMLO forgets, very conveniently, that if anything characterizes the Mexican armed forces, it is their repressive and unpatriotic actions. The list of the army’s repressive and murderous conduct is endless. We will only mention the massacre of Tlatlaya in 2014, and that of Tlatelolco in 1968, and the “death flights” between 1974 and 1998, which consisted of throwing more than 1,500 social justice fighters into the ocean from an Israeli-made plane owned by the Mexican Air Force.

The undersigned organizations and groups are aware that all struggles in all corners of the world are the same struggle. For this reason, we reaffirm our solidarity with Palestinians and demand the immediate total departure of the Israeli genocidal forces from the occupied territories, the boycott of all kinds against the state of Israel, the international trial of its leaders, and a definitive solution to the Zionist occupation, including recognition of Palestinian demands.

Peña Nieto’s “historic truth” did not pass the test of history. AMLO’s protection of the armed forces and the baseless accusations that go hand in hand with the former has become another “historical truth” 10 years after the state crime; there is no truth, there is no truth, there is no justice. Claudia Sheinbaum, remember that your election was possible thanks to the participation of the people and a government of the people is needed — your turn.

**THEY WERE TAKEN ALIVE, WE WANT THEM BACK, ALIVE!**

**FROM THE RIVER TO THE SEA, Palestine Will Be Free!**

ARE (Association of Raza Educators), Armadillos NUMM, Union del Barrio, Mecha SDCC, 43 San Diego (Facebook and Instagram) Email: 43sandiego43@gmail.com

## Cosponsor Bipartisan Legislation Recognizing The Service of Buffalo Soldiers

### Request for Cosponsor(s)

Dear Colleague,

Yesterday marked the 138th anniversary of the formation of the first regular U.S. Army regiments composed of African American soldiers. In honor of their service to our country, we write to request you join us as a cosponsor of **H.R. 1222, the Buffalo Soldiers Congressional Gold Medal Act**, which will award a Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian honor given by Congress, to the legendary Buffalo soldier regiments.

In July 1866, Congress passed the Army Organization Act, authorizing the formation of infantry and cavalry regiments made up of former slaves to serve in the U.S. Army. These all-Black regiments served in major conflicts including the Plains Wars, Spanish-American War, Philippine-American War, Mexican Expedition, World War I, World War II, and the Korean War.

The nickname, “Buffalo Soldier,” came from the Native Americans during the regiments’ deployments to the western frontier. The African American troops accepted the name with pride and honor, as they were aware of the buffalo’s fierce bravery and fighting spirit. As the first peacetime all-Black regiments in the U.S. Army Buffalo Soldiers fought alongside white regiments in many conflicts. During the almost 90 years that Buffalo Soldiers served in the U.S. Army 25 soldiers were awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Buffalo Soldiers also assisted in the protection of National Parks. They helped fight wildfires, and poachers in the

Yosemite and Sequoia National Parks and served as park rangers in the Sierra Nevada. Their heroic actions all occurred during a time when racism and segregation were barriers and a constant threat.

The Buffalo Soldiers Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2023 provides for a Congressional Gold Medal to be awarded to the Buffalo Soldier regiments (six all-Black cavalry and infantry regiments authorized by Congress in 1866 to serve in the U.S. Armed Forces), in recognition of their vital service to the United States. This medal would be displayed at the National Museum of African American History and Culture of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C.

To become a cosponsor or if you have any additional questions, please contact either Betsy Dudley (betsy.dudley@mail.house.gov) with Congresswoman Strickland or Marshall Burkhardt (marshall.burkhardt@mail.house.gov) with Congressman Andy Kim.

Sincerely, Marilyn Strickland, Member of Congress, Andy Kim, Member of Congress

Current Cosponsors (50): Kim (NJ), Grijalva, Ciscomani, Norton, Moore (WI), Foushee, Cherfilus-McCormick, Clyburn, Donalds, Neguse, Allred, Zinke, Moulton, Pascrell, Stevens, Chu, Ross, Panetta, Thompson (MS), Gottheimer, Davids (KS), Blunt Rochester, Scott (GA), Johnson (GA), Costa, Jackson (IL), Frost, Norcross, Tonko, Valadao, Khanna, Stansbury, Davis (IL), Goldman, Thanedar, Peltola, Fletcher, Tlaib, LaMalfa, Watson Coleman, Quigley, Davis, Ivey, Pallone, Williams (GA), Garamendi, DeSaulnier, Lee (CA), Sherrill, Salinas.

## PLAN TO VOTE & VOTE EARLY

### Missing or Murdered

Continued from page 2

practices and guidelines to aid law enforcement, families, advocates, and journalists when a member of a Native community is reported missing. It is our hope that this convening will strengthen those partnerships, which are essential to advancing our shared goal of ending this crisis.”

Department of the Interior Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Bryan Newland opened the roundtable and said, “The overarching principle that guides our work is to make life better for people in Tribal communities and making sure that Indian people have the opportunity to live safe, healthy, and fulfilling lives in their tribal communities. Public safety is a big part of this, and addressing the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples crisis and human trafficking are at the forefront of our public safety work.”

Principal Deputy Associate Attorney General Benjamin C. Mizer gave opening remarks at the roundtable, saying “it is critical now, more than ever,” to work

together to draw attention to the MMIP and HT crises. “The potential for immediate, real-time alerts makes media, particularly social media, a powerful tool to get the word out fast when emergencies happen. And the widespread use of media facilitates information sharing and collaboration that can help resolve missing persons cases.”

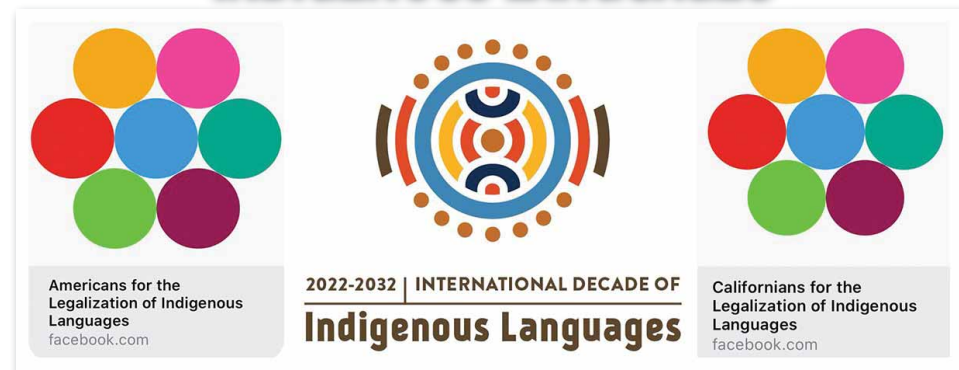
In August, Secretary Haaland and Attorney General Garland visited New Mexico to discuss efforts to confront the MMIP crisis and human trafficking with federal and Tribal leaders. Under Attorney General Garland and Secretary Haaland’s leadership, the Biden-Harris administration has worked to address the high rates of violent crime in Indian Country. Read more about these efforts on the Department of the Interior’s website.

The Departments plan to publish best practices stemming out of this discussion by the end of the year. To submit recommendations, email [newsmedia@bia.gov](mailto:newsmedia@bia.gov) no later than Friday, October 4.

[Interior\\_Press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov)



## INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES



by Vincent McCarthy [jmvc16@aol.com](mailto:jmvc16@aol.com)

## Kewim Aavech Maavelly ‘Ipatth Keeping a Language Alive Within You (Kumeyaay)



*We have all heard different ways to learn a language, but in our English-dominated world, is it really worth it? Why do so many language students fail to reach fluency or lose their abilities in the target*

*language shortly after completing their studies? Is there a way to integrate new languages into our daily life, so that we do not lose but continue to build on the progress we have made? In my experience, it is indeed challenging to not only learn, but maintain and retain competency in a language that is not commonly spoken where we live. How much more so if the language we wish to learn is spoken by only a select few, who themselves speak widely different dialects? However, accomplished language learners will say the key to success is to find enjoyment in use of the target language. To add to that, I would advise one to find utility. And indigenous languages have a fundamental advantage that makes learning them useful, relevant, and enjoyable to all of us.*

Matwaam ‘ehmiiy emak ‘ewaa chemuuyuw nyā’ehapm ‘iipaych nyakekwis, “Mu’yuum Frransees Aa muuyaawhilly mara? Nyii nyā’kwarch peyii aa nyip uchewayph umaaw; emat peyii Frransees aa kuchewayph ‘ehmiiyh umaaw.” Nyawiim ‘enyaamech mu’yuum aavu ‘uuyaaw ta’waa ‘emelyays. Puu ‘aakewayk ‘ii, “Enurh ‘emaaw. ‘ichachvu aa peyaa ‘emirr, pukenaach ‘uuyaaws.” Nyaapum ‘iipay ‘ehini ‘eyips, siny ‘ehin ‘aahin wiim ‘eyips: “Matwaam saarrap Frransees aa ‘ewaa chemuuyuwvvi ‘uuyaaws; nyaamat pehump.” (Nyim wiis, skweel nyachepakch, nyii aavu waayph umaaw nyii ‘uuchuch aam ewiuh umaawch wal wiich nyaamatvu maaykiwayk.) Nyip nyā’eyipch nyii ‘achepayh ‘emaawch nyimvey aavu ‘enur ta’aa.

Skweel kwehap ‘uuyaaw weyaaych aavu ‘ehan netuu-urpm Frransees aam pup ‘uuniwch ‘aayps, pes skweel nyaneyiwkch wechaam nyii uchewayph umaaw. ‘Enyaa ‘unyeway ‘ehinch ‘ehan nurs aavu, nyekwaachemuuyuwvech wiis “l’accent parfait” weyuus; aakeretiip nesoom

waaypch Frransees ‘ehin perewii. Pes puu nyemach, skweel nyanesoom, aavu wecham nyii waayph umaaw. Heyally ‘ewuwm ‘enyaa nyimvey nyuuyaaws nya’aaypm, pes Frransees aam nyinyuy waayph llyepuwar.

‘Iipay peyapch mu’yuum aa ‘ucheyuwvpu pechehwiima? Maaykiwaykh umaaw, hellytaach ‘ewirh umaaw; peyap hellyta mewalyp, nya’arch layp netuu-urp. Skweel nyanesoom, marwayvech uchewayp sekaayhilly ewaarpch umaaw; yuuchaap tarchach ‘ewirm nyii uumiirpch umaaw. Marwayvech uchewayp sekaayhilly ewaarpch ma’wipvu mechelyays. Nyaapum wal wiich mechelyaayp ‘uuchuch ‘ehinm tarchach tenyeway. ‘Enyaavech skweel nya’echepakch stikm Frransees aa ‘epewim; ‘aayp ‘ewir nyaapum ‘ewir. Pes ‘ewaa chemuuyuw kwa’maay nya’ehapch, “French Club” puy ‘ehapch ‘iipay marway ekwaach seamaan nyaamat stikm Frransees aam ‘aayps.

Pilyvey, peyaa uumall mewuw temewaa nya’uumallch, nyii ‘ematvi ta’yuuwh ‘emaaw, pes yaaypvi, ‘ewaa kwemanly ta’waa. Frransm ‘aa ta’aa, puy ‘unyeway ‘ehin ‘ewuwh, nyaapum ‘unyeway ‘ehini mat weyumpm ‘ewuph. Nyata’nyewayk, kupilly nyaamat, ‘enyaa ‘enekehaph Frransees aam ‘uchewayph. Aa ‘emat kupaaym ‘uuchuch nyaamat ‘ewiph, nyii Millychish aam ‘aayphilly ‘arh ‘emaawh. Frransees aa ‘uuyaawch, peyaa ‘ellya’am. Peyaa ‘ewiim, Frransees aa ‘enyewichvech ‘ehan; ‘estuudyaarrly ‘esekays.

Mu’yuum peyaa nyaamat nyekenaapa? Maach ‘unyeway merewiilly ‘arh ‘emaaw: matwaam saarrap aavu uuyaaw tewaa, nyaapum nyaamat wecham maaykiwayk nesoom. Aa nyamenurk—‘iipay Aa, matt aa ‘ehini—aavu meyuuwilly ‘ar, nyaapum mechemenyaayhilly ‘ar, ‘uuchuch nyim mewiilly ‘ar. Kaayp, kuumall, kecheyuw, kechuukwar—‘uuchuch marvu kewi’, ‘uuch weyuu nyii ‘achepayh ‘emaaw, pes ‘ewuwhilly ‘ar, ‘eyiphilly ‘ar. ‘Uuchuch memirrvu kupilly nyaamat, matt hemuk, chepap seamaan nyaamat mewivek, aa peyaa muuyaawh nyii memaaykiwaykh memaawh. ‘Enyaach ‘epa’wiis, maamech mellya’ams. ‘Esally nyinyilly marvek, ketiikayna ‘eyay ‘ehanm ‘ewiuh.

## JOURNALIST’S NETWORK

## New Indigenous Storytellers Fellowship Program Launches For Emerging Journalists

This fall, Journalists for Human Rights (JHR), the Indigenous Journalists Association (IJA) and APTN News are proud to be launching the Growing Indigenous Storytellers Fellowship Program, a new initiative for emerging Indigenous journalists, supported by the Google News Initiative.

Six Indigenous fellows will have the opportunity to work at APTN News for a period of six months, and connect with a wider network at IJA’s 2025 Indigenous Media Conference. In addition, the program will offer a series of workshops and lectures with incredible guest speakers for both the fellows and the broader journalism community.



The demand for Indigenous storytellers and perspectives in the Canadian news ecosystem is higher than ever, and yet the channels that might propel more Indigenous people to careers in journalism often

remain inaccessible. Parallel to this, we have seen newsrooms downsize in the last decade, and a shrinking pool of people are being asked to take on new roles and more work. Something has to give, and we know that often it’s the mentoring and development of new voices.

This program seeks to unite the strengths of all four partner organizations to help create paths to careers in journalism for more Indigenous people in what is now called Canada.

## “Movement” Journalism Is Challenging the Media Status Quo

American journalism is in crisis mode. Local newsrooms are slashing staff or shuttering altogether, and the for-profit model that has supported most of the news industry is in danger of either imploding or sacrificing quality to cost-cutting pressures—not to mention the many challenges of maintaining integrity in the era of AI-generated content.

But amid this decline, a new approach is gaining traction: movement journalism.

Movement journalism seeks to be a powerful counter to mainstream reporting as it redefines the role of media in society by prioritizing and advocating for marginalized communities.

Where traditional journalism often operates with an ethic of removal or distance from its subject matter—a deliberate attempt to stay above the fray—movement journalism quite consciously puts itself into the debates and topics it covers. Rather than elevating the value of “objectivity,” movement journalism embraces the causes and issues it tackles.

The aim of this movement, to which more than a dozen journalistic organizations have publicly subscribed, is to create journalism that “doesn’t serve the interests of those perpetuating systemic injustices [but rather] serves those most impacted by them,” says Lara Witt. Witt is editor in chief of Prism, a journalistic enterprise founded in 2019. Its mission is in part to “tell stories from the ground up: to disrupt harmful narratives, and to inform movements for justice.”

Movement journalism consciously puts itself into the debates.

A few years ago, Prism launched its Reflective Journalism Project (RJP), a program that empowers journalists and

media professionals to align their work with justice movements by challenging conventional ideas of objectivity and offering an alternative model that prioritizes media accountability.

### Prism’s Reflective Journalism Project

The RJP meets what Witt says is a growing demand for journalism aligned with justice movements.

The project started as a one-on-one program for movement organizers and leaders to learn the tenets of movement journalism, particularly leaders and organizers from Black, Indigenous, and other marginalized communities in the United States.

So-called objectivity frequently upholds existing power structures.

The program has evolved into a three-part, in-depth interactive workshop that equips journalists, editors, and media professionals with the knowledge and resources they need to align their work with liberation movements.

This evolution was shaped under the guidance of Rikki Li, Prism’s developmental editor, who believes in the transformative potential of this training.

“Movement journalism is rigorous journalism, not a soapbox for activists,” Li contends. “It’s about fostering collaboration between journalists and grassroots movements and supporting journalism created by oppressed and marginalized people.”

### Liberation over “Objectivity”

Challenging the “myth of objectivity,” Li says, is central to the RJP’s training, and crucial in understanding how movement journalism differs from traditional journalistic practices. Witt and Li argue that so-called objectivity frequently upholds existing power structures, failing to hold those in positions of power accountable.

Movement journalism, by contrast, asserts that all media has an inherent





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).

## SISCA's Seminole Days Celebration in Brackettville, Texas

by Windy Goodloe, secretary, Seminole Indian Scouts Cemetery Association (SISCA)

From Friday, September 20 to Sunday, September 22, the Seminole Indian Scouts Cemetery Association held our annual Seminole Days celebration in Brackettville, Texas. On Friday morning, a group of about 20 people made the trek to Seminole Canyon, about an hour's drive from Brackettville. We were guided by Tanya Petruney, who has been our guide for more than a decade. While the hike is labor-intensive, it can also be a deeply moving experience. Being able to walk the path that our ancestors walked is incredibly humbling, and we don't take this opportunity for granted. Once we reached our destination, known as the "watering hole," Anthony Rodriguez gave a brief history of the Seminole Negro Indian Scouts, and Richard Gonzalez, chairman of the Lipan Apache Band of Texas, spoke beautifully about our connection to the land and each other.

On Friday evening, we gathered at the Carver School for our Friday lecture series. Because our scheduled guest speaker Dr. Maria Hammack wasn't able to attend, I gave a presentation on the Black Seminoles of Texas and Mexico. Afterward, the attendees enjoyed

homemade lasagna and salad.

Saturday is always the busiest and most event-filled day of Seminole Days. The first event was our parade, and this year, the parade was amazing! It was probably the best parade we've ever had. The participants included a group of students from San Antonio, an antique car, the Lipan Apache Band of Texas, several golf carts driven by locals, and several cars driven by Seminole Negro Indian Scouts descendant families from out of town. Our parade marshal was Ms. Geneve Hewitt, one of our elders.

After the parade, we gathered at the Carver School. The next event was our annual program. During the program we sang and announced the parade winners. Our guest speaker was Brother Y.J. Jimenez. After our annual program, our BBQ plate sale began. After our plate sale, we had two events that people could choose to attend. Outside, on the grounds, several people played loteria. It was organized by Hilda Ortiz. Inside of the Carver School, we held our Saturday lectures. The first speaker was one of our favorite speakers — Tom Ashmore with



the West Texas Archaeological Society. This was Mr. Ashmore's third year in row speaking at our event. He provided us with an update on his work at Camp Meyers Spring. Our second speaker was Robert Aguero, author of the book *Shearing Sheep and Angora Goats the Texas Way: Legacy of Pride*. His presentation was enlightening and heartwarming. After the presentations, we had an Afro-Seminole Creole (ASC) lesson. It was taught by Gabriel Sanchez. Following our ASC lesson, we had our annual meeting, where our election results were announced. Then, we enjoyed more lasagna and salad before calling it a night.

Ruben Exum and Ann Elizabeth Gaines Ali. Ruben sang "A Change is Gonna Come" and Ann sang "This May Be the Last Time." After our ceremony, people lingered. They gathered and talked or walked the cemetery, flowers in hand, to lay on dearly departed's grave.

This year's Seminole Days saw so many people coming together. There were people who attend every year, and there were also several people who were attending for the first time. This event was created to bring people together, to ensure that people always feel like they have a home to come to at least once year. We are, of course, already looking forward to next year.

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Surrender  
-- Wiconi**

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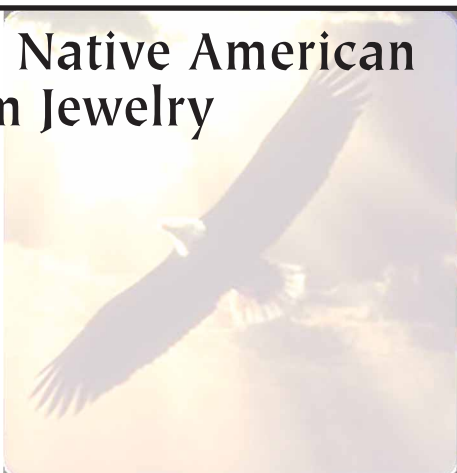
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## Construction Trades Apprenticeship Readiness in Indian Country

On Sept 5th 15 individuals graduated from the Multi Crafts Apprenticeship Readiness training held at Pala Reservation. California Indian Manpower Consortium (CIMC) received funding from the James Irvine Foundation for apprenticeship readiness training. The MC-3 program consists of 120 hrs of online curriculum in addition; union trades training centers tours; OSHA 10 and CPR certifications. The MC-3 training was coordinated with CIMC and was held at the CIMC the San Diego Building Trades Council. The MC-3 is a stepping stone to get into one of the various state apprenticeship programs. Currently San Bernardino-Riverside Building Trades Council, CIMC and America Indian Apprenticeship Initiative (AIAI) are coordinating MC-3 training at the Torre-Martinez Reservation with graduation date on Oct. 25, 2024.

The MC-3 gives the students an

overview of the multiple construction trades to determine what craft the students are interested in or may not want to be in the construction field.

Training Requirements: Eligible for the CIMC Program; Must be 18 + years old; Must have a drivers license; Must have a H. S. diploma or GED; Must have reliable transportation and able to attend 4-6 weeks of training (120 hours).

Questions? Please Call: CIMC/EFO at 760-742-0586



## New State Laws Will Streamline Channel Maintenance in City of San Diego

**City cleared 18 miles of channels through emergency declaration following January storm; new laws remove hurdles that slow maintenance**

SAN DIEGO – With crews clearing brush and debris from an Encanto stormwater channel behind them, Mayor Todd Gloria and state Assemblymember David Alvarez today said the passage of two new state laws will help cities like San Diego take a more proactive approach to channel maintenance and upgrades by removing bureaucratic red tape.

Authored by Alvarez and sponsored by the City of San Diego, Assembly Bill 3227 – known as the “Streamlining Storm Water Channel Maintenance Act” – will expedite routine maintenance of stormwater channels and facilities by eliminating administrative delays usually imposed by the California Environment Quality Act (CEQA). The bill will apply to channels that are fully concrete or have less than a 100-year storm capacity to ensure they are adequately maintained ahead of significant weather events.

In addition, AB 2501 – also authored by Alvarez – allows for expedited review of permit applications for critical infrastructure projects addressing storm channel maintenance.

“These bills remove unnecessary regulatory hurdles that slow the clearing of stormwater channels, and they also will help speed upgrades to our infrastructure so that it can handle the more intense storms we anticipate from climate change,” said Mayor Gloria. “I’m grateful to Assemblymember Alvarez for partnering with us to tackle this issue head-on to make San Diego more flood-resilient and protect our communities as well as our

beaches, bays and waterways.”

Stormwater channel maintenance can be slowed significantly by multiple environmental regulations and requirements. For channel maintenance work, it can take one to two years to process the components needed to obtain various approvals to proceed.

The City anticipates the new laws could reduce the administrative processing burdens of the current CEQA review process to a matter of months. Maintenance of most of the City’s 69-mile channel inventory will now qualify for an expedited CEQA review under Assembly Bill 3227.

More severe winter storms have made it more urgent to reduce this regulatory burden so that channels can be cleared and reinforced ahead of significant weather events.

“As San Diego experiences greater impacts from climate change, the demand to implement additional projects is growing rapidly and substantially,” said Assemblymember David Alvarez. “We need to be proactive and allow our cities and counties to take immediate steps to prepare for these events and use all available resources to safeguard vulnerable neighborhoods without any administrative delays. These bills aid San Diego in preparing for more frequent storms by significantly expediting approvals and eliminating any unnecessary bureaucratic processes.”

The City conducted emergency maintenance on about 18 miles citywide, including 12 miles of channels in the Chollas Creek watershed, following the emergency declaration in response to the historic Jan. 22 storm that caused significant flooding. Mayor Todd Gloria has included funding in the City’s Stormwater Department budget for this fiscal year to

## California to Apologize for Legacy of Racism

*The Associated Press*

California will formally apologize for slavery and its lingering effects on Black Americans in the state under a new law Gov. Gavin Newsom signed Thursday.

The legislation was part of a package of reparations bills introduced this year that seek to offer repair for decades of policies that drove racial disparities for African Americans. Newsom also approved laws to improve protections against hair discrimination for athletes and increase oversight over the banning of books in state prisons.

“The State of California accepts responsibility for the role we played in promoting, facilitating, and permitting the institution of slavery, as well as its enduring legacy of persistent racial disparities,” the governor said in a statement. “Building on decades of work, California is now taking another important step forward in recognizing the grave injustices of the past — and making amends for the harms caused.”

Newsom signed the bills after vetoing a proposal Wednesday that would have helped Black families reclaim or be compensated for property that was unjustly seized by the government through eminent domain. The bill by itself would not have been able to take full effect because lawmakers blocked another

bill to create a reparations agency that would have reviewed claims.

California entered the union as a free state in 1850. In practice, it sanctioned slavery and approved policies and practices that thwarted Black people from owning homes and starting businesses. Black families were terrorized, their communities aggressively policed and their neighborhoods polluted, according to a report published by a first-in-the-nation state reparations task force.

Efforts to study reparations at the federal level have stalled in Congress for decades. Illinois and New York state passed laws in recent years creating reparations commissions. Local officials in Boston and New York City have voted to create task forces studying reparations. Evanston, Ill., launched a program to provide housing assistance to Black residents to help atone for past discrimination.

California has moved further along on the issue than any other state. But state lawmakers did not introduce legislation this year to give widespread direct payments to African Americans, which frustrated some reparations advocates.

Newsom approved a \$297.9 billion budget in June that included up to \$12 million for reparations legislation that became law.

## Senator Seyarto’s Legislation Supporting Military Families Signed into Law

Sacramento, CA – Senator Kelly Seyarto (R-Murrieta) is proud to announce that his legislation supporting the education of military families has officially been signed into law.

Senate Bill 920 ensures the continuation of the Purple Star School Program, currently overseen by the California Department of Education, by formally establishing it as state law.

Purple Star Schools provide military families with specialized support, such as dedicated staff, transition programs, military-related resources, staff training, and social-emotional support, to help military children navigate the challenges of frequent relocations and deployments.

continue maintaining those channels at the same level ahead of the next rainy season.

“The ability to quickly and proactively conduct channel maintenance is a game-changer,” said Stormwater Department Director Todd Snyder. “We will now be able to get faster approvals to remove trash, vegetation and debris from our most critical channels ahead of the rainy season.”

The City’s aging stormwater system faces a \$1.6 billion shortfall in needed funding to upgrade and modernize its infrastructure over the next five years. The vast

Military children typically relocate six to nine times between kindergarten and 12th grade.

“Purple Star schools are a lifeline for military families, offering the stability and support their children need to succeed,” said Senator Seyarto. “Military children face unique challenges, from frequent relocations to disrupted support systems. Formalizing and expanding this program ensures access to the specialized care they deserve while honoring the sacrifices made by their families in service to our country.”

This legislation builds upon ACR 53, which established the program in 2021. Purple Star Schools earn their designation by meeting the standards set by the Military Child Education Coalition. More than 90 schools across California have proudly earned the Purple Star School designation. SB 920 received bipartisan support and faced no opposition in the legislature.

infrastructure network is mainly hidden from public view but is critical to the City’s health and safety.

Learn more about the City’s infrastructure and channel maintenance efforts at [thinkblue.org/stormwater-infrastructure](http://thinkblue.org/stormwater-infrastructure).

Residents can report illegal dumping and trash near creeks or stormwater infrastructure on the “Get It Done” app, call 619-235-1000 or email [swppp@sandiego.gov](mailto:swppp@sandiego.gov) to report any instances of illegal dumping.



# Braiding Sweetgrass: Youth and Elders Team Up to Grow Food and Protect the Land

by Berenice Rodriguez

Young people across communities are rediscovering the importance of growing food and protecting the land by working side-by-side with their elders. Through these partnerships, they're not only building sustainable food systems but also preserving



cultural knowledge and environmental stewardship—concepts rooted in Robin Wall Kimmerer's book "Braiding Sweetgrass".

Kimmerer, a botanist and member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, teaches that the earth gives us gifts, and we must care for it in return. Her message resonates with today's youth as they embrace intergenerational gardening, seed-saving, and sustainable agriculture to address food insecurity and climate change.

### Growing Food, Sharing Knowledge

Gardening with elders offers youth more than just farming skills—it connects them with traditions that have nourished communities for generations. Elders carry knowledge about heirloom seeds, composting, and traditional planting methods that young people can apply to urban gardens today.

"Working with my grandmother in the garden taught me about patience," said one participant from a local youth program. "She showed me how to save seeds from crops we grew, so we'd have them for the next season."

Heirloom plants, such as collard greens or native varieties, aren't just food—they carry the stories and histories of ancestors. Learning to save seeds from these plants helps ensure that these stories are preserved.

### Protecting the Land Through Sustainable Practices

Young gardeners and elders are also adopting sustainable techniques, such as composting, mulching, and water conservation. These practices not only improve soil health but also reduce environmental impact.

"Growing food in a way that restores the land is essential," said one elder gardener. "It's about thinking ahead for the next generation."

Some programs focus on using native plants like sweetgrass, which plays an important role in Indigenous culture and supports local ecosystems. Restoring native plants fosters biodiversity and encourages young people to become stewards of the land.

### Building Connections Across Generations

The process of working together strengthens bonds between youth and elders, fostering respect and mutual learning. Elders pass down stories about migration, traditions, and the importance of living in harmony with the earth.

"Listening to elders has made me realize that caring for the land is about more than food," said one youth participant. "It's about community, gratitude, and giving back."

Kimmerer's philosophy of reciprocity—giving back to the land that sustains us—offers a roadmap for youth committed to environmental justice. With climate change threatening food systems, youth and elders working together can create resilient communities that protect the earth and future generations.

### Get Involved:

There are many ways to get involved. You can build connections with your community and participate in workshops on seed-saving and native plants. If you're San Diego, WorldBeat Center has some exciting news for those who want to get involved. We're soon to have a plot at the Tijuana River Valley Community Garden where we will have workshops led by elders and young farmers. This sacred space will be "each one, teach one". In addition we are also working with folks from Habitat for Humanity to build raised garden beds for seniors. Look out for volunteer opportunities to help deliver and plant the beds. Our first partnership is with the George Stevens Senior Center. For more information email garden@worldbeatcenter.org or teresa@worldbeatcenter.org

By braiding together the wisdom of elders with the energy of youth, we can cultivate a future rooted in respect for the earth—and each other.

**Caribbean Vegan Soul Food**  
Open Friday-Sunday 11am-6pm  
2100 Park Blvd, San Diego | 619-230-1190

# WORLD BEAT CENTER

## Another Great Taste of Africa

by Makeda Cheatom

Taste of Africa was an unforgettable celebration, filled with vibrant flavors and rhythms from across the continent. Brothers and sisters from all corners of Africa, along with people of all backgrounds and ages, came together to enjoy the rich culinary arts of African



and Dance Ensemble. Drummers in the audience brought their instruments and joined in, while the crowd gathered on their feet to experience the joy of African



heritage. This year's event honored Ghana, and we were truly blessed to welcome the Wazumbians, whose electric energy lit up the stage. Their infectious rhythms had the crowd dancing and singing along, creating an atmosphere of pure joy. Another highlight was the dynamic performance by WorldBeat's African Drum

dance firsthand. We extend a heartfelt thank-you to our drummers and dancers Nara, Nikki, and Nyrei for their dedication and support in making this event so special.

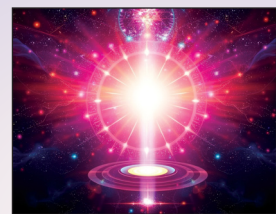
As for the food, it was nothing short of extraordinary! Returning favorites included Lucy Ethiopian Food, Olivia's Kitchen from Ghana, and Spicey Kitchen from Nigeria, each offering dishes that delighted the senses. This year, we were also excited to welcome Rafikizfoodz from Kenya, which quickly became a crowd favorite with rave reviews.



## Heal The Body For Change of Season

by Makeda Cheatom

Feeling stressed or with anxiety? With the change of season it's very important that all of us know how to cleanse our body temple, how to be in nature with ourselves and with our families and also know how to reset and cleanse with herbs. WorldBeat Center has an incredible herb class with our herbalist, Cindy Saylor. We also have an upcoming Moringa workshop with San Diego Moringa guru, Mariko Davis. On Sunday, October 27th she will be teaching how to harvest moringa as well as a few recipes.



Saturday, October 26th WorldBeat Center is giving you a chance to reset your body temple for this coming season. We are seriously licated these coming seasons to your health, wellness anxiety and transformation. Join us at the WorldBeat Center your passport to health and wellness. We will have great practitioners of Kemeti Reiki, Yoga, Iridology, Herbs, Sound Healing and Vibrational Therapy. We will also have appetizers and teas. Check WorldBeat Center's website for more information worldbeatcenter.org

## Moringa Harvest and Food Preparation Workshop

by Mariko Davis

Learn how to Harvest Moringa to keep the highest amount of nutrition, as well as, ensuring its cleanliness. Mariko, of Moringa for Life will demonstrate her methods developed over the last 26 years working with Moringa in San Diego county.

Mariko and Makeda planted Moringa in the World Beat Center Botanical garden 25 years ago. It is thriving and beautiful, providing abundant Moringa leaf for the WorldBeat Center menu.

We will demonstrate making Moringa Pesto, and Moringa Tea plus provide Moringa Mojo for the refreshments of the day. All Moringa cuttings and branches will be directed to

**MORINGA WORKSHOP**  
FOOD AND HARVEST

Learn how to Harvest Moringa to keep the highest amount of nutrition, as well as, ensuring its cleanliness. Mariko, of Moringa for Life will demonstrate her methods developed over the last 26 years working with Moringa in San Diego county.

We will demonstrate making Moringa Pesto, and Moringa Tea plus provide Moringa Mojo for the refreshments of the day.

More Information: [worldbeatcenter.org](http://worldbeatcenter.org)

**Free**

October 27, 2024  
1:30pm-3:30pm  
WorldBeat Cultural Center  
2100 Park Blvd  
San Diego, CA 92101

MORINGA FOR LIFE

their next use making sure that all of the Moringa harvest is used. Branches can be composted so all the nutrition remaining in the structure of the branches and stocks can be used further. Thick branches are used as cuttings to make more Moringa trees. Moringa is fully utilized in this way. There is no waste left over.

You will experience first hand why Moringa is called the Miracle Tree. It is truly the Giving Tree.

Moringa, The Most Nutritious Plant on Earth  
Cost: Free – Registration required

Location: WorldBeat Cultural Center  
2100 Park Blvd, San Diego, CA 92101  
Registration: [worldbeatcenter.org](http://worldbeatcenter.org)

Thursday, October 10th Makeda Cheatom received the Community Canopy Award from Tree San Diego. Congratulations Tree San Diego and Elektra Fike for celebrating 10 years!

**Join the WorldBeat Cultural Center at the San Diego Bird Alliance's 75th Anniversary Celebration on Sunday, October 20, 2024, from 11:30 AM to 2:30 PM at the South Promenade in Liberty Station!** Stop by our booth to experience live performances by our African drummers and dancers.

**Celebrate 75 Years of Conservation with SAN DIEGO BIRD ALLIANCE**

Enjoy music, art, food, and more family-friendly fun. Dress up and join us for our parade of species! Meet live animals from local wildlife nonprofits! Learn how you can be a part of the next era of conservation here in San Diego.

Free and open to the public!

October 20, 2024  
11:30 am to 2:30 pm  
Liberty Station South Promenade  
2850 Roosevelt Rd, San Diego, CA 92106

**This family-friendly event offers much more, including interactive activities, multicultural entertainment, face painting, and a children's costume-making area. There will also be performances from the Kumeyaay Nation and Polynesian dancers, alongside environmental showcases and food trucks, making it a vibrant community celebration of both biodiversity and cultural diversity.**

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**Issam Houshan**  
San Diego  
World Beat Cultural Center

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Sunday Oct 20th  
Noon - beginner  
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1 hour private lessons

Register TODAY!  
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**SACRA/PROFANA Rumours Un-covered**

Friday, October 25th 7pm  
WorldBeat Cultural Center, Balboa Park

# Remembering Desmond Tutu: A Legacy of Peace, Justice, and Compassion

by Makeda Cheatom

On October 7th, we marked what would have been the birthday of Archbishop Desmond Tutu, a towering figure in the global fight for justice and reconciliation. His life's work reflected a deep commitment to peace, equality, and forgiveness, principles that remain vital in today's world. Remembering him this month offers a chance to reflect on how his legacy continues to guide efforts for social justice and human dignity.



influenced post-conflict societies worldwide.

Beyond South Africa, Tutu's moral courage extended to global issues. He was a fierce critic of oppression in all its forms, including the Iraq War, climate injustice, and economic inequality. Tutu also took bold stands within the church, becoming an outspoken advocate for LGBTQ+ rights, despite facing opposition from religious leaders. His unshakable belief that every human being is made in the image of God informed all his activism.

Tutu became a prominent voice against apartheid in the 1970s and 80s, urging the world to confront South Africa's racist policies through nonviolent resistance and economic sanctions. His leadership, both moral and practical, helped bring global attention to the brutality of apartheid. When awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1984, Tutu used the platform to amplify calls for justice, always stressing peaceful methods in the pursuit of equality.

After apartheid's collapse, Tutu chaired South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC). His approach to restorative justice—encouraging perpetrators to confess their crimes publicly in exchange for amnesty—helped prevent cycles of vengeance and fostered national healing. His belief in forgiveness was not about forgetting but about acknowledging pain and seeking a shared future. This model of reconciliation has

Central to Tutu's legacy was his infectious joy and humor, even amid struggle. He believed deeply in the power of love, forgiveness, and unity. His faith transcended rigid doctrine, focusing instead on compassion and the shared humanity that binds us all. His life is a reminder that meaningful change requires not only resistance to injustice but also the courage to embrace those who have wronged us.

Although Tutu passed away on December 26, 2021, the lessons he embodied continue to resonate. In a world still grappling with divisions, his example challenges us to seek reconciliation, practice kindness, and stand firmly against injustice. This October, as we reflect on his life, we are reminded that the fight for a more just, equitable, and compassionate world is ongoing—and that each of us has a role to play in carrying his legacy forward.

**Moringa Smoothie Bowl**

A refreshing and nutrient-rich breakfast or snack.

Ingredients:

- 1 banana (frozen)
- 1/2 cup spinach
- 1 tablespoon moringa powder or fresh moringa leaves
- 1/2 cup almond milk (or any milk of choice)
- 1/2 cup mango or pineapple chunks (frozen)
- 1 tablespoon chia seeds
- Honey or agave (optional, for sweetness)
- Toppings (optional):
- Fresh berries
- Granola
- Coconut flakes
- Chopped nuts

Instructions:

1. Blend the frozen banana, spinach, moringa, milk, mango/pineapple, and chia seeds until smooth.
2. Adjust the sweetness with honey or agave if desired.
3. Pour the smoothie into a bowl and add your favorite toppings. Enjoy immediately!



## Indigenous Sovereignty Is Under Attack as Supreme Court Bends Rules for Settlers

In the past 30 years, Indigenous tribes and tribal interests have lost two-thirds of all Supreme Court cases.

by Rebecca Nagle, *Truthout*

The Supreme Court has made headlines in recent years for a variety of controversial rulings — for gutting affirmative action, granting the president broad immunity and overturning the constitutional right to an abortion. As the Supreme Court has moved further to the right (and struggles with a legitimacy crisis thanks to compounding ethics scandals), a growing portion of the U.S. population is concerned by how much power the court has. But long before *Dobbs*, *Citizens United* or even *Bush v. Gore*, the Supreme Court was wreaking havoc in an area of the law that doesn't often make mainstream news headlines: the sovereignty of Indigenous nations.

The legislative and executive branches of the U.S. government have of course done immeasurable harm to Indigenous nations for centuries, but that started to shift in the 1970s as Indigenous advocates and nations gained more power. At the time, tribes were pulling themselves out of the termination era (during which Congress “terminated” over 100 tribes by writing them out of legal existence). In response, grassroots activists started the Red Power and American Indian Movements, and tribal leaders lobbied hard in D.C. Together, they brought about the self-determination era, during which Congress finally recognized that tribal governments know what is best for their citizens and land. In the decades following, Congress passed laws protecting religious freedom, Native families, sacred sites and tribal self-governance. While far from perfect, the laws coming from Congress after

this period started to do more good than harm. At the same time, large setbacks for tribal sovereignty started to come from the Supreme Court. From the 1950s to 1990, tribes or tribal interests lost the majority of cases brought before the high Court, but by a small margin. Starting in the '90s, that margin grew. In the past 30 years, tribal interests have lost two-thirds of all Supreme Court cases. Rather than counting on the Supreme Court to advance or even uphold the sovereignty of Indigenous nations, tribal leaders have watched the high Court roll those rights back.

In 1978 — the same year Congress passed laws protecting Native families and restoring religious freedom — the Supreme Court decided *Oliphant v. Suquamish Indian Tribe*. On the Suquamish reservation, a white man named Mark Oliphant got in a drunken fight with another person. When tribal police tried to place Oliphant under arrest, he fought back. In tribal court, he was charged with disorderly conduct and resisting arrest. Before Mark Oliphant was brought to trial, he filed a federal habeas petition arguing that the Suquamish Indian Tribe couldn't prosecute him because he wasn't Native American. He lost twice in federal court but appealed his case all the way to the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court ruled in his favor, concluding that “while Congress never expressly forbade Indian tribes” from imposing “criminal penalties on non-Indians” it was “the commonly shared presumption” that tribes could not.

Today, other than exceptions carved out by the Violence Against Women Act, tribes are prohibited from prosecuting non-Natives who commit crimes on tribal land. What

SEE **Sovereignty Under Attack**, page 15

## Movement Journalism

Continued from page 5

perspective and bias and that traditional journalism's claim of objectivity and impartiality is fundamentally flawed.

“Every single reporter, editor, and journalistic entity has a perspective that cannot be set aside,” says Witt. “Objectivity is and always has been a myth crafted by now very dead White men.”

Accordingly, the RJP operates under a journalistic standard that is transparent about its values and committed to the liberation of disenfranchised communities.

In order to do this, Witt says, movement journalists must first recognize the biased, misleading narratives that dominate our media—for example, she explains, traditional outlets often accept police narratives as facts when reporting alleged crimes—and then dismantle those narratives by prioritizing the perspectives and experiences of marginalized people and communities.

In doing so, Witt and Li emphasize, the goal of movement journalism becomes not only exposing injustice but also liberating the oppressed.

### A New Model for Media Accountability

Movement journalism takes a stand against injustice. It also seeks to hold traditional journalism to account for its biases, implicit or otherwise.

“We're not interested in platforming the voices of ruling classes or police narratives, nor are we interested in regurgitating state official narratives,” says Witt. “In order for journalism to actually be an effective tool for liberation, rather than state-sanctioned propaganda, we have to hold power to account.”

“If we don't fight now then what's the point?”

Editors argue that this approach has already shown tangible results. For

instance, after Prism journalist Alexandra Martinez reported on workplace issues at the Animal Legal Defense Fund, ALDF workers were able to ratify their first collective bargaining agreement, with the support of the reporting's exposure of the issues. Similarly, Tina Vásquez's investigation into the H-2A visa program for temporary agricultural workers revealed exploitative conditions and wage theft, and resulted, the editors say, in government actions to recover stolen wages and implement new worker protections.

### Empowering Journalists for Liberation

The future of journalism, says Li, is “empowered” journalists who refuse to maintain the status quo and instead use their platforms to be agents of change.

Witt and Li see a future where RFP-trained journalists align their work with the pursuit of justice and liberation, and incorporate those values into their writing, newsrooms, and personal lives.

They are working to expand the program's reach and accessibility by exploring partnerships with like-minded organizations and finding ways to lower the program's cost to expand access to this model of journalism. “We want to be able to turn journalism into a tool [for ordinary citizens],” says Li. Amid the ongoing decimation of traditional and especially local news, movement journalism offers a different theory of what journalism can and should be—one that, Witt and Li argue, is more relevant to the realities of oppressed people.

Movement journalism poses a direct challenge to long-standing journalistic values, which many in media will argue are needed. But Witt counters that those models have failed the people whose struggles journalism should be addressing.

“If we don't fight now,” Witt argues, “then what's the point?”

Jennifer Johnson, for *Non Profit Quarterly*

## Former Navajo Nation President Runs For Congress in an Arizona District that Includes 12 Tribes

by Clark Adomaitis, *Four Corners Public Radio*

Jonathan Nez, the president of the Navajo Nation from 2019 to 2023, is running for U.S. Representative as a Democrat in Arizona's 2nd Congressional District.

CD2 covers more than half of the state and includes 12 tribes. It's one of the largest districts in the country and includes some of the most rural areas in the southwest United States.

“Being a Native American, they have yet to hear a voice like mine in Washington D.C.,” said Nez.

Nez started in local government at age 29, when he became vice president of the



Jonathan Nez, former Navajo Nation President, is running for Congress in Arizona's Second District.

Shonto Chapter of the Navajo Nation.

“My constituency then was Navajo citizens, and we were able to bring historic amounts of resources and funding to the Navajo people, especially during the pandemic. Bringing dollars for infrastructure, getting water, electricity, broadband telecommunication

into the rural parts of the nation, and I see the same issues that rural Arizona has,” said Nez.

Nez said his top political priorities are affordable healthcare, mitigating wildfires, water access from the Colorado River, and protection from uranium mining.

“There are high rates of cancers in our communities, you know. It could be from the nuclear testing, it could be from the groundwater contamination, it could be because of the over 500-plus uranium mines that are there on the land,” said Nez.

Nez is running as a Democrat against incumbent Republican Elijah Crane, who took office in 2023.

“The folks here in in Congressional district two are wanting someone that knows about a district and that has been amongst them. I was born in this district. I served in this district. Now I'm still in the district, unlike my opponent,” said Nez.

In August, Crane did not accept Arizona PBS's request for a televised debate with Nez.

If he wins in November, Nez will be Arizona's first Indigenous person to serve in Congress.

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~ On the Town with Camille ~

by Camille Appling

**Drop, Cover and Roll**

On October 10, Ethnic Media Services and California Black Media put together an informative meeting about



earthquake safety. The panel included Ethnic Media Services' Sandy Close, California Black Media's Regina Wilson, along with commentary from Listos' Sonya Harris, Amy Palmer of the Government Office of Emergency Services, and Jose Lara who helps with earthquake simulation presentations. The discussion was quite informative. It included techniques for safety. The group encourages everyone to make a plan in advance for safe evacuations and to practice what to do before there is an emergency. The Listos organization is focused on preparedness, response and recovery, and it helps with plans for evacuation. For more information, please visit the following websites: [www.listoscalifornia.org](http://www.listoscalifornia.org) and [ethnicmediaservices.org](http://ethnicmediaservices.org).

**Urban Youth Collective — October 10, 2024**

The Downtown Fellowship of San Diego welcomed Dr. Nate Landis of the Urban Youth Collective to discuss his ministry work with some brilliant students in San Diego. Dr. Landis encouraged the students to reestablish their lives in Christ. He also discussed issues like abstinence before marriage and the importance of making safe Christian life decisions. The Urban Youth Collective also champions bringing Christ to public schools to help with life-coping skills. If you are looking for family support for the youth in your home or community, feel free to contact



[uyc.org](http://uyc.org) for more information and upcoming events.

**Mana de San Diego**

On October 9, 2024, at the San Diego County Administration Building, Mana de San Diego held an important press conference to champion for Latinas Worldwide. Mana de San Diego was joined by Mayor Todd Gloria, County Supervisor Nora Vargas and Teddy Martinez. The goal of the Latina-based organization is to help improve educational rights, childcare, and wages. Mana's leadership includes Dr. Inez Perezchica, President Claudia Rempel,



Fernanda Canchola and Patty Campos, who have worked tirelessly with the rest of the Mana staff to support women in the workplace. Please check us out at [manadesandiego.org](http://manadesandiego.org) for upcoming conferences and information.

**Walter J. Porter Day**

On September 19, 2024, we were honored to celebrate the life and accomplishments of educator, philanthropist and principal Dr. Walter J. Porter at his namesake school Porter Elementary, where he also taught. Porter Elementary is located directly next to the church in the Lincoln Park area, where we were delighted to hear from his daughter Yvette Porter Moore and her daughter Vanessa, who shared his legacy of inspiration and hope, including his contributions to the arts like playing drums, piano, and stand-up comedy. Superintendent Sharon Whitehurst Payne also spoke eloquently about continuing Dr. Porter's legacy with models of student success and programs that benefit the complete child. The event included the Momentus Consulting Firm, which helped improve the school by painting and installing

benches and artwork in honor of Dr. Porter. Teachers like Mr. Dimapilis and the rest of his staff are also striving to improve their students' lives. Dr. Porter



will be greatly missed, but his legacy will continue.

**All for Logan Fundraiser — Community Impact**

All For Logan held a fundraiser at the Studio Culture Center in the historic Barrio Logan Area. The event was in support of the Rolodex Project and the Dia De Las Muertos Residency Program which greatly assists the community with various forms of art and art therapy. The event started with a Native American dance performance and was filled with delicious tamales and frescas and opportunities to learn different



forms of art expression through artwork projects like papier mâché and photo collages. The afternoon included a beautiful performance by local musicians as well. Look for more information

at [allforlogan.com](http://allforlogan.com) for upcoming events.

**70th Annual Art of Fashion by Country Friends and South Coast Plaza**

This year, the Country Friends of Rancho Santa Fe celebrated its legacy of philanthropy and service to the greater San Diego community and surrounding areas. The Art of Fashion event served philanthropic organizations like Jacobs and Cushman San Diego Food Bank, Lucky Duck Foundation, La Jolla Meals on Wheels, Walden Family Services, San

Diego Mission, Street of Dreams: Music for Education, Autism Society San Diego, Autism Tree and Kitchens for Good. The day was filled with a fantastic fashion show, which included celebrities like Sandra Maas. It helped raise over \$15 million dollars for local charities.

Featured designers included Camilla, Lanvin, Max Mara and Balmain. The attendees were dressed beautifully, and the food was exquisite. Country Friends has dedicated a lot of time and energy to keeping over twenty nonprofits caring for people with mental health issues, veterans, families and children and countless underserved populations. Please check out Country Friends at [countryfriends.org](http://countryfriends.org)



**Salute to Southbay Unified**

"We are about ensuring equity by meeting the needs of our diverse learners culturally and linguistically through responsive practices," a member of the Sunnyslope staff stated.

This month, Southbay Unified met to address important educational issues like project funding, raising test scores and promoting safe and healthy environments. The Sunnyslope School championed the Pledge of Allegiance performed by the adorable Dos Santos family and Principal Corrales's plans for success for their students through consistent leadership and successful



programming. The meeting was filled with valuable information for parents and students with real environmental concerns for improvement for children's success. Please checkout additional projects at [sdcoe.ne](http://sdcoe.ne)

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**NEWS**

*from Las Vegas/Nevada*

Kena Adams, Coordinator Las Vegas/Nevada

**FROM THE DESK OF THE JUNIOR JOURNALISTS**

**Let's Stop Bullying!!!**

by Kamia Gray

Let's stop bullying. Bullying takes place all around the world, especially at almost every single school. This is not OK. Bullying does not just make people feel down; it even makes people feel like they're not enough. It makes them feel less confident, and it makes them feel like they don't matter, but we can stop this.

Lots of kids commit suicide from being bullied. Approximately, 3.8 per thousand kids commit suicide from being bullied. This is just sad. Looking at these numbers should make us feel upset. Imagine how

parents feel after finding out that their kid ended their lives over being bullied at school. They probably feel sad, angry, upset and even mad. So what can we do to stop this?

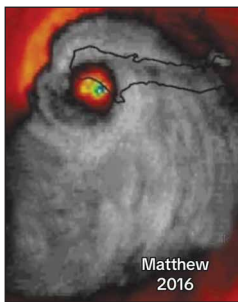
Parents can talk to their kids and tell them that bullying isn't right. Schools can increase rules or consequences that happen when people are bullied. And kids at school can be kinder to each other. We can use our words for good, for kids that need a friend, so let's do that. Let's make the world a better place. Let's stop bullying and give kids a safer and happier experience at school.

**The Worst Yet!**

by Keyona Gray

What are the similarities between Hurricane Milton and Hurricane Matthew?

When you compare the pictures of the 2016 hurricane (Matthew) and the one that just recently happened (Milton), you'll see some things that make them alike. This includes the shape of each hurricane. You can see what looks like a skull in each picture. There are even what look like teeth in the bottom left of both pictures. The eye of each storm is also



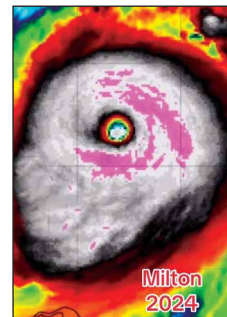
Matthew 2016

similar.

Milton was a category 3 storm when it made landfall, while Matthew was a category 5.

Hurricane Matthew was one of the first hurricanes to ever be classified as a category 5. Its path went through Brevard County. It had winds as high as 160 mph. It took the lives of 603 people. And even caused \$16.5 billion

in damage. Hurricane Milton has taken the lives of 74 people and has caused \$25.5 billion in damage so far. Who knows what's to come next? This is all for now on the Florida hurricanes.



Milton 2024

**A Walking Testimony**

by Kena Adams



It was just another day. I got up, got ready, and got on my little 49cc scooter to head to work. The scooter hadn't always been my means of transportation, but with everything going on in the country right now, the prices soaring and the non-trustworthy businesses that we have to deal with, I had to resort to riding a scooter. My car was down, and I had no mechanic that I trusted who could fix it.

August 4th changed my life for the rest of my life. As I entered an intersection, a hummer ran a red light going at least 50 mph and struck me on my scooter. You can imagine the kinds of injuries that I sustained. Well, let me help your imagination out a little bit. The bones in my right hand and left ankle exited my skin, I broke 13 ribs, had to have my spleen removed, loosened and knocked out several teeth and was given blood (not by choice). I was on life support for three days before my family was notified. I was transported to UMC hospital, and they did a miraculous job putting me back together. People that witnessed the accident are surprised and shocked that I made it through the way I did and that I'm still breathing; I am also.

I now know how our elders feel when they are not able to take care of their selves. It's been quite a journey trying to heal and depending on my daughter to take care of me. I am bedridden and may not walk for many months, but I am here and a walking testimony. I've prayed many nights, asking the Creator for many things, such as healing and helping me cope with not

having a job or income and to show me why I'm here and why he chose to save my life. And the answer is very simple. It goes along with many religions, with many traditions, especially our indigenous community. We are here to take care of each other and Mother Earth and every living creature in it. We are here to spread love and compassion for people like myself who have been hurt or are aging and cannot take care of themselves. We are here to take care of our animals and, most of all, ourselves. I think, before the accident, I may have thought that life was so complicated, but God has shown me now just how simple it is. When I am able to walk again, that's exactly what I'll do walk. There'll be no more running and rushing. There will be no more chasing more money than what I need to live. I will definitely enjoy life and enjoy the small things that God's put in front of my face and let him deal with all the rest of these perilous times as I enjoy peace because that's what He promised me. I am a walking testimony.

**FAMILY FIESTA**  
**Block Party on 28th Street**  
 Hosted by local artist Justin Favela  
*Come meet Justin and celebrate his upcoming sculpture at Sunrise Avenue and 26th Street!*  
**Sunday, Oct. 20 | 1-4 p.m.**  
 Roy Martin Middle School Parking Lot and Cafeteria

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**NEVADA DAY POWWOW 2024**  
 October 25-27, 2024  
 The MAC Facility  
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 Master of Ceremonies- Carlos Galica, Warm Springs OR  
 Arena Director- Jacob Crane, Tsu't'ina Nation, AB  
 Charlie Walker Jr. Memorial Drum Contest- \$5,000.00, \$2,000.00, \$1,000.00  
 Hand Drum Contest- \$300, \$200, \$100  
 Contest Dancing, Halloween Costume Contest  
 Lip Sync Battle  
 Grand Entry Times:  
 Fri. Oct. 25th- 7pm  
 Sat. Oct. 26th- 2pm & 7pm  
 Sun. Oct. 27th- 12pm  
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 Princess Info contact Daniela- 775.671.1289  
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 CARSON CITY INDIAN TRADITION



**CATHERINE'S CORNER**



## Cortez Masto's Bipartisan Bill to Strengthen Tribal Public Safety Passes Committee

Washington, D.C. – U.S. Senators Catherine Cortez Masto (D-Nev.) and John Hoeven (R-N.D.) released the following statements after the Senate Indian Affairs Committee voted to pass their bipartisan Bridging Agency Data Gaps & Ensuring Safety (BADGES) for Native Communities Act. Specifically, the BADGES for Native Communities Act would support the recruitment and retention of Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) law enforcement officers, bolster federal missing persons resources, and give Tribes and states tools to combat violence.



"I hear it often from Tribes in Nevada—law enforcement officers are stretched thin in their communities and it's having an impact on everyone, especially when it comes to combating the epidemic of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls," said Senator Cortez Masto. "I'm proud of our bipartisan work to pass the BADGES for Native Communities Act through committee today. This bill to give Tribal police the resources and tools they need to fight crime and keep their communities safe is one step closer to becoming law."

"Securing committee approval of our legislation is an important step toward strengthening the resources available to Tribal law enforcement," said Senator Hoeven. "Our bill authorizes the BIA to conduct its own background check of law enforcement applicants, which empowers Tribes to meet their law enforcement staffing and infrastructure needs, enhances public safety and helps bring offenders to justice."

Senator Cortez Masto is a strong supporter of Tribal communities and has passed two bipartisan bills, the Not Invisible Act and Savanna's Act, to combat the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW) crisis. The commission created by the Not Invisible Act specifically called for passage of Cortez Masto's BADGES for Native Communities Act to help law enforcement better serve Native communities. The BADGES for Native Communities Act would:

- Increase Tribal access to the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System

(NamUs) by requiring Tribal facilitators to conduct ongoing Tribal outreach and serve as a point of contact for Tribes and law enforcement agencies, as well as conduct training and information gathering to improve the resolution of missing persons cases.

- Require a comprehensive report on Tribal law enforcement needs.
- Allow the BIA to conduct its own background checks for law enforcement officer applicants in order to speed up and improve officer recruitment.
- Establish a grant program to help states, Tribes, and Tribal organizations coordinate efforts related to missing and murdered persons cases and sexual assault cases.
- Ensure BIA officers and Tribal police have access to culturally appropriate mental health and wellness programs.

Senator Cortez Masto has 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 draft a plan to address this issue, and requesting the Government Accountability Office (GAO) investigate the federal response to this crisis. She's also fought to ensure that law enforcement officers across the country have the support they need. She secured historic funding for the Byrne JAG grant program in the FY2022 omnibus. The program is the leading source of criminal justice funding for state, local, and Tribal governments and provides support for programs related to crime prevention, law enforcement, prosecution, corrections, and mental and behavioral health.

<https://www.cortezmastose.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/cortez-mastos-bipartisan-bill-to-strengthen-tribal-public-safety-passes-committee/>

## Dr. Porter Lee Troutman Jr. Center for Multicultural Education

In 2024, the center at UNLV was renamed in honor of Dr. Porter Lee Troutman Jr., who retired from the university in 2016. The center's mission is to teach, research, and advocate, and is led by professor Christine Clark and associate professor Norma Marrun.

Photo: Copyright: @clairehartphotography



## 2024 Boarding School Memorial & Indigenous Showcase

On September 29, Changing Spirits and the College of Southern Nevada (CSN)

hosted a boarding school memorial and Indigenous showcase. The showcase included several Native American vendors, a beautiful fashion show and many speakers who reminisced about just how recent the tragedy of living in a boarding school was. The turnout was great with the Las Vegas Paiute Tribe, Moapa Band of Paiutes, Cherokee Nation and the Apache Tribe, to name a few, in attendance. Local politician Shelly Berkeley came to show her support as well. Yvonne Hawk was a big part of this fashion show and event.

"I am a Cheyenne elder who had a vision of different tribes coming together that blossom into a gathering for a memorial event on children who were taken away from their families and put into boarding schools across the Indian reservations. I

prayed for a good outcome and especially for those who spoke of their stories. I attended a boarding school from the age of five until six when my grandma came and took me back to Oklahoma. I remember having my hair cut off, wearing a uniform, taken to the dorm in the basement with different ages. We got up early and did our



(L-R) Changing Spirits event coordinator also traditional jingle dancer Indian Voices writer Melissa, Reyna Salazar Paiute, Indian Voices Yvonne Hawk and Apache (Elder) model wearing ribbon skirts made by Yvonne Hawk for the fashion show

chores," Yvonne Hawk said.

The Las Vegas community looks forward to more events hosted by Changing Spirits and CSN in the near future.

## MAKE A PLAN & PLAN TO VOTE



**EXTENSION**  
College of Agriculture,  
Biotechnology & Natural Resources



### Next Steps: College Readiness Program A 4-H workshop

- Session 1 | Oct. 9 | 4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
- Session 2 | Oct. 23 | 4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
- Session 3 | Nov. 6 | 4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
- Session 4 | Nov. 13 | 4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Location:  
MESC 17 1/2 Lincoln Ave.  
Moapa, NV 89025

Join us for a four-day workshop discussing all things college and post-secondary education! This workshop is open to youth ages 13-18 and their parents/caregivers. Discussions and hands on activities will cover topics including: the high school to college transition, financial aid and scholarship information, the process of applying, expectations, and strategies to succeed in a post secondary institution.



Email [indianeducation@nv.ccsd.net](mailto:indianeducation@nv.ccsd.net) for virtual option!

If you have any questions, please email 4-H Instructor, Matilda Begay [mbegay@unr.edu](mailto:mbegay@unr.edu)

- Free to attend, registration is encouraged.
- Snacks and refreshments will be provided during each session.

An EEO/AA Institution:

Persons in need of special accommodations or assistance should contact Paul Lessick, civil rights and compliance coordinator, at [plessick@unr.edu](mailto:plessick@unr.edu) or 702-257-5577 at least ten days prior to the scheduled event with their needs or for more information.



To register, scan the QR code

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Email: [blackindianrose@gmail.com](mailto:blackindianrose@gmail.com) • (619) 534-2435



## Public Health Unveils the Office of Environmental Justice and Climate Health’s Strategic Plan

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health released today the five-year Strategic Plan for the Office of Environmental Justice and Climate Health (OEJCH), which will address historic and contemporary government decisions that have exposed vulnerable populations to environmental hazards.

The Strategic Plan was developed in collaboration with interagency, community-based, and tribal partners to enhance Public Health’s ability to prevent and mitigate environmental and climate health impacts. OEJCH will serve as a central hub for health-focused environmental justice and climate health goals, providing comprehensive data, health recommendations, policy solutions, and mitigation strategies.

Key focus areas of the Strategic Plan include:

- Community Engagement and Partnerships: Foster community

relationships to ensure two-way communication and develop community solutions.

- Interagency Coordination and Government Engagement: Cultivate collaboration between public, private, and community partners to develop solutions to environmental and climate health threats.

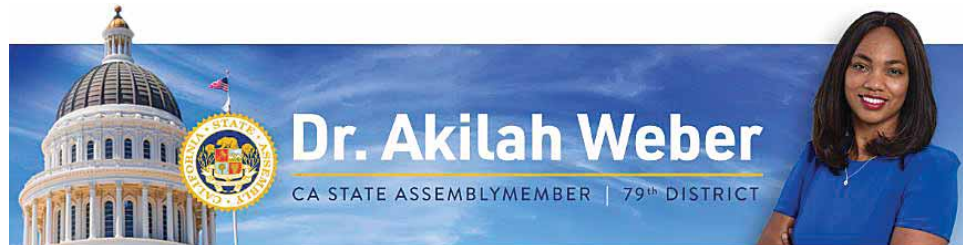
- Policy: Track, inform, and develop impactful environmental justice and climate health policies.

- Data: Collect, interpret, and share accessible actionable environmental justice and climate health data with partners and the public to highlight emerging issues and actively inform policies and programs.

- Accountability and Communications: Develop and foster direct and transparent communications to keep the community and partners informed of the roles, responsibilities, and progress of OEJCH.

To read the Strategic Plan, visit the OEJCH website.

visit: [Indigenoustransformation.org](https://indigenoustransformation.org)



Greetings Neighbor,  
I am happy to share that the Governor signed 12 bills that I either authored or joint authored this year! Below is the list of all my bills that were signed by the September 30 th deadline:

- AB 796 : Title Protection for Athletic Trainers
- AB 1815: Expansion of the CROWN Act
- AB 1841: Narcan in University Housing
- AB 1891: Admissions for Community College Health Programs
- AB 1900: Consumer NDAs
- AB 1984: Reporting on Student Transfers

- AB 2072: Biomedical Health Plans
- AB 2119: Destigmatizing Mental Health Code
- AB 2166: Textured Hair Training
- AB 2319 (Joint Author): Implicit Bias Training
- AB 3059: Donor Breast Milk
- SB 1394 (Joint Author): Vehicle Privacy for Domestic Violence Survivors

Thank you for your on-going support as your representative in the State Legislature.

Warm Regards,  
Assemblymember Akilah Weber, M.D.  
79th Assembly District

## City of San Diego Celebrates Historic Fiscal Year for Capital Improvements Program

Investment in Capital Improvement projects exceeded \$1 billion for first time in city history

SAN DIEGO – Marking a historic \$1 billion investment in neighborhood infrastructure projects, today the City of San Diego released the Fiscal Year 2024 Year-End State of the Capital Improvements Program and State of Construction Report. Staff from the City’s Engineering and Capital Projects Department presented the report to the City Council, detailing the record investment and award-winning projects from the last fiscal year.

For more information on CIP projects, visit the CIP website or search for projects throughout the City using the CIP Project Map Viewer.



visit: [IndigenousNetwork.org](https://indigenoustransformation.org)

## County Distributing Information to Residents Ahead of CDC Community Health Assessment

by Fernanda Lopez Halvorson, County of San Diego Communications Office

County Public Health staff and volunteers walked door-to-door in South County neighborhoods Thursday handing out information about an upcoming community health assessment, led by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to address sewage pollution along the Tijuana River Valley.

To learn more about health concerns and impacts from sewage and pollution in the Tijuana River Valley and the upcoming CASPER survey, visit [sandiegocounty.gov/southregionhealth](https://sandiegocounty.gov/southregionhealth).



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## Sovereignty Under Attack

Continued from page 10

followed Oliphant was an explosion of violent crime in Indian country, especially against Native women, children and Two Spirit people (Two Spirit is an umbrella term for Native LGBTQ folks). According to the Department of Justice, four out of five Native women will experience violence in their lifetime. Ninety-seven percent of these women have been the victims of crimes perpetrated by someone who is not Native.

On the heels of Oliphant, the Supreme Court ruled in *Montana v. United States* that tribes didn't have civil jurisdiction over non-Natives either. Criminal jurisdiction is simply the authority to prosecute crimes, but civil jurisdiction is much broader. It includes the ability to bring forth lawsuits, enact family law, regulate pollution, or grant business licenses. The case began when James Junior Finch posed for a photograph while casting his lure into the Bighorn River on the Crow reservation. According to the laws of the Crow Tribe, Finch couldn't fish there, but Finch didn't think the tribe could tell him what to do. The litigation took place against a background of racial hostility; local white residents, in defiance of tribal law, fished anyway, leaving their beer cans, threatening tribal police and even calling them racial slurs.

In *Montana v. United States* the Supreme Court said tribes do not have civil jurisdiction over non-Natives on what's called "fee land" (land within reservation boundaries, but which broadly speaking is privately owned) except for two special circumstances: when a non-Native person or business has entered into a consensual relationship with the tribe — like a contract — or if their conduct threatens "the political integrity, the economic security, or the health or welfare of the tribe."

Illegal fishing did not meet the elusive "Montana exceptions" — a bar that has since proven difficult for all tribes to meet. That means if a non-Native business pollutes a reservation, a pharmacy floods tribal communities with opioids, or a domestic violence survivor needs a protective order, there is little the tribe can do.

Harmful Supreme Court decisions continued into the 21st century. In 2005, one came from a Justice you might not expect: the late Ruth Bader Ginsberg. In *City of Sherrill v. Oneida Indian Nation of New York* the Supreme Court ruled that land illegally taken from the Oneida Nation, which the nation later repurchased, could not be placed back under tribal jurisdiction because the original theft happened so long ago and correcting the wrong now would cause too much of a disruption. Writing for the majority, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg told a distorted history, claiming "it was not until lately that the Oneidas sought to regain ancient sovereignty over land converted from wilderness to become part of cities like Sherrill." Now, it was too late, she opined, for the tribe to rekindle "embers of sovereignty that long ago grew cold."

All three cases began with white people or states breaking the law — Oliphant resisting arrest, Finch fishing and New York illegally taking Oneida land. Instead of being

held accountable — or even restrained — for their illegal behavior, the parties were rewarded. In a move repeated throughout our history, rather than uphold the law to protect Indigenous nations, the Supreme Court remade the law to fit settlers' needs.

One of the biggest barriers that Indigenous nations face in front of the Supreme Court is the sheer ignorance of its Justices. During oral arguments in *Sherrill*, then-Justice Sandra Day O'Connor asked if all white people living on Oneida land would be evicted if the tribe's land rights were upheld. In 2013, while reviewing *Adoptive Couple v. Baby Girl*, Chief Justice John Roberts asked a series of questions betraying the fact that he did not understand how tribal citizenship works or what, really, a federally recognized tribe is, including if tribal membership could be open for "people who want to apply, who think culturally they're a Cherokee." During the same case, about a law protecting the rights of Native parents, then-Justice Stephen Breyer asked if the law would allow Native men to rape non-Native women and keep the baby. "The child would be taken and given to the father," he worried out loud, "who has never seen it and probably just got out of prison." As recently as 2022, Justice Samuel Alito argued that Indigenous nations do not share a common political interest, because "before the arrival of Europeans, the tribes were at war with each other." An entire area of American law — going all the way back to the founding — protects the sovereignty of Indigenous nations. But that law is meaningless if the people in charge of interpreting it — and the citizenry that puts them in power — don't know what it is.

By decree, the role of the Supreme Court is to interpret American law, not write it. Starting in the 1950s, however, the court gave itself more power, shifting the balance away from Congress and the president. Many legal scholars attribute this shift to a backlash against civil rights legislation, large swaths of which (like federal oversight and protections for voters of color) the Supreme Court has declared unconstitutional. Today, in our democracy, the Supreme Court, not the president or Congress, often has the final word.

In the arena of federal Indian law, that shift produced two competing doctrines: the Supreme Court sometimes deferring to Congress and other times "usurping the power of the Congress to decide what it wants in federal Indian law," NYU law professor Maggie Blackhawk, from the *Fond du Lac Band Ojibwe*, told me. Blackhawk says in the past 70 years these doctrines have existed side-by-side. Sometimes, the Supreme Court constrained itself to interpreting what Congress said. But in other cases, like *Oliphant*, *Montana* and *Sherrill*, it went way off track. When the court follows the law as written, tribes usually win. When the Supreme Court makes up or changes the rules, tribes lose.

These competing doctrines can be seen in the modern Supreme Court. In 2020, the Supreme Court delivered a historic victory for tribes. In *McGirt v. Oklahoma*, the court upheld the reservation of Muscogee Nation — which had been denied by the state for over a century. Subsequently eight other



## Relative to All

by April Nurse

It's easy to get lost in the inflammatory tactics of news and social media. As with other times, I turn to earth to teach us. Immovable as a mountain, the gold standard, silver linings and such; minerals have so much to teach us about withstanding difficult times and the importance of holding fast to our truest selves.

We are in the midst of turmoil, we are seeing the very fabric of society shifting in ways we never dreamed. But the reality of us is, we're as much a part of that immovable mountain and that silver lined cloud as anything else. Our warbling voices that cry for peace and justice will carry over the chaos, our pure hearted intentions shine through the darkness. We are of the earth and it is of us. Nothing can change that. In the fire, the depth of flood, or growing pestilence, we are still children of earth, relative to all.

I've written before of the unbelievable journey that some minerals endure to reach the surface. They cross miles of

pressurized layers, and molten seas of volcanic systems to reach this time and this space. We aren't so different. Diamonds are shaped and hardened by the ever growing weight of the world. The red of garnet reminds us of the power and resilience in the blood that flows within. We too can withstand the difficult path laid before us. We are mirrors to our earth. We are children of earth, relative to all.

These days there's a scandal for every day, a fallen hero for each moment. It's easy to lose hope. These folks who build their pedestals of shining marble forget how quickly statues crumble. Despite the appearances true change is made every day by the actions of the many. You and I are the true diamonds in the rough. Built of pressure and chaos, it is we who must raise each other to the surface. It is the many whose voice raised in support becomes the immovable mountain. It is we who will endure. We are children of earth, relative to all.

*"When we see others as the enemy, we risk becoming what we hate. When we oppress others, we end up oppressing ourselves. All of our humanity is dependent upon recognizing the humanity in others."*

— Archbishop Desmond Tutu



**Have a Plan to Vote & Vote!  
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reservations in Oklahoma were affirmed, resulting in the largest restoration of tribal land in U.S. history. To make history, the Supreme Court didn't overturn anything or strike anything down; all the court did was follow the law.

But that victory upset the state of Oklahoma, which asked the Supreme Court to reverse its decision — over 50 times. Instead of a complete reversal, in *Oklahoma v. Castro-Huerta* the Supreme Court gave the state back some of the power it lost on the newly recognized reservations — namely, the power to prosecute crimes if the victim is Native but the perpetrator is not.

Many legal experts warn this will make the crisis of violence against Native women even worse. The decision, authored by Justice Brett Kavanaugh, was based in part on facts and figures Oklahoma shared about criminals walking free and crimes going unprosecuted that were later found to be grossly exaggerated and even wrong. In his opinion, Kavanaugh contradicted several other Supreme Court decisions but didn't claim to overrule them. Instead, he just ignored them. Even his colleagues on the bench were taken aback. "Truly, a more ahistorical and mistaken statement of Indian law would be hard to fathom," Justice Gorsuch wrote in the dissent. Instead of following the law, the Supreme Court made it up.

Five days before *Castro-Huerta* came out,

the Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade* and the constitutional right to an abortion. After the fall of *Roe*, public faith in the Supreme Court reached its lowest point in 50 years. Three-quarters of Americans say the Supreme Court has become "too politicized" and less than half feel "trust and confidence" in the institution. Some research shows people's faith in the Supreme Court may be tied to their faith in law itself.

"Like the miner's Canary," an early scholar of Federal Indian Law, Felix S. Cohen, once wrote. "The Indian marks the shift from fresh air to poison gas in our political atmosphere." How our government treats Indigenous peoples, he argued "reflects the rise and fall of our democratic faith."

Facing harm and capricious disregard for legal precedent from the Supreme Court is a reality Indigenous nations have been living with for a long time. Sometimes, when the law is on our side we win. But more often, we watch the institution depart from law and precedent at will. Now, in the wake of *Dobbs*, many more Americans are sharing in this reality.

The sovereignty of Indigenous nations long reflected the strengths and weaknesses of the Supreme Court, the chaos of its decision making, and the power it has given itself outside of constitutional bounds. If only more people had been paying attention.





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## 2024 Presidential General Election

**Vote Centers Open Daily Oct. 26 - Nov. 5**  
 Vote early to avoid long lines! Find a location near you at [sdvote.com](http://sdvote.com).

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**DROP IT.**

**Return your ballot** to any of the Registrar's official ballot drop boxes around the county **starting Tuesday, Oct. 8 through Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 5.**



**VISIT.**

**Avoid long lines by taking advantage of early voting!** Starting Saturday, Oct. 26, vote centers will be open daily from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. through Monday, Nov. 4.

**On Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 5, voting hours change to 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.**

Find a ballot drop box or vote center near you at [sdvote.com](http://sdvote.com)




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**U.S. Department of Energy Announces the Availability of the Final Environmental Impact Statement for Activities in Support of Commercial HALEU Production**

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) released the final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) evaluating the potential impacts of the Department's Proposed Action to acquire, through procurement from commercial sources, high-assay low-enriched uranium (HALEU) and to facilitate the establishment of commercial HALEU fuel production.

HALEU is a crucial material required by most U.S. advanced reactors to achieve smaller designs, longer operating cycles, and increased efficiencies over current nuclear energy technologies. HALEU is not currently available in sufficient amounts from domestic suppliers. The lack of an adequate domestic, commercial fuel supply could impede both reactor demonstrations and the development of future advanced reactor technologies.

The final EIS follows the Notice of Availability of the Draft HALEU EIS on March 8, 2024. DOE formally accepted comments on the draft through April 22, 2024, but accepted comments received beyond that date to the extent practicable. During the review and comment period, DOE held two virtual Tribal listening sessions, one in-person Tribal listening session, and three virtual public hearings. DOE received a total of 223 comment submissions on the draft EIS. Thirty-six of those comment submissions came from Tribes or Tribal members and the rest came from Federal and state agencies, industry, nonprofit organizations, and the public. In preparing the final HALEU EIS, DOE considered and responded to all comments. The responses can be found in Volume 3 of the final HALEU EIS.

The Final EIS is available on the project website at <https://www.energy.gov/ne/haleu-environmental-impact-statement>.

Requests for physical copies of the final HALEU EIS can be made through email to [HALEU-EIS@nuclear.energy.gov](mailto:HALEU-EIS@nuclear.energy.gov) or U.S. mail to, Mr. James Lovejoy, DOE EIS Document Manager, U.S. Department of Energy, Idaho Operations Office, 1955 Fremont Avenue, MS 1235, Idaho Falls, Idaho 83415.

DOE will issue a Record of Decision for the final HALEU EIS no sooner than 30 days after the publication of the Notice of Availability of the final HALEU EIS by the Environmental Protection Agency. The Record of Decision will be available in the Federal Register and on the project website.






## CHIEF SEATTLE CLUB

Native Americans account for approximately 1% of the population but a staggering 15% of those experiencing homelessness\*. The Chief Seattle Club is meeting this critical need with financial services from Native American Bank.

The Chief Seattle Club, founded in 1970, is a registered human service agency dedicated to physically and spiritually supporting Native individuals in urban areas, many of whom experience homelessness and unique challenges in an ever-changing urban landscape.

In 2021, Native American Bank provided a \$1 million revolving line of credit, which was used to mobilize and bridge reimbursement requests related to a \$10 million Washington State Department of Commerce Housing Assistance grant. The grant was part of an Emergency Rental Assistance program requiring that at least 90% of the funds would be used for direct financial assistance, such as rent, utilities, and other allowable housing expenses.

In King County, Washington, which includes Seattle, Native Americans account for approximately 1% of the population but a staggering 15% of the population of those experiencing homelessness and 32% of those experiencing chronic homelessness.\* The Chief Seattle Club exists to build a future where Native Americans are safe, healthy, housed, and connected to a support system that respects and celebrates indigenous cultures.

Native American Bank senior staff toured housing facilities and participated in a community service project to support the important work of the Chief Seattle Club. We are proud to provide financial services and assistance to such a critical and impactful program.

\*As of April 2022, according to HUD USER data



