

Journal #2850 *from sdc* **5.13.13**

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Mother's

**Grandmothers
Gather to Save
Mother Earth: 13
Indigenous
Grandmothers
documentary - For
The Next 7
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Grandmothers-
documentary-For-
The-Next-7-
Generations](http://bit.ly/13-Indigenous-Grandmothers-documentary-For-The-Next-7-Generations)**



This is what we have been working on for the past 3 years - it happened - and there is hope. the **Intertribal Territories Recovery Institute** is working to organize Tribes and Pueblos in NM so that we can be FRACK FREE state/territory-wide and present hope to Tribes and other peoples where our common waters, land & air are being ravaged by fracking. THERE IS HOPE

AND POWER IN WHAT WE DO. Our victory in Mora County - in an oil & gas owned state - says we can do it - human rights - clean water, air, land are ours to be enjoyed and preserved NOW and for FUTURE GENERATIONS. Aho!

Theresa Carmody, Staff

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Begin forwarded message:

From: Drilling Mora County <drillingmoracounty@gmail.com>

<http://ecowatch.com/p/energy/fracking-2/>

<http://ecowatch.com/2013/first-county-bans-oil-gas-extraction/>

Hualapai chairwoman leads tribe through Skywalk battle

By FELICIA FONSECA ASSOCIATED PRESS May 11, 2013

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. — The Hualapai Tribe has one of the most sought-after landscapes in the world: a slice of the Grand Canyon where tourists can raft the Colorado River, take an aerial tour and soak up American Indian culture.

What draws the majority of tourists to the canyon's remote west rim is not nature itself but a horseshoe-shaped glass bridge that juts out from the canyon.

The Grand Canyon Skywalk, about 120 miles east of Las Vegas, also is at the center of the biggest legal battle the tribe has ever faced. Leading the tribe through the fight with a Las Vegas developer who invested \$30 million to build the attraction is Sherry Counts, a talkative 55-year-old chairwoman whose personal struggles led her to God and then politics.

"We have a lot to lose here," Counts said. "We have our business, and the most important thing is tribal nations, (we) have our sovereignty. And if we allow a businessman to come and take over our tribe, then we lose that power. And I don't want to lose because I feel like my ancestors fought for that."

The land to which her ancestors returned after the U.S. Cavalry forcibly marched them through the mountains of western Arizona wasn't always home for Counts.

Like many tribal members, she was sent away to boarding school and graduated from high school in California. Before returning with some hesitation, she grappled with the death of her 3-day-old daughter, the suicides of her foster father and youngest brother, along with thoughts of her own life ending as she drank and partied.

She found renewed hope in her sons and a church ministry she says guided her into politics.

"That's what gives me comfort, that's what gives me peace and hope about what we're going through as Hualapai people," she said. "I know I was placed there for a reason, and I know positive is going to come out of it."

Just what that is, God hasn't been so clear about, she says.

Counts has associate degrees in psychology and social work, and has worked as a substance abuse counselor and coordinator on the reservation. She's taking classes online to earn a bachelor's degree in management.

Counts first secured a Tribal Council seat in 2000, hoping to give tribal members a greater voice in government. She was serving as vice chairwoman in 2007 when the Skywalk opened and praised the developer, David Jin, as a visionary. Tourists swarmed the reservation, forcing the tribe to scramble for more cash registers to take the money coming in.

When Counts left elected office in 2008 after unsuccessfully running for the chairwoman's post, the disagreements over money from the Skywalk already were percolating. She stepped back into campaigning last year after council members had been suspended, arrested and recalled, though not all of that was due to the Skywalk dispute. Some have appealed.

Her campaign promises were simple: to be honest and treat people fairly.

Dominique Yaramata has become close friends with Counts over the past 12 years. The cousins were taking a college math class together that Counts struggled with but eventually passed. Her determination, promotion of education on the Hualapai reservation, spirituality and interaction with tribal members impressed the 33-year-old Yaramata.

"It's not an authoritative thing where 'I'm the boss and you listen to me,'" she said. "They're still human beings and she just talks to them as a friend instead of trying to intimidate. I think that's really worked well."

Her faith hardly goes unnoticed.

"Chairwoman Counts has a very deep, spiritual, religious base from which she works," said Diane Enos, president of the Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community in Arizona. "She has given her life now to her community and trying to make things work better for them."

This year, Counts became the subject of a recall petition that wasn't submitted because it lacked enough signatures. It alleged that her actions as chairwoman could compromise the tribe's sovereign immunity, that she wasted tribal money on legal fees and that she has misrepresented the success of the Skywalk since the tribe took over sole management.

Robert Bravo Jr., who once served as interim chief executive of the tribal business now running the Skywalk, said the current leadership hasn't been upfront about visitation and revenue, and hasn't done enough to bolster the Skywalk's image in light of the ongoing litigation.

"What are they doing to mitigate all the negativity? What are they doing positive to tell the people to come out and visit us?" he said. "Nothing. I haven't seen anything at all. To me, that's a huge concern as a tribal member."

The way Counts sees it is that opinions will fly regardless of what she says or does. Of the Skywalk operation, she said the tribe is "OK, we're managing, considering," but acknowledged

the public's perception isn't wholly positive because of the infighting in the council that has created factions and divided community members, and the legal battle with Jin.

The tribe is steadfast in its belief that had Jin finished a visitor center, the two sides wouldn't be locked in a dispute over the Skywalk contract. Jin contends the work wasn't done because the tribe never ran utilities to the building and says he's owed years of management fees.

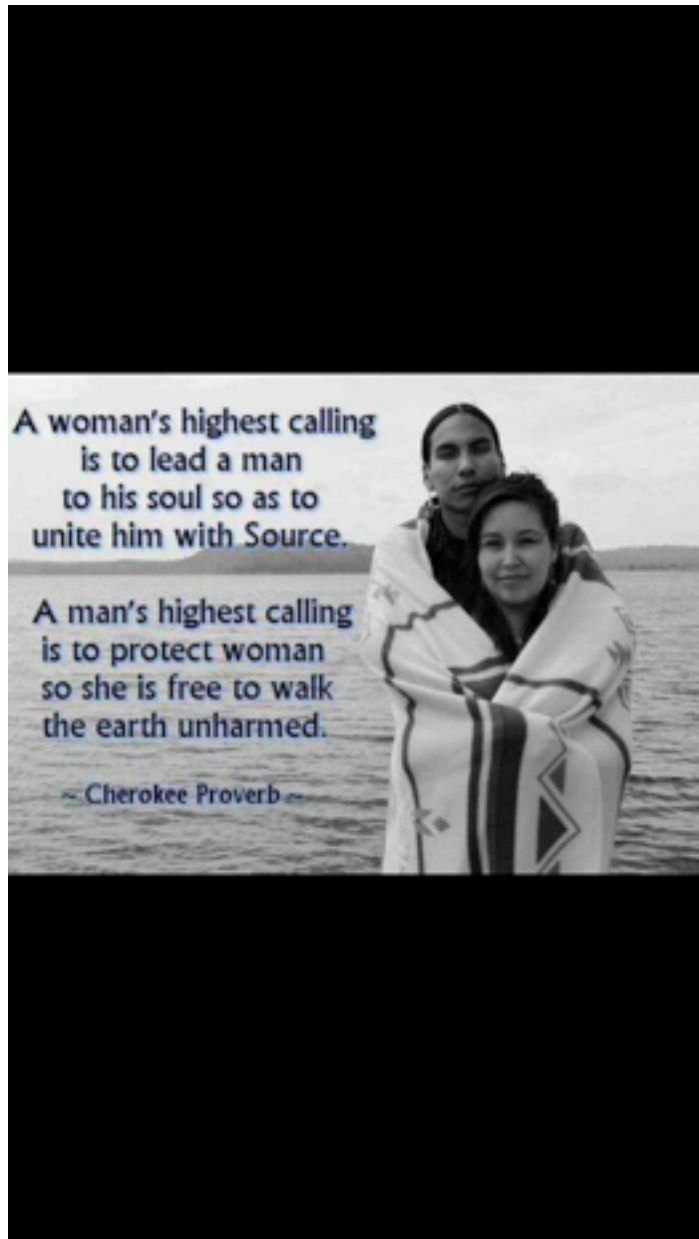
The tribe enforced eminent domain over the contract, essentially writing Jin out of his management role last year.

An arbitrator later awarded Jin more than \$28 million in the contract dispute, but the judgment is being appealed by the tribal business that was running the Skywalk but that has declared bankruptcy. Most recently, Jin filed a defamation suit against Counts, the tribe's public relations firm and other tribal members saying they have sullied his reputation.

Dave Cieslak, one of the non-tribal defendants who also is a tribe spokesman, called it frivolous and a charade.

Had she been chairwoman when the contract dispute erupted, Counts said she believes she could have talked through it with Jin and resolved it without getting the courts involved. But that's not the circumstance she encountered and she's vowed to stand legal ground.

"I'll fight. I'm going to stand here and fight 'til the end," she said. "If my ship goes down, I'm going to be right there with it. But I don't believe that's going to happen ... Every business goes through some negatives, but it only serves to make you stronger. And you have to believe in what you're doing, and I believe."



Indigenous Resistance Grows Strong in Keystone XL Battle

Crysbel Tejada and Betsy Catlin, Waging Nonviolence: From indigenous communities that border the tar sands mines in Alberta, Canada, to those along the route of the pipeline to the refinery community in Ponca City, the Keystone XL is connecting communities for a massive stand of resistance. [Read the Article](#)

Al Gore Tells Obama: Cancel Keystone XL

[Read the Article at Ecowatch](#)

First County in U.S. Bans Oil and Gas Extraction

04-30-2013

Monday the County Commission of Mora County, located in northeastern New Mexico, became the first county in the U.S. to pass an ordinance banning all oil and gas extraction.

Drafted with assistance from the Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund (CELDF), the Mora County Community Water Rights and Local Self-Government Ordinance establishes a local Bill of Rights—including a right to clean air and water, a right to a healthy environment and the rights of nature—while prohibiting activities which would interfere with those rights, including oil drilling and hydraulic fracturing for shale gas.

Communities across the country are facing drilling and fracking. Fracking brings significant environmental impacts including the production of millions of gallons of toxic wastewater, which can affect drinking water and waterways. Studies have found that fracking is a major global warming contributor, and have linked the underground disposal of frack wastewater to earthquakes.

“Existing state and federal oil and gas laws force fracking and other extraction activities into communities, overriding concerns of residents,” explained Thomas Linzey, Esq., CELDF executive director. “Today’s vote in Mora County is a clear rejection of this structure of law which elevates corporate rights over community rights, which protects industry over people and the natural environment.”

“This vote is a clear expression of the rights guaranteed in the New Mexico Constitution which declares that all governing authority is derived from the people. With this vote, Mora is joining a growing people’s movement for community and nature’s rights,” said Linzey.

“The vote of Mora commission chair John Olivas and vice-chair Alfonso Griego to ban drilling and fracking is not only commendable, it is a statement of leadership that sets the bar for communities across the State of New Mexico,” said CELDF community organizer and Mora County resident, Kathleen Dudley. She explained that the ordinance calls for an amendment to the New Mexico Constitution that “elevates community rights above corporate property rights.”

Mora County joins Las Vegas, NM, which in 2012 passed an ordinance, with assistance from CELDF, which prohibits fracking and establishes rights for the community and the natural environment. CELDF assisted the City of Pittsburgh, PA, to draft the first local Bill of Rights which prohibits fracking in 2010. Communities in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Maryland, New York and New Mexico have enacted similar ordinances.

Mora County joins more than 150 communities across the country which have asserted their right to local self-governance through the adoption of local laws that seek to control corporate activities within their municipality.

[Opting Out of Wall Street and Building Sustainable, Resilient Communities: Remaking Finance, Part III](#)

Margaret Flowers and Kevin Zeese, Truthout: Community time banks and local currencies are an effective means to escape the corrupt extractive finance system and create finance that builds dignity. [Read the Article](#)

[Colorado River Basin Crop Mix Offers Great Opportunity to Conserve Water Yuba Net](#)

The Colorado River, recently named America's most endangered river, supports millions of people in the American Southwest and northwest Mexico and helps irrigate millions of acres of land. Yet demands on the river already exceed the river's average supply, a situation that is projected to get worse in coming years as climate change reduces runoff at the same time that fast-growing southwest cities demand more water. Irrigated agriculture currently consumes more than 70% of the water supply within the Colorado River basin, making it critical for more efficient water use.

FARMERS, REFUGES, INDIAN TRIBES WARRING OVER KLAMATH RIVER'S WATER

Tony Barboza , Los Angeles Times

For decades this rural basin has battled over the Klamath River's most precious resource: water that sustains fish, irrigates farms and powers the hydroelectric dams that block one of the largest salmon runs on the West Coast.

Editorial: U.S. Senate needs to tweak bill on big water projects

Sacramento Bee

The water infrastructure of the United States is aging, and aging fast. Yet Congress hasn't enacted a Water Resources Development Act, authorizing U.S. Army Corps of Engineers projects and providing policy direction, since 2007.

The amount of [carbon dioxide \(CO2\) in the world's atmosphere reached a daily average of 400 parts per million \(ppm\)](#), according to measurements taken at the Mauna Loa Observatory in Hawaii, the Guardian reported. The measurement is the highest recorded at the observatory, and scientists believe similar CO2 levels have not been seen for several million years—highlighting concerns about climate change. The Stream 5.10

In today's selection -- **the invention of the first alphabet** -- a much simpler system of writing using only 20 to 30 characters as compared to the thousands required in a hieroglyphic system -- unleashed an era in which broad literacy and abstract ideas were possible to an unprecedented degree. Though it is popularly believed the alphabet came from the Phoenicians, this invention pre-dated them and may have come from the Egyptians:

"In February, 1905, after exploring the Middle East for more than two decades, [British archeologist Flinders] Petrie and his wife arrived at an old turquoise formation in the western Sinai at Serabit el-Khadim, which had been mined as recently as fifty years before by a retired English major and his family. There, although he and others did not realize it for years, Petrie made the most important discovery of his career.

"At the mine the Petries came upon a large collection of statues and inscriptions.

Most were expertly carved and bore standard hieroglyphic or hieratic writing, almost certainly produced by the mine's Egyptian overseers.

"His observant wife Hilda also found some rocks bearing cruder inscriptions. On closer inspection, they noted that this writing included only about thirty or so different symbols that were not recognizably hieroglyphic or hieratic -- both hieroglyphic and hieratic writing used about a thousand symbols. Further, these simpler inscriptions always coincided with primitive, non-Egyptian statues; the writing appeared to flow from left to right, also unlike the well-known hieroglyphic, hieratic, or later Phoenician and Hebrew alphabets.

"Petrie dated the inscriptions to approximately 1400 BC. He clearly recognized them as an alphabet, and one that preceded by about five hundred years the earliest known Phoenician writing, heretofore felt to be the first alphabet. ...

"It fell to an Egyptologist, Alan Gardiner, to realize that the Petries had actually stumbled across the origin of the alphabet, or something very close to it. Linguists had long known that Latin script -- the everyday alphabet of today's Western world -- evolved from Greek letters, which had themselves derived from Phoenician, as did Hebrew. ...

"Over the millennium following the alphabet's invention around 1500 BC, the simple phonemic lettering system Petrie discovered made possible the first stirrings of mass literacy that would unleash much of the subsequent political and social ferment of human history.

"On the basis of archaeological and linguistic evidence, most authorities believe that the proto-Semitic inscriptions the Petries first found at Serabit derived from Egyptian hieratic or hieroglyphic writing. While the precise origin of the proto-Semitic alphabet will never be known, the Serabit inscriptions suggest that it was probably invented somewhere in the Sinai or Canaan by non-Egyptian Semites who had come there from somewhere in the Levant to work as miners for the Egyptians.

"Did the first simplified alphabetic script really originate in the mines at Serabit?

After Flinders' excavations there, archaeologists uncovered, at several other sites in Palestine, more primitive inscriptions that look alphabetic and possibly predate the Serabit inscriptions by as much as a century or two. More recently, an American research team has uncovered proto-Semitic inscriptions at Wadi el-Hol, several hundred miles south of Serabit el-Khadim, on the Nile; they suggest that the Egyptians may have in fact invented the script to better communicate with their Semitic workers/slaves.

"Another intriguing candidate for 'inventor of the alphabet' is the Midianites, a Sinai people who mined copper and who could have derived it from the writing of their Egyptian overseers in the same way as did the miners of Serabit. ...

"[The rise of monotheism was during the same period and] the temporal and geographic connection between the alphabet and monotheism in Egypt-Palestine during the middle of the second millennium may be more than coincidence. What might tie them together?

The notion of a disembodied, formless, all-seeing, and ever-present supreme being requires a far more abstract frame of mind than that needed for the older plethora of anthropomorphized beings who oversaw the heavenly bodies, the crops, fertility, and the seas. Alphabetic writing requires the same high degree of abstraction and may have provided a literate priestly caste with the intellectual tools necessary to imagine a belief system overseen by a single disembodied deity. Whatever the reason, Judaism and the West acquired their God and their Book."

Masters of the Word: How Media Shaped History by William J. Bernstein
Date: Copyright 2013 by William J. Bernstein Pages: 44-49
published by Grove Press

Medicaid Expansion To Provide More Care For Native Americans : NPR

www.npr.org

Next year, just over 200,000 Native Americans will become eligible for Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act. The change translates to more money for the Indian Health Service. The expansion will also force Native American health providers to deal with something they've never faced before — competi...

A Dream of Trees Aglow at Night

By ANDREW POLLACK

A project to create a plant that glows in the dark, potentially leading the way for trees that can replace streetlamps, has been denounced for tinkering with genes.

<http://www.upworthy.com/i-just-learned-how-to-use-a-paper-towel-properly-for-the-first-time-in-my-life-2?c=upw1>

[Kim Townsend](#) shared [Feather Eyes's](#) [photo](#).

We have been here for thousands of years AND we will continue knowing the land, praying for all that is life - the blessings of our CREATOR...



[Student Loans, Big Decisions, and Staying Hungry: Advice for Graduates](#)

[A column by Gyasi Ross featuring advice to young Native Americans graduating from college](#)

[KENT: Hallowed ground for sale](#) rapidcityjournal.com

[It's been many years since I first visited the Little Bighorn Battlefield -- a vast area of beautiful rolling hills scorched by memories of the blood and violence that once](#)

Share the good

Tell us about your quest to give and grow more for your community and you could receive a \$25,000 grant or one of fifteen \$10,000 grants to support your community garden or farm

Support your community garden or farm by entering for a chance to *Share the Good* with a grant from Seeds of Change. www.seedsofchange.com/

Apps to Help Students with Dysgraphia and Writing Difficulties

<http://www.ncld.org/students-disabilities/assistive-technology-education/apps-students-ld-dysgraphia-writing-difficulties>

The National Center for Learning Disabilities has compiled a list of iPhone/iPad **apps for people with dysgraphia or dyslexia**. Technology can be a great tool for students (and adults!) who have learning disabilities like dysgraphia or dyslexia that affect their written expression. We've personally reviewed these mobile apps and we know they're LD-friendly. They can make the writing process a bit easier and even fun! Not every app will be a "perfect fit" for everyone who has LD, but with a little testing, you can figure out which one works best for your child or teen's individual needs.

[President Obama: Save Wounded Knee](http://www.signon.org) [signon.org](http://www.signon.org)

[I just signed a petition to President Barack Obama: The United States should buy the historically invaluable and sacred site of the 1890 Wounded Knee Massacre of the Lakota people and make it a National Monument. The owner is about to put it up for auction after May 1, and it will be sold to private...](#)

[Guatemalan Ex-Dictator Found Guilty of Genocide and Crimes Against Humanity](#)

Tim Johnson, McClatchy Newspapers: Yesterday, former Guatemalan dictator Efraín Ríos Montt was convicted of genocide because his military regime used "extreme terror" in an effort to wipe out a Mayan minority ethnic group in the early 1980s. [Read the Article](#)

FOCUS: Al Gore | 400 Parts Per Million

Al Gore, Reader Supported News

Gore writes: "Now, more than ever before, we are reaping the consequences of our recklessness. From Superstorm Sandy, which crippled New York City and large areas of New Jersey, to a drought that parched more than half of our nation; from a flood that inundated large swaths of Australia to rising seas affecting millions around the world, the reality of the climate crisis is upon us." [READ MORE](#)

from Dennis M:

May 12 On this date in 1860 a group of white settlers led by William Ormsby launched the Pyramid Lake War to defend the right of white sexual predators to rape young Native American girls, marching on Pyramid Lake where they were annihilated by Paiute tribal

warriors led by Chief Numaga (to tie everything together neatly, the “soldiers” were probably attacking the wrong tribe)

Historian James Hulse on the Pyramid Lake War: In many cases the “soldiers” were simply ovezealous young men, ready to steal horses and kidnap women.

We are all born of Mother. And even in our darkest hour, we are held in the lap of the Great Mother, whose body is the very Earth that never leaves us.

On this Mother's Day, let us honor anyone who has held this sacred energy within our lives (be they our biological mothers, maternal friends, a family pet your child leaned on as they learned to walk...). Blessings of nourishment and receptivity to these incredible givers of life.

