Cabazon Circle

March 2003

A Cabazon Band of Mission Indians Publication

Vol. XII Issue III

Indio, CA 92203

Cabazons join U.S. Chamber of Commerce

Four tribes are first to associate with national chamber

The Cabazon Band of Mission Indians and the Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians of California, along with the Mashantucket Pequot and the Mohegan Tribes have joined the U.S. Chamber of Commerce as the first tribes ever nationwide to join the world's largest trade organization.

"Our relationship with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce will break new ground in recognition of tribal achievements in promoting the U.S. economy," said Cabazon Chairman John A. James. "This association acknowledges the economic contributions tribes are making both on and off the reservation."

The Cabazons met with officials from the U.S. Chamber in February in Washington D.C. to discuss Native American policy issues. The tribe spearheaded the campaign to join the chamber as a reflection of its business interests which have

continued on page 2

Desert Leaders

March marks the first full month of the Cabazon Band of Mission Indians weekly TV series, *Desert Leaders*, featuring newsmakers and issues pertinent to the Coachella Valley. Cabazon CEO Mark Nichols, above right, is the show's host. So far, the show has featured Lt. Gov. Cruz Bustamante, above, (*see more on page 17 about the Lt. Governor*), and others such as:

- Joe Beaver, Chairman of the Martin Luther King Foundation of the Coachella Valley
- Tony Cerda, Tribal Chairman, Castanon Rumson Tribe
- Melinda Tremeglia, President, Nation Organization of Women
- William Edelen, columnist and speaker
- Andy Masiel, Pechanga Tribal Nation
- Tony Pastor Jr., producer, and writer
- Kal David, singer and songwriter.

The show airs weekdays at 7 p.m. on PAX TV.

HUEY LEWIS VISITS WITH THE TRIBE

page 16

CALIFORNIA'S HIDDEN HISTORY

page 9

SOUTHWEST ARTS FESTIVAL

page 10-11

PEON GAMES

page 5

Chamber...
continued from page 1

expanded beyond the Fantasy Springs Casino. The Cabazons operate the Resource Recovery Park, which is home to several environmentally-minded industrial concerns, such as its First Nation Recovery Inc., a tire recycling facility. In addition, construction for the Fantasy Springs Resort Hotel is expected to begin in April, following the sale of a bond issue.

"Several Indian tribes have boldly charted a new course and, in the process, have become forces for positive change in and around Native American communities," said Rolf Th. Lundberg Jr., a spokesman for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce in Washington, D.C. "The challenge lies not only in sustaining the economic advancements and benefits that have accrued to some Native American communities in recent years, but also in building upon these successes in order to achieve greater self-reliance and ensure the perpetuation of self governance for all Indian tribes."

The Cabazons will be working with the U.S. Chamber to help develop new markets for crumb rubber from FNRI. The Chamber keeps a staff of experts; policy specialists, lobbyists, and lawyers that make up the world's largest not-for-profit business federation. It represents more than 3 million businesses, 3,000 state and local chambers, 830 business associations, and 92 American Chambers of Commerce abroad.

Brother tribes join together

The Mohegan Tribe has a reservation on the Thames River near Uncasville, Connecticut. "The town of Uncasville is named after our Sachem Uncas, a seventeenth century Chief. Uncas chose to befriend the first English colonists. Since that time, we have been committed to good relations with our non-Indian neighbors," the tribe says. The Mohegans have operated one of the East Coast's finest resort casinos since 1996.

Mark Brown, chairman of the Mohegan tribe was very pleased with the new relationship with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. "It's an excellent example of the government-to-government relationship that should exist," he said. "It's a real step in the right direction for a partnership in the future, and it recognizes some of the great successes that are happening in Indian country today."

The Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation opened a high-stakes bingo hall in Connecticut in 1986. Today Foxwoods comprises six casinos and calls itself the largest resort casino in the world with more than 40,000 guests daily.

In California, the Viejas Band of Kumeyaay, one of some12 bands of the Kumeyaay Indian Nation, numbers about 281 members living on the 1,600-acre reservation in the Viejas Valley, east of Alpine in San Diego County. The tribe operates the Viejas Casino.

Anthony R. Pico, chairman of the Viejas, said he was pleased about the tribes' new venture. "We're very grateful to the Cabazons for initiating the membership of the tribes in the U.S. Chamber," he said. "We think this will give us powerful allies and like-minded friends in Washington D.C."

Cabazons add new enviro-business to industrial park

The Cabazon Band of Mission Indians has welcomed Western Environmental Inc. to its Resource Recovery Park.

Andy Johnson, business development manager for the Cabazons, said the soil remediation company has leased 10 acres in the tribe's industrial park. "They've got dirty dirt," Johnson explained. "It's the soil removed from leaky gas tanks and such that has been contaminated and needs to be cleaned up." The process involves spreading contaminated soil and baking it in the sun, tilling it, and adding components to turn it into nutrient-rich fertilizer.

The business will eventually grow to 20 acres, Johnson said. The process to set up Western Environmental Inc. has been lengthy, he said, requiring the tribe to work closely with the Environmental Protection Agency and the Bureau of Indian Affairs office in Sacramento.

The new business will employ up to 15 people, he said.

The Cabazon's Resource Recovery Park is a conglomerate of recyling-based businesses within 550 acres of tribal reservation land. Currently the park includes the Colmac Energy Inc., a biomass recycling plant which creates electricity from Riverside County agriculture waste, and First Nations Recovery Inc., which recycles tires into crumb rubber for use in other products. The Colmac plant creates enough electricity to power the City of La Quinta, or enough to provide power to 45,000 homes.

Anti-gaming leader urges citizens to take more control, money from tribes

Stand Up California's Cheryl Schmit makes a pitch to senior citizens on swing through Coachella Valley

The leader of an anti-gaming group whose goal is to ban Indian casinos in California made a visit to the Coachella Valley in February to garner support for her cause.

Cheryl Schmit, leader of Stand Up for California, made an appearance at a meeting for the Palm Springs/Desert Area Chapter of the American Association of Retired Persons, warning seniors about Indian gaming and how she believes tribes need more regulation. "You must retain a voice in any process that impacts you," she said, adding that unrecognized tribes were 'buying' federal tribal status in an effort to open casinos. She warned that Coachella Valley casinos would grow to such an extent that the area would grow overcrowded with daily casino traffic, increasing crime, and ruining the lifestyle of the area.

While AARP had informed the Cabazons of Schmit's appearance, none of the area's four tribes were invited to challenge Schmit's claims.

Schmit described her interest in gaming was piqued when a tribe near her northern California town of Penryn sought a casino without asking local residents for input. "The United Auburn tribe is what initially brought me to the debate, but now I think we have a good relationship," she said. "It's something that can and should be done."

Schmit called for citizens to call for more control of casinos such as where they're constructed, how, and how much money they contribute to local governments as fees. Meantime, 21 tribes, mostly from northern California, have already asked Gov. Gray Davis to reopen compact negotiations, saying they intend to seek higher slot machine limits in exchange for additional revenues from new machines. The petitioning tribes have indicated a willingness to work with local governments to mitigate any environmental or infrastructure needs.

The Cabazon Band of Mission Indians, for example, have historically worked with local governments to build agreements, said Cabazon CEO Mark Nichols. "Our resort expansion required ongoing communications and meetings with officials from the state, county and city levels. As a sovereign entity, it's very important for us to cooperate with our neighbors and work together. Because of that cooperation, we've been able to accomplish our goals."

Cabazons step up for girls' sports

While Title IV funding for girls' sports programs was being questioned nationwide, the Cabazon Band of Mission Indians offered local teams some help paying for new uniforms for girls softball teams at Indio High School, Coachella Valley High School and La Quinta High School. Cabazon Chairman John James, fourth from left, handed each school a check for $3,000 for new varsity and freshman team uniforms. Helping out at the presentation were Cabazon Tribal Business Committee members Virginia Nichols, third from right, and Marc Benitez, second from right.

California Indian News

Miwok band names new tribal council members

EL DORADO COUNTY -The Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians has elected three new members to its tribal council, while re-electing the tribe's chairman and vice chairman.

The new members of the seven-member council are James R. Adams, a former tribal chairman; Stephanie Cuellar, who works for the tribal health program; and Ambrose Tayaba, who owns a trucking company.

Re-elected as chairman was Nicholas Fonesca, and as vice chairman, Jeff Murray. Council members serve three-year terms.

The Shingle Springs Band's 160-acre rancheria is located just off Highway 50 in El Dorado County. The tribe, which has about 340 members, is seeking to build a large casino-hotel complex and recently won state approval to build an interchange connecting the rancheria to the highway.

Soboba Rez expands in February

The Soboba Reservation increased in size by 950 acres in February with the signing ceremony held at the Soboba Sports Complex.

Tribal leaders joined representatives from the Bureau of Indian Affairs and local lawmakers to add the acquired land into federal trust status as of Jan. 16.

Tribal Administrator Andrew Masiel said the tribe does not have any immediate plans for the land and will likely try to keep it as it is.

Some 80 guests attended the signing ceremony, including Soboba tribal members who were on hand to talk about the area's past and its native plants.

Special Distribution Fund eyed in state budget shortfall

The Legislative Analyst's Office of California cast doubt on Gov. Gray Davis' likelihood of extracting $1.5 billion from Indian gaming activities in the state, also hinting that the legislature may use a special gaming fund to pay for the state's budget shortfalls.

In a report released in February, the LAO said the governor's proposed budget assumes $1.5 billion in new revenues to the General Fund in anticipation of renegotiating compacts with the gaming tribes in California. "The realization of such revenue, however, is unlikely," the LAO reported. "When the governor presents the legislature with the renegotiated compacts, the legislature will likely need to weigh the impact of increased gaming against the benefit of any increased revenues."

The governor's office maintains that tribes are reportedly bringing in $5 billion annually through slot machine revenues, although sources throughout the gaming industry have been unable to confirm that, pegging the number at much less. "I'd be surprised if tribes were bringing in more than $3 billion," said Cabazon Band of Mission Indians CEO Mark Nichols.

The governor's office said the proposed $1.5 billion in new revenues was figured using a Connecticut state model which brings in 25 percent from gaming. In New York, one tribe contributes up to 23 percent of its net wins. But California's tribes have a different structure under the current compact. Davis, by renegotiating the compacts using that model, can only bring in $1.5 billion if tribes expand their gaming base by another $6 billion.

Tribal compacts in California are up for renegotiation beginning in March. The compacts lay out the legal relationship between the tribes and the state with respect to Indian gaming. According to the California Gambling Control Commission, there are currently 109 federally recognized tribes in California, and 61 have gaming compacts lasting until 2020. The Cabazons have an 18-year remaining period on their existing compact.

Currently, gaming tribes pay about $140 million annually into two funds set aside as a result of the compacts drawn as a result of Proposition 1A, passed in March 2000. However, the LAO noted, these revenues are not deposited directly into the General Fund, but go instead to the Revenue Sharing Trust Fund, which helps support tribes without gaming facilities, and the Special Distribution Fund, which is targeted for gaming-related impacts to local areas.

"The $88 million in available money in the Special Distribution Fund presents the Legislature the opportunity to help address the budget shortfall," the LAO said. "We recommend that the Legislature use the available funds for existing programs, currently funded with

continued on page 19

TAXISLU ÉLIS

(To Look Forward, To Look Back)

Four-member opposing teams of men, women or children play peon games.

By Judy Stapp
Director of Cultural Affairs

News from the Cabazon Cultural Museum

For thousands of years, ancient trails have snaked across the Colorado Desert, climbed mountain passes and wandered down canyons. The Cahuilla Indians and their Native American neighbors used these ancient pathways. The early Cahuilla people, the ancestors of the Cabazon Band of Mission Indians, laid out the network of more than 400 miles of trails in the Coachella Valley and the surrounding mountains. These trails ensured that neighbors would visit one another, arduous though the journey would be. A visit would be an occasion for feasting, singing, dancing and playing games.

Invited guests were given celebrations called fiestas and the tradition continues today. Through events like these, the Cahuilla people are passing on their heritage to the young people and sharing it with visitors. The earliest Cahuilla people played gambling games, as they do today. The game called *tepanish*, (in Spanish *peon*), has both traditional and ceremonial significance.

Peon is a guessing game played by four-member opposing teams of men, women or children. The games begin at sunset when an outdoor fire is lighted. A sense of friendly rivalry and suspense prevails. As in all traditional events that continue today, careful attention is given to conducting the games according to the rules given in the oral tradition that has been passed down through the centuries.

Similar to the "hand games" of other Native American tribes, each team has two peon sticks (one black and one white), with a band of leather strapped in the middle that is slipped over the player's wrist. A player hides the peons while traditional peon songs are sung. When the player folds his/her hands, the opposing team can then begin guessing the location of the black and white peons. The referee, known as a Koime, distributes the winning game sticks to the team when a correct identification is made. Demanding wit and skill, the winning team must capture 15 game sticks to claim victory. One game can last a few hours or extend throughout the night.

Today, Native neighbors continue to visit one another although the journey is much less arduous. During the Indio Powwow, peon games are played both Friday and Saturday nights. One may enjoy seeing the young people play on Friday night or see the experienced adult players, teams of both men and women, play on Saturday night. The games begin at sunset and may continue most of the night. Come and experience the mystery and drama of this Cahuilla tradition at the Indio Powwow March 28-30, 2003.

Peon games, played in the ancient traditional way, continue today.

California Indian tribes build coalition to negotiate state gaming compacts

SACRAMENTO, Calif.—Twenty-one Indian tribes from across the state announced in February that they have formed a coalition to reopen negotiations on Tribal-State Gaming Compacts next month. The coalition includes gaming tribes operating as few as 80 slot machines and other tribes operating the maximum of 2000 slot machines, as well as non-gaming tribes that intend to enter into new compacts to establish gaming facilities.

The Cabazon Band of Mission Indians were not among that group, so far maintaining satisfaction with their current compact.

The 21 tribes delivered a letter to Governor Davis requesting the opening of negotiations. The letter emphasized the tribes' primary goal of furthering economic self-sufficiency and the need for the state and the tribes to respect each other's sovereignties. The letter also states that the tribes intend to negotiate for additional slot machines, they are ready to discuss "fair share" contributions to the state from increased revenues produced by those additional machines, and that the tribes are willing to meet and confer with local governments concerning mitigation of environmental impacts on surrounding communities resulting from future development.

Tribal Chairman of the Pala Band of Mission Indians, Robert Smith, located in northern San Diego County, a veteran of negotiations with both the Wilson and Davis administrations said, "I am looking forward to these negotiations because we are in the middle of an expansion and could use more slot machines than the 2000 we now have. I think we can find enough common ground for the State and our Tribe to achieve their objectives."

Tribal Chairman of the Santa Rosa Rancheria Tachi-Yokut Tribe, Mike Sisco, which is located South of Fresno, stated "When our tribe and the state signed the Compact in 1999, we each gave our word that we would make Indian gaming work for both our people. We will enter into these negotiations with open minds and open hearts to ensure that this promise between our people is fulfilled."

Rumsey Indian Rancheria Tribal Chairperson Paula Lorenzo, whose tribe operates Cache Creek Indian Casino in Yolo County, near Sacramento, stated, "Our tribe is solution oriented. We are satisfied with our Compact, which has enabled us to secure our tribe's future, but we are looking forward to clarifying ambiguities on financing and other matters so that our Compact can work even better."

Alvis Johnson, Chairperson of the Karuk Tribe located in Siskiyou County, which does not yet have a Tribal-State Gaming Compact said, "We have been waiting for this opportunity for some time now and hope that these negotiations can proceed quickly, so that our Tribe can finally begin meeting the many unmet needs of our members."

John Currier, Chairman of the Rincon Band, which owns Harrah's Rincon, said, "We recognize that both our tribe and the state have important interests at stake and we look forward to meaningful negotiations."

Under the compacts entered into in 1999, either party can request that negotiations begin in March regarding the number of slot machines tribes are authorized to operate, as well as revenue sharing issues. In addition, the compacts authorize discussions over any other matters that both parties agree to address.

New reservation home for tribal members

San Jaunita Callaway Padilla and her husband Kurt Padilla recently moved into their new home on Cabazon land. The couple are among several in the tribe that have built homes in the Painted Canyon gated community on the Cabazon reservation.

Indio POW WOW NATIVE AMERICAN festival

March 28-30, 2003

HOST NORTHERN DRUM
Kingbird-Minnesota

HOST SOUTHERN DRUM
Yellowhammer-Oklahoma

ANNOUNCERS
Terry Fiddler-South Dakota
Hammond Motah-Oklahoma

ARENA DIRECTOR
Benjamin Lovejoy-South Dakota

HEAD JUDGES
Charles Hindsley-Wisconsin
Michael Roberts-Oklahoma

HEAD SINGING JUDGES
Eldon Weasel Child-Alberta, Canada
R. G. Harris-Oklahoma

HEAD GOURD DANCER
Duane Tofpi-New Mexico

SPOONKEEPER
Richard & Vickie Webster

POWWOW INFORMATION
Judy Stapp, Cabazon Band
(800) 827-2946 x3017

Jim Red Eagle
(888) 360-0848
JRedeag@aol.com

BOOTH INFORMATION
Dean Johnson
(909) 359-6002

Sponsored by the
Cabazon Band of Mission Indians

CABAZON INDIAN RESERVATION
I-10 And Golf Center Parkway
INDIO, CALIFORNIA
1-800-827-2946 www.cabazonnations.com

NATIONAL INDIAN NEWS BRIEFS

National Indian Business Reservation Economic Summit names Business of the Year

SAN FRANCISCO— Deni Leonard, chief executive officer and president of Indigenous Global Development Corporation and United Native Depository Corporation (UNDC) has been named Indian Business Owner of the Year by the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development (NCAIED) organization in its annual Indian Business Achievement Awards search.

The NCAIED board criteria for the Indian Business Owner of the Year required the choosing of "a profitable business owned and operated by an American Indian, who also demonstrated good 'corporate citizenship' in the community."

"Leonard is using progressive methods to help Indian Nations reach economic self-sufficiency beyond the short window of opportunity provided by casino profits," said Juan Aguilar, NCAIED Northwest Advisory Council member and Vice President and Senior Business Development Manager for Washington Mutual. "His innovative approaches to help them develop, finance and own their own power plants, provide the tribes low cost energy and diversifies their means of economic development through a high-level and high technology economic program.

The year is proving to be an exceptional year for Leonard. Leonard was also featured in the New York Times #1 best selling book, "What Should I Do With My Life" by Bay Area author Po Bronson. The book chronicles how people found meaningful answers to one of life's greatest questions. The 50 people chosen for the book are those who dared to be honest with themselves and found new direction and understanding in their lives. Leonard's life and business accomplishments while at IGDC are featured on chapter 53 of the book. Leonard was also featured with Po Bronson on the Oprah Show in January.

Tribe ousts BIA officials from police department

The Blackfeet Tribal Council refused to give the federal Bureau of Indian Affairs authority to enforce local laws, instead vowing to oust them from the police department in February.

Tribal Vice Chairman James St. Goddard said the council unanimously opposed the BIA's emergency takeover of Browning's police department, and it planned to file an injunction in federal court in Great Falls, asking a judge to intervene.

"They broke our civil rights and our human rights," St. Goddard told the Great Falls Tribune. "They have totally dysfunctioned our tribe. How could they take away a sovereign nation's right to govern themselves?"

The tribal council rejected the BIA's request for authority to enforce tribal law.

Currently the BIA officers can enforce laws against the more serious crimes such as felony assault and murder that fall under federal law.

But without the council's approval, the courts won't recognize the people BIA officers arrest for misdemeanor assault, child endangerment, public intoxication and other lesser crimes. *(Source: Great Falls Tribune)*

Tribal firefighters help in search for Columbia shuttle debris

Oklahoma's American Indian firefighting crews worked for two weeks to search an area in east Texas for debris from Columbia, the space shuttle that broke apart Feb. 1.

"We're all walking through the swamps right now," Randy Tiger told The Oklahoman in February. "Usually when we're on a fire, we call it a gridding, lining up and looking for smoke. Now we're looking for parts of wreckage and human remains."

Tiger, a Sac and Fox who's a member of the Pawnee Fire Scouts, said they've found enough of both to make it a solemn experience.

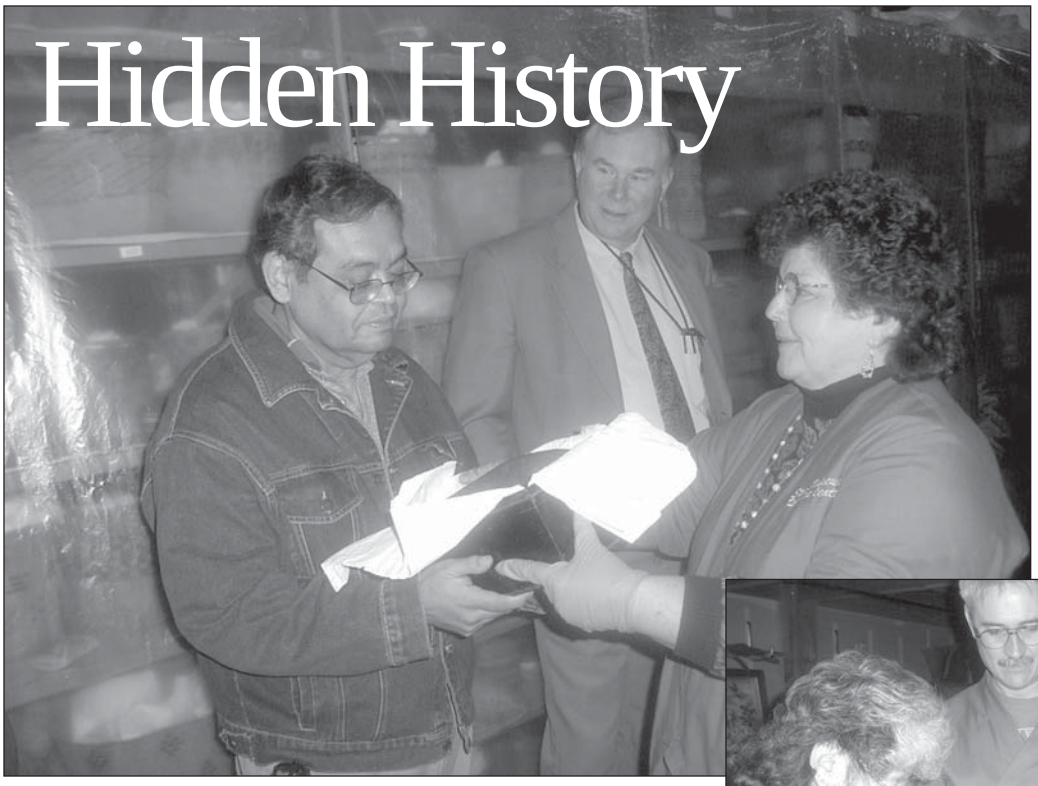
"But it's our job; we've got to do it, like fighting a fire," Tiger said. "We feel like it's an honor that we were called up."

Four crews, or about 80 men, went to work in the Hemphill-Nacogdoches area of east Texas. The groups called up were the Cherokee Firedancers, which include a couple members of the Caddo tribe; the Pawnee Fire Scouts, which include members of the Comanche, Cheyenne- Arapaho, Iowa, Sac and Fox, and Kiowa tribes; and crews headed by the Iowa Tribe and Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

The crews found a tire rim, computer box and a door hinge searching through cold swampy land covered with thorny briars.

The Pawnee and Muscogee (Creek) crews were sponsored by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The Cherokee and Iowa crews were sponsored by the U.S. Forestry Department.

Hidden History



Anthony Madrigal, left, member of the Cahuilla tribe and of the Native American Land Conservancy, John Foster, state archaeologist, and Billie Blue Elliston, a member of the Ione Band, and museum technician for the California Department of Parks and Recreation examine Native American treasures in storage by the state of California.

Really stale bread: The group takes a look at bread dating back more than 150 years. "It still smells like bread," says Cabazon's Sally Palmer. "But it's hard as a rock!"

John Mello, center, museum curator for California's state museum resource center, shows off a collection of Native American treasures to Native American Land Conservancy members Luke Madrigal, a Cahuilla, and Jennifer Mike, member of Twentynine Palms band.

Above, Sally Palmer, left, takes in the Native American artifacts hidden at California's capitol in storage. She is joined by Anthony Madrigal, John Mello and Billie Blue Elliston. The delicate items don't have a permanant home for display, but the items will someday find their way into a museum. At right, a collection of Native American baskets made in California.

Southwest Arts Festival

Held annually at the beautiful Indio Polo Grounds, the Southwest Arts Festival is supported by the Cabazon Band of Mission Indians and its Fantasy Springs Casino. The 3-day show displays some of the best southwest art available with more than 200 acclaimed artists represented in the displays. At right, the show's poster artist, Julian Soncco of Scottsdale, Arizona, poses by one of his works.

Humble serenity mixed with glinting sun and unflinching bronze come together to make these three Native women a graceful commentary on the peace and power of motherhood. At right, the painting of a Native American woman depicts quiet strength.

At left, Dusty Kinman, a Dextor, Oregon artist, a second generation painter of Southwestern desert scenes, shows off the result of many hours work.

Dispelling the myths on Indian gaming

MYTH: IGRA is a bill that allows select Indian tribes to create businesses that reap millions of dollars in profits and pay no federal income tax — at the same time that the tribes collect millions in aid from American taxpayers.

FACT: The U.S. Constitution, Congress, and countless Supreme Court decisions recognize Tribes as governments, and like State government-run lotteries, tribes are not subject to taxation by another government. Nevertheless, more than 300,000 Indian and non-Indian employees of Indian gaming generate over $4.5 billion in federal and state payroll, income, sales and other taxes. Finally, Indian gaming revenues are fully taxed by tribal governments.

MYTH: "Washington perceived gaming on reservations as a cheap way to wean tribes from government handouts."

FACT: The above statement provides the premise for the Time article. It is both false and ignorant. Indian gaming is not a federal program, but one tool that tribes use to generate revenues just as any government entity. The main supports for Washington's involvement were state governments and commercial gaming interests that sought to limit competition from tribes. The handouts Time refers to represent an attempt by the federal government to live up to thousands of treaty obligations incurred when establishing a land base for this nation. Federal policies took millions of lives and hundreds of millions of acres of Indian lands, and destroyed tribal economies.

MYTH: Indian gambling is not regulated.

FACT: Time includes the self-regulatory spending figure of New Jersey, but ignores the money spent on self-regulation by tribes. Is non-Indian regulation inherently better than Indian regulation? Tribes spend over $212 million annually on regulation, far more than New Jersey and Nevada combined. Tribes use state-of-the-art technology in tribal regulatory and surveillance equipment.

Early this year, Time Magazine published an article by Donald L. Bartlett and James B. Steele that left Indian Country still buzzing on the subject. The series was a stinging indictment of Indian gaming on several counts, which prompted responses from several sources, including U.S. Rep. Patrick Kennedy, who appeared on the Cabazon Band of Mission Indians new community issues television program. Kennedy responded to the article point-by-point, presented here in a condensed version.

MYTH: Leaders of small, newly wealthy tribes ride roughshod over neighboring communities, poorer tribes and even their own members.

FACT: Indian tribes have been exceptional neighbors. From Arizona to Minnesota regional studies show the benefits for non-Indians have far outweighed the costs. Non-Indians hold 75 percent of the 300,000 jobs Indian gaming has created nationwide. Tribes have brought economic development to historically rural and undeveloped areas. Tribes have provided more than $600 million annually to state and local governments through revenue sharing agreements, contributing emergency service equipment, building roads and infrastructure and providing other government services to non-Indian communities.

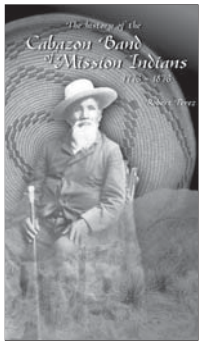
Of the poorest large tribes in the country, 17 opened casinos in the 1990s. As a result, eight of the 10 poorest counties in the country now contain an Indian casino or abut a county that has one. Many of these gaming tribes have reported dramatic reversals in their unemployment rates, sometimes even becoming the largest employers in their regions.

MYTH: Revenue from gaming is so lopsided that Indian casinos in five states with almost half the Native American population – Montana, North Dakota, Oklahoma and South Dakota – account for less than 3 percent of all casino proceeds."

FACT: Time seems to advocate for tribal communism. Naturally, tribes that are closer to large markets generate more revenue. Using the same logic, the state of New York should subsidize the government of the state of Arkansas. Indian gaming is the only proven tool for economic development in Indian country.

MYTH: Wealthy Indian gaming tribes suddenly are pouring millions of dollars in political campaigns at both state and federal levels.

FACT: Time appears to argue that tribes should not be permitted to participate in the political process. It once was true. Tribal contributions made up less than one-half of one percent of the entire national hard money contributions in the 1999-2000 election cycle.



THE HISTORY OF THE CABAZON BAND OF MISSION INDIANS 1776-1867
554 - $5
Author Robert Perez (Apache) presents the first definitive history of the Cabazon Band of Mission Indians 1776-1876, a culmination of two years of research that included trips to national museums and oral interviews with tribal members. The book was designed and printed by the Cabazon's Fantasy Press Printing & Graphic Design shop on the reservation.

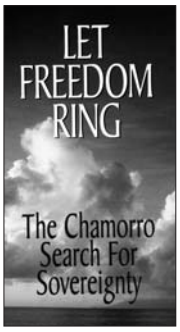
SAVING THE SALTON SEA – THE VIDEO
SAVING THE SALTON SEA: SOLUTIONS AND THEIR IMPACT
3012-E (English version) - $9.95
3012-S (Spanish version) - $9.95
3012-H (Hour English only) - $11.95

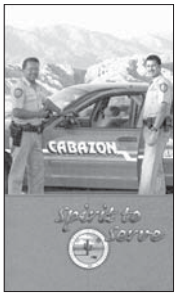
The Cabazon Band and the National Audubon Society present this documentary narrated by acclaimed actors William Devane (English version) and Tony Plana (Spanish version), which examines the facts and impacts on the Colorado River water transfers and the ongoing battle to save North America's third largest inland body of water.
Running time (3012-E & 3012-S only): 28 minutes.

WITH LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR SOME
3014 - $9.95
On an Indian Reservation in Southern California the flags of two Nations fly with great pride. This video discusses Native Americans and their journey to retain their sovereign rights. Running time 30 minutes.

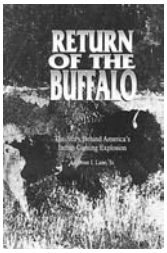
INNER GNOSIS
3016 - $14.95
Author Mark Nichols' Inner Gnosis takes an in-depth look at the spiritual and meditative lifestyle in the form of poetry.

LET FREEDOM RING: THE CHAMORRO SEARCH FOR SOVEREIGNTY
3017 - $9.95
Learn how Cabazon Tribal leaders traveled to Guam to assist the indigenous Chamorros in their search for sovereignty and self-determination.
Running time 37 minutes.





SPIRIT TO SERVE
3013 - $9.95
This video, narrated by actor Erik Estrada, shows how the Cabazon Band of Mission Indians' Police and Fire Departments serve and protect people and property, both on the reservation and in the surrounding communities.
Running time: 30 minutes.



RETURN OF THE BUFFALO
555-D - $18.95
Author Ambrose I. Lane's compelling account of the Cabazon Band of Mission Indians, who took their fight to the Supreme Court of the United States and won the right to tribal government gaming for all Native Americans.

TOWNS & TRIBES
3018 - $9.95
U.S. Congressman Esteban Torres (1982-1998) takes a tour of the Cabazon Band of Mission Indians reservation near Indio, Calif. and offers a unique perspective into this sovereign Nation, their history and plans for the future.
Running time 30 minutes.

DESERT CAHUILLA VILLAGE

300 years ago..... The sun rises over the village and the Desert Cahuilla Indians began another day of struggle to survive in the harsh valley---portrayed in mural form in Indio, California. Artist Don Gray of Flagstaff, Arizona, painted the original painting and produced the mural. Limited edition prints (8"x38"), numbered and signed by the artist, are available for $150.00

ORDER FORM

For more information, call 1/800-827-2946

			Total
554 HISTORY OF CABAZONS 1776-1876	$5.00 X	_____	_____
555 RETURN OF THE BUFFALO	$18.95 X	_____	_____
3012-E SAVING THE SALTON SEA	$9.95 X	_____	_____
3012-S SAVING THE SALTON SEA	$9.95 X	_____	_____
3012-H SAVING THE SALTON SEA (1HOUR)	$11.95 X	_____	_____
3013 SPIRIT TO SERVE	$9.95 X	_____	_____
3014 WITH LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR SOME	$9.95 X	_____	_____
3016 INNER GNOSIS	$14.95 X	_____	_____
3017 LET FREEDOM RING	$9.95 X	_____	_____
3018 TOWNS & TRIBES	$9.95 X	_____	_____
126-38 DESERT CAHUILLA VILLAGE	$150.00 X	_____	_____
Shipping and handling (1 item)	$3.50	_____	_____
Shipping and handling (one copy of item 554)	$2.00	_____	_____
Shipping and handling (each additional item)	$1.00 X	_____	_____
METHOD OF PAYMENT	TOTAL DUE	_____	$ _____

CHECK MONEY ORDER

Use this order form and mail to:
Cabazon Band Of Mission Indians
Attn.: Delia
84-245 Indio Springs Parkway
Indio, CA 92203-3499

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

ST _____ ZIP _____

Phone (_____) _____

INTERNATIONAL

Native leaders killed, families displaced in Colombian attack

Indigenous communities near Panama border targeted by paramilitary group

PAYA, Darien - Approximately 400 indigenous adults and 200 children from various communities were forced from their home after a Jan. 18 attack on the province of the Darien, on the Colombia-Panama border that left several Natives dead.

The Autonomous Defense Units of Colombia (AUC) paramilitary group attacked the villages of Paya and Pucuro. Reports claim that after the attack, only 50 residents remained in Paya. Leaders of the Kuna Paya village, Mayor Ernesto Ayalya, Second Mayor, San Pascual Ayala, and Village commissioner Luis Enrique Marinez were brutally assassinated. In addition, Gilberto Vasquez, mayor of Pucuro was found dead inside his home with a bullet in the back of his head. According to witnesses, the other bodies were found butchered by machetes with bullets to the head in the distant mountains, unable to be returned to the paramilitary- guarded village.

The assassinated men were medicine men, holders of the oral history of their people and the leaders of the Paya and Pucuro communities.

Reports state the attack also included the burning of houses and looting of food and other valuables. Local trucks were loaded with explosives and land mines planted so village members could not follow the group.

Many of the displaced village members are seeking refuge in Boca Cupe, and awaiting assistance from Panamanian authorities.

The AUC has been designated as a foreign terrorist organization by the U.S. State Department. The leaders of the group have been charged with trafficking more than 17 tons of cocaine into the United States and Europe since 1997.

The community of Paya is located approximately two hours from the Colombian border in the mountains of Pinogana. More than 530 indigenous residents are said to reside there.

Following is an official statement from the Indigenous Movement of Panama on the vicious attacks and the war against Indigenous peoples.

An open letter

Dear brothers and sisters from various organizations and communities of the world that fight against violence, against war, and against hunger-today, we wish to mobilize against the war on indigenous peoples.

On Saturday the 18th of January four Indigenous Kuna leaders, were violently tortured and assassinated by the Autonomous Defense Units of Colombia (AUC). These indigenous spiritual leaders are medicine men that hold the principal knowledge of our oral history, poets of truth, knowledgeable in medicine, the holders of our cultural heritage, the soul of our community, and are the maximum authority of the Paya and Pucuro communities. Four pillars of our community have been killed, if we compare this to western culture it is to say that our library of congress, our chief justice of magistracy, our minister of culture, our Nobel Peace Prize winners were killed.

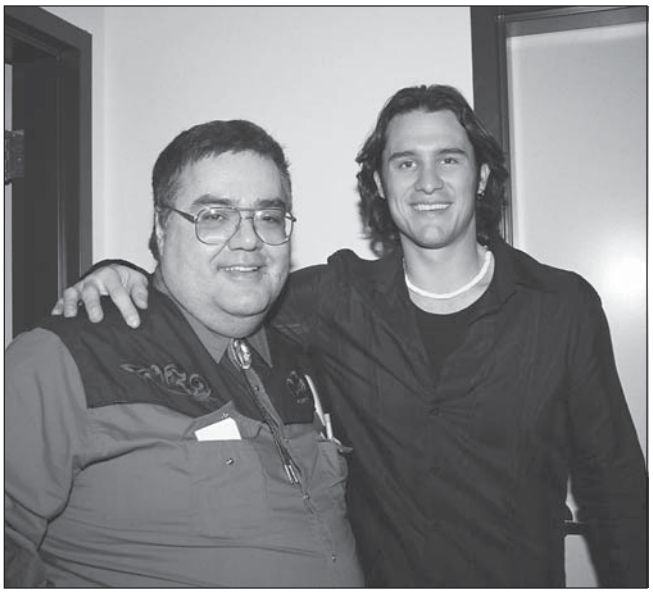
In the past years paramilitaries have assassinated indigenous teachers in Panama and an Embera Indigenous child Maria Mecha Tocamo. In February, 50 Colombian insurgents tore apart the Paya Community, closed in the community, asked for the indigenous authorities to present themselves and then took them outside the community to torture them, and slash their throats.

Upon hearing the various detonations from the Paya community the paramilitaries fled leaving the Pucuro community in flames. This was all confirmed by the only survivor, who followed the paramilitaries for one hour, his throat slashed and his stomach openly bleeding, to solicit help from the Pucuro community.

Not stopping at the assassinations of the Indigenous authorities, the AUC, planted land mines surrounding the community to prevent the Kuna to leave. They took all of the food from the only food warehouse that existed in the community and threatened the population for supposedly collaborating with the guerrilla Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC).

Since 1964 through 1998 there was a Cartel of the Armed Forces of Panama that safeguarded the lives of

continued on next page



Happy fan

Cabazon Tribal Member Bruce James, right, takes time to visit with Country and Western performer Joe Nichols before a recent performance at the Cabazon's Fantasy Springs Casino. Bruce, son of Cabazon Chairman John A. James, is a longtime country music fan and student of line dancing who keeps his calendar open for all of the casino's Country and Western events. Nichols is a rising star in country music, James says, and a performer of traditional, Grand Ole Opry-style music.

Colombian attack...

continued from previous page

the Paya and Pucuro residents, but since then, although the indigenous authorities have solicited support from the police forces of Panama, they have been denied support to defend the borders in the Darien.

Now there are more than 700 people displaced, of the Paya and Pucuro Communities, the majority children, who are seeking refuge in Boca Cupe, and waiting for the Panamanian authorities to provide security for the area. Not even one of the community members is prepared to abandon their ancestral lands.

As Kuna, we have lived more than 100 years on these lands, and now there is an intention to destroy the peace of our indigenous communities, selectively assassinating Colombian and Panamanian indigenous leaders. It is because of this that we are opposed and against the imposition of the FTAA, the Plan Puebla Panama, Andean Plan, and Plan Colombia that are policies to exterminate the communities of the Americas, to expropriate indigenous territories, our collective knowledge, oil, water, land and our cultural and biological heritage.

Tribal leaders discuss benefits of Indian gaming at NIGA Legislative Summit

Washington, DC – The National Indian Gaming Association (NIGA) hosted a two-day Legislative Summit Feb. 13, at the Russell Senate Office Building in Washington, D.C.

Some 150 tribal leaders, including Cabazon representatives, gathered to hear from more than 35 members of Congress and federal officials who spoke.

Federal officials in attendance were: White House Director of Intergovernmental Affairs Ruben Barrales; BIA Acting Assistant Secretary Aurene Martin; and NIGC Chairman Phil Hogan and Commissioners Nelson Westrin and Chuck Choney; Representatives Kennedy (D-RI), Abercrombie (D-HI), Pallone (D-NJ), Pomeroy (D-ND), Rahall (D-WY), Taylor (R-NC), Hayworth (R-AZ), Renzi (R-AZ), Kind (D-WI), Issa (D-CA), Camp (R-MI), Grijalva (D-AZ), Weller (R-IL), Crane (R-IL), Kildee (D-MI), McCollum (D-MN), Nethercutt (R-WA), McDermott (D-WA), Inslee (D-WA), Baca (D-CA), Ney (R-OH), Waters (D-CA), Senators Dorgan (D-ND), Campbell (R-CO), Inouye (D-HI), Akaka (D-HI), Dodd (D-CT), Johnson (D-SD), and Presidential hopefuls Senator Joe Lieberman (D-CT) and Cong. Richard Gephardt (D-MO).

Ernie Stevens, Jr., NIGA Chairman, opened the summit, saying "This is a timely opportunity to bring decision makers in Washington, DC to tribal leaders from across the country to discuss issues affecting Indian communities. In light of recent media scrutiny, it's important that elected tribal leaders share information of the true impacts of Indian gaming with Congress."

That message resonated throughout the Summit on both sides of the aisle. Tribal leaders shared their views of Indian gaming, and the federal officials responded by lauding the positive impacts that Indian gaming has brought to their states and districts. Congressman Raul Grijalva – a new Member who represents eight tribes in the Phoenix, Ariz., area – brought a PBS camera crew with him and detailed the success that Indian gaming has brought to Tribes in Arizona. "Indian gaming creates 9,500 jobs (in his district), and in 2000 more than 28 million dollars in federal and state payroll taxes were withheld by Indian nations in Arizona," Grijalva said.

Other members touched on specific projects and programs made possible by Indian gaming. Overall, the Summit generated positive discussion of Indian gaming and prepared tribal leaders for the 108th Congress.

Huey Lewis and The News visit with the Cabazons

Below, Cabazon tribal member Virginia Welmas-Nichols, along with her cousin, Wayne Toro.

Tamara Welmas, and friend at right, are all smiles. Below, Cabazon tribal member Brenda Soulliere, her husband Jim to her right, take time for photos with Huey Lewis, center, and friends.

Having some fun, above and at left, Cabazon tribal members Beverly Roosevelt and son David Roosevelt.

At left, Cabazon tribal member San Juanita Callaway Padilla.

The Cabazon Circle

is published monthly by the Cabazon Band of Mission Indians, Indio, California.

Tribal Business Committee
Chairman:
John A. James

First Vice Chairman:
Charles Welmas

Second Vice Chairman:
Marc Benitez

Secretary/Treasurer:
Virginia Welmas-Nichols

Liaison to the General Council:
April Rosales-Palmer

Member-At-Large:
Sheena Franco

Chief Executive Officer:
Mark R. Nichols

Cabazon Circle Editorial Staff
Editor:
Nancy Tarascio

Design and Layout:
Nancy Tarascio

Alfred R. Dooley

Photography:
Johnny R. Gonzalez

Nancy Tarascio

The Cabazon Circle is a newsletter to inform Tribal Members, employees and friends of the current events concerning the Band and the greater interests which bind all Native peoples. If you would appreciate receiving a monthly newsletter, let us know so that we can put you on our mailing list.

Please share your ideas and announcements by calling Dave Martinez at the Tribal Office at (760) 342-2593, ext. 3167.

Please visit our Web Site at http://www.cabazonindians.org

The Cabazon Circle is printed by Coachella Valley Printing Group of Indio, Calif., a business interest of the Cabazon Band of Mission Indians.

Desert Leaders Profile

The Cabazon Band of Mission Indians' weekday television program features newsmakers and issues, with Cabazon CEO Mark Nichols as host. One of our featured guests was Lt. Gov. Cruz Bustamonte.

Cruz M. Bustamante is the eldest of the six children raised by Cruz and Dominga Bustamante in the small Central Valley town of San Joaquin, California. "My mother made sure we understood how to behave," Bustamante says, "and my father taught us the value of hard work as he held down two jobs, sometimes three, to keep us clothed, fed and in school. My wife, Arcelia, and I have followed what we learned from our parents to raise our own three children."

Bustamante went to school, worked in the fields and studied to be a butcher. He dreamed about becoming a doctor. But a summer internship in Washington D.C., working for a congressman, changed the direction of his life. "I was given a stack of letters from constituents, instructed to answer their questions and find solutions to their problems," Bustamante recalls. "As I did the research and fought with federal agencies on behalf of the people back home, I knew I had found my calling. I loved helping to make government work for people. I found out I was a lot better at cutting red tape than I was at cutting meat."

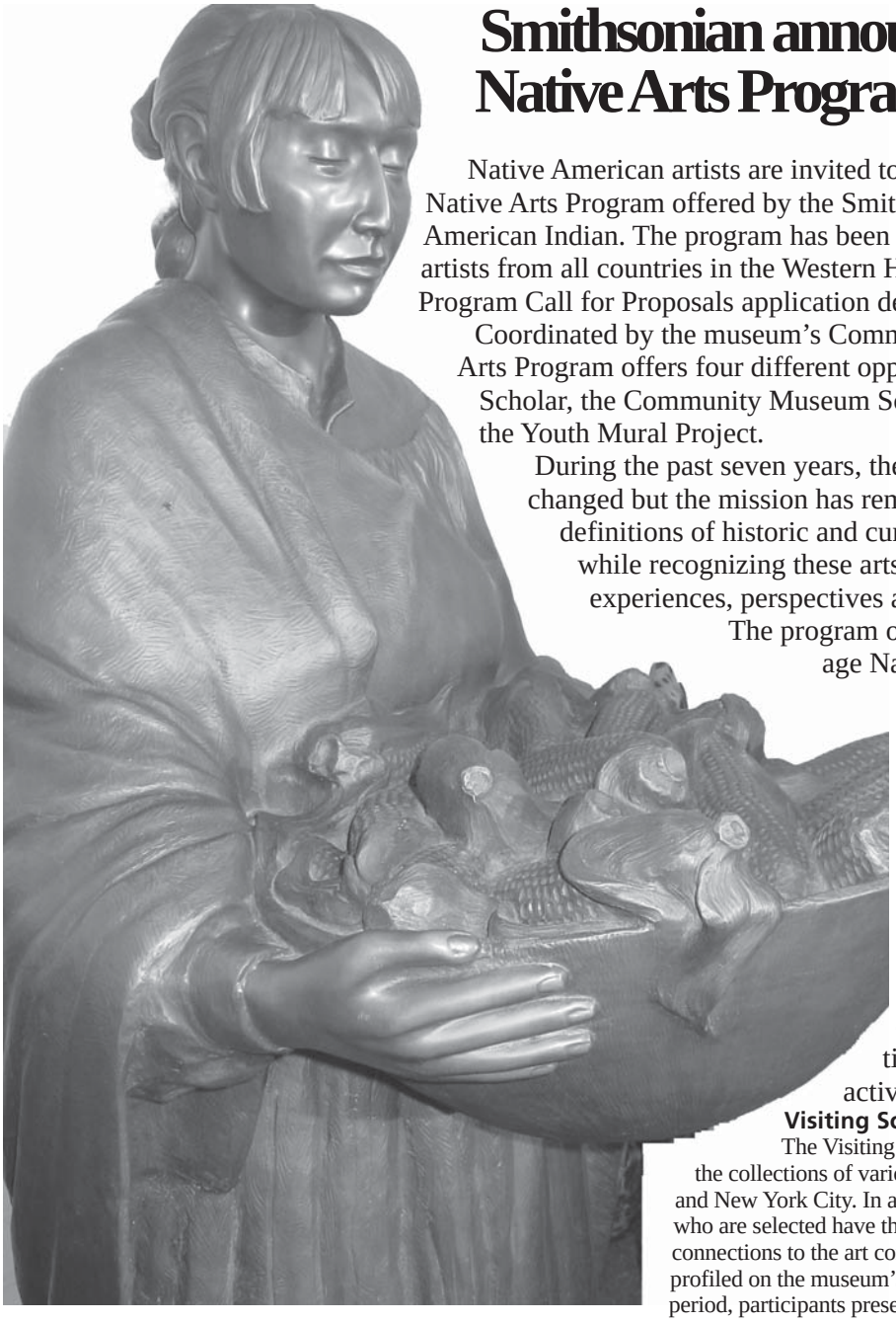
Bustamante's rise from the fields of California's Central Valley to his elections as an Assemblyman, Speaker of the Assembly and then California's Lieutenant Governor was, "the direct result of the lessons I learned about work, honesty and loyalty from my family and my community. I worked hard. I took advantage of opportunity when it came my way. And I benefited immensely from all of those who preceded me in the constant struggle for fairness, equality and opportunity that has allowed working-class kids like me to pursue the American dream."

In the Legislature and the Lieutenant Governor's office, Bustamante has focused on education, the environment, health care and consumer protection issues. He worked with Republicans and Democrats to reduce class sizes in California schools, to enact a $1.7 billion middle-class tax cut, to reform welfare and to lower student fees at state universities and colleges.

Bustamante wrote the law that provided $1 billion to put updated textbooks into California classrooms. When the state's Attorney General refused to participate in the multi-state litigation efforts against tobacco companies, Bustamante wrote the law that forced him to join those cases. While others argued over what to do about the energy crisis, Bustamante sued the energy companies that were gouging California consumers and sponsored legislation to make their activities a crime. As Chair of the State Lands Commission, Bustamante used his authority to shut down an offshore oil operation that threatened California's coast.

His agenda is simple, Bustamante says. Good schools, safe and clean neighborhoods, family-wage jobs, and the opportunity for everyone to make the most of their talents.

"That's not an ethnic agenda.," he says. "That's an American agenda!"



Smithsonian announces the 2004 Native Arts Program call for proposals

Native American artists are invited to apply for opportunities within the Native Arts Program offered by the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian. The program has been expanded this year to include Native artists from all countries in the Western Hemisphere. The 2004 Native Arts Program Call for Proposals application deadline is May 19.

Coordinated by the museum's Community Services Department, the Native Arts Program offers four different opportunities for Native artists: the Visiting Scholar, the Community Museum Scholar, the Community Symposium and the Youth Mural Project.

During the past seven years, the Native Arts Program has grown and changed but the mission has remained the same: to explore various definitions of historic and current trends in Native American art while recognizing these arts as an expression of Native cultural experiences, perspectives and knowledge.

The program offers four unique projects that encourage Native artists to explore various aspects of their artwork, their community and the National Museum of the American Indian. These opportunities promote professional development, research techniques, and new outlets for artistic creativity.

Each of the opportunities within the Native Arts Program carries a stipend, which varies based upon length and type of project, and in some cases also includes hotel accommodations and air travel to and from the activity location.

Visiting Scholar

The Visiting Scholar opportunity gives participants access to the collections of various museums in Washington, D.C., Philadelphia and New York City. In addition to extensive research possibilities, artists who are selected have the opportunity to speak about their art and make connections to the art communities in the cities they visit. Scholars are profiled on the museum's Web site. At the conclusion of the research period, participants present a community project to share their experiences with members of their community.

Community Museum Scholar

The Community Museum Scholar program allows participants to access the collections of local museums or community centers within 100 miles of their home. The artists will have the opportunity to present their work and their experience during the research period at the museum or community center. This two-day program offers a similar experience to the Visiting Scholar, but on a smaller scale and closer to home.

Community Symposium

The Community Symposium is an opportunity for a community to discuss a relevant art related topic. The artist, who proposes the symposium, will outline the project plan and work with local contractors as well as the museum's Community Services Department to create a thought-provoking discussion between traditional and non-traditional artists, local community members and scholars. Information from the symposium will be disseminated to a wide audience through radio broadcasts, publications, and/or the Internet.

Youth Mural Project

The Youth Mural Project encourages collaboration between a working artist and youth in the artist's local community. In collaboration with a local youth organization and the museum's Community Services Department, the artist will develop a design plan, propose a location and work with the children to complete a mural project. The completed mural will be presented or dedicated to the communities by the artist and youth.

For further information, the public may call the Community Services Department of the National Museum of the American Indian, Cultural Resources Center, 4220 Silver Hill Road, Suitland, Md. 20746, (301) 238-6624 ext. 6353; mccrackenm@si.edu; or go to the museum's Web site at www.AmericanIndian.si.edu.

CABAZON TRIBAL PROFILE

Mark T. Deveau

Mark Deveau

Title: Managing Director — Fantasy Springs Development Corporation

What that means: I lead an implementation team of development, design and building experts to bring dreams to realization of creating a destination resort on tribal land for the Cabazon Band of Mission Indians. I manage a comprehensive array of multi-discipline tasks from project pre-development through completion. I plan and direct team activities to ensure that timeline and budget requirements are met while still maintaining the overall project goals and design objectives.

Best Thing About the Job: I honor the greatness in others and I am honored to work on such a prestigious project for the Cabazon Band. I enjoy collaborating with some the most professional and influential people in the industry while focusing most of my energy on positive pursuits that cultivate instinctive talents in others.

Family: Recently relocated from Thousand Oaks and currently residing in Indian Wells with wife, Nancy of 22 years and with daughter, Danielle a 15 year old sophomore attending Palm Desert High School.

Education: B.S. Civil Engineering.

Favorite Book: The Other 90% by Robert Cooper.

Favorite Movie: The Godfather.

Hobbies and Interest: Boating, water sports and camping in the mountains.

Motto: Dwell as near as possible to the channel in which your life flows.

CAHUILLA CORNER
did you know?

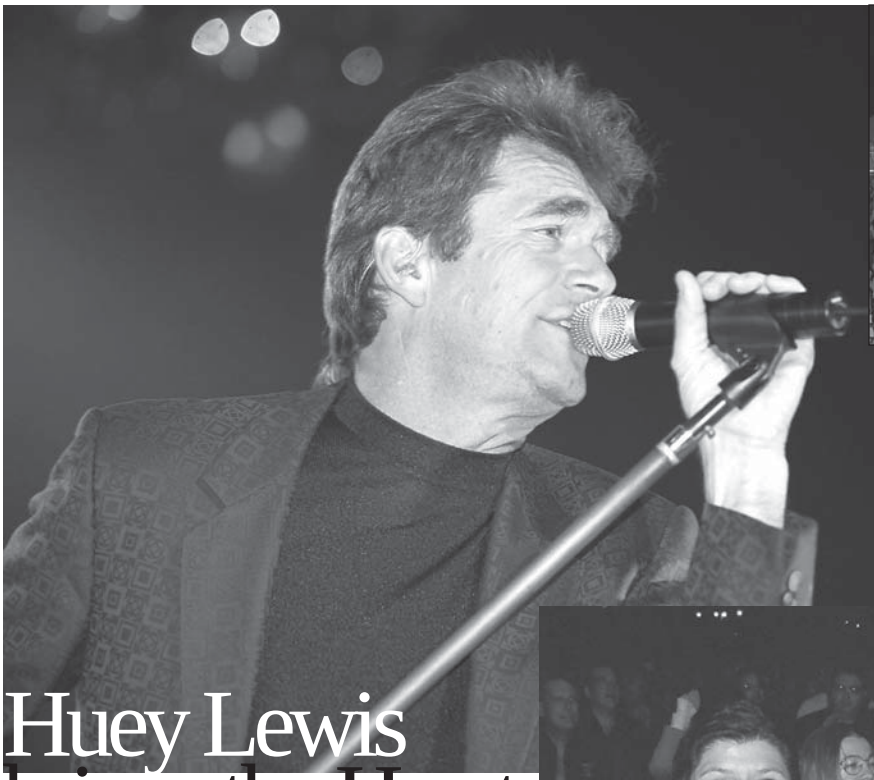
Elaborate ceremonial rites were involved in the hunting of large animals. The Cahuilla regarded four of the largest animals as sacred relatives, the grizzly bear, the jaguar, the mountain lion and the coyote. When a hunter came upon a grizzly bear, he spoke to it with the greatest respect and urged it to go back into the distant mountains and hide so that it would come to no harm.

Gaming fund...
continued from page 4

General Fund dollars, which address the impact of gambling on communities."

The fund, as it is written, is earmarked for reimbursement for state regulatory costs associated with compacts, grants for gambling addiction programs, grants to state and local agencies affected by gaming, payments of shortfalls that may occur in the Revenue Sharing Trust fund, and any other purpose specified by the Legislature.

While the language of the last item appears significantly broad to allow the funds to be used for any purpose, a federal district court has already ruled that all of the funds are intended for use by gaming-related activities.



A warm night, music and fun was the key to a good time at the Huey Lewis concert. For more, see page 16.

Huey Lewis brings the Heart of Rock'nRoll to Fantasy Springs Casino

Cabazon tribal members April Rosales-Palmer and Prairie Martinez can't sit down during February's outdoor concert at the casino.

The Cabazon Circle
The Monthly Newsletter of
The Cabazon Band of Mission Indians
84-245 Indio Springs Parkway
Indio, CA 92203-3499

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PALM DESERT, CA
PERMIT NO. 163