

Mediation OK'd in membership split

By Onell R. Soto
San Diego Union-Tribune

VALLEY, Calif. — A dispute over membership in the San Pasqual Indian band is threatening its government and its operation of the Valley View Casino, which has created hundreds of jobs and earned millions in revenues.

The disagreement has split the tribe into two camps, which the Bureau of Indian Affairs is working to reconcile.

The sides met yesterday with James Fletcher, the BIA's Southern California superintendent, and agreed to mediation, he said.

Without a resolution, Fletcher said he's at a crossroads.

Each side is asking him to recognize it as the true tribal government.

Fletcher said he has three options: recognize one group, the other, or neither. If he chooses neither group, then there is no tribal government. And without a government, the tribe can't run a casino, Fletcher said.

"I just don't know how it's going to come out," Fletcher said last night.

Tribal membership has been a heated issue at San Pasqual for years. But last month, about 50 members of the 300-member tribe were told they were suspended because an anthropological study had determined an ancestor was adopted; as a result, they weren't really Indians.

The tribe is denying them tribal benefits, which include monthly casino-profit payments of nearly \$4,000 each and, for some, housing and jobs.

On Sunday, the day of the tribe's quarterly general meeting, two meetings were held.

One was in a tent on the Valley Center reservation and called by the tribal chairman. The other was in an Escondido meeting hall, called by the tribe's vice chairman and attended by people whose ancestry is being challenged.

People who attended the meetings said each had the appropriate quorum of the tribe's adult members.

Tribal Chairman Allen Lawson said he doesn't want to talk about the issue publicly. Joe Navarro, who heads the tribal corporation that runs the casino, also declined to comment.

In a letter to members last week, the tribe's Enrollment Committee said, "There is no connection between the enrollment action and the casino operation."

The National Indian Gaming Commission is keeping tabs on the dispute.

"There has to be a functioning government in place," said Eric Schalansky, the commission's Sacramento-based regional director.

And that's on top of the other issue Fletcher flagged to the gaming commission last month — that the tribe has no provision for suspending members, and cutting off payments could be a violation of its plans for distributing gambling profits.

"There are a lot of questions about what they're doing and how they're doing it," Schalansky said.

Schalansky said he's working with Fletcher to decide what to do, and that it would take days, if not weeks, to analyze the ramifications of the tribal situation.

The tribal membership issue dates to at least the 1990s, when tribal leadership objected to inclusion on the tribe's rolls of the descendants of Marcus Alto Sr., who died in 1988.

In 1995, the head of the BIA ruled that Alto was a San Pasqual Indian and his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren had enough Indian ancestry — "blood of the band" as it's known.

Last year, tribal member Ron Mast challenged their membership to the tribe's Enrollment Committee. Mast said he found additional information that proved Alto was adopted and not Indian.

The committee hired an anthropologist who put together a book-length report that criticized the BIA's handling of the matter in the 1990s.

Prescott Indian Art Market was big success

By Stan Bindell
For the Independent

PRESCOTT, Airz. — Keith Smith from Tuba City was the featured artist at the 11th annual Prescott Indian Art Market at Sharlot Hall Museum July 12-13. Smith's oil painting of "Yei with stripped blanket" was put on a t-shirt promoting the art market and sold throughout the market.

Smith, who is Navajo, said it was awesome getting selected as featured artist because he got his booth for free and a lot of free publicity. He painted the winner as part of a series of Navajos wearing blankets.

"Blankets mean warmth, comfort and security," he said. "The yei represents deities only during the winter that are used for healing ceremonies. It helps get people back in harmony."

Smith, who graduated from Tuba City High School and later taught art there, took ten days to complete this painting and it is on sale for \$2,000.

He earned a Bachelor in Fine Arts from Northern Arizona University, has won awards at Santa Fe Indian Market, Heard Museum and other key shows, but he is more concerned about what he can do to help aspiring youth artists.

Smith, along with renowned artist Baje Whitethorne Sr. and a handful of other artists, have formed the Southwest Indian Foundation in Gallup. This organization gives away \$25,000 for art scholarships to youth. The artists involved give 25 percent of their proceeds toward the scholarships. The artists don't have to be native. The aspiring youth artists are awarded \$1,000 for themselves and \$1,000 for the high school they are attending.

In the amphitheater, Moontee Sinquah from Hopi served as the master of ceremonies as there were performances by flutist Alex Maldonado with Melissa Maldonado on vocals and Nick Maldonado on percussion, flutist Adrian Wall, Dwight Bucher on percussion, and Scott and Sampson Sinquah performing American Indian dance and song all provided the entertainment.

There were demonstrations by Leora Kayquaptewa, Jessica Lomatewama and Joyce Saukie for basket weaving; Nanabah Aragon for rug weaving; Ernie Lister for silversmithing; Jerry Honawa and Ramson Lomatewama for katsina carving; Rex Pooyouma and Gene Pooyouma for moccasin making; George and Donna Bennett for immediate custom alterations; and Todd and Angie Westika for Zuni fetish carving, and David Morris displaying his rock art.

Benson Manygoats repeated as the Best of Show winner and first place jewelry winner for the second straight year. He received Best of



Associated Press

Benson Manygoats repeated as Best of Show again this year. His bear necklace won him the top award.

Show for a Shush (Bear) necklace made out of coral.

Manygoats said he found artistic inspiration from his grandmother, the late Betty Manygoats, who was a weaver.

Manygoats, a Navajo from Tohatchi, also creates rings and bracelets, usually made from silver and gold. His wife Brenda said that Manygoats is meticulous about his work.

"I'll think a piece is perfect, but it's not done until he says it's done," she said.

Brenda added that two of their children, 15-year-old Courtney and 13-year-old Cody, are pursuing art and entering youth art contests with encouragement from their dad.

Manygoats learned his silversmithing trade as an apprentice for artist Roy Tracy in Gallup.

"I'm the first in the family to do jewelry," he said.

Manygoats is also a sheepherder who is proud that he speaks fluent Navajo.

Manygoats has won dozens of awards from shows in Dallas, Denver and the

Museum of Northern Arizona, but emphasized that he was honored to win here.

For more information, write Manygoats at P.O. Box 3977, Gallup, N.M., 87305.

Buddy Tubinaghtewa took second place in sculpture and carving for his long-haired katsina. He said he listens to his wife Valerie's comments and uses that to produce his art.

"I have no complaints about taking second because I came in with no expectations," he said.

The long-haired katsina is selling for \$1,800, and his katsina is featured in the July issue of "Homes and Gardens" magazine. He is also working on a art project for Native American Code Talkers including the lone remaining Hopi Code Talker.

Tubinaghtewa, who is Hopi, started a career in bill collecting and had his company's best return rate until he was asked 16 years ago to give a katsina demonstration at the Heard Museum. It was such a success that he decided to go into art. He also paints

and has won awards from the Heard Museum and Museum of Northern Arizona.

Tubinaghtewa said he is happy with his decision because he has made more money through his art.

"I just learned from watching my brothers, father and grandfather," he said.

Tubinaghtewa was raised in Phoenix and Sipaulovi. He graduated from East Carbon High School in Utah before majoring in graphic arts at Utah Technical College.

For more information about Tubinaghtewa, telephone 602-980-3370.

Barbara Gonzales, who hails from San Ildefonso Pueblo in New Mexico, took first and second place in the pottery division. The first place was called "Feathers and Wings" because it has two butterflies and two birds. It is an enclosed pot with lucky swish noise inside. The inside holds coral, turquoise, heishe and silverbeads that come together to make a swishing noise. She uses a spider as her logo on every pot that

she makes.

The second place pottery is a traditional pot showing artistic feathers.

Gonzales is the great-granddaughter of Maria Martinez, a renowned San Ildefonso Pueblo potter.

Gonzales, like her great-grandmother, is known for black pottery. She uses black, red and polychrome bowls. She has been making pottery for more than 35 years to honor her heritage. She constantly lectures at museums and cultural events throughout the country.

Her husband Robert assists with firing the pottery as well as gathering the raw materials. Robert creates animal figurines in clay. Their four children and grandchildren are also involved in their native art.

For more information about Gonzales, telephone 505-455-7132 or visit www.sunbeamindianarts.com

Randy Keedah, a Navajo from Steamboat on the Navajo Nation in Arizona, won third place in the two dimensional art.

Keedah, who is self-taught, won the first place two-dimensional prize the last two years at the Prescott Indian Art Market.

While Keedah's paintings can sell for thousands, he also sells eight by tens for \$65. Keedah loves the Prescott Indian Art Market.

"I make more money here. They love my art and they're not afraid to spend money," he said.

Keedah has won awards at the Gallup Intertribal Ceremonial and the Navajo Nation Fair. He has also won awards off the reservation such as Best of Class at the Wyoming Indian Art Market. His paintings have been purchased by New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson and U.S. Rep. Jim Kolbe. He has a painting of Miss Navajo hanging in Navajo Nation President Joe Shirley's office. He donated a painting for the Window Rock veterans and has several murals on the reservation.

For more information, log onto www.keedahsart.com or telephone 520-682-7796.

Larry Chino, who hails from Acoma Pueblo, took third place.

Chino learned his craft from his grandmother Mamie Torivio, his mother Myrna and his sister Debra.

Apparently, Chino stays ahead of the competition as his pottery is displayed at the Smithsonian Museum and his pottery has been published in three books.

Born and raised in Acoma, he graduated from Grants High School before earning a welding certificate from TVI. His jobs as a welder and a pipefitter taught him precision which he uses in his art work.

His work can be found at the Double-6 Gallery in Grants.

For more information, telephone Chino at 505-270-5978.

Noted powwow set this weekend

By Clifton Adcock
Tulsa World

TULSA, Okla. — One of the state's premier American Indian celebrations, featuring celebrities and traditional ceremonies, will take place this weekend at the Tulsa Convention Center.

The 56th annual Tulsa Pow Wow, organized by the Tulsa Indian Club, is scheduled to begin at 10 a.m. Friday and run through Sunday night.

Events will include an appearance by Irene Bedard, an actress whose most famous role has been as the voice of Disney's Pocahontas; a performance by the American Indian rap trio Jaska Kings; arts-and-crafts booths; and drum and dance contests.

This year's Tulsa Pow Wow Princess Brittany Hill of Tulsa said she has been attending the powwow since she was very young. She added that she enjoys the way

the community comes together during the event.

"Everything is memorable," she said. "I look forward to making new friends this coming weekend and meeting a lot of people."

Hill will be crowned at the powwow.

Louis Gray, a board member of the Indian Club, said the origins of the Tulsa Pow Wow and the club date to 1947, when a small group of area tribal members started meeting in one another's homes and having small backyard powwows in Tulsa.

The group founded the Tulsa Indian

Club in 1952 and then began to organize larger events designed to continue the cultural practices of the tribes in northeastern Oklahoma.

The club's focus is to showcase prominent individuals, tribal representatives, military veterans and children.

The club hopes that this year's powwow will help revitalize the event. It appears that this year's will be the biggest one in some time, Gray said.

"I think we're going to come roaring back, to where we're going to have an excellent powwow," he said.

The powwow is not just for one tribe, Gray said, "it's for all Indians."

Participants will include members of tribes ranging from Cheyenne, Kiowa Comanche and Lakota to Cherokee and Creek.

The powwow not only serves as a connection to tribal cultural practices but as a sort of homecoming for American Indians in the Tulsa area, Gray said.

"It's a way to connect with traditions in a good, clean way," he said. "It's a place to dance, eat and share memories. That's what the Tulsa Pow Wow is to me."

State reaches lottery deal with Nez Perce

LEWISTON, ID. (AP)

— A new gaming compact between the state and leaders of the Nez Perce Tribe should clear the return of the Idaho Lottery games to more than a dozen northern communities.

Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter and Nez Perce Tribal Chairman Samuel Penney signed a Class III gaming compact during a ceremony Wednesday. The agreement must also needs the signature of U.S. Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne.

The compact allows the sale of Idaho Lottery games in Kooskia, Kamiah, Craigmont, Orofino and several other towns in the region.

Lottery games have been banned in those communities since 1994 when a federal judge ruled a formal compact was required to sell the games on tribal lands.

Otter says the deal represents the growing cooperation between the state and Nez Perce Tribe.