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2009 Issue 2

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GRAND OPENING OF NEW JAIL ADDITION ON NOV. 10

On September 21st, 2008 the Tohono O'odham Nation broke ground on an Adult and Juvenile Corrections Facility addition funded by the Department of Justice with supplemental funding coming from the BIA Facilities Management and the Papago Agency. The project is a partnership with the Executive and Judicial Branch of the Tohono O'odham Nation.

The new facility is to help address the overcrowding condition of the current jail. It has added 25,000 square feet around the existing facility that incorporates an eight-bed juvenile dormitory and juvenile classroom. Some security improvements were also made to the juvenile recreation yard.

The facility received a "substantial completion" inspection on the 22nd of September 2009, one year after ground breaking. Many tours have been conducted from various Tohono O'odham Nation departments and personnel who helped make the project possible. This includes the Executive Office, Grants and Contracts, and the Legislative Council.

On September 26th and 27th the Corrections Facility hosted an open house for the community. More than 60 visitors toured the facility. The project concluded with a final inspection by the BIA in early October.





Head Start Expansion is

UNDERWAY

Dozens of children are now in school thanks in part to the hard work of the Department of Education. On September 8th, two new Head Start centers opened on the Tohono O'odham Nation; one opened at the Pisinemo Center and the second at the Santa Rosa Center.

The expansion of the Head Start program is giving children the opportunity to attend school for the very first time. Enrollment at the two new centers has increased by 28; that means nearly 70 children can now attend those programs.

Additional Head Start programs are in the works. The San Xavier, Sells, and San Lucy districts will soon see expansions in their areas as well.

The Head Start classroom in San Xavier is scheduled to be ready by early November, while in Sells the current Head Start building is currently being demolished to make room for a new building that will double the amount of slots and services offered to Head Start and child care families in the area.

The San Lucy District will be working with the First Things First Tohono O'odham Nation Regional Council to use allocated funds to open their own early learning childhood center. That funding is available due to the work of the Executive Office and the Legislative Council; a total of \$2 million was appropriated for programs such as these.

The expansion of the Head Start program and related education programs is of a direct result of the collaboration of the Department of Education, Head Start staff, parents of the students, the Legislative Council, and the Executive Office. For information on the Head Start program, please contact the Education Department at (520) 383-8750.





The Magdalena Pilgrimage

In My Own Words: Bernard Siquieros

The religious pilgrimage to Magdalena (Mali:na), Mexico in late September to October 4th is an annual event I have been fortunate to witness and photo document since 2003.

In late September of 2003 a co-worker and I traveled into Mexico to meet up with a relatively large group of "walkers" scheduled to arrive in Mali:na on October 3rd, the day before the actual celebration of the Feast of Saint Francis. This particular group had gathered at the very old O'odham village of Ce:dagi Wawai, caravanned to Tubutama, Mexico and were walking the remaining 45 miles to Mali:na.

On the drive to meet up with the "walkers" I thought about the many O'odham that had previously made this same journey. Many walked, as this group was doing but in smaller numbers, others caravanned in covered wagons, and still others rode horses and mules to get to their destination to pay homage to Saint Francis.

We met up with the group of approximately 75 "walkers" in mid-day as they rested in the shade of large mesquite trees along a sandy wash. As I meandered through the group shaking hands and offering words of encouragement, I sensed from each individual an aura of spiritual strength, dedication, and devotion to personal commitments that had inspired them to make this journey. I gained a deep sense of respect for these "walkers" because of the courage and commitment they exemplified.

Upon their arrival into Mali:na, and to the Templo De San Francisco Xavier, the "walkers" were greeted with hugs and kisses from loved ones, handshakes and pats on the back from friends and acquaintances, and applause from the general public.

Amidst all of this happiness, I could not help but notice the look of pride of accomplishment and a sense of satisfaction on the faces of those that had walked. Pride and satisfaction in knowing that they had fulfilled and lived-up their individual commitments as O'odham have done for many years and will continue to do in the future.



Spotlight:

YOUTH IN ACTION

Tohono O'odham Nation youth have the opportunity to participate in various groups and programs where they can explore areas that are of interest to them and mature into young adults where they help their community. Below are some programs that Nation youth can be a part of.

• Miss Tohono O'odham Nation:

Youth girls are encouraged to participate in the Miss Tohono O'odham Nation pageant, which is held annually. Contestants must turn in all necessary paperwork and complete the requirements; this includes an entry form, an essay, a copy of an enrollment card, and pictures. The title holder spends the following year representing the Nation by participating in various events.

• One Stop Division:

Tohono O'odham Nation youth can experience different work trainings and leadership programs. Some examples of what the One Stop Division offers includes: an intensive internship program, youth leadership training, the 19 Tribal Nations Youth Advisory Camp, and survival skills workshops.

• Recreation Center Activities/Programs:

Tohono O'odham Nation can participate in a variety of sporting and special interest activities at any one of the recreation centers. This includes basketball, baseball, football, ceramics and glass arts programs, scrapbooking, guitar class, cooking class, and yoga.

• Tohono O'odham Nation Knowledge Bowl:

Students in 9th to 12th grade can compete in the Tohono O'odham Nation Knowledge Bowl, which tests students' knowledge of books and movies pertaining to Native American culture. Winners will be awarded an all-expense paid trip to the American Indian Higher Education Consortium Conference to witness the 52 tribal colleges compete in the College Level Knowledge Bowl Competition. Annual competition is in early spring.



• Tohono O'odham Nation Spelling Bee:

Students in 2nd to 8th grade can participate in school-sponsored spelling bees, where the winners will move on to compete in the Tohono O'odham Nation Spelling Bee. This contest awards students as well as schools for their efforts in acquisition of the English language, as well as revitalizing the O'odham language. Annual competition is in early spring.

• Tohono O'odham Youth Council:

The Youth Council, established in 1988, has a mission of focusing on cultural awareness, educational advancement, self-esteem, social and personal development, and advancing the communication among youth of the Nation. The Council is involved in many efforts year around, such as get out the vote activities, raising awareness of health issues, and working with Elders to promote the Nation's language.





'odham Serving O'odham

"There are so many young people with great talents. Don't let it go to waste. Anything is possible!"

On October 10, 2009, Earleen Patricio ended her reign as Miss Indian Arizona after a year of service. The 20-year-old from the Choulic Community in the Baboquivari District spent her time as Miss Indian Arizona traveling throughout the country, representing not only the Tohono O'odham Nation, but all tribal Nations in Arizona.

Earleen's focus as Miss Indian Arizona was to empower young women. One way she did this was by meeting with her peers and sharing her own experiences, as a way to encourage them to take a stand for what they believe in and to recognize their limitless capabilities.

As Miss Indian Arizona, Earleen was able to explore new ideas and issues, helping her mature and grow into a stronger young woman. She said, "I have learned so much from many wise elders. One thing that I use most often wherever I am at is being comfortable in my own skin, no matter what situation I am put in."

One of Earleen's favorite parts of being Miss Indian Arizona was meeting new people and building friendships. Not only has she impacted the lives of other young tribal members, but she has made lasting relationships. She said, "It has been an amazing journey and I will cherish all the memories for the rest of my life."

Becoming Miss Indian Arizona was not Earleen's first title and it most likely will not be her last. She first got her start in pageants in 2005 when she became Miss Tohono O'odham Nation Rodeo Queen. Later, in 2008, she won Miss Tohono O'odham Nation. Next up will be to compete for Miss Indian World.



First on her list, however, is to finish college. Earleen is currently attending ITT Technical Institute studying information technology and computer networking systems where she holds a 4.0 GPA.

For those who one day would like to be Miss Indian Arizona, Earleen's advice is clear: "Set your goals high and work hard at it until you accomplish them. Challenge yourself to great aspects and learn from your mistakes. Never let anything stop you!"

Fiber is your friend!

Why? High fiber foods like fruits, vegetables, whole grain, seeds, and nuts provide many benefits when it comes to weight control:

- They are "nutrient dense" which means they give the most nutrition for the least amount of calories.
- They fill you up and keep you from getting hungry quickly.
- They are often crunchy, which satisfies the need to munch and chew.
- Fruits and vegetables contain lots of water and can help you get the liquids you need. (Sometimes we eat, thinking we're hungry, when we're really just thirsty!)

To get the most fiber, eat the skins on fruits and potatoes, and eat whole fruits and vegetables instead of drinking juice.

For more health tips and questions contact the Department of Health and Human Services at (520) 383-6000 weekdays from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.



Domestic Violence Program

Domestic Violence Program Services

- Personal Advocacy
- Crisis Intervention
- Domestic Violence Education
- Safety Planning
- Lay Legal Advocacy
- Court Accompaniment
- Order of Protection/Restraining Orders
- Referrals
- Safe Home Services
- Group Presentations/ Workshops
- Tohono O'odham Detention Center – Female Inmate Class
- Support Groups
- Community Education and Outreach on Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Teen Dating, and Stalking



For information on the services provided by the Domestic Violence Program, please call (520) 383-6200.

The Tohono O'odham Nation's Domestic Violence Program is working overtime to protect and educate tribal members. Victim service programs are currently being strengthened while a multijurisdictional approach is being used to reduce the number of criminal cases. Law enforcement personnel are being trained to identify and respond to violent crimes and court orders and orders of protection are improving. The program also operates a Safe House Shelter for victims of domestic violence, providing women the opportunity to leave a dangerous situation.

Victims of domestic violence were recently honored for their bravery and strength at Desert Diamond Casino-Hotel on September 24th. In addition to the recognition luncheon, several vigils were scheduled to remember all victims. The vigils were held in the Sif Oidak District, the San Xavier District, and the San Lucy District.



Possible Signs of Domestic Violence:

- Obvious injuries such as bruises, black eyes, broken bones and hearing loss, often attributed to "falls," "being clumsy," or "accidents."
- Clothing that is inappropriate for the season, such as long sleeves and turtlenecks, as well as wearing sunglasses and heavy makeup.
- Uncharacteristic absenteeism or lateness for work.
- Change in job performance, including poor concentration, errors, slowness, and inconsistent work quality.
- Uncharacteristic signs of anxiety and fear.
- Isolation, unusual quietness, or keeping away from others.
- Emotional distress, tearfulness, depression, and suicidal thoughts.
- Minimization and denial of harassment or injuries.
- Sensitivity about home life or hints of trouble at home.

Information from www.loveisnotabuse.com

NATION RECEIVES GRANTS TO COMBAT SEXUAL ABUSE

The Tohono O'odham Nation's Office of the Prosecutor and the Department of Public Safety was successful in securing funding under the Recovery Act Grants to Indian Tribal Governments. This \$900,000 grant was approved in late September by the Tribal Unit within the Office on Violence Against Women under the Department of Justice.

The Tohono O'odham Nation is the only tribe in Arizona to be awarded funds under this program. The funds will cover all aspects of prosecution, such as investigating, researching, analyzing cases, data collection, and education.

Specifically, this grant will allow the Nation to:

1. Combat the underreported and growing problem of sexual abuse on Indian Nations, specifically here on the Nation
2. Create three professional law enforcement positions
3. Create more jobs within the framework of the stimulus funding that will directly address the goals of the Recovery Act

The Tohono O'odham Nation received a related grant—also \$900,000—that was awarded to the Department of Health and Human Services. Both grants will be used together to create an unprecedented task force to combat the epidemic of sexual abuse. The goal is to address the contributing factors, the unreported cases, and the aftermath of sexual abuse, targeting this issue on all fronts.

If you or someone you know is being sexually abused, please contact authorities immediately!

Photo Identification Night



On September 17th, tribal members were invited to Himdag Ki: Hekihu, Hemu, Im B I-Ha'ap to review historical pictures in hopes of identifying family members. The Museum collaborated with Kitt Peak for the event, where approximately 70 photos were displayed dating as far back as the early 1900s, and included photos of tribal members helping construct Kitt Peak. In addition to viewing the pictures, the public was invited outside to view the night sky through telescopes provided by Kitt Peak.

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Community Calendar

November 21

Miss Gu-Vo Cek:san Pageant

Location: Gu-Vo District Office Compound

Time: 9:00 am

November 21

12-Mile Run, Relay Run, and Fun Run

Location: Himdag Ki: Hekihu, Hemu, Im B I-Ha'ap

Time: 9:00 am

November 26-27

Thanksgiving – Executive Office closed

November 28

All-Indian Jr. Rodeo Series

Location: San Xavier Co-op Farm

Time: 10:00 am

December 19

Miss Tohono O'odham Nation Pageant

Location: Desert Diamond Casino

Time: 12:30 pm

December 26

All-Indian Jr. Rodeo Series

Location: Eugene P. Tashquinth Livestock Complex

Time: 10:00 am

December 28-31

Tohono O'odham Youth Gathering of Native Americans

Location: Tohono O'odham High School

If there are upcoming events that you would like included in the Community Calendar, please provide the information to Brenda Cruz at (520) 383-2028 or at brenda.cruz@tonation-nsn.gov

Tohono O'odham Nation

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