

HIGHLAND Community News

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PHOTO COURTESY OF OFFICE OF ASSEMBLYMAN JAMES RAMOS

Assemblyman James Ramos leads San Manuel tribal members in Serrano bird singing and dancing at the 20th annual Native American Day celebration.

20th Native American Day celebrated

By **JASON MILLER**
REPORTER

HIGHLAND COMMUNITY NEWS

The San Manuel Band of Mission Indians held its 20th annual California Native American Day this past Friday, Sept. 27, wrapping up its week long California Indian Cultural Awareness Conference at Cal State San Bernardino.

Serving as the master of ceremonies for the event was Assemblyman James Ramos, who had just returned from the state capital in Sacramento where the state's governor had earlier declared it Native American Day. The proclamation also cited an apology Gov. Newsom

made earlier this year that said he "took the initial and necessary step to formally apologize to California Native Americans for the exploitation and violence our predecessors inflicted upon them." And "in doing so, we collectively recognized that California Native Americans have resisted and persisted despite the destructive and shameful actions of our ancestors." The governor is also "creating a Truth and Healing Council" that will help citizens and members of California's tribes to "heal together."

In a letter from The San Manuel Band of Mission Indians dated June 29 the tribe re-

sponded to Gov. Newsom's apology saying in part, "If given the opportunity, the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians will be a proud member of this Truth and Healing Council, and continue to answer to the call of Yawa', a Serrano term meaning "to act on one's beliefs." Yawa' made possible our survival from attempts to exterminate us. Today, Yawa' is the driving force behind our tribe's dedication to connect all who share this land with Native American traditions and history, and we all share in that responsibility."

The aforementioned celebration featured traditional North-

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PHOTO COURTESY OF U.S. MARINE CORPS/LCPL. DATLON SWANBECK

A U.S. Marine Corps Harrier conducts a vertical landing, an ability SBD Fest guests will see demonstrated at this year's air show on Nov. 2-3.

SBIAA discusses plans for SBD Fest, more airlines

By **JASON MILLER**
REPORTER

HIGHLAND COMMUNITY NEWS

The San Bernardino International Airport Authority (SBIAA) set the entertainment and aerial performances lineup and lowered prices for the upcoming SBD Fest air show scheduled for Nov. 2-3.

While meeting Wednesday, Sept. 26, the SBIAA also discussed what kind of business the airport was obtaining as well as the overflow problems, that LAX and Ontario airports have been experiencing recently. Members then expressed that this could be a great oppor-

tunity to bring in more domestic/international flights to the former air-force base now airport for the economic benefit of not only east valley but of San Bernardino County.

Following the discussion a motion was passed to direct "staff to begin actively fulfilling a goal of bringing commercial airlines whether they be domestic or international." and to "actively approach getting personal from customs and border patrol to staff," the airport.

After the motion was passed SBIAA Director of Administrative Services Catherine Pritch-

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Water conservation district closes water year with record recharge

San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District reports stellar year for groundwater storage with 70,000 gallons saved: enough to serve 210,000 families for one year.

Local water basins were filled with record-breaking deposits of snowmelt, rainfall and imported water, with 2018-19 Water Year totals achieving numbers not seen since 1987, the San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District announced Tuesday, Sept. 30.

Totals for the 2018-19 Water Year, which runs annually from Oct. 1 to Sept.

30, reflect numbers not seen since 1987, with 70,000 acre feet — or 22.8 billion gallons — recharged underground.

Recharge totals reflect the amount of snowmelt, rainfall and imported water captured by the district into holding ponds and percolated naturally through silt and sand into the groundwater basin for future use.

SBVWCD General Manager Daniel Cozad attributes the success of this water year to a very wet winter and the establishment in 2018 of a group of local cities and water agencies, known as the Groundwater Council, contributing their fair share of imported State Project wa-

ter for local storage.

The water stored so far this year is enough to serve 210,000 families for an entire year, Cozad said, but it is being saved to help make up for significant overdrafts in the past.

"Our region is blessed with large underground aquifers that can store significant amounts of water for use in times of severe drought," Cozad said. "Thanks to our partner agencies on the Groundwater Council, we have been hit by a double-windfall of heavy precipitation and unprecedented collaboration to store as much water as we can."

The San Bernardino Valley Groundwa-

ter Council is a 21st century model for cooperation, where member agencies pitch in their fair share of water for recharge or contribute money for the purchase of imported water to achieve optimum levels of water storage in the San Bernardino and Bunker Hill groundwater basins.

Participation in the council is open to all groundwater producers in the San Bernardino Basin Area. Current members include East Valley Water District; the cities of Colton, Loma Linda and Rialto; San Bernardino Municipal Water Department; Fontana Water Company;

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