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From the Yaqui Times Staff

Who are we at the Yaqui Times? We are employees who are committed to informing the communities of happenings within the Tribe and community members. We all have our regular jobs, many of those in the Education Department. and take time to put this paper together. We solicit articles from different departments and programs here in Tucson and Guadalupe. We also accept unsolicited articles from community members.

We know our readers extent beyond the Arizona Communities, there are Yaquis living in 48 of the 50 United States and a few have only one registered member. We want to hear from you and hear what is happening in your communities, who you are and how you identify with the Pascua Yaqui Tribe. We also want to ask that some of you take part in the Yaqui Times by reporting on events in your communities, interviewing your elders, and helping us represent all Yaqui Communities.

We would also like to express our excitement of the new format of the Yaqui Times, we are excited because it will allow us to have more content and expand the stories. The Yaqui Times here to celebrate achievements, tell the stories, and show all communities where Yaquis live, work and serve each other. Feedback is needed tell us, what you like or do not like about the issue. Let us know what you would like to know more about, what you want from this paper. Most importantly let us know who you are, because we truly are one Tribe in many communities.

To all that continue to contribute we thank you and appreciate your support. Enjoy and we look forward to hearing from you.

Please email the us @ YaquiTimes@pascuayaqui-nsn.gov



How two ideologies become one

REPORTED BY
DANIEL VEGA

TUCSON, ARIZONA,
2017

As Jesuit missionaries entered Yaqui territory in the early 1600's they establish

Yaqui Lay Priests (Mahtom) to ensure the livelihood of the newly adopted Catholic religion. In addition, they also included roles such as singers,

altar keepers, flag bearers and allowed the merging of both the Yaqui ancestral beliefs and Christianity.

During Lent or Waehma in our language, Yaqui communities from Sonora to Arizona celebrate the Lenten season through the Yaqui Easter ceremonies. The ceremonies begin on Ash Wednesday and continue through

Easter Sunday. One aspect of this ceremony is the Yaqui interpretation of the Catholic Liturgy for the Easter Season.

There are 5 Yaqui societies comprised of men, women, young and old who devote themselves to carrying out the Yaqui rituals of the 40 days of Lent. An example of both indigenous customs merged with Catholicism to create a unique portrayal of the "Passion of Christ".

Growing Community through Ancestral Gardens, Ancestral Diets

REPORTED BY
DANIEL VEGA AND
RAFAEL TAPIA, JR.

TUCSON, ARIZONA, 2017

As spring arrives, The Huya Ania's

breathe of life awakens flowers, herbs and gardens in all places of our community. Through our elder's teachings, we have come to understand all life of the Huya Ania holds a special place in our Hiak Lutu'uria. This message is abundantly clear in some of the endeavors we currently have underway at the Department of Language & Culture. On behalf of the department, I am proud to share with you a few of the projects occurring within our community, and the support and partnership in this effort by Mr. Rafael Tapia, Jr., Vice President of Programs for Partnership With Native Americans (PWNA), a nonprofit project partner and funder.

Two years ago, we began the Huyapo Bwaa'ame Project with the Miss Pascua Yaqui and Ili Nanam Traditional Arts Program. The Project aimed to create an ancestral garden to engage our youth and build on our tribal community knowledge. Our goal to provide participants a better understanding of our relationship to our ancestral foods, the impact of these foods at a holistic level (spiritual, mental, physical and emotional), and the connection of the land to the people and the people to the land was met with great abundance.

Teaching from a Yaqui perspective – including our stories, the knowledge of food, the role of food in the community and its impact on individuals – and sharing the stories and the names of the foods in our Yaqui language is at the heart of our Huyapo Bwaa'ame Project. With continual support from

PWNA, we are preparing to enter into a second phase of the project that will reach even more youth. This second phase consists of tying the Huyapo Bwaa'ame into the Itom Voo'o Lutu'uria, Our Path of Truth outdoor learning area which at completion will consist of gardens, traditional structures, authentic and functioning teaching tools and equipment that will hold a primary focus to engage and instruct our students and community through hands on learning experiences for all ages.

From the initial project, we have provided many programs, presentations and activities which help reinforce the importance of looking within our culture for answers of a healthier way of living. From our Ili Nanam Program harvesting fruits from the garden, to a well-attended community wide festival that celebrated Avai or Corn in November, community members had the opportunity to learn from elders and cultural experts about our ancestral diet and our relationship to the environment.

Of course this could not have been possible without the support and resources of many organizations and tribal departments and programs. One partnership in particular which the Department of Language & Culture is very fortunate to have strengthened is our connection with the Pascua Yaqui Diabetes Prevention & Treatment Program. With the Avai Festival and other programming, our staff has worked together to provide valuable educational opportunities. Activities such as food demonstrations help to motivate our community to incorporate our ancestral diets, ceremony and traditional concepts of wellness in our everyday life. We are thankful to the Pascua Yaqui Diabetes Prevention Pro-

gram for their support and interest in aligning their approach with our Yaqui cultural knowledge.

Another exciting outgrowth of these activities is a video project that will soon come out to our community on April 25, 2017. PWNA was invited to participate in a brief video documentary that will air on PBS (Public Broadcasting Service Television) across the United States and, through our partnership with PWNA, we have been invited to provide insight on the Huyapo Bwaa'ame Project. The program will be filmed by FrontPage Productions and focus on nutrition in tribal communities. We are thankful to the PYT Tribal Council for their support and approval to move forward with the video project, we look forward to the honor of sharing with the entire nation the collective knowledge of the Yaqui People. The video project is a tremendous opportunity to get the word out about our successful projects and to show other communities our approach of including Native nutrition and culture for a more healthy community. The day will include a produce distribution for all Elders of the Pascua Yaqui community, supported by volunteers from the Veterans Program and the Liogue Senior Center. A special nutrition training will be held for participants of the Huyapo Bwaa'ame Project, utilizing PWNA's mobile nutrition unit and led by Dr. Lois Ellen Frank, a Native American Chef and owner of Red Mesa Cuisine, LLC. Dr. Frank will incorporate aspects of healthy nutrition, ancestral diet and food as medicine. The produce distribution and nutrition training will include general filming by FrontPage including an opportunity for Mr. Tapia, Dr. Frank and the Department of Language and Culture to share the great work being done in our community. The FrontPage video special will begin to air and will appear online around June 2017. Please stay tuned for more

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