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## Business

### Community Achievement Awards finalists named

*Saturday, April 30, 2005 9:21 PM PDT*

LAUGHLIN - It took eight local judges almost six hours to review and discuss community-wide nominations for the upcoming Eighth Annual Community Achievement Awards, presented by the Laughlin Chamber of Commerce and Mohave Generating Station each summer. The June 11 event at the Riverside Resort is already sold out.

Just 51 finalists were chosen to receive recognition in 16 categories honoring Bullhead City, Ariz., and Laughlin, Nev., area citizens, agencies and businesses for their endeavors to improve the quality of life along the Colorado River.

"For many years I have been a part of the communities of Bullhead City and Laughlin and have met many people who have helped the area thrive," said CAA Judging Committee Chairperson Tom Griffin. "Yet, I was still taken back by the nominees we reviewed. I am in awe of their accomplishments. It is a wonderful opportunity to meet and recognize so many volunteers and agencies. It renews us all."

"It was amazing to sit with seven others from all sectors and professional backgrounds in the Tri-state area and come to a consensus like we did" said judge Bill Bates of Mohave Community College. "The finalists are truly amazing. It was an enlightening and enjoyable first meeting."

Finalists chosen are:

Tourism Award: Sean Hammond, director of player development and casino events for the Ramada Express; Lorraine Rich, director of Nevada air programs, Harrah's Laughlin; Michael Conner, president and CEO of the Bullhead Area Chamber of Commerce.

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Education Award: Linda Kraft, Bennett Elementary School, Laughlin; Charles Ratliff, Desert Valley Elementary School, Bullhead City; Robert Woolery, River Valley High School, Mohave Valley; Craig Fisher, Mohave High School, Bullhead City.

Educational Program Award: Peer Mediation, Bullhead City Junior High; Smart Moves from the Boys and Girls Club of the Colorado River; Academy of Building Industries, Fort Mojave; Pathways/Crossroads in the Bullhead City Elementary Schools.

Public Service Award: Kolby Kreidel, chaplain, Bullhead City Fire Department; Cheryl Crow, community activist/Laughlin Town Board member, Laughlin; Robert Boerner, former Clark County Coroner investigator, Laughlin; Pamela Klemm, community volunteer, Laughlin.

Civic Service Award: Nora McDowell, chairwoman of the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe; Doug Lutz, public works director, City of Bullhead City; Bill Kesgen, supervisor of Laughlin's Clark County Parks and Community Services; Larry Tunforss, public information officer of the Bullhead City Fire Department.

Humanitarian Award: Cathleen Stubblefield, Bullhead City; Charles Flagge, Bullhead City; Dennis McAvan, Laughlin; Dale Childers, Bullhead City.

Community Service Award: Bullhead City BPOE; Long Family Christmas Can Food Drive; Legacy Foundation; Mohave Valley Contractors Association.

Social Service Award: WestCare Arizona Domestic Violence Services; Colorado River Community Food Bank and Community Clothes Closet; Make A Wish Foundation; Colorado River Region Youth Shelter.

Emergency Services Award: Jon Lindbergh, Clark County Fire Department, Laughlin; Jeff Jackson, Bullhead City Fire Department; Jim Dykens, division chief, Bullhead City Fire Department; William Raftery, trooper, Nevada Highway Patrol.

Communications Award: Thom McGraham, publisher of the Bullhead City/Laughlin Bee newspapers; Kirt Williams of KFLG radio; Denise Gerdes, branch manager of the Laughlin Branch of the Clark County Library; Ruth Padilla, director of business development and marketing, Western Arizona Regional Medical Center.

Citizen of the Year Award: Dale Childers of Albertson's; David Lords of Laughlin Ranch; Lyle Jones of the Planning Group; Bill Kesgen, supervisor of Laughlin's Clark County Parks and Recreation.

Youth Citizen of the Year Award: Evan Purcell, senior, River Valley High School; Nicole Wichman, senior at Laughlin High School; Keith Walsh, senior, Mohave High School; Joe Walsh, senior, Mohave High School.

Small Business of the Year Award: Mid Valley Auto and Towing Center,

Bullhead City; Professional Medical Specialists, Bullhead City; Caffe Delight, Laughlin.

Large Business of the Year Award: Ramada Express Hotel and Casino, Laughlin; Home Depot, Bullhead City, Avi Resort and Casino, Laughlin; Laughlin Ranch, Bullhead City.

Chamber Member of the Year: Bob Manlove, Rotary Club of Laughlin; Donna Treague, First National Bank of Nevada; Les Clavir, Avi Resort and Casino.

Chamber Life Member: Chosen by the Chamber Board of Directors.

All of the nominees are considered winners. Each finalist is filmed for a video production, professionally photographed for the awards program book, given a plaque, wine and accolades during the event.

In the next few weeks, the eight-panel judging committee will review answers to questions about the nominees' achievements, conduct 10-minute interviews with each finalist and select the most influential individuals, organizations and businesses in the community as the best in their fields of endeavor.

Tom Griffin was named last year's citizen of the year and chairs the committee. Griffin is a long-time resident of the Tri-state area working most notably on Don Laughlin's economic development projects. He has also served on dozens of essential committees and task forces. He is a member of several service clubs and organizations on both sides of the river.

Along with Griffin and Bates, other members of the committee are:

Area-newcomer Bill Bates, president of student services at Mohave Community College;

Laughlin Nevada Times General Manager Wells Andrews;

2003 Public Service Award winner Tony Dias, who is also commercial division manager for McCormick Realty;

Rita Brown, co-owner of Apple Construction and a strong community service activist;

Michele Beggs, marketing manager of the Riverside Resort and American Heart Association volunteer;

2004 Spirit of Arizona Award winner Donna McReynolds, who is also co-owner of Don's Furniture;

2004 Emergency Services Award Winner Novelt Mack, Jr. who is also a sergeant with the Nevada Highway Patrol.

The winner in each category will be announced on June 11 at the

Community Achievement Awards in the Starview Showroom of the Riverside Resort. For information, call the Laughlin Chamber of Commerce at (702) 298-2214.

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