



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Montezuma Castle and Tuzigoot
National Monuments
POB 219
Camp Verde, AZ 86322
928-567-5276
fax 928-567-3597

National Park Service News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – DECEMBER 18, 2008
ED CUMMINS, CHIEF RANGER, MOCA/TUZI, 928-567-3322 x27

Cultural Demonstration on tap at Montezuma Castle National Monument

Craftspeople and cultural specialists from the Paipai and Kiliwa tribes of northern Baja California will demonstrate traditional arts and crafts at Montezuma Castle National Monument, Camp Verde, AZ, on Saturday, June 27, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Paipai and Kiliwa are related through language, family connections, and cultural traditions to the Yavapai, Havasupai, and Hualapai of central and northwestern Arizona. These neighbors from northern Mexico will be attending the 11th annual “Gathering of the Pais” in Prescott, Az., June 19 to 22. They will then spend the next week teaching classes in Pai language and culture to members of the Yavapai-Prescott Tribe of Prescott, AZ, the Yavapai-Apache Nation of Camp Verde, AZ, and Ft. McDowell Yavapai Nation of Phoenix, AZ.

Paipai and Kiliwa artists from the mountainous regions of northern Baja California continue to practice many of the Pai’s traditional life ways and on June 27 will be sharing them with the general public, according to Michael Wilken-Robertson, lecturer in American Indian studies at San Diego State University. An anthropologist and ethnographer, Wilken-Robertson has over 30 years experience recording stories, traditions and the language of the Paipai, Kumiai, and Kiliwa people.

Artists will be highlighting the creation of traditional pottery, yucca fiber cordage, and basketry. Several members of the Castro family, internationally known for their skill in ceramics, will be available to discuss pottery manufacturing, from the processing of raw clay to firing the pieces. Interpreters Gerardo Chaves Velaszo and Lorena Boles will assist in translating.

The Paipai’s visit to Montezuma Castle on June 27 is made possible through local tribal grants and support. “We are pleased to offer this demonstration of traditional culture as a way to connect our visitors with the life ways of other cultures”, explained Kathy M. Davis, Superintendent of Montezuma Castle National Monument. “Visitors will be able to appreciate how important the landscape and all its resources have been to indigenous people and why conservation is as relevant today as it was in the past. We extend our appreciation to the Yavapai-Apache Nation, Yavapai-Prescott Tribe, and Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation for their support and funding for this cultural exchange”.

Montezuma Castle, Montezuma Well, and Tuzigoot are open daily, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Memorial Day through Labor Day, and until 5 p.m. the rest of the year. All three units are

closed on Christmas Day. Admission to Montezuma Castle and Tuzigoot is \$5 per adult 16 years and older. Children 15 and under are free. Montezuma Well is free. The Federal Interagency passes—Annual, Senior, and Access—are all accepted at both units and are also available for purchase. For more information on the National Park Service and the monuments, see the websites at www.nps.gov, www.nps.gov/moca, and www.nps.gov/tuzi.

--NPS--