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For immediate release**

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### **Community Achievement Awards Nominations underway!**

LAUGHLIN, NV – It is hard to believe it is time to nominate outstanding individuals, groups and organizations in the Colorado River Region. As the Laughlin Chamber of Commerce accepts nominations for the 2008 Community Achievement Awards program, we would like to encourage you to reflect on the importance of recognizing those that contribute to enrich the quality of our lives we experience in the River communities.

Think about groups such as Oatman Outlaws – the 2006 Spirit of the Colorado River recipients - that continue to raise funds throughout the year from the public by staging an exciting gunfight show at high noon each day in the historic mining town of Oatman on Route 66. The group, headed by Rod “Outlaw Willie” Hall and his wife, Sultana, each year present bikes to less fortunate children as well as help transport children and their families to the Shriners Hospital for Children.

Or consider businesses such as Extreme Mini Rails – the 2007 Spirit of the Colorado River recipients – that continue to donate their services and equipment to raise funds for area organizations such as the Boys & Girls Club, Walk for Life, Rotary Club, Colorado River Leadership and more. Owners Brad and Taune Mays enjoy giving back to the community and look forward to future involvement with the different organizations.

And of course, those individuals such as Debbie Dauenhauer – the 2007 Spirit of Nevada recipient – and executive director of the Southern Nevada Transit Coalition that pushes for the success of programs like senior transportation and stranded travelers. Louise Zaborsky – the 2007 Spirit of Arizona recipient – is committed to all of the groups she belongs and still finds time to participate in new ones when asked. A few examples of the groups Louise helps with are Boom Box Parade, We Care Cancer, Relay for Life, Mohave Community College Foundation, Bullhead Community PRIDE, Women Helping Women, Kiwanis, and on and on.

Don't miss the opportunity to nominate your deserving organization, business or person that makes a difference in the Colorado River Region.

“As the Chamber gears up to accept nominations for the 2008 Community Achievement Awards, please take a few moments to reflect on a person, group or organization that you would like to nominate,” encourages Chamber Executive Director Janet Medina. “Each year we are so impressed by the various nominees and their commitment to the community that at times the room is quite emotional. The event is always spectacular and the perfect venue to recognize

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those quiet heroes who seek only the gratitude found in making a difference in the river city communities. I am hopeful as we begin the nomination process each of you nominates at least one person or group for one category so we can continue to be inspired.”

Nomination forms for the 2008 Community Achievement Awards are available at the Laughlin Chamber of Commerce, 1585 S. Casino Drive, and on the chamber’s website at [www.laughlinchamber.com](http://www.laughlinchamber.com) or at the following locations: Laughlin Government Center, Nevada Power, Laughlin Post Office, 1<sup>st</sup> National Bank (Laughlin), CMA Cablevision, Mohave High School. You may request a faxed form by calling (702) 298-2214. Nominations will be accepted through March 14, 2008.

Categories are as follows:

**Youth Citizen of the Year** - All nominees are expected to meet one or more of the following criteria: Involvement in community service, extracurricular activities or volunteer work; involvement in projects or clubs at school; be a junior or senior with high grades or receipt of other service awards. Overall, the youth exhibits civic pride, volunteerism and a community vision.

**Tourism** - This award is reserved for an individual who has positively impacted the tourism industry in the tri-state. This category includes people who are employed with the hotels, motels, resorts and casinos, or are in the public relations field or the transportation or travel services industries. Special consideration is given to those who have gone above and beyond the duties of their employment and have given time and energy to revitalize our number one industry.

**Educator of the Year** - This award will be given to a teacher employed by one of the local school districts who is not only exceptional and innovative, but can instill a spirit of intellectual curiosity, innovation and competitiveness into today’s students. This person has a real passion for teaching. Success stories welcome!

**Educational Program** - This award will be given to a specific program or project that has been undertaken locally. Unique courses or projects outside of the regular/required curriculum, special projects, education theme enterprises, plays, productions or other innovative programs are eligible for this award. Overall performance and results will be examined.

**Public Service** - This honor is truly deserved in our challenged markets where many local leaders work tirelessly for little or no pay. It is dedicated to individuals on community or civic boards assisting local government agencies making less than \$2,500 annually for their extra efforts. Ad hoc committees, city councils, town boards, planning and zoning commissions, parks and recreation committees, community development, public safety and various other government or non-profit boards offer the candidates for this category.

**Civic Service** - Individuals who are impassioned by bettering the community through employment with a government agency are eligible for this award. This award will honor city or county staff members, department heads or paid elected or appointed positions representing any governing body in the Bullhead City, Laughlin or Mohave Valley areas. Integrity and longevity are considerations.

**Humanitarian** - The person selected for this award is dedicated to community service

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and donates their time, talents and money to not-for-profit organizations. This is usually the toughest category to choose just one winner from. It is a tremendous honor.

**Community Service Organization of the Year** - This award is for a non-profit organization active in our communities. It includes active service organizations and innovative groups making contributions to the less fortunate.

**Social Service Organization of the Year** - This award is for a non-profit organization that is directly providing necessary services for our youth, seniors or less fortunate residents. Consideration should be given to organizations that have been solidly established, have a proven track record and are a valuable resource to the needy in our communities.

**Emergency Services** - This award is probably the most unique and honors law enforcement employees and firefighters in the area. The person selected for this award will have contributed to the safety and welfare of a person, family or our communities as a whole. It will honor someone who has gone above and beyond the call of duty to serve and protect or has made extraordinary contributions to their organization.

**Communications/Public Relations** - This award is reserved for an individual, rather than an organization or business. It will honor someone in public relations, journalism, broadcasting or print media who has contributed to educating the community about important issues, strives to be responsible in his or her representation of those issues and has made a commitment to our communities and their future.

**Citizen of the Year** - This is the highest honor and will be awarded to an individual who could fit into many of the other categories but is deserving of much more. The person selected for this top honor can be anyone who has contributed selflessly to the Bullhead City/Laughlin area with time, resources or public service work. This person sets an example for people of all ages, is trustworthy, exceptional and has achieved significant respect both personally and professionally from their peers. This is a wonderful opportunity to recognize someone who has improved the quality of life in our communities.

**Business of the Year** (two categories) - These awards are to honor one for-profit small business (with 100 employees or less) and one for-profit large business providing a much-needed service to the area, making outstanding contributions to community projects and/or setting an example for other businesses to follow.

In addition to the 13 awards listed above, the Laughlin Chamber of Commerce will honor, Spirit of Nevada, Spirit of Arizona and Spirit of the Colorado River awards will be bestowed upon finalists from among the 13 categories who have gone above and beyond. Honorees will be selected by a panel of several judges after personal interviews and much debate and consideration.

The 2008 Community Achievements Awards banquet is scheduled for June 9 at the Avi Resort & Casino.

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