

## Tiguas select new chief, re-elect governor

by Aileen B. Flores \ El Paso Times

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The Ysleta del Sur Pueblo has a new spiritual leader.

Frank Holguin, 90, was elected tribal cacique, or chief, on New Year's Eve. Tigua voters also re-elected Frank Paiz as the Tiguas' governor, or administrative officer.

Holguin will take the place of Tigua Cacique Santiago Bustamante, who died in December after a long illness.

The cacique is elected by the tribal council for life. Bustamante led the tribe for 10 years.

Paiz said that though the Tiguas are still mourning the death of Bustamante, they are ready move on under Holguin's new leadership.

Holguin served in the U.S. Army and is known for his community involvement, Paiz said. Paiz said Holguin comes from a popular family among the tribe.

"It's an honor to have him as our leader. It's great that we have a chief," Paiz said.

Paiz described the chief's position as the most

important to the pueblo. He said Holguin will be in charge of making sure the tribe follows the Tigua's culture and traditions.

"He is the father of the pueblo. He is our spiritual leader," Paiz said.

There are about 1,600 Tigua members. Between 120 and 130 men of the tribe are eligible to vote to pick the chief and other officials.

Paiz said his main priority during his new term as governor will be to work on the pueblo's economic development.

He said he will continue the efforts to resume gaming at Speaking Rock Casino.

The gambling operations at Speaking Rock Casino brought the tribe millions each year for over

a decade. The casino was shuttered in 2002.

Paiz first become governor three years ago when he defeated five-term Art Senclair.

Other members of the council elected Friday were War Captain Javier Loera, tribal Sheriff Bernie Gonzales, Lt. Gov. Carlos Hisa, and councilmen Francisco, David and Chris Gomez and Trini Gonzalez.

Max Gutierrez, Benjamin Paiz, Ralph Gomez and Rene Lopez were elected capitanes, or captains, to the tribe's traditional council.