

# Colony clean-up gives back to community

BY KRYSTAL BICK

[kbick@dailysparkstribune.com](mailto:kbick@dailysparkstribune.com)

The land at 2453 E. Second St. in Reno has been a lot of things.

Located across from the Grand Sierra Resort, the lot has been home to an automotive care center, a paint mixing store and a radiator shop to name a few, leaving behind contaminants in the soil as a footprint.

But now, with cooperation between the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony, which owns the lot, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP), the land has been restored and is free of chemicals.

The cleanup of the contaminants, which has been an ongoing project since 2001, was made possible through federal loans and grants so the colony could fully utilize the lot as a retail site.

RSIC chairman Arlan Melendez said he is pleased with the outcome of the project, which has removed all petroleum and lead contamination in the soil left by previous tenants.

"It is a joyous time on this property," Melendez said. "One of our goals is to not only create economic



Tribune/Debra Reid

Lois Kane gives a Native American invocation at the site of a future Wal-Mart on Reno-Sparks Indian Colony land. At left is the tribe's Chairman Arlan Melendez.

opportunities but first and foremost to protect the land, water and resources."

Using a \$950,000 federal loan from the State of Nevada Brownfields Program and a \$2 million

grant from the Environmental Protection Agency, the site has officially been cleared. Melendez said the colony will be leasing out

See **Clean-up** page 6A

