

ETSKA NAV AH PAI



THE NEWS CARRIER

QUECHAN NEWS

VOLUME 102, ISSUE 5 ♦ WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 2008

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To Tribe Members



Look For This Symbol

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QUECHAN NEWS

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Strong Winds Accompany Pow Wow Finale

Photos by William Isbell
QUECHAN NEWS

The Strong Hearts Native Society Pow Wow for the year is now history. After 28 years, it seems a well-oiled machine, and the only thing that seems to interrupt the good times are acts of god and inclement weather.

Both Friday evening and Saturday very much as planned, with only a late start on Friday slipping the schedule back about a half hour. Saturday saw another repeat of the late start, as participants were still arriving and filling out registration forms during the morning Gourd Dance, which was

extended about 30 minutes to give everyone a chance to get their costumes and makeup on and ready to go.

The emcee for the weekend, Pat Pacheco, was also late in arriving, due to a tremendous snow storm that delayed his flight out of Minnesota. He said he arrived in Albuquerque too late to get into Yuma on Friday afternoon, but he was able to stay and visit with others who travel the Pow Wow Trail while in New Mexico, so it was still a good experience from his point of view!

Of course, since Friday evening was filled with local talent performing Bird Songs and Bird Dances, Brian Golding, Sr., of the Quechan

Economic Development Administration was scheduled to emcee that night, so most people never even noticed.

There were dozens of vendors all around the perimeter of the Pow Wow Grounds, offering everything from fry bread for a couple of bucks, to hand-etched Navajo pottery for as much as \$900.

While everyone seemed to be doing a pretty brisk business all day Saturday, high winds picked up in the dark hours of the morning and proceeded to wreak havoc with the shade canopies and some of the vendors' stalls. By 8 O'Clock

Sunday morning, some of the vendors just gave up trying to keep things from blowing away and just shut down. Most of the shade canopies were also taken down and folded up, though the Grand Entry and Dance Contests continued as scheduled.

The wind gave everyone an incentive to keep things moving however, with the result that the Dance Contests on Sunday actually wrapped up a little over an hour ahead of time. The top three places for each Dance/Dress Categories are listed inside this issue on pages 4 and 5.



Terry Fiddler, of South Dakota (large photo at top right) won the Men's Golden Age, and Verna Street (above) the Women's Fancy Shawl Dance.



Water Quality Notice Issued

In late February, Quechan Housing residents in the area of Bluestone and Firestone Avenues at the northeast corner of the old housing subdivision noticed a “funky” smell coming from their taps.

Calls to Quechan Utilities over the weekend led Steve Laurenzana, the Utility Manager, to send a crew out to check on the problem Monday morning, take samples at various points in the area and perform a system flush. During their checks of the valves in the area, the Utility Crew discovered that a new valve added to the water supply system, to tie in the new subdivision to the east, had been left partially closed, restricting the flow of water through the newer portion.

Knowing that the system is designed to keep flowing as a loop, always circulating, Mr. Laurenzana had his crew then move over into the new subdivision and check all of the hydrants there, opening the valves to flush any remaining tepid water from that portion of the system, also.

“You want to keep the water moving, so it can’t pool anywhere and allow bacteria to grow,” he explained. Samples taken on site were then sent for analysis at a lab in Yuma, to check for a harmless (but stinky) species of *coliform* bacteria, Bac-T.

Bac-T is usually the first bacteria to get a toe-hold in a water system, and is relatively harmless to healthy adolescents and adults, according to Steve. But getting a positive indication for it requires further tests to be sure *E. Coli* or *Fecal Coliform* bacteria haven’t also entered the system.

When the tests came back (late on Tuesday afternoon) positive for Bac-T in the area immediately around the partially closed valve,

but negative for the more harmful types, the Utilities Manager was relieved to know that the problem was confined to a nasty smell, with no real health consequences for the residents of the area.

However, that meant he’d have to get safer drinking water out to the residents immediately.

Calls to local bottled water suppliers were made, as he prepared a printed notice describing the problem, and letting those in the affected area know what was being done to remedy the situation.

One supplier said he’d get a bulk water truck out “first thing in the morning.”

“I told him that wasn’t good enough, we needed the water for people to drink and make dinner tonight!” said Laurenzana.

So, the Housing Office was asked to call their contacts, and Vice President Escalanti made a few calls, too. Another supplier was found who agreed to get some cases of bottled water and a 250 gallon tank set up at the end of Bluestone and filled with water that afternoon.

In the meantime, Mr. Laurenzana sat down and looked over the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations, to be sure his Public Notice for this situation would meet their guidelines.

The EPA guide gave him a rather bland sounding template to follow, to which he added more information in his Notice. Steve then had Taryn and Chan in the Customer Service office read it over, to check for any unanswered questions.

“My main concern was, what would a customer want to know about this, what questions would they have when this (Public Notice) was delivered to their doors?” he said.

The Notice was not only delivered to the affected residents on Wednesday morning, it was also posted at the Admin. Building and copies were left at the reception desk, for anyone else wanting to know about the “stinky water” problem of the past weekend.

The notice not only described the problem, it also advised those in the affected area to flush their water heaters (so they wouldn’t be bathing in the stinky stuff) and to open all of their water faucets for 15 to 30 minutes on Thursday, to flush all of the remaining Bac-T positive water out of their water pipes at home. It also described how more samples would be taken after a further system-wide flush that same day.

Since then, the Utilities crew has been out to the area twice to re-flush the entire system, and new water quality samples have been taken and sent back to the lab for further analysis. Although they were 98% sure the problem came from the restricted flow (at the partially closed valve) where the new subdivision ties in to the existing water system, the crew took samples as far away as the well on Picacho Road to ensure that it wasn’t coming from the source.

Six samples taken by February 29th have all since come back negative, so the problem was caught in time. The only problem was a general “funkiness” when opening a tap for a couple of days, rather than stomach cramps and illness throughout the neighborhood.

Quechan Utilities has since taken control of all the water supply lines and valves in the area of new construction, to ensure all the valves remain open, so the system will circulate as designed. That should prevent further problems.

Save the Date Tuesday March 18th, 2008

**An Annual Celebration of Life
National Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day**

Sponsored by

Fort Yuma ADAPP/CHR

**Alcohol & Drug Awareness Prevention Project
and Community Health Representatives**



***A day of exercise, fun and
health information with
great snacks, giveaways and
Cultural Awareness!***

Begins at 10 AM, continues until 2 PM!

Join us at the

Diabetes Walking Park

Correction:

A typographical/proofreading error in the previous issue was made in an article on the Native Royalty representing the San Pasqual School District. The wrong last name was given for the father of the High School Princess, Miss Marilyn Victoria Galindo. Her father is Jesse Valenzuela of Fort Yuma, California. To all affected, please accept this apology!

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QUECHAN NEWS

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Have a story idea, or an event you want covered?

QUECHAN NEWS is here to cover the special events and everyday lives of Quechan Tribe Members, and the issues that affect you in the world today. This newsletter is here to keep the lines of communication open, to expand opportunities, and uplift the Native Spirit of the San Pasqual Valley. Your ideas and input are welcome!

Just call the **QUECHAN NEWS** office Monday through Friday at (760) 572-3912, or email your stories and story ideas to w.isbell@quechantribe.com. I'm looking forward to hearing from you!



Heritage & Culture

Coming Up on 4 Years At Fort Yuma: Quechan Language Preservation Program Now Teaches All Ages

Begun as a result of discussions among various native Kwat'san speaking tribe members, a Language Committee was formed in 2004 to study the possibility of beginning a language preservation group to teach the Kwat'san language to tribal members and pass on knowledge of its words, rules and pronunciation before it dwindles away and becomes an "extinct" language. In order to accomplish that task, the Language Committee began to make appearances before the Quechan Tribal Council as a means of seeking direction, in order to arrange program funding.

The first reaction of the Council was to have the Committee attempt to apply for grants, but after a few months it became apparent that there were no readily available grants to start such a program. So the Language Committee got together to propose a budget for a Language Preservation Program from Tribal funds. Discussions with the Council continued until a budget and program structure received final approval in early 2005.

Among the first Kwat'san language instructors hired to get the program on its feet was Ila Dunsweiler, who started with one additional Kwat'san language instructor on May 5, 2005, only three weeks after the original Program Coordinator began setting up the program.

To get their jobs, "All three of us were interviewed by Kwat'san speakers of the tribe, in Kwat'san" says Ila.

"Lorrie Cachora did the syllabus, but there was no curriculum,"

Ms. Dunsweiler says, explaining the history of the program.

While a syllabus acts as an outline for a course of study, the curriculum shows those doing the teaching the order and content of the actual classes.

With the original Program Coordinator holding a Masters Degree in Edu-

cation, it was decided they would begin by adapting a course she had already used to teach Spanish to those who spoke only English as their mother tongue. Working together with her two instructors, the Coordinator devised a course of study.

"The two of us had no degrees, we were just 'masters' of our own language," Ila explains. "Although I had taught it a little before as a volunteer in church, there was a lot I didn't know, when it comes to putting things together to teach it in a class," she adds.

The original idea on how the course should be taught, as envisioned by the Committee, was to just teach the language orally. "Just like you'd learn . . . from your parents or grandparents. That's how we were supposed to teach it," says Ila.

But as things developed, it soon became apparent that teaching a "new" language to those who've already become comfortable with



A group of younger students takes a pizza break after successfully completing a milestone in their Kwat'san language class

Photo Courtesy of Quechan Language Program

another is much more difficult than learning language as a child growing up at home.

It was at about that time that a "Yuman Language Conference" was held here, and they discovered the system and tools put together by Kelly Washington, the Curriculum Development Specialist for the Salt River/Pima Maricopa Indian Community.

Looking at the vocabulary teaching tools he had already put together for the T'ohono language, they realized that his methods were very close to what they were moving towards, with an orthography (writing) system developed by linguists for pronunciations as used in native languages.

They obtained a copy of the materials Mr. Washington put together and went through it making adaptations for teaching Kwat'san.

"When we looked at it, it was similar to what our thoughts were" says Ms. Dunsweiler, "so we were on the right track, but we had to be

careful that we didn't use the Maricopa words because sometimes they are different from ours."

With a curriculum and vocabulary established, courses began in earnest. Since then, further contact with Amy Miller, a linguist in Santa Barbara, California, has added hundreds

of words recorded as part of a linguistic study conducted here in the 1930s.

Amy Miller, once a student of the linguist who conducted the original study, is using that material, spread throughout various universities and library archives in California, to put together a Dictionary of the Kwat'san Language which she hopes to finish sometime in the next few years.

Since the original program got started, one instructor has gone on to be a teaching assistant in the Kwat'san language at the San Pasqual schools, and Della Escalanti and Judith Prieta-Osborn have come on as instructors, with Judith later moving up to the position of Program Coordinator.

Della specializes in teaching the language primarily to pre-schoolers, holding classes at the Quechan Education Complex Monday through Thursday for Head Start, Paradise Child Care Center on Fridays, and at their pre-K program

on weekday mornings. She also teaches a class in Kwat'san at the Senior Center every Monday from 1 to 3 PM.

Although she's getting better at passing on the nuances of Kwat'san every week, she says "The hardest thing is, I still think in English sometimes. So when it's tough, I'll tell the class what I'm going to say twice: first in English, then Kwat'san."

Although the little ones make it much easier, she says. "Children are the only ones who seem to be learning it right now. It's time for the parents to get involved, and learn the language, too."

The Program Coordinator, Judith Prieta-Osborn, agrees. "These classes may be your best opportunity to learn the Kwat'san language today," she says. "With both of my parents from different tribes, they couldn't communicate unless they spoke English. My father was Kume'ya'ay, and my mother Quechan. So I grew up with my grandparents, my aunts and my mom all speaking Quechan."

When she got older, it was that facility with languages that led other students to ask her to translate for them at the Ft. Yuma Indian School when they didn't know the correct English phrase.

"It's funny," she says, "because I used to get smacked on the hand with a ruler in this very classroom when I spoke Quechan (as a child), and now here I stand, teaching the Head Start children Kwat'san in the same building!"

So, by attending the classes offered now, a student can have the

Continued on Page 6

Quechan Tribal Council Appoints New Tribal Administrator

After more than 7 months without a full-time Tribal Administrator, the Quechan Tribal Council ended their search for a suitable candidate, and appointed Mr. Robert Klein to the position.

The decision was made official at a special meeting of the Council held on February 29th, as one of a number of items approving resolutions discussed in previous working sessions.

The appointment of Mr. Klein as the Tribal Administrator went into effect on Monday, March 3rd. Prior to his promotion to Administrator, Mr. Klein served the Tribe as Director of Human Resources.

On his leaving Human Resources (HR), Mr. Klein said, "There will be some movement within the HR Department, though we're still working out all of the details." He did, however, confirm that "Mister (Andrew) Hastings (previously his Administrative Assistant in HR) will be promoted to the position of Director of Human Resources, also effective on Monday, March 3rd."

Mr. Keeny Escalanti, Sr., Quechan Tribe Vice President had been the Acting Tribal Administrator, ever since the Quechan Tribal Council decided not to renew Vernon Smith's appointment to the position in June of last year.

After his appointment, Mr. Klein spoke to the *Quechan News* about his past service, and his plans for the future.

"I am looking forward to working with all of the Departments that are under the Administrator," he began, "bringing everyone together to open new lines of communication and dialogue, to hopefully keep thing moving forward."

A big part of that communication, he acknowledged, will also include the Quechan Tribe's



Robert Klein has served as the Quechan Tribe Human Resources Director since 2005.

QUECHAN NEWS Photo by William Isbell

elected officials.

"I've been working closely with Mr. (Keeny) Escalanti (Sr.) since the Administrator's position was vacant, while he served as Acting Administrator," he pointed out.

"We worked closely together in many areas, and I expect to continue working closely with him during this period of transition," while he takes over the Administrator's duties full-time, and Mr. Escalanti can return to devoting his full energies to being the Vice President of the Quechan Tribe.

During the time that Vice President Escalanti was Acting Administrator, Mr. Klein said there were times he would "share the load" with him, asking for Klein's advice and counsel on personnel and human resources issues, thereby allowing him to gain greater understanding of the role he has now assumed.

"So, I've had a lot of involvement in a number of programs with him over the past few months," he said. "some, of course, I haven't, but a number of them I have. Mostly, dealing with personnel issues."

He says he hopes to take that experience of "sharing the load" with Mr. Escalanti, and build on

it as he takes over the position.

Mr. Klein was originally hired to serve as HR Director in September of 2005. He brought a background in a variety of administrative positions to the post, from both public schools and working for a number of churches.

"Human Resources was always a major part of those positions," he says, "though of course, for the Tribe I focused only on Human Resources for the past 2 and a half years."

It is that previous time spent that he hopes gives him a little better understanding of the challenges he will face, over any other outside individual that might have been hired for the job.

"I am familiar with many of the employees and most of the programs now," he says.

His biggest accomplishment while serving as Human Resources Director was completing the Personnel Policy Manual (PPM) and getting it approved and adopted by the Tribal Council in December of 2006.

The PPM had been a seemingly intractable problem, and had languished unapproved since before 2000.

"There were two other Human Resources Directors who worked on it prior to my working on it," he said, "and it took me just over a year to get it finished. It was one of the first things I took out of the file and looked at, and then it took me about 13 and a half months to make some changes and get it approved."

Now that the Personnel Policy Manual has been in effect for about 14 months, and there is a history of how it has worked to refer to, "there are some modifications we may want to take to the Council, so I'll be working with Mr. Hastings on those."

It appears Mr. Klein has already "hit the ground running" in his new position.



TRADITIONAL RIBBON DANCE and GOURD SINGING

Junior Girls

- 1st: Breanne Talaswima
- 2nd: Nu-Lyn Duncan
- 3rd: Joanna Herrera

Teen Girls

- 1st: Amanda Parker
- 2nd: Mariela Sanchez
- 3rd: Angeline Levy

Adult Women

- 1st: Starla Shaeffer
- 2nd: Nicole Hammond
- 3rd: Ana Hartt

Women's Golden Age

- 1st: Charlene Emerson
- 2nd: Alva Emerson
- 3rd: Ila Dunsweiler

Teen/Junior Gourd Singing

- 1st: Mojave Bird
- 2nd: Shy Guys
- 3rd: Bird Singers

DRUM GROUPS

- 1st: Horse Thief
- 2nd: Southern Guns
- 3rd: Sun Star

MEN'S CATEGORIES

Grass Dance

- 1st: Andrew Windyboy, Jr.
- 2nd: Wade Baker
- 3rd: Sage Ironcloud

Northern/Southern Fancy Dance

- 1st: Isaiah Bob
- 2nd: Wayne Silas, Jr.
- 3rd: Quaneh Henry

Southern Straight Dance

- 1st: Lewis Perkins
- 2nd: Forrest Gorman
- 3rd: Ryland Jim

Northern Traditional Dance

- 1st: Kenny Donaghey
- 2nd: Stacy Makesgood
- 3rd: Lonny Street

WOMEN'S CATEGORIES

Buckskin Dress Dance

- 1st: Jay Flores
- 2nd: Jacinta Tsosie
- 3rd: Raetava Lyne Yazzie

Cloth Dress Dance

- 1st: Alva Fiddler
- 2nd: Marissa Two Two
- 3rd: Isis Red Elk

Fancy Shawl Dance

- 1st: Verna Street
- 2nd: Jolyn Begay
- 3rd: Richelle Donaghey

Jingle Dress Dance

- 1st: Bridget Ironshield
- 2nd: Teri John
- 3rd: Maureen King

GOLDEN AGE CATEGORIES

Golden Age Women

- 1st: Virgie Tsosie
- 2nd: Claudia Kukie Lorentz
- 3rd: Goldie High Elk

Golden Age Men

- 1st: Terry Fiddler
- 2nd: Joe Lafferty
- 3rd: Norman Largo

TEEN CATEGORIES

Teen Girls

Buckskin/Cloth Dress Dance

- 1st: Alyssa Phillips

Teen Girls

Fancy Shawl/Jingle Dress Dance

- 1st: Arianna Skeka
- 2nd: Bria Grey
- 3rd: Shaneesha Mountain Sheep

Teen Boys

Traditional/Straight Dance

- 1st: Chad Red Elk
- 2nd: Segundo Henry
- 3rd: Desman Tippeconnie

Teen Boys Fancy/Grass Dance

- 1st: Christopher Ironshield
- 2nd: L.J. Nodman
- 3rd: Shannon Sky Grey

LEADERS

JUNIOR CATEGORIES

Junior Girls

Buckskin/Cloth Dress Dance

- 1st: Kendra Lastivano
2nd: Anya Carrillo
3rd: Isabella Valdez

Junior Girls

Fancy Shawl/Jingle Dress Dance

- 1st: Jessica Yazzie
2nd: Tia Grey
3rd: Kassie John

Junior Boys

Traditional Dance

- 1st: Avery Moore
2nd: Maximus Skeka

Junior Boys Fancy/Grass Dance

- 1st: Arrowheart Ironcloud
2nd: Jarid Yazzie
3rd: Marshall



BIA Work Crew Responds in Record Time

Safety Improvements to Quechan Drive

The normally busy flow of traffic at the entrance to the Paradise Casinos was even more tangled than usual for one morning in late February as the Quechan Safety Office supervised the removal of large boulders from the hillside above Quechan Drive.

Pearl Cowan, the Quechan TERO/Safety officer says the recent weather and seismic activity had her looking at the base of Indian Hill, right above the corner of Agnes Road and Quechan Drive, a little more carefully.

At first, it seemed it might take



This dangerous looking boulder was one of many removed from the hillside above Quechan Drive during the project.



Concrete barricades were placed between the hill and the roadway afterwards to prevent any falling rocks from rolling down into traffic at some later date.
Photos by William Isbell for The QUECHAN NEWS

a long time to get the project moving, since the Tribe doesn't have a heavy equipment operator on staff at the present time.

"But then I got to thinking," says Pearl, "doesn't the BIA have a road crew, and isn't this right-of-way something they have jurisdiction over?"

After a careful assessment and the Quechan Tribal Council's approval, BIA took the assignment.

Loose boulders were removed and placed safely at the bottom of

the hill. Concrete barriers were installed at the roadside on the hill to help prevent any rocks or boulders from rolling into the road and causing possible injuries to people or damage to vehicles.

While Mother Nature's moods can't be predicted, we can look ahead and do our best to mitigate what she might do based on a "worse case" scenario.

The BIA is working on a plan to permanently address the hillside, ensuring its future stability.



New Parenting Classes Begin In Late March

Adina Alvarez, the Quechan Parenting Program Coordinator, says the current series of classes will wrap up by mid-March, with a new series scheduled to begin two weeks later.

The Quechan Parenting Skills Class has set a tentative date to begin a new session on March 27th. The classes have been changed to Thursday evenings in order to promote San Pasqual Schools parent night on Wednesday evening for the next nine weeks,

The topic for this class session will be "Your Child's Social and Emotional Development". Both Adina Alvarez and Delcie Cachora share in the instruction duties for this class.

It will be a six week course with participants meeting for two hours each week at 5 PM.

The Native Parenting class

has a tentative date to begin on March 25th; however the curriculum for that session is still being developed for the upcoming course. The Native Parenting instructor is Carlotta Sestiaga.

Native Parenting Class will meet every Tuesday morning from 9AM until 11:30AM.

If you need transportation to any of these classes, call now to reserve your place and they will be happy to get you to the classes and back home when they're over. Adina also says refreshments are provided for these classes, as well as child care while you are attending.

If you'd like to sign up for these (or any other classes) at the Quechan Parenting Center, just give them a call during normal business hours (Mon. thru Fri., 9 to 5) at (760)572-0487.



THE EASTER EGG HUNT

Everyone is Invited To Come Out and Join

Saturday, March 22nd at the Diabetes Walking Park

With Easter Baskets For All The Kids From Ages 0 thru 12!

Picnic Lunch!

Hamburgers! - Hot Dogs!

Chips and Soda!

QUECHAN PARKS & RECREATION



Seniors Receive Empowerment in New Series

Oftentimes, as a person gets older, they begin to feel more and more at the fringes of modern society, as new ways of doing things are developed, and new styles and fads are adopted by the young.

Today's youth-oriented culture can really make a more mature person feel like they are no longer needed, and that anything they might want to contribute is hopelessly out-of-date. As a result, many seniors gradually lose the assertiveness of their youth, and may adopt a general attitude that causes them to feel less empowered over time.

To combat that attitude and reinvigorate seniors with a sense of empowerment, Denise Dugan at the Quechan Senior Center will host a monthly program of talks by visiting speakers she's calling "The Senior Empowerment Series."

The first of the series was titled "Empowerment and The Journey," presented by Denise herself on March 5th. She said the goal of this series will be to help seniors enhance each moment with an awareness of life's beauty, to enable those who take in the message to become the person they were created to be.

She began with an overview of what she hopes the series will accomplish. A full range of topics will be discussed, providing ideas and inspiration, giving ev-

eryone involved the tools needed to break out of a stagnant way of thinking, and an ability to incorporate new ideas into their everyday lives.

The title of her presentation was "Change Brings Freshness," and she spoke of empowerment as a journey. Denise says that change equals growth, and that growth, if continued, leads to transformation.

Using the diamond as an example of growth and transformation, she spoke of how a diamond in its original state is a somewhat unremarkable looking hunk of rock, kind of opaque, but still having the ability to let light pass through it when held up to the sky. But to truly sparkle, a diamond has to go through a series of transformations as it is cut and polished, allowing it to truly sparkle, throwing off brilliant shafts of color as it is struck by the sun's light.

She asked everyone in the room to look inside themselves to identify the source of their sparkling brilliance.

She said that it is only through change that the diamond is able to reach its full potential, and that we should look at life the same way. Everything that comes along to "knock the rough edges off" might seem to hurt at the time it happens, but once that rough edge has been knocked off and given a bit of polish through

we lived, and what these words and phrases mean, how they relate to everyday life."

She says that it is only by using the language daily, and reinforcing what is seen and heard during the classes, that a person can hope to become a comfortable, proficient Kwat'san speaker.

"Attendance is very important, in fact it's a requirement, if you want to really learn," she states.

"You are responsible for learning new dialogue each week, and it must be spoken to be learned. By doing it together in class, the students support each other's learning, and increase their knowledge together."



Denise Dugan leads the discussion during her recent presentation, the first in a series on "Senior Empowerment" at the Quechan Senior Center.

QUECHAN NEWS Photo by William Isbell

the experience we gain in life, we can truly begin to sparkle in the eyes of those around us.

A great way to develop that sparkle is to share laughter and compassion with those in our lives. Words of kindness and sharing, when given in a heartfelt manner, will lead others to want to draw us out in conversation, and to hear what we have to say.

When elders share the wisdom of their years and the experience they have gained in a non-judgemental manner, pointing out their own mistakes and how those experiences led to growth and personal development, the younger generation can learn those lessons without

She says that it helps to have someone work with you between classes, whether another student or family member familiar with Kwatsan, to keep an exchange of knowledge passing between people. That keeps it fresh in your mind.

The newest member of the staff is Nancy Montague, who teaches part-time from Wednesday to Saturday. Nancy was born at home, delivered by her grandmother the old way, in the yard of their home. Her grandparents raised her, speaking only Kwat'san.

Attending the Fort Yuma Indian School, Nancy was in for a rude awakening. "I had to take first

having to go through the same struggles, and the elders can find the empowerment of making a contribution.

Denise says there was a reason native peoples placed so much trust and respect in the words of their elders in the past, and by making the most of every day, looking for the lessons in whatever life brings, today's seniors can recapture that aura of wisdom and pass it on to those coming along behind them.

There is no need to feel as if life is passing you by! With the power of sunshine and laughter, elders can gain empowerment through the ability to inspire! "As I get older," she says, "I'm more careful about how I speak

grade twice," she says, "once to just learn English, and the second year to learn my lessons!"

She also recalls often being punished at public school for speaking Kwat'san, the last time when she was a sophomore at Yuma High in the 1950s.

During her interview for the job of instructor at the Language Program, she was asked if she felt she was qualified. Her response was that she's been in training for the job for sixty-eight years.

She says "There is a lot of laughter in my classes" since she likes to use humor in getting her lessons across. "I like talking and joking around. But that's just how

and what I say to others."

She says that we have to see that we are all connected, and she has learned to become less self-centered as she grows older, and to beware of the dangers of gossip. "We don't know where a person has been in their life, so why should we make comments about where they are today?"

The point of her entire presentation was that life is a journey, and that what we see in life is often depends on what we go looking for. Summing up that point-of-view, she noted that although the first group was rather small, those who made it to the meeting were those who we supposed to be there.

The Senior Empowerment series will continue next week, with a presentation by California Highway Patrol Officer Arnella Melancon speaking on "Dealing With Difficult People." Of course, if anybody in today's world knows a thing or two about difficult people, it's a traffic cop whose job requires meeting rushed, overheated drivers by the side of the road in the middle of nowhere every day. Officer Melancon will probably have plenty of experience to share, so get there early, before all the best seats are taken.

The session begins at 10 AM on Wednesday at the Senior Center, and refreshments will once again be available.

we are."

According to Nancy, everyone who comes in to learn Kwat'san seems to have their own way of learning. "The little ones that can't write, it's all memory, while the older students will write the words using the English alphabet to put it down the way it sounds to them. The adults do the same."

With four different instructors on staff, you are sure to find someone with a teaching style that you can be comfortable with, and assist you in reviving your Kwat'san roots through language. The Program seems to be making progress on reviving what many thought might fade away forever.

Quechan Language

Continued From Page 3

opportunity to learn it from native speakers with a lifetime of knowledge, reinforcing an awareness of the need for language revitalization. "What I want to do is to provide an understanding of the role of language in our traditional culture," Judith elaborates.

"And with the new ramada and mud house that was just put up in our front area out here, we have the chance to really show people how

Preservation of Cultural Resources

**Prepared by Frank R. Jozwiak
Morisset, Schlosser,
Jozwiak & McGaw, Attorneys
and Mike Jackson, Sr.
President, Quechan Nation**

On January 10, 2008, the United States District Court for the Southern District of California issued its long-awaited order regarding the Quechan Tribe's lawsuit against the United States for damage to the Tribe's cultural resources within the Fort Yuma Reservation. This case arose in 1998 when Western Area Power Administration (Western), which owns the 161kV powerline that traverses the Fort Yuma Reservation north of the All American Canal, conducted a transmission line pole replacement within the transmission line right-of-way.

Prior to beginning the project, Western assured the tribe that steps had been taken to identify and protect tribal cultural resources that existed within the area of the project. Despite such assurances, at least 13 cultural resource sites were impacted or destroyed by Western.

The lawsuit was filed in 2001 asking the Court to award monetary damages to the Tribe to allow the Tribe to establish a museum, a cultural resource preservation office, and other cultural resource-related activities so that the Tribe would be better able to prevent destruction of cultural resources in the future.

In January, 2006, both the United States and the Quechan Tribe presented briefings and oral arguments to the federal court on the issue of the United States' liability to the Tribe for monetary damages for Western's negligence.

In its January, 2008 Order, the District Court held that the United States is liable for damages to the Tribe for destruction of four sites that were identified by Western as having been damaged or destroyed by Western in the performance of the project.

Liability on the remaining sites

that were identified by the Tribe and its consultants and the amount of monetary damages the Tribe may be entitled to is left for trial.

The Tribe will continue to pursue the claims against the United States with respect to all of the sites impacted or destroyed.

Mike Jackson, Sr., President of the Quechan Nation states: "This case, the Quechan Nation Vs. United States, represents another major victory for the Quechan Tribe in our efforts to preserve and protect tribal cultural resources, both on and off our tribal land."

"To the best of our knowledge, no other Tribe has been victorious over the United States in a court decision. We are holding the federal government liable for damages to our Tribe's culture. The monetary damage is not the issue here, what the victory means to us is we hold the United States government negligent in its acts towards our people, particularly when those acts destroy a part of a people's culture and history."

"It is extremely difficult to try to equate monetary damages with destruction of culture and history. But for the Court to hold that the United States is liable is a tremendous victory for our Tribe. The full scope and amount of that liability is yet to be determined."

Speaking on related issues, Mr. Jackson further elaborated on the recent land transfers between the United States Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) and the Wellton-Mohawk Irrigation and Drainage District, as well as the subsequent sale of a portion of the transferred land to Arizona Clean Fuels.

"In regards to Wellton-Mohawk and Arizona Clean Fuels and the court's decision to dismiss our lawsuit: Prior to the hearing on the summary motion judgments, Arizona Clean Fuels announced that they were abandoning the original oil refinery site and are now planning to develop and construct their oil refinery on private state lands to

avoid our Tribe's lawsuit."

"Since the same federal permits will be required for the new site as were required for the former site, it is likely that Arizona Clean Fuels will still need to complete an extensive environmental review and historical and cultural resource review for the new site prior to construction."

"The court's decision dismissing our Tribe's lawsuit is of no consequence with respect to the development and construction of the oil refinery by Arizona Clean Fuels at that location."

"Once again, our Tribe's lawsuit was not designed or intended to stop the oil refinery. The Tribe's concerns centered on the impact of the BOR's transfer of approximately 48,000 acres of federal lands and on the Tribe's cultural and historical sites and features within the boundaries of those lands. The remaining 8,000 acres of federal lands not yet transferred to Wellton-Mohawk contain 20 historical and cultural sites that were determined to be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places."

"A Treatment Plan for those sites has not yet been developed by the BOR. The Tribe continues to seek involvement in preparing a Treatment Plan and the Memorandum of Understanding that the Bureau of Reclamation intends to enter into with respect to further treatment of those sites. The known historic and cultural resources that were determined to be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places remain within the 8,000 acres of BOR land not transferred in March of 2007, and are still a great concern to the Tribe."

"The Tribe intends to continue to pursue its remedies under federal law in that regard."

The Quechan Tribal Council is actively considering, in consultation with the Tribe's attorneys, the various options to appeal the federal court's dismissal of that lawsuit.

THE SENIOR EMPOWERMENT SERIES

"Dealing With Difficult People"

Presented by CHP Officer Darnella Melancon

Wednesday, March 19th

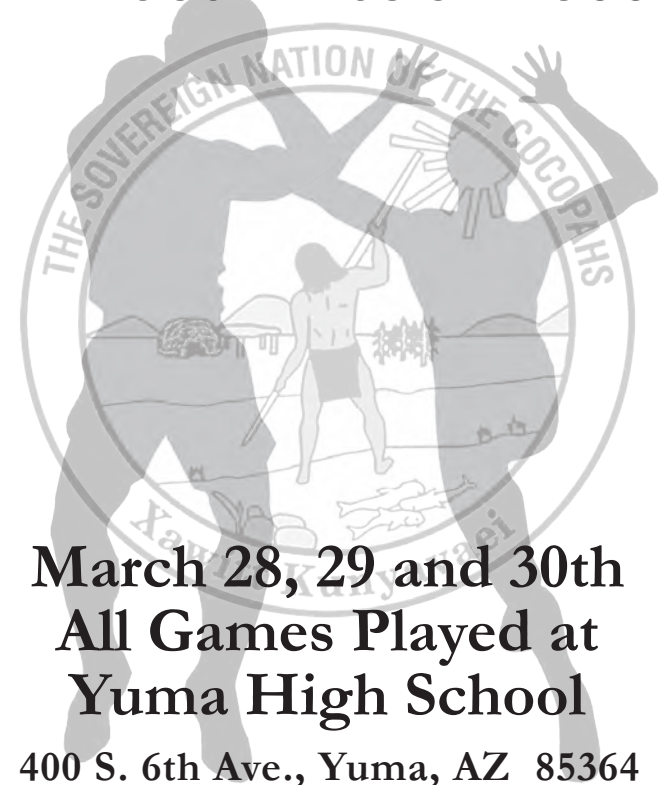
From 10:00AM until 11:00AM

at The Quechan Senior Center

Refreshments Will Be Available

Cocopah Classic Basketball Tournament - 2008

1st Place Prizes of \$2500



March 28, 29 and 30th
All Games Played at
Yuma High School
400 S. 6th Ave., Yuma, AZ 85364

Tournament brackets divided into
Men's Open Teams and All-Indian Teams.
Space is limited to the first 12 Men's Open Teams
and first 16 All-Indian Teams to register.

1st Place Prizes of \$2500 in each Bracket Division.
Also, MVP and All Tournament Team selections in each Division

\$375 entry fee per team must be received by
Friday, March 21, 2008. Special entry fee discount
with pre-paid hotel stay at the new Cocopah Resort
and Conference Center. For more information or to
receive a registration packet, contact John by phone at
928-581-9441 or by email at astadmin@cocopah.com



Native peoples from all over the nation arrived, in their finest dress, prepared to both observe and be a part of the spectacle.



John Lorentz was the honored elder for the Gourd Dances.



Lonny Street, a Meskwaki visitor, judged a few dances and performed in the Men's Fancy Dance, before giving an interview to KSWT TV on what the Pow Wow Trail means to him.

The 28th Annual STRONG HEARTS Native Society POW WOW

Photos by William Isbell

for The QUECHAN NEWS



The spiritual feelings that develop during a Pow Wow are expressed in this image of female dancers from many nations, gathered for a Bird Dance at sundown, just after the dinner break on Saturday.



Norman Largo carried in the Eagle Staff, along with Larry Comet of the Post 802 Color Guard hoisting the national colors.



Samson Siquah performed a Navajo Hoop Dance on Sunday.



Miss Native San Pasqual Royalty (left to right) Ramona Emerson, Maritza Barley and Marilyn Galindo each spoke their own greetings to the assembled visitors on Saturday, during the introductions of visiting Royalty.



With all the fry bread fillings and toppings, some customers still had a need to point out exactly what they wanted and how to assemble it, as this guy does to the amusement of his date.