

ETSKA NAV AH PAI



THE NEWS CARRIER

QUECHAN NEWS

VOLUME 102, Issue 4 ♦ WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2008

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Look For This Symbol

ETSKA NAV AH PAI THE NEWS CARRIER
QUECHAN NEWS

is published by

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28th Annual Pow Wow This Weekend!

The beginning of the month of March and the arrival of warmer temperatures means it's time once again for the Strong hearts Native Society to host their Annual Pow Wow at San Pasqual High.

Now in its 28th year, the Strong Hearts Pow Wow is an important cultural event on the calendars of native bands and tribes from all over the area. The wonderful, mild winters and unseasonably warm weather common at Fort Yuma means this Pow Wow is often one of the first great gatherings of native peoples in the southwest every year.

Honored staff scheduled to attend this year include the Host Northern Drum Groups "Red Leaf" from Rosebud, South Dakota and the Catching Eagle singers and drums from the Ute Mountains of Towaoc, Colorado.

The Host Southern Drum Groups will be "12 Gauge" from the Ute Mountains of Ignacio, Colorado and the "Long Walk Descendants" from the Navajo Capital, Window Rock, Arizona.

Stepping into the role of Master of Ceremonies once again will be Joe Stands and Looks Back from Kayenta, Arizona.

Things will get started before sunset on Friday evening, with a gathering of singers and dancers for the traditional Ribbon Dress and Gourd Singing Contest at 7:00 PM. This was a real crowd pleaser last year, as the local crowd slowly filled in the bleachers during a long, cool twilight period, as more and more costumed participants joined the group on the field, swaying to the songs and keeping time with their gourds.

The major emphasis of Gourd Songs at a Pow Wow is on honoring the veterans in attendance. As this first event takes place, out-of-town visitors will be arriving and setting up their booths and camping spots to the north and east of the main area.

Once everyone is gathered together, fires will be lit and traditional Quechan Bird Songs will fill the night, to close out the traditional opening night activities.

On Saturday morning, things start off again with a Gourd Dance at 10 AM. This will be an even bigger event, as there may be people from as far away as Texas or Colorado pulling in to camp late into Friday night.



Lunch will follow, with the first Grand Entry scheduled for 1 PM on Saturday afternoon.

There will all kinds of dance and dress contests to follow throughout the day, from familiar Gourd Dances of the Colorado River valleys to the Jingle Dress Dances of our more remote visitors with their rolled up snuff cans hanging from ribbons, creating the tinkling sounds of gentle rain.

Just about every age group will get a chance to compete for prizes in every category, with prizes going to the top five spots in each.

The contest divisions include Juniors from 5 to 12, Teens from

13 to 17 and Adults aged 18 and up. Kids under 5 have their own Tiny Tots

Photo by William Isbell
QUECHAN NEWS

Division, and elders can join the Golden Age Division.

There will be another set of Gourd Dances at 6 PM on Saturday, with an evening Grand Entry at 7, followed by more competitive dancing.

Sunday's schedule will follow the pattern set by the Saturday morning, with the final awards to be presented at 6PM.

Another plus for contestants: all dancers and singers get to sit down and share a barbecue dinner courtesy of the Paradise Casinos on Saturday, and a lunch on Sunday!

AZ Clean Fuels Surrenders, Relocates Planned Refinery

Arizona Clean Fuels Yuma (ACFY) issued a press release in early February, announcing their decision to move the site of their planned oil refinery project three miles east of the current site in Yuma County, Arizona.

The move is being made to resolve the legal uncertainties surrounding a lawsuit filed by the Quechan Tribe in April of 2007.

The Quechan Tribe challenged the transfer of approximately 40,000 acres of land from the Federal Government to the Wellton Mohawk Irrigation & Drainage District which included the refinery site. Although all rulings to date on the lawsuit have gone in favor of the federal government, the Wellton/Mohawk Irrigation and Drainage District (WMIDD) and other defendants, including Arizona Clean Fuels, the uncertainty on when it will ultimately get resolved is a concern for ACFY.

"Because the project will now be outside the 40,000 acre area named in federal court and on land not subject to this kind of legal challenge, it can now proceed as planned" said Glenn McGinnis, CEO of Arizona Clean Fuels Yuma.

He further contends that public support for the project remains strong, and that they are determined to proceed, despite the opposition of Tribal leaders.

"We are pleased to report to the citizens of Arizona and Yuma County, who overwhelmingly support this project, that we are moving forward and are one step closer to bringing a \$3.2 billion dollar capital investment to the area," McGinnis was quoted as saying in the release.

ACFY is working with the Well-

ton Mohawk Irrigation and Drainage District, the Arizona State Land Department and the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality to finalize logistical issues created by the move. Based on current scheduling, basic engineering for the project will be completed in early 2009, and they hope to begin major construction work in the second quarter of 2009.

They say they are committed to relocating to the new site even though a federal judge dismissed the lawsuit filed by the Quechan Tribe on February 20th.

But the ruling won't change the decision by Arizona Clean Fuels to move the location of its planned refinery, given the uncertainty of whether the tribe would file an appeal and how much longer that might tie up the project in court, CEO Glenn McGinnis said that same day.

"We will stay with the new site," he was quoted as saying by *The Sun* newspaper in Yuma. "We've made the decision to move."

The judge's decision was a setback to the Tribe's continuing opposition to both the manner in which the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) handled the land transfer, and the subsequent sale of portions of that land by WMIDD while lawsuits were still pending in federal courts.

McGinnis admitted there is the "risk of appeal" by the Quechan Tribe, since they are permitted to file an appeal within 60 days.

He cited the continuing uncertainty of possible appeals, as well



Arizona Clean Fuels will move their proposed oil refinery 3 miles east of the original site under pressure from continuing litigation by the Quechan Tribe.

Graphic: QUECHAN NEWS

as the tenacity of Quechan Tribe President Mike Jackson, Sr. in pursuing the Tribe's interests in the way the land transfer was handled.

McGinnis said the alternate site is between Avenues 48E and 49E, with County 6th Street to the north and the Union Pacific railroad tracks on the south. Since it is so near the original site, AZCF expects to have little difficulty in refiling their permits with the State of Arizona and being able to keep on schedule.

The new location is made up of 1,400 acres of private land that Arizona Clean Fuels has options to purchase. A small portion is leased state land, with a portion of Arizona State Trust Land in the center of the new location, according to a map on their website.

Arizona Clean Fuels has already applied for leases for all of the State Land included in the new site.

Left unsaid in all of this is what they will do with the land already purchased from the WMIDD east of Avenue 46E. Will they try to hold on to it, to sell it later at a profit, or will they try to develop it themselves in the future?

Flu Season Leads To Hospital Overcrowding

The Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) has issued the following statement on hospital emergency department crowding. ADHS is also requesting that other providers — physicians, clinics and urgent care centers — extend their hours to assist during this time.

Hospital emergency departments across Arizona are experiencing extremely crowded conditions due to influenza and other respiratory illnesses.

Because of this, the healthcare community is urging those who think they have influenza (abrupt onset of fever, muscle aches and pains, cough and/or sore throat), to first contact their health care provider, urgent care center, or nurse help line for information on how to treat symptoms.

"For most individuals, influenza is a self-limiting disease. Fe-

ver, chills, cough and exhaustion usually last only about three to four days, with full recuperation in about one to two weeks," said Dr. Karen Lewis, Medical Director of the state health department's Bureau of Epidemiology and Disease Control.

"Staying home from work, resting, and drinking plenty of fluids is usually all that is necessary," Dr. Lewis said. "You don't need to go to the emergency room unless you have trouble breathing or other serious symptoms."

The Arizona Department of Health Services is working with the Arizona Hospital and Healthcare Association, local health departments and health care providers to monitor reports of illness and to ensure that the best information is available to the public and providers on preventing and treating influenza.

Valentine Royalty



Quechan elders Stacy Duran and Ursula Mendez were selected by their peers as the "Valentine's Day King and Queen" during an afternoon party at the Quechan Senior Center on February 14th. Don't they look great?

Photo by Gene Moore, SENIOR CENTER

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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

Yuma Crossing Day on Indian Hill

Although things got started a little late in preparing an area for dances, traditional crafts sales and cultural demonstrations, Phil Emerson and a crew from the Quechan Work Force was able to get a ramada and traditional mud hut put up on the Friday afternoon before Crossing Day, February 16th. The Quechan Events Committee says that shuttle buses delivered about 200 people up to the Quechan Museum, who then made their way to the demonstration area throughout the day. The Events Committee would like to thank the Tribal Council for all their support in getting this years event organized.



Michael Black, Manuel Olmos and Tracy Hartt put the finishing touches on a bench in front of the little mud hut built for Crossing Days just south of the Artist's Marketplace. Now that Crossing Days are over, a fresh coat of mud has been applied to the hut, and it has been left in place for future events.



Dana Miller watches as Ivan Valisto applies some mud to the back wall of the hut, once the crowds have left and they can finish the structure.



The ramada and mud hut construction crew included (from left) Mike Jackson, Jr., Phil Thomas, Ivan Valisto, Michael Machado and Hector Montoya. Not shown are Roy Durand, Jerry Machado and Tony Martinez, who all pitched in to help on the Friday before Crossing Day.



Performing a round dance (from left) with her back to the camera is Verna Parker, Miss Quechan Nation, Jessica Elizabeth Paddock, Arlie Emerson and Lorne Levy. Verna and Arlie are members of the Ah Keel Dance Group, and Lorne is a member of the Yuma Bird Singers.



Xyntrice, Lou Ann and Grace Levy joined Verna Parker, their sister Angeline Levy, Miss Quechan Jessica Paddock and Alva Emerson in the main dance area, performing for the visitors. That same afternoon, all performers and demonstrators got a lunch provided by the Quechan Events Committee.



Eileen Valenzuela is joined by her nephew, Joe Casteñeda and her grand-nephew, Tristan Casteñeda at a sales booth on the hill.



Cecilia Barsola, a volunteer at the Artists Marketplace uses some of her free time during the day to work on another beadwork creation.



The Yuma Bird Singers Mattias Howard, Lorne Levy and Roland Golding, Sr. are joined by Arlie Emerson in front of the little mud hut, entertaining the crowd. Just barely visible behind the post on the right is Cristobal Emerson of the Ah Keel Dance Group, bouncing to the beat.



Stopping by for some fry bread to raise funds for the Ah Keel Dance Group Mattias Howard watches while Arlie Emerson rolls out some dough. In the center, Susan Koteen pats a fry bread tortilla into shape before dropping it into the oil on her stove. Others wait patiently as the smells drift across the crowd!

New Housing On Schedule



The first of the ownership homes is a "scattered homesites" 4 bedroom house just off First Street in Winterhaven. It was nearly complete just after Valentine's Day in February, when this photo was taken. QUECHAN NEWS Photo by William Isbell

Progress is being made just about right on schedule as the Quechan Tribally Designated Housing Entity (QTDHE) continues with the construction of the first large scale housing project on the Fort Yuma Reservation in the past 15 years.

With all of the underground utilities in place for the new subdivision on the eastern extension of Sapphire Lane, the contractors have laid out all of the roads, staked out the lots and cut the roadways. In February, all of the curbs and gutters were installed by concrete crews, as teams of carpenters moved in to begin work on the exterior shells of almost a dozen housing units.

By the end of this month, three

triplex rental units (with three separate apartment homes under one roof) will have been framed, wrapped and textured, and all plumbing, electrical wiring and air conditioning ducts installed.

Additional separate rental units are also going up on the west end of the subdivision, including a beautiful 5 bedroom, 2400 square foot home with a covered carport large enough to park two cars side-by-side. This home looks unlike anything ever offered as a rental at Fort Yuma in the past, with a spanish tile roof, large shaded overhangs and other optional amenities.

Of these family style rental units, 3 two bedroom homes have been completely framed, and 2

more two bedroom homes are going up right now, in addition to the 5 bedroom unit.

A real plus in the new subdivision is the fact that there are four different floorplans for the 2 bedroom homes, with four different exterior elevation styles. That means different rooflines and exterior detailing, with variations in window openings and how the walls line up, preventing a "cookie cutter, tract home" look as you drive down the street. Some will have peaked, Spanish tile roofs, others a more Pueblo style roofline with round, exposed beams and porch supports outside.

The new rental units are built using 2" X 6" wooden wall studs, securely anchored to their foundation

pads by enormous 3/4 inch stainless steel bolts passing through galvanized steel brackets that reinforce each corner. Every unit in the triplex apartments is separated from the next by a cinderblock firebreak wall, ensuring privacy by also serving as a sound barrier between homes.

To ensure an insulation rating of R-30, at every single point where the construction crew drills a hole through a stud for wiring or plumbing, an expanding foam is used to reseal the gaps once the utilities are installed, preventing the passage of air. Utility rooms with washer/dryer hookups and dryer exhaust vents to the roof are included, as well as sliding glass doors leading to small, shaded patios on the "back" side of the apartments.

Ownership homes will also begin going up in the subdivision's east end soon.

The scattered homesites portion of the project was delayed for a few months while the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) completed their environmental assessments of the newly cleared land, and last minute wording of the land leases was decided.

The QTDHE confirms that the assessments and leases are now in place, with the lease contracts signed on February 13th. They will now begin work on the scattered homesites, putting in the foundation pads for a number of

new homes through the end of February and into March.

The first of the scattered ownership homes should be completed and ready to move into in early March. That home is located on the outskirts of Winterhaven, on land that was set aside by it's owner for a homesite lease.

The new owner was on the waiting list for a long time, and is probably getting much more home than she ever thought possible, thanks to the unique financing arrangement developed for this project by the Quechan Tribe.

Some of the new homeowners are currently living in QTDHE rental homes. Once their homes are built and they move in, the staff at the Housing Entity will completely rehabilitate the now vacant older homes prior to anyone new moving in.

For the oldest homes, that may mean completely "gutting" the interiors and putting in new wiring and sheetrock, retexturing the walls and ceilings, and a complete repaint, as well as new floor tile. Some may even get new roofs, if needed. Once rebuilt, another family on the waiting list can move in, starting the cycle all over.

As more new homes go up, both in the new subdivision and at the scattered sites, more and more people will be able to see their dream of home ownership come true. There is obviously room to keep growing on this project!

REGISTER NOW FOR YUMAN LANGUAGE SUMMIT AT BARONA

Special to **Quechan News**

by Candy Christman - Yuman Family Language Summit Coordinator & Barona Tribal Museum Committee Member

This year, Barona will be hosting the Yuman Family Language Summit on Tuesday, April 29th, Wednesday, April 30th and Thursday, May 1st, 2008. The conference will be held at the Barona Convention Center in Lakeside, California. This will be the first time the summit will be held in San Diego County. For the past few years it was held in Arizona, particularly in Parker and Yuma. This year the conference theme is

"Sixteen Languages, One Family."

The mission statement of the Yuma Language Summit is as follows: *The Yuman Nation was one people at one time through the commonality of our language. Together we will restore and reclaim the language using the culture, history, spirituality, songs and stories. It is our inherent right and responsibility to encourage and motivate others to speak the language to promote culture and traditions. We will use our resources to develop programs and projects that will create and empower Yuman language speakers.*

Some of the activities involved with the conference include lan-

guage workshops on language preservation, cultural arts and crafts, and speakers on the importance of our language and culture.



There are two nights of special events. One is an evening of cultural song and dance which will open up with a traditional dress fashion show. The second evening will be a dinner and an elder's

recognition night, where we will honor an elder from each tribe who has been actively involved with language and cultural preservation. After 9 PM there will be an invitational men's peon game.

To register for this important conference, contact:

Toni Carlyle
SRPMIC O'odham Piipash
Language Program

10,005 East Osborn Road
Scottsdale, Arizona 85256
Phone: (480) 850-4709
Fax: (480) 850-2951

You can also contact Toni by email at:

toni.carlyle@srpmic-nsn.gov
There are a variety of hotel ac-

comodations in the area, ranging from \$73.14/Night/Person at the Rodeway Inn 20 minutes away in El Cajon, to \$119/Night/Person at the conference site itself, the Barona Valley Ranch Resort and Casino in Lakeside.

Vendors wanting to sell items at the Summit can contact Robert Wallace at (619) 318-2643 or Richard Rodriguez at (619) 443-7003, Ext. 229. Mr. Rodriguez is also a point of contact if you'd like to get registration forms for attendance or if you'd like to be a presenter at the Summit.

In addition, there will be a limited supply of registration forms at the front desk of the Quechan Administration Office.

Miss Native San Pasqual Royalty to Appear at PowWow



Marilyn Victoria Galindo
Miss Native San Pasqual
High School Princess for 2007/08

Among the many attractions of the annual Strong Hearts Native Society Pow Wows each year is the chance to meet some of the finest young people attending our local schools, the members of the Strong Hearts Native Society.

Although each member is an ambassador to the public while meeting the public and going about their duties over the 3 day weekend event, special mention must be made of the young ladies who go out of their way each year

to act as personal representatives for the Quechan People: the San Pasqual Indian Princesses. These 3 young ladies will be called upon to be ready to assist and entertain with a smile from the minute the gates open on Friday evening until after the last guest leaves on Sunday night.

The high school Princess, 17 year old Miss Marilyn Galindo, is a senior this year. She serves as the Vice President of the Strong Hearts Society.

One of her special duties at the Pow Wow will be hosting the Men's Fancy Dress Special Contest. This Contest calls for the participants to put together the most elaborate costumes imaginable, covered with intricate beadwork, ribbons, bone, shells and feathers. They gather together on the parade ground in the center of the bleachers and dance to special drum songs, trying to be as upright and intimidating as possible, yet at the same time confident and aloof. Marilyn will join the judging of this contest, and award the



Maritza Barley
Miss Native San Pasqual
Middle School Princess for 2007/08

cash prizes to the winners.

Marilyn says she is proud to be Quechan, and that she is fortunate to have been raised in an environment where tradition is alive and being passed on to the younger generation.

She can be found at many public functions and at the Pipa Market, cooking and selling fry bread with her mom to help cover her travel expenses for the public functions she will attend over the next year. Stop by, say hello, and buy some

of that wonderful fry bread!

Her parents are Phyllis Montague-Valenzuela and Jesse Galindo of Fort Yuma.

The Middle School Princess is Miss Maritza Barley, the 13 year old daughter of Aracely LeRoy and Marlon Barley, Sr. An 8th grade student, her heritage is both Quechan and Kwa-pa, the nation after whom the state of Arkansas gets its name (from a mistranslation from the French).

Like most teens, she enjoys listening to music and visiting with her friends.

She also looks forward to learning more of the traditional ways, and hopes to become a nurse in the U.S. Army someday.

Ten year old Ramona Denise Emerson is a member of the Quine-tha (Prickly Pear Cactus) Clan of the Quechan Tribe. Currently in the 5th grade at San Pasqual Elementary, she is also a very active member of the Ah-Keel Dance Group here at Fort Yuma.

She enjoys traditional song and dance, and performs bird and pipa



Ramona Denise Emerson
Miss Native San Pasqual
Elementary School Princess for 2007/08

dances with the Ah-Keel Group.

She comes from a rich cultural heritage, with ancestry from the Aha-Macav, Quechan and Sioux peoples. Her mother is the late Tina G. Shields Emerson of the Crow Creek Sioux of South Dakota, and her father is Christopher M. Emerson, Sr.

She says she is enjoying her reign this year, and looks forward to meeting other tribes, travel to cultural gatherings, and attending local activities, too.



Enrollment Information Is Protected As Confidential By Enrollment Staff

While any individual Tribal member may request information pertaining to their enrollment records, for others wanting access, most information on individual members is off limits.

The enrollment staff is NOT authorized to release confidential information regarding Tribal members who are involved in a criminal investigation, and they cannot duplicate I.D. cards for law enforcement without the written permission of the Tribal Member involved.

Quechan Tribal Enrollment Ordinance QT-1-83 sets forth a strict procedure for any release of Enrollment Information.

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) only certain information may be given without consent of the person or persons whose identity is in question, and

all other personal information may be given only if the person signs an Authorization Statement (a release of information form.) For identification purposes only, the Enrollment Clerks shall compare signatures, date of birth and sign an affidavit of such confirmation; all other information is classified as confidential without a signed release of information form.

For any other reason, including use by Tribal Programs, a formal letter requesting information must be sent to the President (or in his absence, The Vice President) of the Quechan Tribal Council requesting information from the Enrollment files. The letter must contain the reason for said data and how the information is going to be used.

The President or Vice President

shall approve or disapprove the request and transmit the request to the Enrollment Staff for formal notice to the individuals.

Upon receipt of such request, the Enrollment Staff shall provide the data to the individual requesting it, and they will remain in attendance while a person is reviewing the records. No records shall be removed from the Enrollment Office.

Any Tribal Council member must also request in writing to the President or Vice President why they want information from the files and the purpose for such information.

Membership listings may be released to the Elections Dept. for the purpose of conducting a Tribal Election, or to Revenue Distribution for Per Capita Distribution, or to the BIA for the purpose of Probate and establishing heirs.

ALL INDIAN BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

**THIS FRIDAY NIGHT
FEBRUARY 29TH
AND SATURDAY
MARCH 1ST!**

**First Game Tip-off at
6:00 PM on Friday Night!**

AT THE QUECHAN COMMUNITY CENTER

Enrollment Application Deadline is Friday, March 7th

The Quechan Enrollment Department has sent out calendars to all Tribal Departments reminding everyone that the deadline for enrollment in the tribe for the First Quarter of 2008 is rapidly approaching. Your ability to enroll new family members will expire on Friday, March 7th, at the close of business (5 PM).

Ronda Aguerro, the Supervisor of the Enrollment Office says that it always takes a while to process all of the new applications, so

there must be a cut-off date for the staff to sit down and carefully process all of the applications for each quarter, so everyone gets the consideration they deserve at the subsequent Quarterly Enrollment Meeting.

The staff estimates it will take at least a full week to process the latest applications, so the entire week of March 9th to the 15th will be set aside just for that purpose. The Quarterly Enrollment Meeting with the Enrollment Commit-

tee is scheduled for the week after that, although the exact date and time cannot be set until the processing is complete.

The Enrollment Staff is also scheduled to be at training in Las Vegas the entire final week of March, so if you want to get someone enrolled, March 7th will be your last chance to get in to see them for at least another month.

Once they return from training, a Special Meeting of the Quechan Tribal Council will be scheduled

to consider the Enrollment Committee's recommendations on enrollments for this Quarter.

With the 28th Annual Strong Hearts Native Society Pow Wow and the All Indian Basketball Tournament both happening the first weekend of March, this is an ideal time to arrange with your out-of-town family to get all of your paperwork in order while they are visiting.

If you have any questions about the application process, paper-

work requirements, blood-quantum standards or anything else, don't hesitate to call Eileen Menta, Bryce Kelly or Ronda Aguerro in the Enrollment Department and ask for clarification.

The phone number for the Quechan Enrollment Department is (760) 572-0752.

You can also write for information at:

Quechan Enrollment Department
P.O. Box 1899

Yuma, Arizona 85366-1899

Elder & Family Services Ready to Help

It wasn't only Senior Nutrition that moved into the new Quechan Senior Center. Another program set up to assist elders (and their families) with some of the more frustrating details of their personal lives also made the move.

Elder and Family Services, a long time partner to Senior Nutrition, has moved from a rather cramped, small office in the corner of the old building, into one of the largest, modern, fully equipped offices in the new Quechan Senior Center. They have their own entrance at the northwest corner, and plenty of room to provide even more services now.

Charlene Emerson, the Elderly Services Coordinator, says she's still trying to organize her office around all of the archival material she brought over in the move, and is happy with all the space they have to store it now.

Charlene was once an Alcohol and Drug Counselor at Ft. Yuma ADAPP, and also worked in the Johnson O'Malley (JOM) program before moving to her current position in 1990.

"This is something I really like to do," she says about her current assignment, "helping people directly."

When she started out in Elder and Family Services, she was the only person in the Department, with Marilyn Swafford right next door, serving as the Quechan Tribe's Social Caseworker. Together, they were the entire Social Services Department in 1993.

"We had . . . Victim's Services,

Family Preservation, Indian Child Welfare. Between Marilyn and I, we were really busy!" she laughs. "We had juvenile cases, foster care, always going back and forth to court. It seems most of our time was spent in court in El Centro!"

Eventually, things began to change for the better. "About four or five years later, we saw all these new grants beginning to come in. Marilyn and I talked it over, and we really needed the help, so we began to seek out grant funding."

With the new staff that the grants provided, Social Services was able to expand and move across the way to the two buildings they now occupy. Charlene stayed in the old Senior Nutrition Building where she could remain close to her primary clients, the Quechan Tribe elders.

She emphasizes, "I wanted to stay there so when they come in everyday for lunch, I could socialize with them, and from there, help them when they need it. That way, I was right there with them, saving them from having to walk across through the traffic around Pipa Market whenever they wanted to see me."

Now that the Senior Nutrition Program has moved over to the Senior Center, both Charlene and Selena Palone moved right along with them.

"Selena is the Transporter and Home Visitor," she says, "and I couldn't do this without her, now."

The new location is even more convenient for those who live in the Elder Housing.

And it helps to be conveniently located, since Charlene and Selena do so much for those who need it.

They provide transportation to the Post Office, Social Security Administration, and for paying bills such as utilities and phone. They can even drive a person to non-emergency Doctor visits and community activities, when contacted in advance.

They provide in home supportive services along with home delivery of meals and case management of a variety of government assistance programs, such as: Imperial County Cash Aid Assistance, Food Stamps, Social Security and Veterans Benefits, plus assistance with school and other resources and agencies.

They will even provide advocacy referrals for elderly assistance with Medi-Cal, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Adult Protective Services and requests for Tribal Assistance.

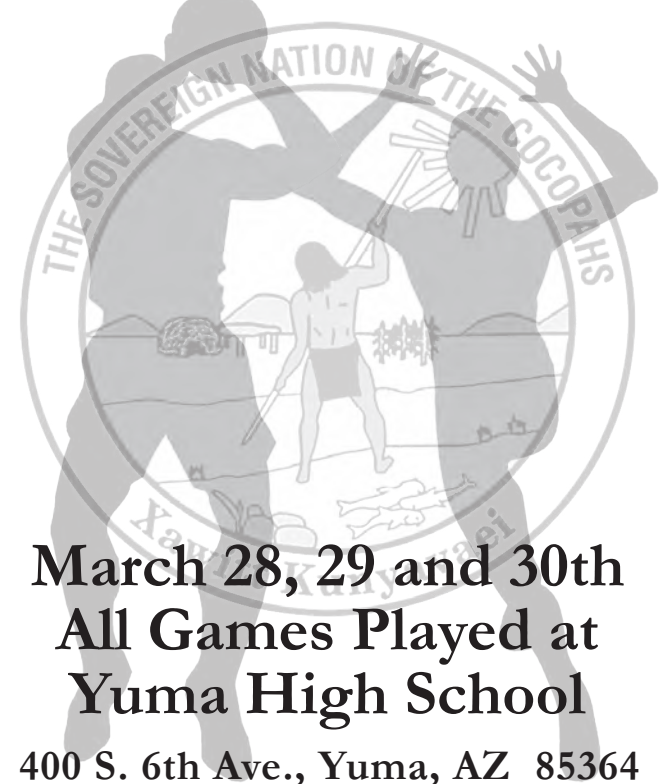
Charlene says her Elder and Family Services is a kind of One-Stop Center for assistance. If she can't provide it herself, she and Selena can put you in touch with someone who can, and in most cases, even go along with you and help you fill out all that paperwork!

"We have 3 different funding programs to help us out," she says.

"We're funded by Title 20 with the state (Arizona), and under Title 6, Part (c) with the Caregivers Programs, and then we're supplemented by the Tribe, too." All services are offered to those who need them on a no-cost basis. For information, you can call (760) 572-2914.

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**

Quechan TERO/Safety Office Offers Earthquake Safety Tips

In light of the recent seismic activity felt in the area from south of Mexicali to the Yuma Proving Ground, Pearl Cowan, the Quechan Tribe Safety Officer sent all departments and managers for the Tribe an extensive memo on earthquake preparedness.

The general public also felt the effects of the ground-shaking temblors, and could use much of the same information.

The important thing to remember is that being prepared for a disaster increases your chances of survival, and will help you get through the immediate aftermath with less of an effect on your health, finances and state of mind. Here are some of the items you should always have on hand for any emergency, from earthquakes to flooding, to power blackouts and weather emergencies:

Start right now to store 1 gallon of water per day for each person in your household, for at least a week. That means if you have 4 in your family, you'll need 28 gallons, which you can store in six large 5 gallon water dispenser bottles. Make sure you also have a first aid and water purification kit. If the waterlines are broken, you'll need that purifier to get water from the river if the emergency drags on for more than a week!

Remember that the power could be out for more than 72 hours: that means you'll have to be ready to live (and provide meals) without gas or electricity for a few days. So, think about what you'll need to "camp-out" right in your own house: Sleeping bags, a non-electric can opener (or two!), a portable radio, flashlight and spare batteries.

You should also have at least 3 days worth of canned food and juices for everyone in the home, including the baby. Remember, if the power is out, a lot of stores will be closed, which means you should also have baby wipes, disposable diapers, baby soap and powder on hand at all times, in storage for any emergency.

It will also help if you have

a few basic (non-power) tools around the house like an axe, shovel and broom for cleaning things up after a quake knocks everything over. A razor knife and heavy gloves should also be on hand, as well as a garden hose for both siphoning and firefighting. You should also have an adjustable wrench to turn off the gas after a quake (and don't turn it back on until you know that any leaks have been repaired!).

Of course, if you end up "camping-out" at home, you should have a camping stove and fuel for cooking outdoors. Never cook inside using charcoal, because it creates a lot of carbon monoxide which quickly kills!

Matches for starting your camp stove and light sticks and candles for lighting while the power is out are also necessities.

Since you might be short on water, it will help to have a couple of clean changes of clothes ready at all times. (You'd hate for the quake to hit on "laundry day" and have everything you own be to dirty to wear!) And with no water to do dishes, paper plates, plastic cups and tableware will come in handy, as well as plenty of heavy duty aluminum foil.

Although all of the items above sound like it will cost you a lot to get your household ready for emergencies, you might be surprised to find you have most of these things around the house already. Just look around and set them aside in a special (safe and secure) location for emergencies. What you don't have you can buy a little over time until you are able to be self sufficient for at least a week, if needed.

While you are putting together your "emergency kit", don't forget that some of the places that may be unable to open while the power is down include pharmacies and Wal-Mart. That means having an extra pair of eyeglasses and contact lenses (and contact lens solution) on hand, as well as refilling your prescriptions 10 days before you run out!

You'll want to have all of your medications on hand, as well as cleaning supplies, bleach, soap and shampoo, toothbrushes and toothpaste. Hygiene is important when your living without heat or air conditioning!

And last but not least: don't forget that the ATM networks may fail if the phones go out, too. You should also have a little extra cash and change stashed away for an emergency.

So, once you have all of these things on hand, and you're ready for "the big one", what do you do when the earth shifts and things start shakin'?

If you are inside, in bed or sitting down: just stay there, don't get up.

If you are standing: duck and cover, or sit down. Getting under a sturdy desk or kitchen table may be a good place.

Don't go near large furniture that can tip over, like buffets or china cabinets. Stay away from appliances, large panes of glass, shelves holding objects and decorative brick and masonry, such as fireplaces.

Keep your walking aids near you at all times. If you have extras, keep them in different rooms of your house.

If you are in a public place, don't rush for the exits: you could get trampled! Crouch and cover your head and neck with your hands and arms.

If you are already outdoors, get into an open area away from trees, powerlines, walls and windows.

If you are driving, pull over until the shaking stops, and stay in the car. Avoid overpasses and powerlines.

Once the shaking is over, locate and turn on your portable radio for instructions and news reports. Be prepared to cooperate fully with public safety officials and instructions.

If you want more information on emergency preparedness, you can find it on the web the following websites: www.fema.gov and www.oes.ca.gov/Operational.

Free Tax Help Offered By Calif. Indian Legal Services

Native Americans with a combined household income of under \$50,000 can once again request free help in preparing and filing their Income Tax return this year, under a program offered by the California Indian Legal Services (CILS).

To take advantage of the free assistance, CILS has set up a website as well as a toll-free number you can call for information. There are a number of offices statewide offering this program, and native citizens of Imperial County are served by the staff of the Escondido, California office. You can contact them toll-free at (800)743-8941.

Those who meet the eligibility requirements will be able to use the I-CAN™ E-File Module to complete and file their taxes over the phone with the assistance of CILS.

They would also like to remind taxpayers that households with incomes below the limit of \$50,000 per year may be eligible for an Earned Income Tax Credit (EIC) of as much as \$4536 this year, depending on the number of children in the household.

California Indian Legal Services has partnered with the Legal Aid Society of Orange County, which created the I-CAN™ E-File Module as a way to assist families in claiming the Earned Income Tax Credit and complete their returns at no cost, allowing those who take advantage of the service to keep

more of their hard earned income. Since the returns are filed electronically by CILS on your behalf, you won't even have to pay postage!

Just remember that this service is limited, however, and the closer the filing deadline of April 15th gets, the fewer volunteers will be available to assist those wishing to use this free service. If you have your W-2s and 1099s in hand and it looks like you'll qualify, the quicker you call and get started, the better your chances of being helped!

Those who call CILS and are determined to be over the qualification limit (or unqualified in some other way) may still be able to get a helpful referral to others with the resources to assist you.

You might be given the contact information for the local Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program, which can often provide tax preparation guidance at no cost, regardless of your income.

You can also use the internet to access the I-CAN™ E-File Module and fill everything out yourself. Simply go to www.calindian.org and look up the I-CAN™ E-File Link.

Once you have all the numbers punched in, you can save and print copies for your own records and will be able to electronically E-File the forms yourself, for a quicker refund.

NEW SPECIAL PROJECTS COUNCIL OFFICERS AT SENIOR CENTER

After two weeks of collecting ballots for nominees to serve on the Special Projects Council, an Election was held on Tuesday, February 19, open to everyone eligible to receive meals and services at the Quechan Senior Center.

Once the ballots had been counted and certified by the Senior Center Staff, the results were as follows:

President

Gene Moore

Vice President

Norman Jackson

Secretary

Christine Emerson

Treasurer

Christine Lopez

QUECHAN TRIBE AT THE 2008 RODEO PARADE



Phil Emerson of the Quechan Parks and Recreation Department makes a last minute adjustment to Miss Quechan's Float.



Jessica Paddock, Miss Quechan Nation for 2007/2008 with her retinue in their traditional finery just before the parade: From the left is Miss Mary Armas, Miss Joanna Herrera, Miss Quechanherself and Miss Alayna Paz, all dressed up and ready to meet their public.



While on the parade route Miss Quechan Nation was accompanied by a group (from the left behind her) made up of Jomaqui, Orlando, Titus, Tyrone and Lorenzo, who are the Ase Smav Bird Singers of the CRIT Reservation in Parker, Arizona.



Miss Native San Pasqual Senior High and Middle School Princesses Marilyn Galindo (on the left) and Maritza Barley were also there, greeting their public from the bed of a four-door Ford pickup sporting purple flames down the hood and both sides.



The Tribal Gaming Office Float featured a spirited game of poker atop a small western saloon, with Sasparilla for that old time flavor.



The Ah Keel Dance Group marched the parade route following the Tribal Gaming Office Float, and were joined by San Pasqual's Elementary Miss Native Princess and family member, Ramona Emerson.

Photos by William Isbell for The QUECHAN NEWS



The First Place Institutional Float Award is proudly displayed by two of the young ladies who rode in the float that captured the prize. On the left is Miss Alayna Paz and on the right, Miss Joanna Herrera. Congratulations on capturing the top prize, everyone!

STRONG HEARTS NATIVE SOCIETY INVITES YOU TO JOIN THE

28th Annual *San Pasqual Unified School* Pow wow

San Pasqual High School Football Field
676 Baseline Road, Winterhaven, California

SPECIAL DANCE PERFORMANCES

Friday Grand Entry at 7:00 PM
Saturday Grand Entry at 1:00 PM and at 7:00 PM
Sunday Grand Entry at 12:00 PM

NATIVE ARTS & CRAFTS

Jewelry, Painting, Weaving, Musical Performances,
Kachinas, Fry Bread, Native Artists, Basketry and Ceramics!

FRIDAY
FEBRUARY 29, 2008

SATURDAY
MARCH 1, 2008

SUNDAY
MARCH 2, 2008

ADMISSION

\$6 Adult
\$2 Juniors
(Ages 11 to 17)
10 and under FREE

\$8 WEEKEND PASS!

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL: (760) 572-0222