



QUECHAN NEWS

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Look For This Symbol

ETSKA NAV AH PAI THE NEWS CARRIER
QUECHAN NEWS

is published by

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Council Takes Action To Speed New IHS Hospital

After more than 20 years of often frustrating delays and surprising setbacks, a new Fort Yuma Indian Hospital is finally beginning to move towards reality.

The entire day of March 13 saw a crew from Dowl Engineering out of Phoenix performing survey work in the area bordered by Agnes and Picacho Roads and Quechan Drive, as traffic patterns, circulation and the actual dimensions of the area were carefully measured in the first step towards getting the plans for the new facility finalized.

Once completed, the survey crew returned to their headquarters and prepared a document known as a "Scoping Letter", which was delivered to various departments and interested parties here on the reservation for their comments. Although it wasn't directly stated in the Scoping Letter, those comments will likely be included in their final report to the Phoenix Area Indian Health Service (PAIHS) in preparation for the next step in the process: approaching Congress for funding approval in the next fiscal year.

Al Sherman, Office of Health Programs Staff Architect for the PAIHS says there are still a number of reviews to be conducted before actual work begins.



This map from Dowl Engineers, included as part of their Scoping Survey for environmental approval of the project, shows where the new IHS Hospital is to be built.

DOWL Graphic

Program requirements for the new hospital are still being reviewed by his office, using data supplied by both the Quechan Tribe and Cocopah leadership, as well as the current IHS staff at Fort Yuma. Everyone wants to be sure the most current data is included in the final plans, so the results from Dowl's scoping letter will be added to the mix, and then sent off to PAIHS headquarters for another 3 to 5 weeks of review before returning to the Office of Health Programs.

As a major project in the coming year for the IHS, plans will

have to also be coordinated with the needs of the Dallas IHS prior to drawing up the plans.

Although it still has some time to "percolate" through the bureaucracy, Mr. Sherman says he expects the program review process to be substantially complete by the end of June.

Once that phase is complete, the PAIHS will hire an architect to translate all of the final data into actual plans for the hospital, which will be a great deal bigger than the antiquated facilities at present.

Gary Waubensee, CEO of the Fort Yuma Indian Hospital, confirms that the staff will grow from the current 78 federal employees and 4 contractors (depending on the season) to more than 160 IHS staff members with as many as 28 tribal employees.

"I can't give you an exact number right now," he says, "but I do know that the operating budget will increase by approximately 300% with the new hospital."

As the wheels finally begin to turn on this project, the Quechan Tribal Council has moved ahead to insure that funding for the new

hospital doesn't "slip through the cracks" this election year.

They have met with the Cocopah Tribal Council and Cocopah Chairwoman Sherry Cordova to prepare a formal letter to the Congressional Delegations of both Arizona and California. Both tribal governments have prepared to work together to present a united front to Congress this year, asking that funding for the new hospital be approved without delay.

"I drafted the original letter and they looked it over this past week," says Quechan Tribe President Mike Jackson, Sr. "They wanted a few changes made which I've included and faxed it back over (to the Cocopahs) for their approval. Once that's finalized (and both Mike Jackson and Sherry Cordova affix their signatures as their people's representatives) it will be sent out to our key Congressional representatives" asking for inclusion in the budget for FY2009.

One of those representatives is Republican Presidential hopeful John McCain of Arizona, who will want every vote he can get in the race. Let's hope he does the right thing and pushes for immediate funding of this desperately needed improvement for America's first citizens.

IHS Hospital Engineering Firm Survey Responses Closed

As a final step in the survey work conducted in preparation for the new IHS Hospital at Fort Yuma, Dowl Engineers of Phoenix, Arizona sent package to a number of tribal departments in late March, seeking their review and comments.

Among the departments receiving the package were Special Projects (formerly Water & Sewer), Environmental, Safety and the Office of Historic Preservation. Dowl Engineers requested that all of those receiving the package respond no later than Wednesday, April 9th, to enable them to complete their environmental documentation of the project.

The *Quechan News* also received a copy of the package via email on March 25th, which included both a map showing the location of the Quechan reservation in relation to Yuma and an aerial photo of the proposed hospital site, just north of Indian

Hill, in place of the current Fort Yuma Trailer Village.

The aerial photo shows that the survey conducted by Dowl Engineers in early March covered the area from Agnes Road north to the intersection of Picacho Road and Quechan Drive on the east, and on the west to the road leading up to Indian Hill just east of the Methodist Church complex.

In the documentation provided, Dowl Engineers confirmed that the Phoenix Area Indian Health Service (PAIHS) will not pay for the relocation of the current trailer park, though they will lease the land for the new hospital from the Quechan Tribe once it is completed.

Among the possible environmental concerns cited in the package are possible noise and wetlands impacts, as well as concerns over the visual impact a new building might have in the area. Since the area is not listed on the National Wetland Inven-

tory website, and the Quechan Tribe currently has no noise ordinance and construction will be limited to daylight hours, the first two concerns should not cause a problem. As for the visual impact, replacing the trailer park with a new, professionally landscaped building complex might well be considered an improvement to the area.

Further positive statistics mentioned in the package include the fact that the new hospital complex will be three and a half times the size of the current hospital, which dates to 1936. The modern replacement hospital will be large enough to include both a helipad for emergency care flights, and a dental health center, in addition to more space for parking.

Once Dowl Engineers receives the responses back from those surveyed, any conclusions they come to will be published in a later issue of *Quechan News*.

"Duey" Sestiaga Accepted Into Fraternity at U of A



Daniel "Duey" Sestiaga, a 2007 graduate of Yuma High, poses in his Omega Delta Phi fraternity jacket at the U of A.

Quechan Tribe member Daniel (Duey) Sestiaga recently completed his first semester at The University of Arizona in Tucson, where he is studying for a Degree as a Pharmacist.

Daniel attended elementary school in his home town of Yuma,

Arizona. He is an honors graduate of Yuma High School and completed his senior year in May of 2007 in the top ten percent of his class.

During his time at Yuma High he was on the A team, making straight A's all 4 years. He played clarinet and a marching horn, provided by the generosity of the Quechan Tribe, while in the school's marching band. He also served as the Head Drum Major his senior year.

Other extracurricular activities included playing trombone with the Yuma High Jazz Band, and he was an active member of many clubs on campus.

Daniel also worked two summers as a certified lifeguard at the Rainbow Pool here on the res.

Daniel's hard work earned him over \$21,000 in scholarships from a variety of different organizations in the Yuma area.

One of Daniel's goals was to march and play with the "Pride of Arizona" which he accomplished his freshman year at the University. He was also inducted into the U of A's Omega Delta Phi Fraternity earlier this year.

His parents are Daniel and Rosie Jack-Sestiaga of Yuma. His siblings include sister Jolie and brother Mike and his wife Vanessa and daughter Mia Mikah.

His proud grandparents are Tomas and Rosie Montoya of Yuma, the late Virgil Jack, and Julio and Carlotta Sestiaga of the Quechan Reservation.

Daniel's Great Grandfather Albert O'Brien, Sr. was a member of the Quechan Indian Band during their heyday years from the 1920's to the early '70's. We know he would be proud!

NATIVE AMERICANS FROM ACROSS THE WEST TO UNITE AT BARONA FOR THE 6TH ANNUAL YUMAN FAMILY LANGUAGE SUMMIT

Tribes Will Focus on Keeping Their Language and Cultures Alive

(LAKESIDE, CA) – Native American Tribes from across the Western United States will gather at the Barona Convention Center for the 6th Annual Yuman Family Language Summit from April 29 through May 1, 2008.

The Barona Band of Mission Indians is proud to be the host of this year's language and cultural event. This year's conference is entitled "Sixteen Languages, One Family" and will celebrate

the culture and traditions of the Yuman Nation, which encompass Tribes spanning the area from Southern California to the Grand Canyon in Arizona to the northern Baja California, Mexico peninsula.

In a collaborative effort among the Tribes to preserve and revitalize the Yuman languages and cultures, attendees will have the opportunity to attend a variety of presentations including language

workshops, traditional art seminars, as well as classes discussing native plants and the relationship of language and song.

The three-day summit will also feature traditional foods, games, storytelling traditions and a dinner recognizing the elders of each tribe in the Yuman Language Family who have been instrumental in preserving the language/culture in their local/tribal area.

The event is \$40 pre-paid and \$80 at the door.

For registration information, contact Toni Carlyle at the SRP-MIC O'odham Piipaash Language Program in Scottsdale, Arizona at (480) 850-4709 or visit www.barona-nsn.gov.

To be a workshop presenter or event traditional arts vendor, contact Rich Rodriguez at the Barona Cultural Center & Museum at (619) 443-7003, ext. 2.

ETSKA NAV AH PAI THE NEWS CARRIER
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!



Progress & Development

Where The Past and The Future Come Together: Seniors Tour Casino♠Resort Site



The Hotel wing of the new resort has already begun to take shape, as the twin elevator towers (the tallest structures in the center) begin to climb into the air above. To the right of the towers, the walls of the hotel begin to take shape, and rebar reinforcements for the walls to come can be seen sprouting from the tops of the first floor walls below. At the far northeast portion (to the right) scaffolding is seen climbing up the walls, while at the west end (to the left) footings are being prepared for the connection area between the resort hotel and the casino/events center building just being started.

Photos by William Isbell, QUECHAN NEWS



Mr. Felix Montague of the Tribal Gaming Agency was also on hand representing the Construction Committee.

Interested seniors got a chance to travel out for a first-hand look at the progress being made on the new Quechan Casino Resort during the first week of April, as Brian Golding, Sr. and Gene Moore arranged to have the Senior Center shuttle bus give them a ride to special shade structure set up just for them.

Quechan Tribe President Mike Jackson, Sr. was there waiting, along with Felix Montague and the Assistant Project manager for Cummings Corporation, Jason Beckman. Together with Mr. Golding,

they provided the visitors with a first hand view of the walls and elevator towers of the Hotel building that makes up the first part of the actual construction.

With the Imperial Irrigation District scheduled to complete the re-routing of powerlines across the worksite around the 21st of this month, fill dirt and compacted gravel will rapidly fill in the low spot where the old powerlines cut across the Casino area. Once everything is at the same grade level, the foundation pad for the Casino will be poured and work on that

portion will go forward in early May.

Right now, there are between 80 and 100 workers on-site, but Mr. Beckman says that could swell to as many as 700 once both building shells are completed and they move to the details of completing the interiors.

The first group of seniors visiting the site also got the honor of raising the Quechan flag over the Roel Construction trailer village on the morning of March 31st. Quechan veteran Stacy Duran got the hoisted the banner that day.



The entire group spent a long time inside the FF&E trailer, looking over the details of the Casino♠Resort.



John Joaquin and Jason Beckman, Asst. Project Manager for Cummings Corporation (first photo) discuss the progress of construction so far. In the second photo, Quechan Tribe president Mike Jackson, Sr. turns around to answer a question asked by Denise Dugan (at far right) while John Joaquin and Phyllis Jones listen on. The Quechan Tribe flag was raised for the first time over the construction site on March 31st. Pictured with the flag (from left) are elders John Joaquin, Christine Lopez and Stacy Durand, with Construction Committee Coordinator Bruce Burton unseen holding up the fly of the banner. At the right are Denise Dugan, Phyllis Jones and Senior Projects Council President Gene Moore. In the final shot, Quechan Economic Development Administration head Brian Golding, Sr. points out some of the details in the hotel wing of the complex to Phyllis Jones in the Fixtures, Furniture and Equipment exhibit room at the project trailer complex.

Miss Quechan Nation to Appear at The 2008 Gathering of Nations

The Gathering of Nations is set to celebrate the 25th Annual Gathering of Nations Pow Wow. With more than 3000 Native American singers and dancers converging on the University of New Mexico Arena in Albuquerque, New Mexico, from April 24th to the 26th, this event is going to be huge.

Gathering organizers say they expect attendance to break all past records.

The world's biggest Pow Wow features a festive atmosphere of both traditional and competition singing and dancing along with the crowning of Miss Indian World.

In addition to the traditional song and dance the Gathering of Nations features many other activities. On Thursday evening, April 24th, the Albuquerque Convention Center will be the site of the Annual Miss Indian World Pageant. This pageant is



Jessica Elizabeth Paddock, the reigning Miss Quechan Nation for 2007/08 will represent the Tribe at this year's Gathering of Nations.

Photo: William Isbell

not a beauty contest, but rather a demonstration of talent and traditional knowledge by the contestants. The Pageant will be co-hosted by Soni Moreno,

of the all Indian women singing group Ulali, and Ky-Mani Marley. A special musical performance will also be given by the very popular Native woman singer, Aragon Starr originally from Oklahoma. The Crowning of Miss Indian World will take place on Saturday evening, April 26th at the Gathering of Nations Pow Wow.

Miss Quechan Nation, Jessica Elizabeth Paddock will be on hand during the Pow Wow and Pageant, representing the Quechan people.

Jessica and her entourage will also be travelling to Sante Fe High School to educate local students about the Quechan, and performing a dance program along with the Ah Keel Dancers.

Right now, the Miss Native Quechan Pageant Committee is working to provide funding and a chaperone to travel with her to this important native festival.

Volunteers Needed For River Bank Clean-up Later This Month



Volunteers collected trash along the Colorado riverbank at the end of March, in a project coordinated by Clare Nash of Fred Phillips Consulting (center front of the photo at left). Clare was joined by Allyson Collins of the Quechan Economic Development Administration (to the right of Clare, and in the right photo picking up trash in the weeds along the Arizona bank with her son Isaac) along with other volunteers. With construction about to begin on the Quechan Nature Park area of the wetlands bordering the Quechan Nation, Allyson is now searching for civic minded individuals to join her in a clean-up on our side of the river. Please call her at (760) 572-5270 to put your name on the list, or just join her Saturday morning, April 19th at the parking area across from the Indian Mission on the hill. The clean-up starts at 7 AM!

AIO Ambassadors: Strengthening Communities

Local Young Professional Selected for National Leadership Program

(Albuquerque, NM) – Americans for Indian Opportunity (AIO) is a national nonprofit located in Albuquerque that has been cultivating Native American leaders for 15 years.

During the second week of April, AIO will induct its tenth class of the Ambassadors Leadership Program; Kenrick Escalanti has been selected to participate in this elite program.

Escalanti is an enrolled member of the Ft. Yuma Quechan Tribe and a Graphic Designer in the Visual Information Department for EC III at the U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground. Currently, he serves as an appointed member of the Ft. Yuma Quechan Cultural Committee and is devoted to the betterment of his people and culture.

Selected from a pool of over 100 applicants Escalanti will spend two years in the program traveling domestically and internationally and also implementing a community based initiative.

The Ambassadors Program is the only leadership initiative in the United States encouraging

participants to weave their respective tribal values into a contemporary reality. The Ambassadors Program provides a creative combination of mentorship, personal reflection, dialogue with national and international decision-makers, community involvement, communications training, and a discovery process into tribal values.

Escalanti will begin the program this April in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The first gathering focuses understanding on roles in a community setting.

This class represents 20 Tribes from 12 states. The program has graduated 170 emerging leaders, including doctors, lawyers, artists, public administrators, and educators.

During the two-year Program, Escalanti will meet with leading Native decision-makers, national policymakers and international dignitaries. He will develop and implement a needed community-based initiative, explore family and tribal histories, and expand his knowledge of personal "medicine" (or inner strength).

As of 5:00PM on
Friday, March 28, 2008

**The
Quechan Tribe**
will no longer accept
Per Capita Advance
Applications

If you have any questions or concerns
please contact
Robin Estrada - Finance Manager

Quechan Native Parenting Classes

Every Wednesday morning

*New Class Topic Begins April 9
And Continues Until May 14, 2008*

*From
9:30 – 11:30 a.m.*

Class Topic: Harmony in Child Rearing

This session is designed to explore the traditional concept of harmony as it relates to family life.

Harmony, Balance, and the Relationships among all things will be examined by parents as they look at ways Indian people traditionally maintained a harmonious living environment.

*Transportation and Childcare will be available
Breakfast will be served
N.R.C. store*

*For information,
Please call: (760) 572-0487*



Deadline Set For Scholarship Applications

High school students wanting to apply for a Quechan Tribe Higher Education Scholarship have until Friday, June 6th to complete their applications. Any Tribal member who has been accepted into the fall semester for a Degree Program at any accredited College or University in the United States may apply.

The Quechan Tribal Council meets on the second Monday of each month to review the applications. Once an application package has been completed and turned in to the higher education office at the Quechan Education Complex, it takes between 45 and 60 days for the higher education staff and Tribal Council to complete their review.

Scholarship applications are also being accepted for students

wanting to enter vocational training for an occupational certificate or degree program, with the same deadline.

Students wishing to receive a Tribal Scholarship do not have to live on the reservation. All you need is to be an enrolled Quechan Tribe member and accepted into an accredited program this coming fall.

Higher Education Director Ora Lee Durand-Valisto says that the main requirement to keep a scholarship is maintain a GPA of 2.0 throughout the course of study in college.

If you have any questions, or would like assistance in preparing your application, please call either James Ruiz or Angela Hiraes with the higher education staff and they will be glad to help. The phone number is (760) 572-5268.

ADAPP Staff Plans Rafting Adventure as Client Reward



Although it looks calm when seen from above, clients and counselors will learn the real meaning of the word "whitewater" as they work together during their spring adventure on the rapids. U.S. Park Service Photos

One of the real challenges of alcohol and drug counseling is the need to develop a genuine sense of trust and openness between the counselor and the client. The process of rehabilitation and continuing sobriety is a daily walk that requires one to be ready to express their innermost doubts and fears with no expectation that the person you are opening your heart to will be sitting in judgment as you describe your life story.

Because of the real need to both develop and nurture that sense of trust, and to create a common bond between the client and counselor, Fort Yuma's Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Program (ADAPP) works hard to remind their charges to "keep their eyes on the prize" every day. One way to do that is by tracking the progress of each client, with the promise of incentives to stay on track as personal milestones are met.

The latest incentive is their plan to reward up to 8 clients who are doing well and have shown the best improvement with a bona fide adventure at the end of May: A white water rafting trip down the Hualapai portion of the Colorado River along the picturesque west end

of Arizona's Grand Canyon!

Additional plans for the trip include a visit to the Grand Canyon Sky Walk and the possibility of seeing the Canyon by helicopter.

Christina Allen, an ADAPP Counselor, says they have been planning to offer such a trip for several years. Her chance meeting with Bob Irwin of the Hualapai Nation during a recent Conference really got the ball rolling to make it happen this spring.

The staff and clients at ADAPP have already begun the fund raising process for the trip, raising \$100s at their booth during the recent Pow Wow. However, this is going to be a bit beyond the average out-of-town "tourist" trip, involving reservations with a rafting company on the Hualapai Reservation, a 650-mile round-trip, plus meals for the clients and a couple of staff members.

So they've barely scratched the surface as far as getting the money needed to make this journey. That means they're planning to hold at least four more fundraisers between now and the end of May to help offset the expense of the trip.

A car wash and a raffle as well as other events are planned

for later this month and into May. ADAPP will be posting flyers around the area announcing these events.

The top 8 clients will be determined from the ratings criteria used to track their progress.

Once selected, each client will still have to stick to their treatment plans and help with the fundraisers prior to making the trip, since any points lost in between their selection date and the trip could mean points (and position) lost.

In other words, if anyone selected has a relapse or parole violation, they may be replaced by another client on the list!

Since sobriety is a work-in-progress that takes a one-day-at-a-time outlook, a future goal sometimes makes it easier to get through each of those days.

The promise of adventure and a change of scenery can combine to make this goal attainable! The opportunity to work together as a team, traveling down the rough and wild lower stretches of the Colorado at the bottom of the world's most beautiful canyon means everyone who makes the trip will have real memories of accomplishment achieved through sobriety to hold on to for the rest of their lives.

THE SENIOR
EMPOWERMENT SERIES

"Letting Go"

Presented by Denise Dugan
Series is held on Wednesdays
From 10:00AM until 11:00AM
at The Quechan Senior Center

Refreshments Are Always Available

Starting April 7, 2008

Quechan Special Diabetes Prevention Project
In Coordination With
JUST MOVE IT CAMPAIGN

3rd Annual JMI Step Challenge for Tribal Employees

Employees wear pedometers and the progress of each employee contributes to the team (department). Diabetes staff will keep your log book or call your team captain at the end of each week to record your progress.

Activity Category	Location	Age Group
Workplace Wellness	Workplace	Adult

Duration Time
8 weeks

Materials
1 pedometer for each employee; Several small poster boards for sharing inspiration; paper or cardstock for signage; daily step log; pedometer FAQ's; progress Chart.

Prepare It
Gather a team in your department that wants to participate and sign their names to the team roster. A team captain will need to be elected to keep track of the team's progress, filling out the team progress report at the end of each week. A team log book and personal log books will be provided for the captain and team members.

At a certain time each day, ask your team members to simply post their steps on the team log; counts can be anonymous or by name (this will help the team captain keep track).

For the departments who only have 1 or 2 staff members, they can join with another department so the teams can have an equal number of participants.

Please contact the Diabetes Project
if you would like to join this employee challenge
by calling 572-1286
Attn: Vincent Tiger, Diabetes Prevention Aide

Thank You!

Tribal Employees Appreciation Lunch

The last week of March ended on a high note for employees of the Quechan Tribe, with everyone who could attend invited to drop by the Community Center and have lunch as a group.

The Employee Appreciation Committee (made up of Brian Golding, Sr., Luz Lopez, Tribal Administrator Robert Klein and Karen Preston) arranged for the kitchen at Paradise Casinos to cook up a barbeque themed lunch of beef brisket, baby back ribs and chicken, along with beans, salad and plenty of soft drinks. They also made sure to have both frosted sheet cake and



Hector Lugo of the Fort Yuma Trailer Village staff accepts a Kohl's gift card as a raffle prize at last month's Employee Appreciation Lunch.

William Isbell, QUECHAN NEWS



Paradise Casinos Head of Food and Beverage Service Ira Kaitz was there to serve up the delicious barbeque meal his staff prepared.

a special chocolate nut cake there for desert!

Mr. Golding (as always) stepped in to be Master of Ceremony for the day, and together with Karen and Luz drew 36 raffle tickets from a spinning drum to hand out gift cards to 3 dozen lucky employees.

Gift cards ranged from \$25 Gas Cards good at local Chevron stations to cards from places like Chili's, Outback Steakhouse and Texas Roadhouse. There were even cards from Kohls, J C Penney, Target and Wal*Mart.

APRIL 2008						
Quechan Special Diabetes Prevention Project						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Monthly Schedule of Activities		1	2	3 Understanding Lab Results 3PM (Vince Tiger)	4	5
	6	7 3rd Annual Step Challenge Starts (Tribal Employees)	8 Cooking Class (10 Students) 10AM (Deborah Tortillott)	9 Foot Care Instruction 3PM (Deborah Tortillott)	10	11 Beverage Survey Taking (Lucinda Summerfield)
	12	13	14	15 Diabetes and Blood Pressure Screening 10AM - 11:30AM	16	17 Understanding Lab Results 3PM (Vince Tiger)
	18	19	20	21	22 Cooking Class (10 Students) 10AM (Deborah Tortillott)	23 Foot Care Instruction 3PM (Deborah Tortillott)
	24	25 Beverage Survey Taking (Lucinda Summerfield)	26	27	28	29 Diabetes and Blood Pressure Screening 10AM - 11:30AM
				30	Proposed Classes For May: Changing Your Lifestyle Caring About Your Heart and Kidneys General Overview of Diabetes	



Local Parents Complete Course on Motivating Children for Education

A new nine-week training course for parents began at San Pasqual Valley Middle School on January 23. Known as the Parent Institute for Quality Education (PIQE), the course was designed for parents of adolescents from 11-15. Each 90 minute class covered topics such as

- Positive communication enhances self esteem
- How to motivate teenagers to read
- Obstacles that get in the way of success in school
- How the California school system works
- College and career planning
- Principal's dialogue
- Graduation

PIQE was held each Wednesday at 6:00 PM, with child care and snacks provided. Classes were offered in both English and Spanish in the 8th grade classrooms at San Pasqual Valley Middle School. Ms. Taune Smith, San Pasqual Valley Director of Education Services taught the English classes and Ms. Belen Gutierrez, PIQE Trainer, conducted the classes in Spanish.

Now in its second year at San Pasqual, the PIQE program is presented through a grant from California GEAR UP in conjunction with a grant from the federal TEAM GEAR UP.

GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) is designed to increase the number of low-income students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary (college and technical schools) education.

GEAR UP provides six-year grants to states and partnerships to provide services to high-poverty middle and high schools. GEAR UP grantees serve students beginning no later than the



Suzanne Smith, Superintendent of San Pasqual Schools pats the back of Livier Lomaintewa as she receives her diploma from Ms. Betsy Lane, TEAM GEAR UP Coordinator, and Ms. Taune Smith, District Coordinator of Education Services and PIQE Instructor.

Photo Courtesy of Rauna Fox, SPVMS

seventh grade and follow them through high school. GEAR UP funds are also used to provide college scholarships to low-income students.

Upon completion of the institute, GEAR UP also provides a certificate to parents to guarantee a spot for their child at a California State University. Placement is held for those students who complete high school and make the universities entrance requirements.

The mission of PIQE is to bring schools, parents, and the community together as equal partners in the education of every child to provide all students with both the option and access to education beyond high school.

The mission of PIQE is to create a community in which parents and teachers collaborate to transform each child's educational environment, both at home and at school, so that all children can achieve their greatest academic potential. During the past 20 years, PIQE has graduated more than 375,000 parents from the basic nine-week parent involvement program to make a positive impact on more than

1,000,000 students.

PIQE's philosophy is based on the simple premise that all parents love their children and want a better future for them. Every child can learn and should have the opportunity to attend and complete a college education if they'd like, and parents and teachers can work together to ensure the educational success of every child. For children, learning is a natural process that parents and teachers can facilitate.

The objectives of PIQE are to encourage and support low-income parents of any ethnic background to assist elementary, middle and high school children to participate in assisting their children to:

- Create a learning environment at home
- Navigate the school system with confidence
- Collaborate with teachers, counselors and principals
- Encourage college attendance
- Support their child's emotional and social development

Rauna Fox, Principal of the San Pasqual Valley Middle



Regular Season Play
Continues

Every Friday Evening
at 6:00PM and 7:00PM
and Saturday Mornings
at 10:00AM and 11:00AM



THROUGH FRIDAY, MAY 2nd

**SEASON ENDING PLAYOFF
TOURNAMENT WILL BE HELD
SATURDAY, MAY 2nd - SEE YOU THERE!**

**QUECHAN
PARKS &
RECREATION**

School says they embody those philosophies as well, and they were excited to host two parent institutes during the years 2006-2007 and 2007-2008.

The California GEAR UP grant that funded these institutes is in its final stages. "We are searching for other ways to continue to provide these supports to parents," she said.

She went on to say that "On March 19, 2008, we were pleased to graduate 20 parents from our 2nd PIQE Institute. This means that 50-60 San Pasqual students now have spots waiting for them at any California State University when they complete the universities entrance requirements."

Further, she singled out the Quechan Parenting Program for special praise. "We would not have been so successful if it weren't for the help of the Parenting Program. Adina Alvarez and her staff provided transportation for parents to and from the classes."

Finally she said, "We also want to thank the cafeteria staff of the San Pasqual Valley Unified School District for providing snacks and our celebratory dinner. And thanks to our child care

providers: Ms. Theresa Zambra-no and Ms. Angie Wright, who pitched in to watch the children while the parents were concentrating on their lessons."

On behalf of San Pasqual Valley Middle School and the San Pasqual Valley Unified School District, Principal Fox would like to congratulate the following parents for their commitment to their children and their children's future successes:

Adina Alvarez
Andrea Chaipos
Martita Flores
Maria E. Garcia
Virginia Gilbert
Vicky Hernandez
Valerie Jose
Ivanna Kelly
Jason Lomaintewa Sr.
Livier Lomaintewa
Lorraine Mitchell
Andrea Nunez
Estella Olmos
Manuel Olmos
Catalina Quintana
Phelina Roosevelt
Mina Ruiz
Suzy Sanchez
Nicole Vazquez

AN EDUCATION IN AGRICULTURE

Photos by William Isbell for QUECHAN NEWS



Alyna Weathersby shaves a pig at the San Pasqual pens before loading it up for the trailer ride.



Presentation is everything as Alyna even colored and styled her hair for her time before the judges.



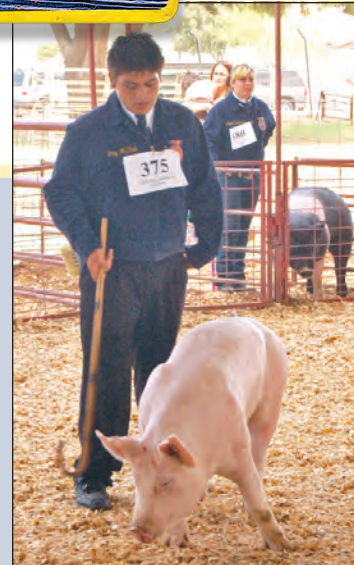
Donald Medart, Jr. checks to be sure the judge is getting a good look at his animal's profile.



Ariel Marquez works hard to keep her pig moving, and clear of all the other animals around her.



FFA Student President Taylor McDonald had a purple ribbon winning lamb and a purple ribbon pig!



Jaime Marquez demonstrates an ability to keep his pig in line while remaining calmly in control.



Every student enters the judging ring one at a time. This time it is Alejandra Ramirez' turn.



Strong Hearts member Sarina Salas shows the delicate touch that earned her a purple ribbon.



Christopher Valenzuela also seems almost casual as he guides his pig to the center of the ring.

Students at the San Pasqual Valley High School face one of their biggest tests every year during the Yuma County Fair livestock show and auction.

With 60 students attending 5 periods of instruction on subjects ranging from Ag Leadership, to Horticulture, Ag Production and Ag Mechanics, Al Irwin has his hands full helping them get ready for the big show.

"Mr. Irwin is just awesome," says the school secretary, Ms. Balderas. "He spends so much of his own time and money helping them take care of their animals, I don't think everyone really appreciates just how much he puts into them."

During a visit to the livestock sheds behind the school gym in late March, I saw a couple of examples of the extra effort that goes into helping the students maximize their profits when raising an animal as part of their training for a future in agriculture. Mr. Irwin was loading pigs

into a horse trailer, 9 at a time, for a trip to El Centro for their final health inspection before the fair. He had located a veterinarian who volunteered to inspect all the school's animals at no charge, but only if they were brought to the clinic in El Centro.

So, Mr. Irwin was using his own time (and diesel fuel) to get the lambs and pigs over to El Centro and back, saving each student between \$25 and \$40.

He also saved them a ton of money when it comes to feed, by checking feed prices on the internet last September (when fuel and corn prices were much lower), and ordering giant one ton bags of feed from Riverside, CA. By ordering the feed in bulk (like a farmer does), he by-passed the middlemen, and saved more than half the cost of buying it at a feed store in 50 lb. bags.

Some of his students seem to have caught his enthusiasm for animal husbandry, and will spend a good deal of time both before

classes and after school, gathered in the pens, helping each other feed and water their animals, and taking them out for a bit of exercise.

"We've even had some of the kids out there working with their animals during spring break," says Ms. Balderas.

Those who raised lambs picked up their animals in late October, weighing about 80 lbs. each. By the time the fair rolled around, Taylor McDonald's lamb "Spiderman" had put on another 35 lbs, and crossed the scales at 115, which no doubt contributed to her winning a purple ribbon.

The care that goes into their animals showed when they brought them into the ring last week, with blue and purple ribbons going to many San Pasqual students. Keeping their animals circulating in the center of the ring, and away from the fences is harder than it sounds! Look for a list of all the awards in each weight class in the next issue.