



QUECHAN NEWS

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In This Issue:

Disaster Awareness
Page 2

Senior Athletic Games
Page 3

FFA Student Awards
Page 4

Nature Park Meeting
Page 5

New Victim's Advocate
Page 6

Child Care Training
Page 7

Boxing at Paradise
Back Cover

Items Of Special Interest To Tribe Members



Look For This Symbol

ETSKA NAV AH PAI THE NEWS CARRIER
QUECHAN NEWS

is published by

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Hundreds Turn Out For Bridge Wreath Ceremony

Quechan Tribe President Mike Jackson, Sr. and Vice President Keeny Escalanti, Sr. joined with the members of Quechan American Legion Post 802 and special invited guests to conduct the annual Wreath Drop Ceremony from the Ocean-To-Ocean Bridge on Memorial Day.

Accompanied by the rumble of dozens of motorcycles ridden by the Vietnam Veterans Motorcycle Group, a parade of sorts moved from the gathering spot at the base of Indian Hill to spread out across the west side of the bridge, continuing south all the way into Yuma's Gateway Park. Below, in the Park, color guards from the Cocopah Veteran's Association, American Legion Post 56, H.H. Donkersley Post 19, and the U.S. Border Patrol formed up to provide a 21-gun salute and dip their



The newest member of Post 802, Bill Daniels, leans out past Vice President Escalanti and President Jackson to get a good look as the ladies auxiliary prepares to drop their three wreaths into the Colorado.

colors as the wreaths floated by on the way to the Gulf of Cortez and the open sea beyond.

Earlier that same morning, all of the veterans groups formed in assembly at the Post 802 headquarters on Arnold Road to

march together in respect to the Quechan nation's veterans.

They gathered together to hear a welcome address from President Jackson, followed by an invocation by Reverend Avis Black. A combined choir sang a number of hymns in tribute to veterans of all wars, before the ritual of remembrance of those who were (and may still be) Prisoners Of War (P.O.W.s), led by guest speaker Master Sergeant Joseph R. Jose of the Arizona National Guard (AZNG).

MSGT Jose is the Chief Instructor for the 215th Field Artillery Regiment of the AZNG. The advisor on Officer Candidate and Warrant Officer Candidate

Schools, Military Police, and Forward Observer issues to the Regiment and Battalion Commander, he is charged with maintaining the day to day operation for the different section at the Regiment. The son of Nancy Montague, a Quechan Language Instructor with the Tribe's Language Preservation Program, MSGT Jose is one of the highest ranking enlisted men in the Army National Guard. At present, MSGT Jose also works as the Operations Sergeant for Task Force Yuma, Operation Jump Start, working with the Border Patrol and a multitude of states that participate in securing the nation's borders.

Born on the Fort Yuma Reservation, he is an enrolled member of the Quechan Tribe who graduated from San Pasqual High School in 1982. Right now, he is employed by ECIII at the Yuma Proving Ground as a Gunner, testing different weapon systems.

Once MSGT Jose completed his portion of the program, a final Memorial Prayer was offered by Post 802 Chaplain, Neil Hill. The bugler from Post 56 played "Taps", and everyone passed in review before heading up to the bridge to perform the annual wreath drop, in memory of all of those who lost their lives at sea.



Color guards and an honor guard form up in Yuma's Gateway Park as the crowd gathers to witness the Memorial Day Ceremony.

Photos by William Isbell, QUECHAN NEWS

Disaster Awareness Training Provided For Most Quechan Tribe Employees

Jack D. Lee

Assistant Fire Chief of the US Navy Base at Pearl Harbor provided a full week's worth of disaster awareness training.

Photo: William Isbell, QUECHAN NEWS



With the recent devastating cyclone in Myanmar and the collapse of schools and infrastructure in China due to earthquakes, it's obvious that every government entity needs to plan for disasters, whether natural or man-made. Federal grant dollars are also available to assist small communities such as ours, but only if there is a properly integrated disaster plan in-place and ready for implementation.

To provide the training necessary to qualify for those grants, and to outline the basic operation of an integrated disaster response plan, Pearl Cowan, Safety Officer for the Quechan Tribe brought in her brother, Jack D. Lee, the Assistant Fire Chief at Pearl Harbor.

Employees from all departments were given a full day of classroom training, that covered the most likely scenarios involving chemical spills and leaks that could occur at any time in an area such as ours. With an Interstate highway, farm equipment on the two-lane roads, and a major rail corridor all passing within a half mile of the tribal offices and the residential areas nearby, an accidental chemical release could happen as a result of an earthquake, a storm, or human error.

One of the first things Chief Lee did was to clarify the differ-

ence between an emergency and a disaster.

"An emergency can be measured on your watch," he notes, "while a disaster is measured on a calendar. An emergency can be wrapped up in hours, while a disaster could run for days, weeks, or even months, before things are 'back to normal.'"

And to respond to either, a Local Emergency Response Plan (LERP) is needed, to initiate protective actions (to contain the damage) and initiate the notification response (to get everyone needed to provide that containment up-to-speed and where they need to be).

The most important part of the LERP in a disaster situation is setting up what's known as the Incident Command System. An agreed upon Incident Commander is selected, who will be the person responsible for all decisions relating to the management of the incident, to immediately cut-off the possibility of conflicting orders, and allow everyone involved to know where their directions are coming from.

The Incident Commander (IC) will answer to the local elected officials (in our case, the Tribal Council), who will have an Office of Emergency Services available to assist the Commander in making decisions and passing on orders and information to the people on the scene, as well as keeping the general public informed of their progress.

Chief Lee also explained the four positions in each command structure that are needed to assist the IC in making the correct decisions, to see to it that the right people and resources are available and deployed where they are needed as efficiently as possible. Those four positions are: logistics (who is charged with providing the materials and people needed to respond), operations (who actually deploys those resources in the field and does the work), planning (who helps the IC and the local officials clearly understand their options and develop their response) and finance (who has to somehow pay for it all!).

The need for such a command structure is spelled out in federal law, which requires use of the Incident Command System in any incident involving hazardous materials. That means it applies to all sorts of disasters that would likely spill oil, chemicals or pesticides, such as derailments, earthquakes,

floods or fires.

The training involved more than just how to set up an ICS and use it to handle an incident. At the end of the one-day training session, the class was broken up into three teams and given a fictional scenario involving a possible nerve gas release into a public building. Each team had to select an IC and then develop a plan detailing their first response to such an incident.

Further training over the week to follow was given to Quechan Tribe employees most likely to be called upon to respond in a real life disaster. Security, police officers, facilities workers and even members of the finance department were given extensive instruction involving actual incidents from the past. The students of the longer course were even given practical, hands-on training: containing a simulated chemical spill in the parking lot outside of the classroom.



The more extensive course taught by Chief Lee during his visit involved an exercise to test a team response to "dike and dam" a simulated chemical spill, using water from a loaned Winterhaven fire truck.

Chief Lee: A World Class Emergency Instructor

Assistant Fire Chief Jack D. Lee is a native Hawaiian, born in Honolulu. He has climbed to the top of his profession after a little more than 30 years in the fire fighting business, as a member of the second largest fire department in the Department of Defense (DoD), at the Pearl Harbor Naval Base.

He has spent 12 years as a Fire Captain and 13 years as Assistant Chief, demonstrating a tenacious native spirit and a very high level of professionalism.

Over the years he has served as Operations Chief for the Pearl Harbor Hazardous Materials and Weapons of Mass Destruction response team (HazMat/WMD/CBRNE), engaged in the dangerous work of confined space rescue operations, and performed high angle and open ocean water rescues.

He was selected as part of a 9 man team to represent the US Army Pacific Command as part of the Disaster Management Exchange Program, teaching the Incident Command System in both Japan and China. With his varied background in almost every phase of emergency response, Chief Lee was one of only two civilians selected by the DoD to participate.

He also serves as the Lead Instructor for the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC) for over 1500 firefighters across the world.

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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

Elders From 17 Tribes Gather For Annual Athletic Competition at Q.C.C.



Luis Robles of Parks and Rec. served as events announcer and kept everything moving along.



Outdoor athletics included T-Ball batting for distance, which brought out over a hundred contestants to wait their turn. That's Norman Jackson, Senior Project Council V.P. taking his turn at bat, above.



Doris Tanning from Laveen (Dist. 6) shows how it's done at the ladies horseshoe competition.



Lenora Jones, of the Dist. 5 Gila River Indians crumples a sheet of newspaper in this timed event.

For the sixth year running, the Quechan Tribe held their annual Senior Games competition, closing out the "Elder Month" of May with a two day gathering of natives from all around the area.

This year, the competition was especially tight, with 17 tribes from southern California and all over Arizona responding to the invitation, bringing roughly 300 elders into Fort Yuma to take over the Quechan Community Center for a full day of indoor and outdoor events.

Two tracks of competition were set-up: Adaptive games (modified for those who in areneed of assistance or slowed down by arthritis or other affects of aging) and regular competition, set up according to age brackets. The adaptive games included a timed, one-handed newspaper crunch, a rubber chicken tossing contest and an obstacle course.

While it's much easier than a ball to grip on a rubber chicken around the neck and give it a

toss, the light weight and odd flight characteristics sure make it a challenge to get any distance!

Those not in the adaptive games also got to run a team obstacle course, crunch newspaper and toss chickens, as well as take part in more strenuous activities like T-Ball, volleyball and horseshoes. There was also a very popular competition to see how many baskets you could make standing 12 feet from a lowered basket, launching child sized basketballs at the hoop as quickly as four staff assistants could get them into your hands. Each player got 20 seconds to "go for the gold", and nearly everyone there lined up to give it a try!

Similar timed race events included the always popular grocery basket fill-and-transfer game, a two-person relay race the distance of the basketball course, and the real "killer", the devilishly difficult "Oompa Loompa Ball" run.

This year, the first three teams

See More Photos of the 6th Annual Senior Games ahead on page 4

to try to get the giant "Oompa Loompa Ball" under control and on their shoulders only managed about five steps before it tumbled out of their grasp and onto the gym floor, costing them their



Alberta Lewis won two first place medals in the Adaptive games, and posed proudly with Jessica Paddock, who presented them to her.

game. With the ball suffering a slow leak, and it being a little more deflated and even more uncontrollable than years past, everyone was beginning to think it couldn't be done, until Lolita Bell stepped forward with Phillip A. Jonico and they swiftly made it to the opposite end of the gym, spun around in a perfectly choreographed turn, and brought it back to the starting line without even hesitating.

Their performance brought the crowd to their feet, and finally broke the spell of the "Oompa Loompa Ball", giving most of the teams that followed them the confidence to complete the full round trip of the gym, too.

With so many hundreds of competitors this year, all the events lasted much longer than they were scheduled, so the athletic competition wrapped up with the Oompa Loompa Ball Race. A short volleyball tournament was planned, but by the time that was supposed to begin, it was almost

dinnertime!

After the dinner break, everyone was invited back for a talent show that also involved a great deal of good-natured competitive spirit, since there were trophies also waiting to be awarded for the top three most popular acts!

There's a lot to be said for a good country and western singer, though, and Leonard Enos came out the favorite of both the crowd and the judges, which allowed him to claim the largest trophy on the stage on Friday morning, when his name was called during the awards ceremony.

That ceremony was combined with a well-attended luncheon, catered by the La Fonda Restaurant in Yuma. During the luncheon, Miss Quechan Nation, Jessica Paddock took to the stage with the Ah Keel Dance group and other volunteer dancers from the assembled guests, to entertain and educate the visiting tribes. Jessica then stepped down to personally hand out the awards.



Dolly Juan shoots hoops as four staff members keep the balls coming.



The men also went for altitude in their horseshoe competition!



Diane Mocassin moves groceries as Shayne Takala times her moves.



The medicine ball toss involves throwing a soft, 4 pound ball as far as you can, without bonking the heads of dozens of people waiting in line nearby!



You'd think the World Series pendant was at stake, as hard as some of the men smacked that oversized T-Ball!
QUECHAN NEWS Photos by William Isbell



Donald Menta feeds balls to Julianne Comet to keep her in the game.



Timing Wilkie Frazier of Salt River on groceries, is Richard Cachora.



Eldon and Dora Moore teamed up to run the obstacle course.



Quechan Tribe Scholarship Deadline June 6

The last chance for high school students wanting to turn in their applications in order to apply for a Quechan Tribe Higher Education Scholarship is Friday, June 6th. 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 to 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 the higher education staff and they will be glad to help. The number is (760) 572-5268.

Students Rewarded at FFA Banquet

San Pasqual High held their 45th Annual Future Farmers of America (FFA) Awards Banquet on May 27th, to recognize the superior efforts of all involved over the past school year.

The entire program was conducted by the students themselves, with even the dinner and meal service provided by the Yuma High Chapter of the FFA.

The students opened the program with a ceremony that involves each officer of the club, standing at an assigned position in the four corners of the room, answering a roll call and describing their duties. A very formal presentation, the opening and closing of meetings is one of many competitive events they may be judged on at regional, state and national competitions.

Each of the officers then took their turns at the podium, to announce the names of those who had excelled over the 2007/08



Tribe member Donald Medart, who served as the Sentinel for the Winterhaven FFA Chapter for the past 2 years, towers over President Taylor McDonald as she congratulates him.
Photo: William Isbell, QUECHAN NEWS

school year, and present their awards. There were plaques given out for such accomplishments as top lamb and swine producer, accomplishments in emerging agriculture technology, using computers to develop and track production, and agricultural mechanical systems, as well as horticulture.

Every member who completed a year in the program was also given a bronze pin, signifying their making it past the "green-horn" stage in life. Those with more years of experience receive a silver pin, and some even received a State FFA Degree.

Five students were also singled out for academic achievement, two freshmen, a sophomore, a junior and a senior. You can find a list of all those receiving special recognition on the next page.

Once the student awards were finished, they had a couple of surprises for their adult advisors, as well. They called up Mr. Hotel, who helps out from time-to-time, to induct him into Honorary Membership into the FFA, and saved the best for last:

The assembled officers gave their "Papa Bear", FFA Advisor Mr. Irwin, a stuffed bear, a colorful Hawaiian shirt, and a framed photo of them all to keep as a remembrance for years to come.

**Quechan Tribe
Enrollment Deadline:
Friday, June 6 at 5 PM**

**Quechan Per Capita
Enrollment Deadline:
Monday, June 30 at 5 PM**

If you have any questions about these dates, please contact:
Quechan Enrollment Department
P.O.Box 1899
Yuma, AZ 85366-1899
Phone: (760) 572-0752

Winterhaven FFA 45th Annual Banquet Achievement Awards

Scholastic Achievement:

Senior: Taylor McDonald
Junior: Cecilia Casarez
Sophomore: Jaime Marquez
Freshmen:
Ailene Valarde and David Jaime

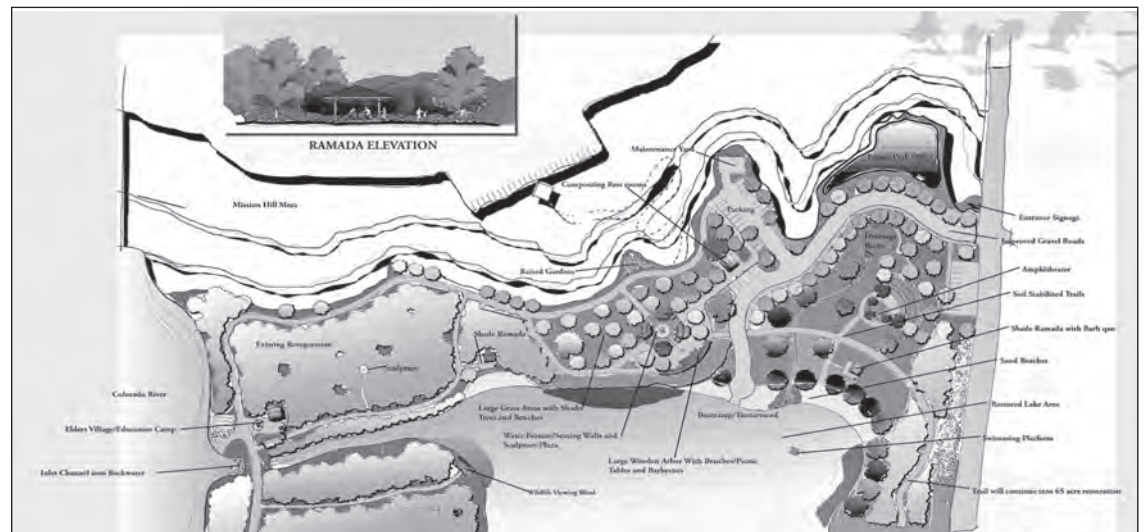
FFA State Degree:

Ariel Marquez
Denise Alarcon
Donald Medart
Taylor McDonald
Cecilia Casarez

FFA Proficiency Awards:

Lamb Production: Taylor McDonald
Swine Production: Kassandra Ripley
Specialty Crops (Medjool Dates): David Jaime
Horticulture: Wade Olson
Ag. Mechanical Systems: Greg Delgado
Emerging Ag. Technology: Cecilia Casarez
Star Greenhand: David Jaime
Top Hand: Remington Donaldson
Clean Pen Award: David Jaime
Honorary Chapter Degree:
Mr. David Hotel

Deadline For Public Comments on Quechan Nature Park June 13



A newly released site plan for the Quechan Nature Park shows some of the changes made to the conceptual plan from last year, including moving the future park office building closer to the base of the mesa at Indian Hill, as well as recontouring the roads to allow for easier boat ramp access at the lake feature.

Art courtesy of Fred Phillips Consulting

At a sparsely attended public meeting on May 27th, Fred Phillips, the consultant for planning of the new Quechan Nature Park, and Brian Golding, Sr. and Allyson Collins of the Quechan Economic Development Administration (EDA) presented the “60% Design” plan for the new park.

By 60 percent design, they mean that most of the plan is nailed down at this point, with room for suggestions from the public, as well as allowing room to make changes in the details once a contractor is chosen and actual construction takes place. Since the new design calls for digging a much larger lake at the east end of the Nature Park, and using the soil from that operation to re-contour and shape the hillside above the lake, some items may be placed in slightly different positions, depending on a variety of factors that may affect construction.

Those factors could include soil stability, ease of access, or new materials being considered to enhance the colors and textures of park facilities.

One thing that is not changing, is the plan to have a small amphitheatre cut into the hillside below the area reserved for

a future park office building and south of the levee road. The amphitheatre will feature stepped seating for perhaps 130 people, with room beyond for additional audience members to spread out on the lawn and enjoy cultural presentations.

A number of shade ramadas are planned, as well as barbecue pits for cookouts. The “Elders Village” with a permanent mud house and traditional garden will be placed right on the riverbank at the outlet from the lake back into the river, concealed from view at the Gateway Park area in Yuma by a screen of willow, mesquite and cottonwood trees.

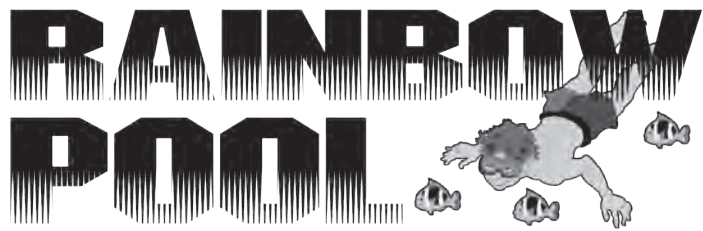
One of the newest features will be a small waterfall feature, placed at the very east end of the lake, where a large concealed pump will keep the channel leading into the lake flowing. That channel will travel down the center of a 65 acre plot that will be bordered by trees and available for traditional planting in the future, if requested.

A trail that begins at the parking area of the Nature Park will loop all the way around the lake and the 65 acres to the east, allowing a nearly 3 mile walk along the river and through a recreation of

the area as it was before the coming of dams and the “progress” of reclamation. The concrete lined channel through the center of that area may also be lined inside with river rock to give it a more natural appearance, and will feed irrigation water into smaller tributaries, watering trees and native plants, as well as emptying into the lake at the Nature Park.

The lake will be tremendously expanded from the small pond that can be seen right now. Brian Golding says it will be perhaps 6 times as large, and much deeper, when completed next spring. The plan is to excavate as much as 20,000 cubic yards of material from the channel, to create the lake and re-shape the hillside.

With that much of the plan complete, a request for proposals has been issued, seeking a contractor to begin construction as early as this July. That means members of the public have one final opportunity to make suggestions on the final design, and ask that specific features be included. If you would like to see the plans, and provide your input, contact the Quechan Economic Development Administration by Friday, June 13th, 2008 at 5:00 PM. Their phone number is (760) 572-5270.



**Will Be Hosting
SPLASH DAY!**
This Saturday - June 7th
From 1PM to 5PM

Swim Lessons, Tues., Wed. & Thurs.
June 10th, 11th and 12th @ 9AM
June 17th, 18th and 19th @ 9AM

FAMILY NIGHT

Wednesday, June 11th
(And every Wed. night thru August 20th)
From 6PM to 8PM

TEEN SWIM

Thursday, June 12th
(And every Thur. night thru August 21st)
From 6PM to 8PM

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SUPPORT GROUP FOR WOMEN

**Quechan Victims Services will begin their
WEEKLY WOMEN'S
SUPPORT GROUP**

The Group will meet every Thursday,
starting June 5th, 2008 at 6:00 PM
in the Social Service Building.
Address: 456 B Picacho Road
Winterhaven, CA.
(Across from Pipa Market)

For any questions please contact:
Roxie Deku

760-572-1082

We look forward to seeing you there!

New Victims Services Advocate for Quechan Tribe

After a few months of being an unfilled position, the Quechan Indian Tribe's Victims Services Program has found a new Victims Advocate for those who suffer from either domestic violence at the hands of family, or abandonment by "the system".

Roxie Ann Deku brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to her position. As an Advocate, Roxie tells the *Quechan News* she looks forward to performing as both a Victims Advocate and Administrator for the program. As an Advocate, Roxie is committed to providing assistance to women to empower their lives and realize their goals with their families. As an Administrator, Roxie will be charged with the administration of her part of the program and will be collaborating with the different programs of the Quechan Indian Tribe as well as community organizations in both California and Arizona.

"I look forward to working with the women and the staff here," she says.

"I am grateful for this opportunity and honored to be a part of the Social Services programs of the Quechan Indian Tribe and serving in the role of Victims Services Advocate and Administrator. Everyone here has treated me with open arms!"

Expanding on her philosophy, she adds, "It is important to work together to heal and to unite. My door is always open and I welcome any calls or visitors."

Roxie Ann Deku has worked as a social worker for over thirty years. Born and raised in Santa Monica, California, she began her social service career working for the YWCA as a peer counselor for teen programs at the early age of 15.

She would go on to work for grassroots organizations in Los Angeles in positions such as Case Aide, Case Manager, Coun-



Roxie Deku has been a Social Worker for 30 years, working mostly with victims of domestic violence.

selor and Job Developer.

In the early 80's Roxie worked as Program Director for The Genesis Center, the first African American domestic violence center in Los Angeles, where she also received the Duluth training in Domestic Violence Counseling.

Roxie then worked in Ghana, West Africa, as a volunteer for that country's first Womens Rights Development Center and was instrumental in forming empowerment programs for rural women through an entrepreneurial program where women made garments and accessories that sold internationally.

In 1988 Roxie returned to the States, migrating to San Diego where she worked as Program Manager for homeless families and domestic violence victims. In 1992, Roxie and her mother formed the Friends of Russell Latimer, Inc. and opened doors to house domestic violence victims, homeless and ex-offenders.

Funded through HUD, FEMA and corporate and private grants, the organization provided case management as well as emergency and transitional housing. The organization closed its housing and counseling services in 1997 and today ships donated relief and medical supplies to West Africa each year.

She also worked part time as

a journalist and briefly taught journalism at San Diego State University where she began an entrepreneurial program for at risk youth in creating and selling a newspaper.

From 1997 to 2008, Roxie spent her time working as a Case Manager and Paralegal contracted as a private consultant to organizations, churches and corporations.

She first came to the area 5 years ago, visiting a friend who lives here on the reservation. At that time, she says, "I fell in love with the area!" With her private consulting business established, she finally made the move to Yuma 3 years ago.

She then used her contacts from her travels to write numerous grants and programs, developing corporations for profit and non-profit concerns from San Diego to Atlanta, New Jersey and Ghana, West Africa.

While working out of her home in Yuma, she also spends some of her time providing assistance to individuals in preparing legal documents for family law and immigration matters.

A workaholic, Roxie also volunteers at her church, and was running a women's support group every Tuesday night, also out of her home. "Now that I'm working for the tribe, I've had to turn that over to someone else, since I'm also holding Thursday night meetings here!" she says.

Roxie is also an artist and poet, with two published novels and a book of poetry.

In her off time, Roxie produces a television program that airs on Public Access stations and sits on the boards of the Friends of Russell Latimer Inc., and the Hot Springs Rural Network, an African non-profit organization. Roxie has received numerous awards and commendations for her community work and international efforts.

Child Care Providers, Social Workers Receive Mandated Reporter Training

In order to conform to California laws mandating that all employees in both private and public organizations whose duties require direct contact and supervision of children to be aware of the signs of child abuse and neglect, and to report the same whenever it is suspected of occurring, Quechan Head Start sponsored two sessions of a one-day training course on the subject earlier on May 23rd.

Yvette Garcia from the Imperial County Child Abuse Prevention Council presented the class in the multi-purpose room of the Quechan Education Center, covering the signs and symptoms of child abuse, interview procedures, what does not constitute abuse, and related subjects. The hour long refresher was attended by employees of the Paradise Child Care Center, Quechan Day Care and Quechan Head Start, among others.

Yvette briefly covered both the historical origins of child protection laws and the current California requirements. Those attending received a complete information packet to keep and refer to in the future, to help them recall all of the information presented.

Some of the more important subjects concerned the fact that

those making a "good faith" report of suspected abuse are protected from criminal or civil liability. But with that protection comes the responsibility of those suspecting abuse to make an effort to conduct a short investigation of their own, to confirm their suspicions without exposing the child to further trauma or additional danger.

Those attending were also reminded that every report must be a legitimate report, however, the law also provides penalties for knowingly or willfully providing false notifications of abuse, to prevent unfounded allegations from gaining traction and ruining the lives of a family.

A good portion of the course covered California Penal Code Sections 11164 through 11174.4, containing the relevant laws. Although a great deal of the law discussed covers abuse, what it is and how to report it, what to expect in the way of feed back once a report has been made, and who is required to report suspected abuse, the laws also cover what abuse is not.

Some things that do not constitute child abuse include age appropriate spanking for disciplinary purposes, providing it does not expose the child to serious injury, or spiritual treatment

of a medical condition for religious reasons.

The course also touched on what happens once a report is made and Child Protective Services becomes involved. Some of the information in that part of the class included the fact that the CPS worker conducting an interview on school grounds must inform the child that they have the right to have a school employee sit in on the interview, even though the employee may not take part in the interview or discuss the facts or circumstances of the report either during the interview or after it takes place.

Finally, Ms. Garcia covered the process of making a telephone report to the Children and Family Services Hotline, and how to fill out a written report on Form SS 8572, required within 36 hours of making the initial telephone call to Social Services.

Part of the class concerned the need to promote community awareness through educating parents as well. Now that everyone on staff at the Quechan Education Center has received this training update, they will be able to answer any questions you may have about this important subject, and help you understand that we should all keep in mind the best interests of our children.

California Offers Free Employment Training and Placement Service

The California State Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) has hired a new Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor for Imperial County, who makes periodic visits to the Quechan Nation in search of clients seeking job placement assistance, as well as the training to fill any number of jobs in the vicinity.

That new Counselor you may see wandering around, getting to know the area, is Laurie Fisher. She stopped by the *Quechan News* office in late May to say she's ready to assist you with pursuit of your employment goals and finding that perfect job.

While here on the reservation, she says she may work out of the Family Resource Center just south of San Pasqual High School building 304. She's also trying to make it a habit to stop by the Community Health Representatives office and the Education Center as often as she can on her twice monthly visits, to see if they have anyone looking for job training, who may not meet the criteria for CHR program funds, whom the DOR might be able to assist.

The California DOR offers services to persons 16 years and older who have a physical or mental impairment that interferes with their ability get or keep a job. Their services are tailored to each person to provide the best support to prepare for, find, or retain a job. This could include training, but is not limited to, education, transportation, job placement and assistive technology.

Examples of impairments include obvious disabilities such as a person who uses an assistive device or a has a disfigurement, or it can be a hidden disability such as mood disorder, seizure disorder or a learning difficulty.

Laurie made it clear during her visit to the News office that the

definition of a disability can be quite broad at times, and a person might qualify for one of her programs, and not even realize it.

Laurie comes to DOR as a recent graduate of San Diego State University's Rehabilitation Counselor Master's Program. She returned to school mid-life after a long career as a Sign Language Interpreter. Animals are a major part of her life and the therapeutic affect animals have on humans was the underlying theme of her studies at SDSU.

She volunteers with her therapy dog and is a past member of EA-GALA (Equine Assisted Growth and Learning Association), an organization that promotes using horses to assist an individual with their personal development.

She was also very honored to attend a Lakota sponsored 3 day Spiritual Gathering in Madison, South Dakota as a member of the Intertribal Deaf Council.

Now would be a good time to think about getting some help finding a job as school lets out and summer is here. If you are unsure if you or someone you know would qualify for DOR services, please give Laurie a call. Her office is in El Centro, but she is available to meet with you in Winterhaven, and she is happy to do informational group presentations. Her direct telephone number is (760)353-1335.

Laurie is scheduled to be in the Winterhaven area making her rounds on June 12th and 26th.

You can also contact her through the various agencies on the reservation, such as Social Services, Behavioral Health, ADAPP, Elderly Services, the Economic Development Administration, Workforce Investment, the Parenting Program, the Wellness Center, the Vocational Training Center, and the High School Counseling Office.

The Elder's Swim Club Meets Every Thursday at 9 AM

With Water Aerobics at the Rainbow Pool Starting Next Thursday, June 12th!

For more information or to sign up, be at the Rainbow Pool next Thursday at 9 AM or call Lisa Aguerro at Injury Prevention:

(760)572-0437

BADBOY
BOXING
www.badboyfights.com

Brings Out The Crowds at

Paradise
CASINOS

Weigh In at
Buffalo
Wild Wings:
Friday, May 16

Bouts For All
Weight Classes
at the Casinos:
Saturday, May 17

A boxer fills out his paperwork prior to his official weigh-in at Buffalo Wild Wings, as promoter Len Hayko carefully observes and records the information on Friday night.

To give the crowd a look at the fighters, everyone who signed up for a shot at a Championship Belt gathered in the ring at the start for a quick introduction by the ring announcer.

The progression of one three-round fight between James Espino (red) and José Aguirrebam (blue) in the middleweight division shows both fighters exhibiting great confidence as they step forward on the opening bell. However, after a few good, hard punches, Espino looks concerned as he tries to get Aguirrebam against the ropes, only to have the tables swiftly turned on him. Aguirrebam pummels Espino, then lands a solid head blow that causes referee Jerry Bryan to back Espino into his corner and finally call an end to the punishment.

Alfredo Martinez performed a Hendrix-style national anthem.

Bad Boys souvenir T-shirts were launched into the audience.

The winners for each weight class were brought into the ring at the end of the night to receive their prize money and Champion Belts. Their names are listed on the internet at www.badboyfights.com.

Coming In June
To Paradise Casinos
Dial 1-877-I WIN (777-4946)

BRET MICHAELS

Tues, June 17th • Tickets - \$40
One Show 8pm • Atlantis Room

GABRIEL IGLESIAS

Fri, June 27th • Tickets - \$25
Two Shows 7pm & 9:30pm • Atlantis Room