



QUECHAN NEWS

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Look For This Symbol

ETSKA NAV AH PAI THE NEWS CARRIER
QUECHAN NEWS

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Local Students Awarded Over \$35K in Scholarships

Faculty, family and students gathered with invited guests to hand out a huge stack of scholarships to San Pasqual high school students on June 4th, in an annual rite of passage for those destined for college.

The guest speaker, Jerilyn Swift Arrow offered "Words of Enlightenment" to those who will soon leave the nest and go on to higher education. Recognizing that many students have grown accustomed to the comforts of home, and having family and friends to fall back on for guidance and advice, she spoke of her own experience, and the need to keep in touch with your community when doubts creep in.

"You might have a bad semester, or a year that it seems you're not making progress at school," she told the students, "but if you just keep in touch with the scholarship committee that got you there, and explain the situation, you may find that they'll bend over backwards to help you out and keep your scholarship."

Ms. Swift Arrow told the crowd about her own time in college, transferring from the University of Arizona to San Diego State University and then over to Arizona State University, when she had to finally declare a major.

It was only by keeping in touch



Tribe member Joe Montague smiles as he receives an American Legion Scholarship from Gabriel de los Reyes of Quechan Post 802.

Photo by William Isbell, QUECHAN NEWS

with the adults who helped her get to college, and listening to her professors, that she was able to learn about a new program she qualified for. A new program that not only enabled her to get a Masters Degree in Indian Education, but also paid her a stipend to stay in school and achieve her goals.

That educational opportunity would never have developed if she hadn't been at the University and made the connections to learn about the Indian Education Program they offered at that

time. By sticking to it, no matter how hard it got in getting an education, Jerilyn Swift Arrow says she has secured a career that has enabled her to hold her head up and raise her family without fearing for tomorrow, which is what she wants for her students.

"They may say San Pasqual is only a tiny, little school," said Jerilyn, "but we've graduated lawyers, engineers, a judge, and business managers from right here. Don't let anyone tell you that you can't do it, just because you 'only

went to San Pasqual'!"

The bulk of the night was then taken up by a series of faculty and guest presenters, who stepped to the front of the San Pasqual cafeteria to announce the winners of over 30 scholarships.

Some of the scholarships seemed fairly small, considering the cost of a year of college today, but as they added up, an impressive amount of financial aid was awarded this year. Some students received as many as five scholarships. All together, the dollar amounts added up to over \$35,350, if the students who received renewable awards take full advantage of the aid they have been given.

And that amount doesn't even include the annual Quechan Tribe Scholarships, which closed their application period June 6th, to be announced in the fall. Right now, 7 students from this year's San Pasqual graduating class have applied for Quechan Tribe Scholarships, which averaged between \$26,000 and \$36,000 per student last year.

The Quechan Tribe handed out full scholarships to 71 vocational and higher education students for the 2007/08 school year, for a budgetary total of just over \$980,000 in financial aid.

New Business Enterprise Manager for Quechan Tribe

Dennis Aguero

Took over as the new Business Enterprise Manager in the middle of May. His wife is the Tribe's Injury Prevention Coordinator.

Photo: William Isbell, QUECHAN NEWS



The Quechan Tribe has a new Business Enterprise Manager, Dennis Aguero, who took the position in late May. A member of the Quechan Tribe, Dennis has lived on the reservation since he was about eleven, where he attended the San Pasqual Schools, graduating in 1990.

Dennis is the husband of Lisa Aguero, the Quechan Tribe's Injury Prevention Coordinator. They have three children, Samantha, Randy and Matthew that all attend San Pasqual, going into the sixth, fourth and first grades this fall.

Dennis Aguero has held a variety of jobs to prepare him for his latest adventure. He began his business career right out of high school, working at local convenience stores such as Gonzo's in Winterhaven and for Circle K in Yuma. He moved to San Diego in the early 1990's, where he was a construction sub-contractor for the Navy from 1991 to 1994.

His career with the Quechan Tribe began at Sleepy Hollow, where he performed maintenance and other construction related tasks, learning the basics of the business world.

He also worked for Sundt Construction for awhile, beginning as

twelve years he worked at Paradise Casino in the Slot Department, first on the floor, then moving up to be a Slot Technician. He was in charge of shipping and receiving for the Casinos Property & Inventory Department for almost six years, before returning to the Slot Department to do the same for them. His duties included meeting with the various slot manufacturers, attending vendor's meetings, and negotiating contracts for electronic gaming equipment.

Dennis also had his own business for awhile, installing window tint for businesses and homes.

As the Tribe's Business Enterprise Manager, his primary responsibility will be to develop management plans for the operation and planning for the future needs of the individual enterprises run by the Quechan Tribe, coordinating their resources to ensure efficient operation.

He has already been around to visit each business, from the RV parks at Sleepy Hollow, Laguna Dam and Fort Yuma, to Hub Liquor and Pipa Market as well as the Community Center and the Andradé Parking Lot. The visits were not only to get acquainted with the various on-site manag-

ers, but to inspect the facilities and get a better understanding of what they have to work with right now, and to help them begin to develop those plans for the future.

The first thing Dennis wants to accomplish, is to improve the appearance and function of the Tribe's businesses closest to the new Casino Resort.

"Sleepy Hollow, right now, needs some attention," he says. "All of them do, actually. But we've got the new Casino opening up next year, and (we) don't want people (visiting the area) to see a run-down look at our trailer park right down the street."

He's working on moving the entrance over to the north end of the park, as well as new fencing and a little landscaping along the roadway. He says that a new office should also be built at the new north entrance to Sleepy Hollow. "The old office would then be a maintenance room, since they're in dire need of that, too," he points out.

One improvement that's already underway at Sleepy Hollow is to lay a new cement slab for the outdoor laundromat in the center of the park.

"They're starting on that actually this week," he told *Quechan News* in early June. "They've started laying cement there, and (the staff is) getting that cleaned up."

He doesn't see a need to enclose the laundromat just yet, since it doesn't rain here very of-

Continued on Page 7

CORRECTION

The Back Page of the previous issue of *Quechan News* featured a full-color photo essay on the "BAD BOY Boxing" event held at Paradise Casinos in May.

The middle row of photos mixed shots from two different fights and presented them as being one fight.

The first three images actually show James Espino vs. José Aguirrebam, which Espino lost by decision, giving up 2 of 3 rounds to Aguirrebam. The last two photos in that row are of the fight that followed immediately after, which Mark Piñeda won by knocking down his opponent in only 27 seconds! Sorry about the mix-up!

By the way, even though Aguirrebam won his first fight against Espino, he was not permitted to advance in his weight class to try for the Title Belt and Prize Money: Espino had given him a concussion!

Announcement

Starting June 11, 2008

The Quechan Special Diabetes Prevention Project is now serving breakfast at the Fort Yuma IHS during their Diabetes Management Clinic.

Served Wednesday Only

From 8:30 AM to 11:00 AM

Open to Clinic Patients
at No Charge

Any Questions call (760) 572-1286

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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

Strong Hearts Native Society: 28 Years of Cultural Education



Marilyn Galindo (at left), Miss San Pasqual High Native Princess for the 2007/08 school year was arguably the most visible member of the Strong Hearts Native Society, with dozens of public appearances during her reign. Over the academic year, the Society spreads cultural awareness through song and dance presentations, such as the one they gave for Head Start students just before Indian Day last year. The Annual Pow Wow held the first weekend of March every year is an eagerly awaited event all over the southwest, drawing dozens of vendors and celebrity guests. Finally, Strong Hearts member Ariel Marquez also served as the San Pasqual student body President and ended her year a Strong Hearts Scholarship winner. She is seen on Scholarship Award night posing with San Pasqual's yearbook advisor, Mrs. Leedom.

Photo 1 by Faron Owl, all others by William Isbell, QUECHAN NEWS

Begun at the start of the 1979/80 academic year, the Strong Hearts Native Society just completed their 28th year of Quechan cultural education for students at San Pasqual Valley High.

Created to provide a learning experience for Native American students that encourages and supports their empowerment as community leaders, role models, and active community volunteers, advisor Faron Owl utilizes a curriculum that has been developed over the last 3 decades. With 72 members this year, 50 students were active participants in the Society's various projects.

The major projects over the past year included: an Indian Days dance program for the Head Start students, which began the 2007/08 year for the members, participation in the ADAPP (Red ribbon) drug awareness week last October, and a monthly visit in their classroom by members of

the Quechan Language Preservation Program teaching students there the basics of Kwat'san Iiya.

Society members also demonstrate their commitment to the Quechan community and respect for their elders by volunteering to serve the elders and clean up after the Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners at the Community Center.

There were also visits by well-known Bird and Pi Pah singers such as Preston Arrow Weed and Arlie Emerson, sharing their knowledge of traditional music. These classes are so popular that each year a Lightning Singer Scholarship is awarded for the best graduating Kwat'san singer who is going on to college. With a cash value of \$300, the Strong Hearts Lightning Singer this year was Joe Montague, who also served as the Society President for two years, as well as earning a Strong Heart Scholarship

in early June. Four others who made invaluable contributions to the Society over their high school careers also won scholarships: Brittany Rebstock, Lorena Marie Joaquin, Ariel Marquez and Tonya Raya.

The major source of funds for their scholarships and travel is the Society's annual spring Pow Wow. Held the first weekend of March every year, "The Pow Wow is designed to create collaborative relationships, providing an abundance of resources and opportunities to create safer communities through the development of leadership skills," according to a year-end report by their adult advisor.

The Pow Wow also honors a drug-free and alcohol free atmosphere and creates a circle of UNITY to welcome other tribes and non-Indians, through practical, hands-on education and the celebration of our beautiful Indian culture. The most popu-

lar events at the Pow Wow, such as the Ribbon Dress and Gourd Singing Contests are increasing every year. This spring, the Ribbon Dress contest had over 75 participants, while the young man's Gourd singing contest had 6 singing groups participate, demonstrating Colorado Bird, Mission Bird and Pi Pah songs.

Most food booths and 5 of the crafts booths at this year's Pow Wow were made up of local non-profit groups: Quechan Elders, the Cachora Family, Jackson Family, Bouts Family, San Pasqual AVID program and the San Pasqual Princess, most of which sold out during event. For non-profit groups, the Strong Hearts waive the \$200 booth fee, showing their understanding of the need to "give back".

The Quechan Tribe also makes a contribution, with the Tribal Council's sponsorship enabling many Tribe members to attend

the three day event for FREE.

The Society also designs and sets up Cultural Pride billboards featuring the current Strong Hearts Royalty. This year, they were shown posing against a background of ancient Quechan petroglyphs. The finished billboard was placed at the entrance to the Quechan Nation on Picacho Road just east of the railroad overpass, and seen by thousands of visitors on the way to Paradise Casinos and the recreational areas of Picacho Peak and Senator Wash.

Strong Hearts Native Society Officers for 2008/09, elected at the end of the school year, were also tasked with handing out all Strong Hearts awards and scholarships at the end-of-the-year ceremonies and assemblies. They are President: Jaynse Collins, Vice President: Sarah Duywenie, Secretary: Andre Polk Estrada and Treasurer: Kayla Durand.



REMINDER: New Cell Phone Laws Go Into Effect July 1st

Two new laws dealing with the use of wireless telephones while driving go into effect July 1, 2008.

The first, Vehicle Code (VC §23123) prohibits all drivers from using a *handheld* wireless telephone while operating a motor vehicle. A hands-free device will be permitted for drivers over the age of 18. The second law that goes into effect on July 1st, (VC §23124) states that drivers under the age of 18 may NOT use a wireless telephone or hands-free device while operating a motor vehicle.

The only allowable exception to either of these laws is that a driver may use a wireless telephone to make emergency calls to a law enforcement agency, a medical provider, the fire department, or other emergency services agency.

The base fine for the FIRST offense is \$20 and \$50 for subsequent convictions. According to the Uniform Bail and Penalty Schedule, with the addition of penalty assessments, a first offense is \$76 and a second offense is \$190.

Although a violation of either of these laws is a reportable offense that may affect your insurance premiums, the California DMV will not assign a violation point that would then appear on your driving record.

You should also be aware that there will be NO grace period when a motorist may only receive a warning, rather than a citation. The laws go into effect on July 1, 2008. Whether a citation is issued is always at the discretion of the officer based upon his or her determination of the most appropriate remedy for the situation.

The new laws apply only to the person driving a motor vehicle, including out-of-state drivers whose home states do not have such laws. It does not apply to passengers.

As a PRIMARY violation, a law enforcement officer can pull you over just for this infraction, although the law does provide an exception allowing those operating a commercial motor truck or truck tractor (excluding pickups), implements of husbandry, farm vehicle or tow truck, to use a two-way radio operated by a "push-to-talk" feature.

The law also exempts operators of an authorized emergency vehicle during the course of employment as well as motorists operating a vehicle on private property.

As for drivers over the age of 18 using a hands-free device, the new law does not prohibit dialing, but drivers are strongly urged not to dial while driving.

If you do use a Blue Tooth or other earpiece, you cannot have BOTH ears covered.

The law does not specifically prohibit texting, but an officer can pull over and issue a citation to a driver of any age if, in the officer's opinion, the driver was distracted and not operating the vehicle safely. Text paging while driving is unsafe at any speed and is strongly discouraged.

Drivers under the age of 18 may not use a wireless telephone, pager, laptop or any other electronic communication or mobile services device to speak or text while driving in any manner, even hands free, EXCEPT in emergency situations to call police, fire or medical authorities. (VC §23124).

Statistics show that teen drivers are more likely than older drivers to be involved in crashes because they lack driving experience and tend to take greater risks. Teen drivers are vulnerable to driving distractions such as talking with passengers, eating or drinking, and talking or texting on wireless phones, which increase the chance of getting involved in serious vehicle crashes.

QTDHE Tries to Speed up Move-In Process

Every time a family finishes orientation with a counselor, signs an agreement and begins moving into one of the Quechan Tribally Designated Housing Enity (QTDHE)-managed homes, the mission of Quechan Housing has been fulfilled. From the day a participant takes residence, QTDHE is committed to the safety, welfare and peaceful enjoyment of their home.



Drywall damage, broken cabinetry and plumbing fixtures may all need to be repaired before a home can be rented out to a new family.

However, the question often arises: Why does it seem to take so long after a family moves out before a new family is moving into a unit?

In answer to that question, consider this: Would you be willing to risk your 2 year old who explores his world by touching everything in sight coming into contact with methamphetamine residue or some other dangerous drug? Of course not! QTHDE feels the same way about that kind of risk to your family as you do.

QTDHE has been performing mandatory drug-testing of all vacated homes since early 2007. Drug testing also takes place when visible evidence of drug use is found. This is in response to greater awareness of the danger of residual drug contamination and federal regulations that mandate "Drug-Free Housing".

When a home is vacated, testing is performed by QTDHE employees who have been certified to perform drug-testing. The walls are swabbed room by room and the samples are sent to a lab.

The lab results indicate wheth-

er there is a presence of drug contamination in the home. If the test comes back positive for contamination the board up crew is required to put on special disposable suits and masks. After securing the unit, another test requiring additional lab work is performed. After results are returned (usually 3-4 days) if there is still a positive result, de-contamination cleaning of the home takes place.



Following the initial cleaning the home is tested again. When the test comes back clean, the rehab and repair of the home may begin. If the results show positive for contamination, more testing is done. If drug contamination continues to show positive, the home will usually require the removal of drywall, air conditioning ducts, cabinets and whatever else is needed to bring about a clean test.

There may also be a period after a lease termination or eviction when the family needs time to remove their personal belongings from the home. This period can be extended sometimes due to family circumstances.

All vacated homes receive repair and modernization as detailed by a move-out inspection performed by the QTDHE Inspector. Even in the case of homes that do not require extensive repairs, the cleaning of the home may take several days before rehab begins. Demolition inside the home is a process that may involve removal of tile flooring, drywall, roofing, cabinets, counter tops, doors,

windows, faucets, water heaters and other plumbing fixtures.

Tenant-caused damage strains the budget of QTDHE with an average cost of \$9500 per rental home. In the case of rental homes in the Old Subdivision, a complete renovation can cost as much as \$45,000. Rehabilitation includes bringing the electrical wiring, fixtures and outlets up to current codes, installation of new high-efficiency air conditioning, new cabinets, flooring, improved insulation, dual pane windows and new doors.

The actual construction and rehabilitation of a home is coordinated through many different subcontractors, providing electrical, air conditioning and other components of the house. Cabinets, windows and doors may have to be ordered or even custom-made for the home. Crews may be working on multiple projects in various stages of completion. When the home is ready, a move-in inspection takes place with the Inspector and participant.

This procedure involves rental homes for the most part. There is actually a very small turn over in homeownership. Finding an eligible family member and covering the \$60,000-\$80,000 expense of complete renovation needed can cause long delays for scattered homesites.

This entire process assures a home is safe from drug contamination, the home is in good repair and all the rooms are clean and sanitary on move-in day.

Although inspections are performed on a regular basis, there can be considerable destruction of a home in a very short time between inspections. To minimize damage, QTDHE has begun to perform more frequent home inspections, specifically to address maintenance and house-keeping issues in homes before they become a problem. By reducing the costs of rehabilitation and repairs, QTDHE will have the ability to do upgrades on managed units.

David F. Schoneman Returns as San Pasqual District Superintendent

The recent resignation of San Pasqual Unified School District Superintendent Smith could have created a vacancy in the District Administration that might have taken a long time to fill. But when the Imperial County Superintendent of Schools, John Anderson, began his search for candidates to fill that vacancy, he remembered someone that had already done the job once before.

He approached Mr. David F. Schoneman with what he called a "grand opportunity" to step in and guide the District in the coming years, and asked if he was interested.

"I'd been here before," says Schoneman. "I've always enjoyed the community here, it's a beautiful area . . . Mr. Jackson, the President of the Quechan Nation is a good guy to work with, and he's always been very supportive. He's always encouraged collaboration, and as far as I'm concerned he's very progressive, as are the other members of the Tribal Council . . . So I said I'd be interested."

That meant coming over to interview with the School Board, to get reacquainted and answer their questions. Once the interview was over and their questions answered, the Board carefully considered his past history in education here at Fort Yuma, and offered him the job.

Schoneman explains, "I think what really helped was the 9 years I'd spent here as the Director of Alternative Education (in the 1990's), working with both the Probation Department and the Tribal Representatives here, and my time as Interim Superintendent and then Superintendent in 2003, 2004."

Born and raised in Brawley, California, David F. Schoneman graduated from Brawley High before beginning his higher education at the Imperial Valley College. From there, he went to Cal Poly Pomona, finishing off at the



David F. Schoneman of Brawley served as both Director of Alternative Education and Superintendent of SPVUSD once before.

QUECHAN NEWS Photo by William Isbell

University of Arizona in Tucson, where he earned his Masters Degree in Agricultural Economics by 1972.

"I went back to the Imperial Valley to go to work for a large produce firm immediately after college," he says, "then I went into farming and actually did some ranch development work in Mexico."

A good friend (who happened to be the Superintendent of the Brawley Union High School) asked him to consider teaching. He encouraged Schoneman to really give it some thought.

"So, I took the CBEST (California Basic Educational Standards Test), passed that, and started teaching (freshman math and science). That worked out well, they liked what I was doing, and I (eventually) worked my way into being an administrator at the Brawley Continuation High School."

He finally found himself at the Imperial County Office of Education in 1994, where he was dispatched to the Winterhaven area as part of his duties as the Director of Alternative Education.

It was at that point in 2003 that he was first asked to step in as interim Superintendent for the San Pasqual Valley Unified School

District (SPVUSD) while a mid-year search for a new full-time Superintendent was being conducted.

"Well, at the end of the process, the (SPVUSD) Governing Board liked what I was doing as interim, and when the search was over, they asked me if I'd like to take the position full time, which I did."

It was only when Mr Anderson asked if he'd like to take the lead in Facilities Construction for the Imperial Valley Office of Education that he left San Pasqual in 2005. Mr Anderson explained that he needed someone to get two new schools in the El Centro/Imperial area of the drawing boards and actually built.

"One of my strengths has always been building and construction, so I said yes" he explains. He then supervised the development of a large school for Brawley and another for El Centro, the Del Rio Community School and Valley Community School. The schools were the first two constructed entirely funded by state grant money.

Now that he has returned once again to lead the San Pasqual District, Mr. Schoneman says he wants to settle in and observe, before introducing any major changes.

Right now he's assembling a team that will include new elementary and middle school principals, as well as a new District Psychologist, all of whom have moved on to new assignments.

"We're working to identify the things that work, and have been doing well. And there are a lot of things that are working here," he says, in explaining his management style. "I want to keep those things going. Those things that are identified through conversation and collaboration by leadership and staff, by the folks who work here, that need to be changed, we'll work on."

San Pasqual High Reveals Academics Awards for 2007/08

A banquet was held in the San Pasqual Schools Cafeteria on June 4th to announce the names of students earning the highest academic honors for the past school year.

Four upperclassmen received the President's Award for Educational Achievement and four members of the freshman class received the President's Award for Educational Excellence, all signed personally by President George W. Bush and San Pasqual High Principal Linda Schoonover. The school's administration also released the names of all students making the honor roll for the year.

The President's Award for Educational Achievement goes to students who have shown tremendous growth and demonstrate unusual commitment to learning in academics. Students must achieve high scores or show outstanding growth, improvement or intellectual development in particular subjects. The students receiving this award for 2007/08 at San Pasqual are:

Denise Alarcon, Taylor McDonald, Stephanie Myers and Rodney Zarate.

To be eligible for the President's Award for Educational Excellence, a student must maintain a grade point average of

over 3.50 for the year and have high achievements in reading or mathematics on state or national tests (CST/CAHSEE). Additional consideration for this prestigious award can be given for student participation in activities that demonstrate high motivation, initiative, integrity, intellectual depth and exceptional judgment as well as leadership qualities. The four students receiving this award for 2007/08 at San Pasqual are:

Adriana Bandy, Alayna Jones, Melissa Montoya and Aileen Velarde, all of the freshman class.

Honor roll students, maintaining a GPA of 3.00 to 3.49 for the year, included Samantha Albert, Maya Blanca, Guillermo Blanquet, Martin Cole, Raul Coterio, Gregory Delgado, Joe Delgado, Jessica Durand, Daniel Elias, Sarah Fairchild, Josue Fregoso, Edy Guerrero, Ashley Hern-Garcia, Carrie Hern-Garcia, Lorena Joaquin, Andrea Jones, Wade Olson, Jordan Thomas and Jessica Torres. High honor roll students with a GPA above 3.50 for the year were Denise Alarcon, Adriana Bandy, Cecilia Casarez, David Jaime, Alayna Jones, Ariel Marquez, Taylor McDonald, Melissa Montoya, Stephanie Myers, Brittany Rebstock, Aileen Velarde and Rodney Zarate.

QUECHAN  POST 802

Wants to remind you . . .

The maintenance staff will be removing all flags this week placed as decorations on Memorial Day.

Flags will be removed by June 20th to limit their wind and sun damage, and to prevent the accumulation of litter.

LISA BALL'S KICK BOXING CLASS

Has been changed to

MONDAY NIGHTS

from 5:30 to 6:15 PM

At the Quechan Diabetes Wellness Center

Elders Walking Club Now A Summer Swim Club

Lisa Aguerro, Injury Prevention Coordinator for the Quechan Tribe, has been leading an Elders Walking Club since early March. Members of the Club were meeting at the Diabetes Walking Park every Tuesday morning, to get together and encourage each other to keep fit through exercise.

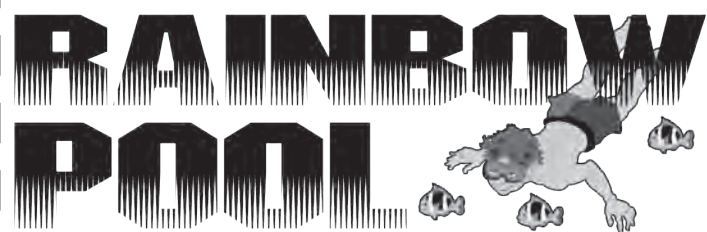
Well, with the sun coming up earlier, and the days getting warmer, it has been decided to "change up" the exercise for the summer months, to keep it cool!

The Elders Walking Club is now meeting for personal swim time and supervised water aerobics at 9 AM on Thursdays. Lisa says that about a dozen elders had been coming out for a brisk walk, with three elders in particular attending with greater

frequency. To help encourage all those who've been there before, and to bring in as many more elders as possible, she's looking at providing an incentive to those who come out to swim.

"Right now, I'm thinking about providing everyone with a new beach towel of their own," she says. "Of course, if I locate something better that fits with swimming, that could change!"

The swim club is free, and open to everyone 55 and older who has an hour of free time to come out and enjoy the water on Thursday mornings for the 12 weeks of summer. Once things cool down in the fall and the pool closes, Lisa plans to have the Club return to weekly walks to keep in shape.



FAMILY NIGHT

Wednesday, June 18th and 25th

(And every Wed. night thru August 20th)

From 6PM to 8PM

TEEN SWIM

Thursday, June 19th and 26th

(And every Thur. night thru August 21st)

From 6PM to 8PM

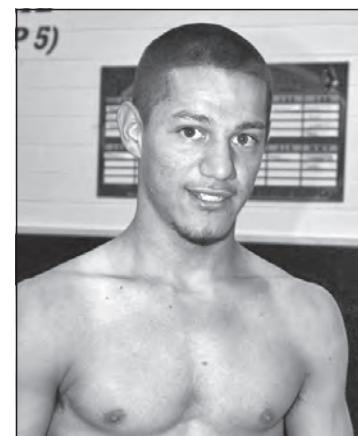
SAN PASQUAL ATHLETICS STILL TURNING OUT BIG WINNERS



Greg Delgado is the Male Athlete of the Year at San Pasqual.



Virginia Montague is the Female Athlete of the Year at San Pasqual.



Julio Saldaña also came in top in his weight class in State Wrestling.

The year ended on a high note for a number of athletes at San Pasqual High. State honors and schoolwide recognition went to three students in particular, a sophomore, a junior and a senior.

Greg Delgado, the senior, showed tremendous skill and determination in his chosen sport of wrestling, winning 45 out of 47 matches this year - good enough to place first in the state in his weight class, 103 lbs.

He took the first place medals for his matches at Sid Grand, Santa Cruz, Mogollon, Eloy and for the Region, and lost only 2 matches this year at Mojave, for the silver medal at that meet.

Both of his losing matches were against the same wrestler from Shadow Ridge High, who might have gotten the best of Greg twice, but he wasn't good enough to win the State Title! For his efforts, Greg got to bring home a huge plaque listing every match he took part in to be the best 103 lb. Wrestler in Arizona for 2008. He was the Captain of the Wrestling Team, winning one of two Warrior Awards and was named a Best Competitor and a Yuma Sun All Star, as well as North/South All Star.

Greg also competed in track, making the two-mile run at a time of 11 min. 26 sec. at the Arizona State Meet, to take 9th

place in that event. Greg's record earned him the San Pasqual Male Athlete of the Year Award.

The Female Athlete of the Year is junior Virginia Montague, daughter of John and Lisa Montague, who also won the Most Valuable Girl Athlete in San Pasqual Track Competition.

Virginia took third in the state for the Girls 8 pound shot-put, heaving the iron ball 29 feet 1 1/2 inches. She placed 7th in the high jump at 4 feet 4 inches, and fifth place at discus, hurtling that a total of 85 feet. She was also a part of the 4-by-1 relay, along with Serina Salas, Aileen Velardé and Victoria Onteveros. Their time of 57.45 seconds was fifth best in the state.

The sophomore receiving the greatest recognition this year is Julio Saldaña, who only moved to the area from Las Vegas in late November. In spite of his shortened season (he was only able to join the wrestling team about halfway through the season), he managed to win 25 out of 28 matches, and came in first in the State at the 112 lb. weight class. That record of accomplishment earned him the other Warrior Award at San Pasqual this year. He was also named a Best Competitor and a Yuma Sun All Star.

"One thing I learned here," he says, "is that you wrestle the way you practice . . . if you practice

hard, the actual wrestling (competition) is no big thing."

Also a track and field competitor, Julio took part in the 4-by-8 relay with three other runners, Manuel Cerda, Andrew Baltazar and Mike Rodriguez. Each runner covered 800 meters before passing off the baton to the next athlete, for a total of 3200 meters (or about 1.98 miles) in 9 minutes flat, to break the San Pasqual High record. He competed in the 4-by-1 and 4-by-4 relays also, and came very close to the San Pasqual record on the 400 meter dash, running that race in 56.4 seconds. Julio also covered the two-mile run at a time of 11 min. 26 sec., to take 9th place in the State Competition.

Julio says his formula for success is to push himself. "You'll never get any better if you don't push yourself," he says. "The more you push yourself, the better you get."

Other local athletes following that formula include Tobey Owl, who graduated last year and went on to play baseball for AWC, and his brother Tyler, who just graduated from Kofa.

Tobey will be transferring to the U of A in Tucson this year, and Tyler Owl was recruited by AWC, Cal State Riverside and Cal State San Bernardino. Tyler has chosen to attend and play for San Bernardino next year.

New Business Enterprise Manager

Continued from Page 2

ten, and there are more pressing things that need to be taken care of in the budget right now.

In addition to getting new signs for Sleepy Hollow made, directing traffic to the entrance, the restrooms will need a complete overhaul to make them more inviting. Case in point: "There are toilets missing seats, and no curtains on the showers any more. There are a lot of little things that even (spending) just a thousand bucks to fix will make that place just a whole lot better."

Another business that he's wanting to immediately update is Hub Liquor, in Winterhaven. With people going through Winterhaven on the way to both Paradise and the new Casino next year, he thinks it should be spruced up to attract more customers, and made more efficient to better serve the clientele.

"When I worked at Gonzo's in my teens, we sold probably a million dollars worth of liquor out of there every year. There is no reason why we can't do the same with Hub Liquor," he says.

To do that, the first thing he wants to do is shift their priorities on product orders just a little. Dennis says that there are some older items in the back room that have gone un-sold for years, and might never sell in a small market like Winterhaven.

"You have to fit your market," he points out. "We need to concentrate on lower priced items there, beer, wine, and lower cost liquors like Popov and Smirnoff Vodka, lower priced rum, things like that, that people actually come in there looking for."

He's also already put out a request for bids to re-paint the entire building outside, and is working with Penn Signs in Yuma to get a

lighted, electric sign announcing Hub Liquors on the building for people just driving into town.

And with so many California State Lottery tickets being sold there everyday, he wants two cash registers in place as soon as possible so that one clerk can just sell lottery tickets, and another clerk would sell sundries and other items on the weeks the Mega Millions jackpot climbs into the stratosphere.

Dennis says he's also thinking about what to do for the people living at Fort Yuma Trailer Village, with it scheduled to make way for the new IHS Hospital next year.

While it seems he has so much on his plate he will never get a moment's rest, Dennis Aguerro seems to have a plan for what needs to be done to keep the Quechan Business Enterprises productive and moving into the 21st Century.

Wildfire Season Begins

On Tuesday, June 3rd, the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) responded to a request from the Winterhaven Fire Department at 8:30 PM. A brush fire was reported burning at the jungle area off White Road and the All American Canal. Engine 21 and 22 responded to call, and they joined up with the Winterhaven crew, to take over the fire.

Anthony Polk of the BIA served as the Incident Commander (IC) from 8:30 PM until midnight on the Jungle Fire. The BIA IC contacted the Arizona Interagency Dispatch Center (AIDC) to request additional equipment, including a Type 4 IC, two type 6 engines and a bulldozer. At midnight on the morning of June 4th, Polk transferred command to Chris Robertson, as type 4 Incident Commander.

The first nights situation on this fire included high winds, complicated by no road access for engines. Visibility was very limited due to night fall and a further complication was the presence of structures in the immediate vicinity. The plan was to keep the fire from spreading towards any of the structures using the bulldozer for line construction. Although the flames of this fire were reaching 20 to 30 feet into the air, favorable winds were coming out of the north pushing the fire away from structures. The dozer operators were able to get a line around fire and crews went to work on keeping the fire from jumping their established containment lines.

Apparatus and personnel fighting this fire included (2) type 6 engines from Fort Yuma BIA, (2) type 6 engines from Yuma BLM, (1) type 3 engine from Havasu BLM, (1) D-5 Dozer, (1) D-8 Dozer, (1) Dozer Boss, (1) Dozer Boss Trainee, (1) type 2 hand crew (from Pima Agency) and (1) Type 1 hand crew (the Diamond Mountain Hotshots).

The Jungle Fire was contained at 15 acres. Fort Yuma E-22 and Pima hand crew were still working on mopping up interior hot-spots as late as June 10th, with a

controlled date pending.

On June 6th, the BIA got another call at 3:00 PM from Winterhaven VFD for assistance fighting a brush fire behind of the Ironwood Subdivision, off of Cocopah Road. Winterhaven's Fire Chief also told the BIA they were calling in a 2nd alarm. The Fort Yuma BIA pulled resources off of the Jungle fire to respond, sending Fort Yuma E-21 and the Pima Agency hand crew. Gunner Herkshan was the Incident Commander for the Fort Yuma Agency. He ordered two additional engines and a bulldozer to fight this fire. At 5:30 that evening, Herkshan transferred the fire to a Type 4 IC, who then established a unified command. Steve Taylor was the IC for Winterhaven, which kept an unknown number of engines at the Cocopah fire to provide support in the event of spreading to nearby structures in the Ironwood Subdivision.

Everyone should be aware that the 2008 Wildland Fire Season is here! All wildfires on reservation land should be reported to Arizona Interagency Dispatch Center (AIDC) at 1-800-309-7081. So far in 2008 there have been four Wildland Urban Interface Fires on the Quechan reservation resulting in 2 lost structures. Please protect your homes by putting adequate defensible space around your homes. The BIA Fire Department also wants to give special thanks to the Winterhaven FD for calling the BIA when they get a call for wildfires. Also special thanks to all other agencies and crews that helped provide support during these incidents. The BIA looks forward to working with everyone this season.

The Fort Yuma Agency is hoping to start a 20 person hand crew to fight fires in this area right now. If you are interested in fighting fires this summer, contact Anthony Polk at (928)920-1836. Training is provided and the pay is \$13.64 hr. We need more people to get established. COME GET YOUR FEET IN THE DOOR!

Two Local Students Receive DAR Awards

Representing the Desert Palm Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Carol Hann presented both an American History Award and a Citizenship Award to two graduating eighth graders at The Quechan Community as a part of the eighth grade promotion ceremony of the San Pasqual Valley Middle School on June 5th.

The Daughters of the American Revolution is a lineage organization whose members are women who are direct descendants from a Patriot, who with unfailing loyalty served as a soldier, sailor, civil officer, or rendered material aid to the cause of American independence during the Revolutionary War. The Daughters of the American Revolution was founded on the principles of perpetuating the memory and spirit of the men and women who achieved Amer-



Dominique Rueda listens as Carol Hann reads the text of her award on stage, and Larissa Mills shows her DAR History Medal to friends after the ceremony. Photos: William Isbell, QUECHAN NEWS

ican Independence.

Local chapters of The Daughters of the American Revolution select various schools to receive the awards. The recipients are selected from the graduating class of middle schools or junior high schools.

The Daughters of the American Revolution presents their history award to a student of American history who has a detailed understanding of how the United States was established.

This year's recipient at San

Pasqual was Larissa Mills, daughter of Yvonne and Donald Summers. Miss Mills captured her award by demonstrating an understanding of her place in history and continually striving to stress the importance of American history to her peers.

A major goal of the Daughters of the American Revolution is to also foster patriotic citizenship.

Dominique Rueda, daughter of Anna Denise Rueda received the Daughters of the American Revolution Citizenship Award for exemplifying the ideals of good citizenship. She was always ready to help when asked; she followed the school rules and laws of the country and encouraged others to do the same.

Each received a certificate and a medal. Both students will attend San Pasqual Valley High School in the fall.



QUECHAN

CASINO ♠ RESORT

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE For June, 2008



Progress can be clearly seen in this view from Wednesday, June 11th. The steel I-beam framing of the Casino/Events Center on the left side of the structure has now risen to its full height, and the construction crew has begun enclosing that entire wing from the roof down. Meanwhile, at the right, the Resort Hotel is now five stories tall, with the cast reinforced concrete construction of its load bearing walls reaching over fifty feet into the air. The final section, in the center, will be the shaded valet parking entrance between the Hotel Lobby and Casino, which opens into the indoor Cutural Center. Since the construction update on May 21st, the Paradise Casinos marketing department has also created a new Logotype for the Casino♠Resort, seen at the top of this page, which will be featured in all printed and advertising materials for the new resort as the grand opening date next spring draws near. Watch for more updates on construction later this summer!

Photos by William Isbell for QUECHAN NEWS

splash Day!

SATURDAY, JUNE 7TH AT RAINBOW POOL



The water slides were incredibly popular, with kids of all ages giving them a workout all day long!

The first Splash Day party of the season was held the first weekend of June, with families throughout the community swarming the Quechan Rainbow Pool for live music from DJ Eric Johnson as well as pizza, prizes and cold drinks. Lifeguards Melissa Johnson (under the umbrella) and Stefani Herrera were among those on duty to keep everyone safe.

Photos by William Isbell



ADAPP Carne Asada Lunchtime Fundraiser



The Quechan Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Program (ADAPP) had a final fundraiser for their Grand Canyon Getaway on June 6th, with Tom Fernandez and Christina Allen (above) cooking up a pile of perfectly seasoned beef. At only \$7 a plate, lots of people lined up inside the Elder Apartments dining room, while volunteers piled on the beans and rice to go with the meat, as well as tortillas, fruit drinks and ice water to wash it all down!