



QUECHAN NEWS

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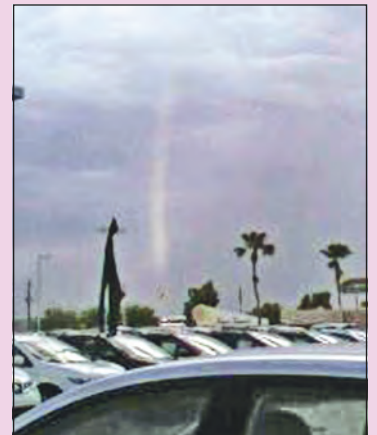
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ETSKA NAV AH PAI THE NEWS CARRIER
QUECHAN NEWS

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Quechan Emergency Response Tested by Monsoon Winds



Strong winds ripped coolers from rooftops, leaving this one hundreds of yards away in a field. A power transmission and light pole at the San Pasqual Elementary school was also blown down, cutting off power to hundreds until the pole was replaced early Friday morning. The final image, a cell phone capture by Roy Illingsworth, shows what he says is a funnel cloud.

QUECHAN NEWS Photos by William Isbell (2) and Roy Illingsworth

A late summer monsoonal cloudburst, accompanied by high winds and a possible funnel cloud activated the Quechan Tribe's Emergency Response efforts for the first time this year.

The emergency response was kicked off when the hugely powerful storm developed over the area late on Thursday, August 7th, dumping a solid column of rain on the area immediately northwest of Winterhaven by 4:30 in the afternoon. Winds preceding the storm front blew through Fort Yuma from four o'clock on, causing lights to flicker and power to flash on and off as power lines danced in the wind. As tribal employees tried

to finish up their work for the day, the intermittent power began to play havoc with computers and other office equipment, so a message went around to just close things up and call it a night about a half hour early.

Sensing a developing situation, Pearl Cowan, the Quechan Tribe Safety Officer made plans to stay late and keep an eye on things. By 5 o'clock, the power was out and strong winds of over 50 mph came through along with the rain that had already drenched Winterhaven.

"At about that time, I got a call that a light pole was down across the parking lot at San Pasqual (Elementary)," she

says, "so I got in touch with Fire Chief Taylor at the Winterhaven Fire Department, and they had already rolled out on it."

The Winterhaven Volunteer Fire Department was already on alert, after Rosa Hernandez of the Imperial Valley Office of Emergency Response had called Fire Chief Taylor about 4:40 PM to pass on their concerns.

"She said that we should expect high winds and up to 2 or 3 inches of rain in the next half hour," said Taylor. "she was right about the wind. I later found out from the National Weather Service that they registered gusts as high as 113 miles per hour over the reservation that night."

Once on the scene, Pearl and the Winterhaven Fire Crew were faced with live wires arcing in the wind with the added complication of driving rain. As Pearl began to put together a response, calling the QPD for assistance in blocking off the streets around the downed powerline, Chief Taylor contacted the Imperial Irrigation District (IID) and let them know they had located the source of the outage.

As they waited for the work crews from the IID to arrive, Quechan Acting Police Chief Veloz arrived on the scene. Quechan Safety/Emergency Response Officer Cowan and Of-

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Emergency Response Tested by Windstorm

Continued from Page 1

ficer Veloz began to look around them to get a handle on the area affected by the downed powerline. A quick survey by officers on patrol in their cruisers showed that power to homes was out from San Pasqual School Road as far north as White Road near the All American Canal, and bounded on the west by Picacho Road, extending as far east as Cocopah Road.

They later learned that farther north, the power outage extended through Bard as far as the Laguna Dam RV Park.

Realizing that many of those who lived in the area were still on their way home from work, Pearl's first duty was to inform them of the situation and to provide for their needs. But with no power and the phones down, how would they be able to let everyone know that help was available for those with trees blowing over and roofs being torn away in the night?

Within minutes, it was decided that a common gathering place would be the best way to inform those affected, assess their needs, and collect further information as people reported in. QPD Acting Chief Veloz called his office and had a short notice printed, to be distributed by hand to the homes in the blacked-out area. Since power was still on at the Quechan Community Center it would serve as the relocation center during the storm.

The printed notice informed members of the public that power was out due to the storm, and they should report to the Community

Center if they needed assistance. For those with cell phones, the Chief also included his own cell number to answer their questions.

Quechan Fish and Game Officer Travis Owl reported to QPD headquarters to pick up the notices, and was out delivering them to the homes north and west of the Community Center by 5:30 PM.

Although things were fairly dicey with the high winds and rain swirling about, Pearl also managed to stay in contact with Vice President Keeny Escalanti, Sr., who was filling in for Quechan President Mike Jackson, Sr. who was out of town on business.

Once the Community Center started filling up with members of the community, the volunteers on hand were quickly reminded of those who were alone and unable to assist themselves. Ms. Cowan asked the Winterhaven Volunteer Fire Dept., Quechan Police and Security to get information on the relief station being organized at the Community Center to those Tribal members affected and to check on their status. The Imperial County Sheriff's Office also dispatched officers to assist in getting the news out.

While some of those without power were brought in to the Community Center, others decided to "ride out" the storm.

A further complication was that the storm developed right about the time most people were getting home to fix dinner. Meals would also have to be provided.

Luckily, Louis Robles and Malachai Palone were still on

duty at the Community Center when Pearl Cowan arrived to verify that the facility was intact and still had power. They quickly called the Yuma Red Cross office for additional hands, and three volunteers were sent over to help serve food and provide cots and medical help if necessary. Another call was made to the Quechan Emergency Response Coordinator, Terry Roper, who'd gone home at 4:30 PM as ordered. Terry quickly returned to the Community Center, and began to help coordinate other volunteers who showed up without being asked.

"A lot of people here in the community came home, found the notice Travis left on their door about the power being out, and just headed down to the Community Center to see what they could do to help," he says. "I think that says a lot about the people around here; they just showed up and jumped right in."

Ms. Cowan solved the meal dilemma with a call to Barrett DeFay, Marketing Director at the Paradise Casinos. "Would it be possible to get the kitchen staff to fix up some quick 'brown bag' meals?" she asked.

Jeanette White Pigeon, the Sous Chef and swing shift supervisor in the Casino kitchen quickly responded, and Thad Morgan, Dora Carillo and Saul Martinez gathered 25 loaves of bread to turn out 250 sandwiches (choice of turkey or ham) with chips, apples and oranges and Oreo cookies. The Community Center said they had plenty of bottled water on hand, so the kitchen also sent down a couple of hundred pounds of ice to keep it chilled.

Dishwashers Hector Montoya and José Espinoza also pitched in to get the meals together, and they piled it all into a truck to join driver Nick José in delivering it to

the Community Center.

At the Center, the first concern was to provide a cool and comfortable environment for those affected by the power outage. It would have been tough to spend a night at home with no power, under the heat and extreme humidity following the storm. As family members began making their way to the Center, the elders and most infirm were provided for first.

Vice President Escalanti also arrived at the Community Center to assess the situation, and standby to provide approvals for items requiring Tribal Funds. Councilwoman Cryselle Uribe also contacted Pearl by phone, to see if there was anything she could do to help.

The National Weather Service later said that most of the wind damage that night resulted from a "microburst".

With the storm over, the damage surveyed, and the "after action" assessment begun, Pearl Cowan says she's grateful no one was seriously injured, and that everyone pulled together.

"It was the folks of our community, from the volunteer firefighters and EMT's to IID and the Imperial County Sheriff's Office, to QPD and Tribal Security to the American Red Cross and Paradise Casino, plus the employees from the Housing office that reacted and made this situation a little more comfortable than expected," she says. "Thanks to all of you that helped."

ATTENTION TRIBAL ELDERS

*To those of you who will turn 60 during 2008:
If you would like to be on the Mailing List
for Recreational Travel, please get your address
and contact information to:*

The Quechan Senior Projects Committee.

We encourage you to get this information to us as soon as possible so you can be included on the fun trips available to Elders both on and off the reservation!

For those 60 and older who may have moved, we need your new address in order for you to continue to receive correspondence from the Travel Committee.

Send your contact information to:

QUECHAN SENIOR NUTRITION

P.O. Box 1899

Yuma, Arizona 85366

Phone: (760) 572-7048

Or Fax It To: (760) 572-5867

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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

Participants Needed for Elder Village Plans at Quechan Nature Park



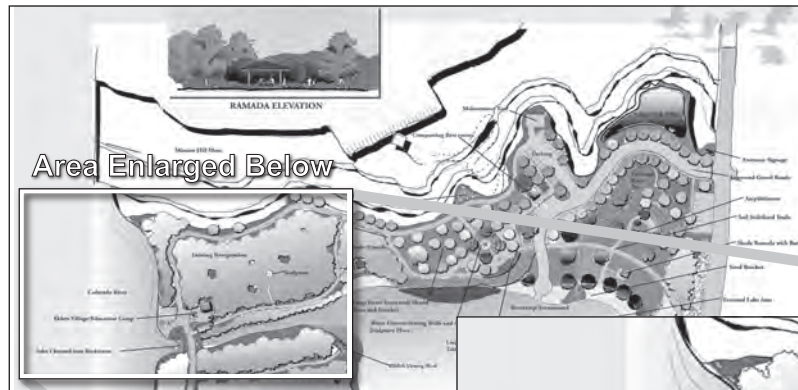
From Prison Hill, the location of the future Elder Village can be seen where a mound of dirt has been placed in the area for fill.



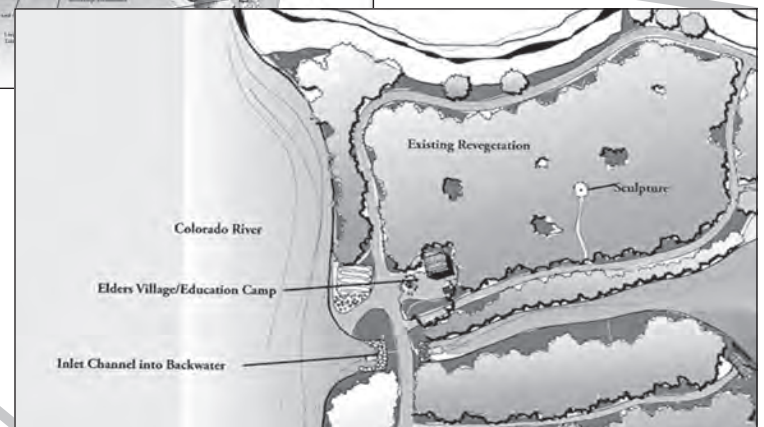
Traditional structures being considered include the “wattle and daub” willow reed lattice over mesquite posts as seen in the photo above, or an example of the sturdy embankment style of construction seen below, often built just outside of the maximum floodline near the river. The basketwork style of construction represents a common “summer home”, while the other is a more easily heated home for the winter months.



Yuma Historical Society Archive Photos Courtesy of the Quechan Economic Development Administration



The Quechan Elder Village (as seen in the enlargement at right) will be located just below Indian Hill at the southwest corner of the Nature Park, at the inlet channel to the lake in the center of the park. The garden area will be right on the north bank of the Colorado River, allowing the moisture seeping into the earth from below to keep the roots moist, as was the practice in times past.



The Quechan Nature Park is planned to fill the riverbank on the northside of the Colorado, just south of the levee extending to the west for almost a quarter of a mile. The deepest portion of the park's lake has been dredged already, and the shallow lagoon area, connected to a small stream that keeps the lake filled will be dredged sometime in September.

Graphics Courtesy of Fred Phillips and the Quechan EDA

An “Elder-Youth Cultural Exchange” has been scheduled for the evening of Wednesday, August 20, 2008 at the Quechan Senior Center at 7:00 PM, to brief those interested on planning for the Elder's Village at the Quechan Nature Park.

Previous editions of the *Quechan News* on designs for the Nature Park mentioned the Elder's Village, which will include a traditional garden area.

The garden will feature crops and plants producing fiber for basketweaving as well as other crafts. Allyson Collins and Brian Golding, Sr. at the Quechan Economic Development Administration (EDA) have made plans for a series of “discussions” to be held in order to discuss with

Tribal elders the Quechan way of life in regards to the Colorado River.

While the design for the Quechan Nature Park is steadily making progress towards completion, more Quechan thought is needed in the design of the Elder Village, as well as other Quechan identifiable features and characteristics of the park. How these features will appear must be determined through input from actual tribe members so that appropriate specifications may be developed to guide the contractor.

EDA recognizes the importance of such discussions with our elders and would like to include youth, so that they may listen to the stories being

told. Therefore, participants in the form of elders and youth are needed for a “cultural exchange” discussion between the two generations.

The primary objective from these initial discussions will be how the Elder Village should look; which includes a distinct tribal ramada/dwelling design. Secondary objectives to be discussed at later meetings include a distinct Quechan tribal arbor design, interpretative signage, park name, a statue, the water feature, and the amphitheatre.

Everyone with an interest is welcome to attend and provide suggestions. If you have any questions, please contact EDA Specialist Allyson Collins at (760)572-5270.

NOTICE

The Quechan Indian Tribe is seeking Tribal Members who are interested in serving on a newly created **Parks and Recreation Committee.**

Members are also needed for the **Quechan Elections Board.**

Those interested should submit a Letter of Interest to:

Georgina Massey,
the Tribal Council Secretary
at the Tribal Administration Office

Tribe Member Is A Singing “Yuma Star”



Photo by William Isbell, QUECHAN NEWS

Sailea Poughn Leutakoun got a great reception from the crowd for her version of the Alicia Keys’ hit “If I Ain’t Got You” during Round One of the “Yuma Star” talent contest. Sailea is of Quechan/Laotian descent, and the daughter of Dawn Escalante-Leutakoun, the Quechan Senior Center receptionist. Sailea’s specialty is R&B.

She wowed the crowd and the judges with her performance on August 13th, but can only move on to the next round through on-line votes from the public. You can still vote for her on-line at yumasun.com until August 23rd. The next performance will be held at the Yuma Theater at 7:00 PM on September 3rd.

Sailea says she would like to thank everyone who helped her prepare for the competition, blessing her with their time and cooperation: Mrs. Apauty for her Indigenous Designs, Emmett Hartt, Sr., for shooting her audition video, and Lee Montaldo, of Kiki’s of Winterhaven, for not only allowing her to shoot the audition at her beautiful home on such short notice, but also for providing the sound equipment. “And thanks also, to my family and friends for their support, both now and in the future. God Bless you all!”

Quechan Government Preparing For Any Emergency

In these days of rising fuel prices, economic disruption, illegal immigration, and the ever present threat of international terrorism, more and more attention is being given to emergency preparedness at all levels. The recent tremendous windstorm here at Fort Yuma and the damage it brought also points out the need for planning before disaster strikes.

National, State, and County governments have been busy since the late 2001 developing contingency plans to cover almost any “what if” scenario imaginable. While those plans are being made at higher levels, those of us living in remote areas might find that a wide spread disaster, such as a major earthquake, could mean a considerable delay in waiting for outside help to arrive.

“What we need is to be ready to ‘shelter in place’ and take care of our own for 72 hrs” says Pearl Cowan the Quechan Safety Officer “So we’re working on creating a comprehensive, all haz-

“Once you have a plan, and you have already thought out how to react to an emergency, when one does happen, you don’t go into ‘panic mode’ . . . you just follow your plan.”

Terry Roper

Quechan Emergency Management Coordinator



QUECHAN NEWS Photo by William Isbell

ards approach to any emergency to insure the safety of everyone here in order to maintain a secure environment, for the entire 45,000 acres of the Quechan Nation.

In order to concentrate on the development of those plans, Pearl has relocated to a larger office, where she has been joined by her new employee, Terry Roper, who will serve as the Quechan Tribe’s Emergency Management Coordinator.

Terry, a 20 year Marine Corps veteran joined the TERO/Safety

Office in early July of this year. Terry’s first task is putting together a bio-terrorism response plan, with emphasis on education and awareness.

“Planning and being prepared for an emergency will help elevate the fear of the unknown,” he says, describing his objective for the job.

Part of the preparedness process is having the necessary training and equipment to respond to any emergency. The Safety Office has already held a First Responders training class

for 30 members of the Quechan Police, Quechan Security, and Paradise Casinos Security personnel.

The Safety Office has also acquired a 12 foot long Emergency Response Trailer to serve as a mobile equipment locker to get the equipment on site, and new Nissan Titan four wheel drive pickup to get the trailer where it needs to be, in any emergency.

The 30 man Emergency Response Team will be receiving a “PELE Kit” (Protective Equipment for Law Enforcement)

that the members will keep with them at all times, so they will be ready to respond to any emergency at any time.

The Safety Office has been working under the guidance of the Tribal Council developing a written Emergency Response Plan since earlier this spring.

The plan gives instructions on who is responsible for doing what and when it should be done. It sets up an Incident Command System outlining a clear chain of command for those on-scene, with set responsibilities for each department involved.

The Quechan Tribe’s Emergency Response Plan will allow everyone involved to clearly understand what is expected of them, and who to report to when things “go south in a hurry”, which will save critical time. It will also enable those making decisions under stressful conditions to know exactly what resources are locally available at any time, and how best to deploy those resources for each situation as encountered.

New Records Retention and 2 H.R. Slots Filled

This summer saw a number of new hires joining the team at Tribal Administration, including a new Benefits Coordinator and Assistant for the Human Resources Department, and the brand new position of Records Retention Specialist opening a new era for the Quechan Tribe.

Lynette Vicenti, the daughter of Larry Vicenti and Rebecca Kelly (the patient registrar at Fort Yuma IHS), accepted the position of Administrative Assistant to Director of Human Resources Andrew Hastings in late May. Lynette was born at YRMC and raised here on the reservation. She attended the San Pasqual schools through 8th grade, and graduated from Cibola High in 1999.

She then enrolled at AWC, where she received an Associates Degree in Business in 2002.

She then took a year off to get married, and had a daughter, Heaven, who is now attending Quechan Head Start. Once her daughter was born, she went to work as the Administrative Secretary for Marianna Bobtail Bear at the Paradise Casinos.

"That was a great job," she says, "but then I saw the ad for this job, and I wanted to try to 'move up' and expand my responsibilities here."

Also joining the Human Resources Department this month is Juan Reyes. He moved to the area when he was 8, and received his education through the Yuma public school system. Like Lynette, Juan also attended Cibola High, where his son, Juan Junior, is a member of the junior varsity wrestling team.

The proud pop is quick to point out "He was the City Champ in Junior High, and he took second in State in Junior High, too."

Previously married for almost 13 years, he also has three daughters from that union aged 11, 6 and 4. Juan remarried only a year and a half ago, and now has another child on the way,



New employees include (from left to right) Lynette Vicenti, HR Administrative Assistant, Juan Reyes, HR Benefits Coordinator, and Esteban Gomez, Records Retention Specialist. QUECHAN NEWS Photos by William Isbell

who he's hoping will be a boy, to "even the odds a little!"

Upon completing high school, Juan entered AWC to begin his business studies, and soon started work in the world of business accounting on the staff at the Automotive Parts Exchange, a large manufacturing and automotive parts rebuilder that had 2 plants in Yuma County and one in San Luis, Mexico, with over 1800 employees. Juan quickly moved up to become the benefits coordinator for their operations in the Yuma area, and stayed there for a total of five years.

From there he moved to spent about 2 1/2 years in the same position at Russell Coil, an air conditioning manufacturer also located in Yuma.

Juan then spent five years as the Benefits Coordinator for the Cocopah Tribe before coming to work here. He met his wife, Cassie, the Facilities Management Director for the Yuma Union High School District, during that time.

Juan has also managed to stay plugged in to the Business Education Program at AWC, where he hopes to finally earn a degree within the next couple of years.

"Once I have my Associates in Business Management, I'll be able to transfer over to NAU and get a Bachelor's Degree in Public Administration," he says.

"I'm only about 3 credits away from getting the A.A., but

with the new baby coming, it may take a little longer . . ."

Finally, a new position has been created for the tribe: Records Retention Specialist.

With records of all kinds going back over a hundred years, the Quechan Tribe faces a daunting task in getting a handle on what must be retained, what can safely be disposed of, and how to come up with a method of locating any record required within minutes, rather than days.

Esteban Gomez, a database manager from Los Angeles with over 20 years of experience in records management and data storage has been hired to begin the task of sorting through the Tribe's storage units, as well as the materials stored in the various buildings on Indian Hill. The items include everything from old photographs to receipts to births and land use records. Every item will be examined and assigned a retention period based on it's relevance and the legal requirements for access.

All of the records will also be digitally stored, using new high-speed systems that can scan both sides of a document in full color at a rate of up to 80 pages per minute.

"We'll be scanning them at up to 600 dots per inch," says Esteban, "and since a lot of these items are important as far as historical preservation, we'll be able to preserve everything out there

for instant retrieval and later restoration, using software such as Photoshop, for instance, to bring back old photos."

To accomplish the seemingly impossible task of being able to call up almost any record needed, Esteban will be creating a server-based network utilizing optical character recognition software

that can actually "read" the contents of scanned documents. If someone were to have a question about the exact boundaries of a certain tract of land as it was originally assigned, a system similar to "Google" would then check every file on record in the Quechan Records Server and locate all of the documents on file with the land owner's name. By entering information such as dates or a phrase such as "land tract", the search would be narrowed down even closer, allowing the Tribal Council or other authorized users almost instant access to the information required.

"There are legal requirements on how long some things need to be retained on file," Esteban points out, "so right now my primary objective is identifying what must be scanned first, and how long we have to retain those original documents on file."

PUBLIC NOTICE

THE QUECHAN TRIBALLY DESIGNATED HOUSING ENTITY

REQUESTS COMMENTS ON A PROPOSED PROJECT TO RECONSTRUCT STREETS AND PUT IN SIDEWALKS IN THE OLD SUBDIVISION AREA, FROM SAPPHIRE LANE SOUTH TO CORAL DRIVE AND NORTH TO FIRESTONE AVE, WEST TO QUECHAN DRIVE AND EAST TO BLUESTONE. THE PROJECT WILL REPLACE EXISTING ASPHALT AND CURBS WITH NEW ASPHALT AND WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE SIDEWALKS.

PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR WRITTEN COMMENTS

ADDRESSED TO:

**BOB LETENDRE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

QUECHAN TRIBALLY DESIGNATED HOUSING ENTITY

1860 W. SAPPHIRE LANE
WINTERHAVEN, CA 92283
(760) 572-0243

PLEASE CALL MR. LETENDRE WITH ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING THE PROJECT.

New Elementary Principal is a Familiar Face

Debbie Spain Gibbs

Has 27 years of experience at the San Pasqual Valley Unified School District, as both an educator and an administrator.

Photo: William Isbell, QUECHAN NEWS



Debbie Spain-Gibbs has begun a new assignment as the San Pasqual Valley Unified School District's (SPVUSD) Elementary School Principal, starting her 28th year at the District.

Ms. Spain-Gibbs holds a Master of Arts (M.A.) Degree in Elementary Education from Northern Arizona University and a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) Degree in Liberal Studies from San Diego State University.

She also completed a Master Degree program in Educational Leadership at Northern Arizona University and a Crosscultural

Language Acquisition Development program at San Diego State University.

Her previous career in the public schools saw Ms. Spain-Gibbs

teaching grades five through eight, high school, alternative education, and adult education.

She has taught at all four San Pasqual schools: elementary, middle, high school, and the alternative school. She has also taught at the university level, where she also served as a mentor and lead teacher.

This wide range of experience helps her bring a unique perspective to the elementary. She hopes to use her years of experience to set up an environment in which each student can build a strong academic foundation in

order to continue on toward high school graduation and college.

She began her career at San Pasqual as a sixth grade teacher at the elementary school.

"Some things have changed since then," she says. "For example, the elementary library used to be the cafeteria. But some things have not changed. Parents still want good things for their children; students are still busy learning and growing; and the staff is still hard-working and dedicated to helping children learn."

Over the years, Ms. Spain-Gibbs had the opportunity to bring new ideas and programs to San Pasqual. One such program was the Sixth Grade Outdoor School. In that program, sixth grade students were able to spend five days at Camp Cuyamaca in the San Diego mountains to learn about sci-

ence and nature in a setting outside the classroom.

In 1987, Ms. Spain-Gibbs was a part of the team developing the District's plan to begin a middle school. Upon opening that school, she served in an administrative capacity as the Middle School Coordinator for five years. She also served as a mentor teacher for six years.

Looking back at that time, she says, "I really loved teaching and making my classroom a fun place to learn."

Her students might remember acting out history by playing games. A favorite game was to imagine that the students were the authors of the United States Constitution and to write it themselves. In the summers, she arranged to take students to Washington, D. C., New York City, Jamestown and Williamsburg, Virginia.

Ms. Spain-Gibbs has also worked at the district level for six years. Some of the work for the District Office included coaching teachers, writing curriculum, and working in the Human Resources department.

In addition, Ms. Spain-Gibbs worked with the Imperial County Office of Education's BTSA/Induction program to support new teachers.

"I had the opportunity to serve as an interim elementary principal for several months in the 2005-2006 school year and greatly enjoyed my time there. It was especially nice to meet the

parents and find out that many were my former students. I welcome the parents to the school and look forward to meeting and working with them again."

Ms. Spain-Gibbs has spent the last two years working with adult education and with alternative education at Bill Manes High School.

"The students and staff at Bill Manes are great," she says, "and I will really miss them this year. The students were extremely successful in completing courses, passing the high school exit exam, and in graduating. I am very proud of their growth."

She also says the students at the elementary school have shown growth in learning over the past few years, thanks to both their own hard work and also to the dedication of both staff and families.

Ms. Spain-Gibbs plans to continue the focus toward academic excellence. She believes that students are capable of reaching great heights when expectations are set at a high level.

One important factor she will focus on at the elementary school this year will be improving attendance. "We want to give students every chance to be successful."

Ms. Spain-Gibbs is looking forward to the upcoming school year in her new position. "I am very excited to have the opportunity to return to the elementary school where I started so many years ago."



Applications Still Open For 2008 School Clothing Assistance Program

Parents and legal guardians of Quechan Tribe students enrolled at any educational facility may apply at the Tribal Administration Office for assistance in providing new school clothes for their children, through the Quechan School Clothing Assistance Program.

Any student may be accepted for a clothing allowance, from those just entering Head Start to high school. Even those enrolled as full-time students at a College or University may apply. You can even receive clothing assistance for a student in Technical School, or for a homeschooled student or students enrolled in a G.E.D. program, though G.E.D. students are eligible for one-time participation only.

Each student must be an enrolled member of the Quechan

Tribe in order to qualify.

Parents or guardians can pick up an application packet at the Reception Desk of the Quechan Tribe Administration Office. Please be careful to follow all of the instructions.

The enrollment deadline for this program is the close of business on Friday, September 12th, 2008, so those who wish to participate still have time to pick up an application and get their children enrolled.

Once your packet is in hand, be sure to enroll all of the eligible students you are responsible for, and get your school's administrator to sign page 4, verifying your child's enrollment.

Each enrolled child will be eligible for a check in the amount of \$150.00 to reimburse the expense of school clothes.

After you've turned in your packet, you can expect the Revenue Distribution Department to take about 7 days to process your application. Checks will not be issued unless all receipts are turned in.

All receipts that are turned in for reimbursement under this program must be dated between June 16, 2008, when it began, and September 30, 2008.

Save ALL receipts to provide proof of your purchases under this program. You have until 5 PM on Tuesday, Sept. 30th to turn in those receipts.

Please remember that hand written receipts are not accepted for reimbursement. Only original cash register, credit card or computer printed point-of-purchase terminal receipts are acceptable for reimbursement.

**ELEMENTARY CLASS SCHEDULES
WILL BE POSTED
IN THE CAFETERIA
ON THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL.
FRIDAY
AUGUST 22ND, 2008**

New Administrative Staff at Middle, High Schools

"Frankie" Franco

Returns to take the helm as San Pasqual Middle School Principal after an absence of two years in Yuma.

Photo: William Isbell, QUECHAN NEWS



able, she felt that she could have a more extensive positive impact on Native American academic achievement, reaching out to

The 2007/08 school year at the San Pasqual Valley Unified School District (SPVUSD) saw a number of changes in both the makeup of the schools' Governing Board and the District Administration. The start of school this year finds a number of changes at the schools themselves.

One of those changes will be the Middle School Principal, Frances "Frankie" Franco.

Ms. Franco will also serve as the SPVUSD State Preschool Program Director and Cafeteria site administrator.

Frankie holds a Master of Arts Degree in Education from San Diego State University, a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Education from Austin Peay University, a Bachelor of Science from Arizona State University, a Associate of Arts in Home Economics from Arizona Western College and is currently completing a Masters Degree in Human Services in Family and Marriage Counseling from Capella University, online.

Working in the public school system since 1986, Ms. Franco has been a Special Education Aide, a substitute teacher, a teacher at San Pasqual for nine years and an administrator in charge of the School Success Kindergarten Reading Readiness and College Readiness Demonstration Grant. She also worked in the SP State Preschool and cafeteria for four years. At San Pasqual, she taught third, sixth, and seventh grade between 1996 and 2002. While she thoroughly enjoyed teaching, when the position to become the School Success Coordinator came avail-

parents and the community to link local resources with school programs.

Once appointed as the SP State Preschool Program Director, she was able to help connect the State Preschool program with the Fort Yuma Quechan Head Start, Quechan Day Care Center and Paradise Child Center, opening the communication of events and promoting joint staff development trainings to collaborate and share effective instructional teaching methods in promotion of Kindergarten reading readiness.

Ms. Franco also has specialized training in Dyslexia, ADD, and effective differentiated teaching methods for diverse learners.

Over the past nine years she has been a member of the Joint Impact Aid Committee, School Site Council, Pow Wow Committee, San Pasqual Miss Native Pageant Committee, participated with District English Language Acquisition Committee, organized the Annual Health Fair, and coordinated the Diabetics Program on the elementary and high school campuses.

She is very excited about her new position and states that the Middle School staff is truly a team of excellence with every individual committed to the students and parents. Ms. Franco believes in the vision set forth by the District: "That every student is worthy of receiving a high quality education provided in a nurturing, engaging, safe environment where parents and community members are welcomed to partner in bringing life to our vision."

Patricia Munger

Is the new Special Education Director for programs at the San Pasqual Valley Unified School District.

Photo: William Isbell, QUECHAN NEWS



Also joining the staff at San Pasqual this year is Patricia Munger, who was born and raised in the Imperial Valley. She graduated from Holtville High in 1981 and attended Imperial Valley College, gaining an Associates Degree in 1985.

She then went on to California State University, Northridge, where she received a Bachelor of Arts in Communicative Disorders. Since that time, Ms. Munger has also received credentials in 1988 Clinical Rehabilitation and Educational Administration, while advancing her degree to a Master of Arts in Communicative Disorders.

From 2004 to 2006, she was a contractor for speech and lan-

guage Services to the San Pasqual Valley Unified School District.

Beginning in 2004, she also provided speech and language Services to the

Quechan Head Start Preschool, which included parent and staff training on those subjects.

Her new assignment with the SPVUSD is to be the Director of Special Education. Her office is located in the high school's main administration building, though she will provide special education services for the elementary and middle schools, also.

"I love small communities," she tells the *Quechan News*. "I was born and raised in a little town and appreciate that uniqueness in San Pasqual. My relationship with the Quechan Preschool staff and families will provide a foundation to continue building my relationship with the community. I have al-

ways been a strong advocate for Special Education students and look forward to building on the current Special Education program at San Pasqual."

She hopes to use her 20 years of experience in providing speech, language and hearing services to children from 2 1/2 years old through 12th grade to improve the District's communication of those services to local parents.

Another of her goals is to develop an early intervention support program for students from preschool to 2nd grade. One part of that program may be the introduction of the "It Takes Two to Talk" (Hanen) program for pre-K and Quechan Preschool Parents. The Hanen Program is a parent coaching program that provides the skills to understand and encourage language development in younger children.

As a Hanen Certified Instructor, Ms. Munger is very eager to use her training in that program to make a difference.

VICTIM SERVICES QUECHAN INDIAN TRIBE

WELCOME TO OUR WOMEN'S SUPPORT GROUP!

Thursdays from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM at Social Services

Topics of discussion include domestic violence, anger management, self esteem and self worth, empowering ourselves, maintaining the sacred circle and more.

Guest speakers and special projects to be announced.

The WOMEN'S SUPPORT GROUP is for you.

760-572-1082

Roxie Deku, Administrator & Advocate
r.deku@quechantribe.com



RIDIN' THE STORM OUT!



Winterhaven Volunteer Fireman Thomas Dalton (above left) finishes soaking a power pole at the San Pasqual Elementary School which snapped at the base and caught fire during the windstorm on August 7th. A total of three power poles in a direct line running from the area of Quechan Post 802 east to behind the "new" subdivision were brought down by winds as high as 113 MPH. Winds also toppled two trees at 1773 Indian Rock Road (above, center and right), one dropping on a car and the other just missing an occupied fifth wheel trailer. Further damage apparent the next morning included hay bales tossed into the road along Indian Rock, a fifth wheel trailer that was picked up and tossed 30 to 40 feet (with Eric Livas going along for the ride!) lying in a shallow lake that used to be a farm field, and trees uprooted all along Baseline Road.

Photos 1 and 5, Courtesy of Fire Chief Steve Taylor. Photos 2,3,4 and 6 by William Isbell



Paradise Child Care Center's Back-To-School/End of Summer Bash!



The younger kids at the Quechan Education Center have already returned to school with a huge party on August 14th. Held in the multipurpose room on a cool, cloudy morning, the party featured a Hawaiian sing-along, lots of great barbeque, nice cool sno-cones, and cupcakes.

With games like a prize-filled fishing pond, a cake walk, and the ever popular inflatable jumper, everyone there had a great time. The youngsters were free to roam the room and sample all the activities, as staff and parents joined in the fun. If only everyday at school was like this!

