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THE NEWS CARRIER

QUECHAN NEWS

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 To Tribe Members**



Look For This Symbol

QUECHAN NEWS

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First Senior Gathering Held at The Pivot Point



The Quechan Post 802 Color Guard, followed in procession by the Roadrunner Singers and Dancers and the Ah-Keel Dance Group, march down the brick walkway at the entrance to the Pivot Point Conference Center, opening the Quechan Senior Gathering on November 21st. QUECHAN NEWS Photo by William Isbell

Tourism generates more than \$450 million annually for the Yuma County economy and brings thousands of guests to the area, with the majority looking for entertainment and meals in an arc running from downtown to the Paradise Casinos to the Yuma Palms Regional Center.

In an effort to capture as much of that goodwill and potential revenue as possible, the Quechan Tribe joined with C.W. Clark, Inc. to create the Pivot Point Conference Center. Hostmark Hospitality Group, which manages the property,

announced the opening of the Conference Center in mid-November. The project also will include a Hilton Garden Inn Hotel (opening spring 2009), which is currently under construction. Together, the Conference Center and Garden Inn make up two of the eight major components in the Pivot Point area redevelopment plan.

Already booked with over 60 meetings over the next 90 days, the Conference Center got off to an auspicious start by hosting the Arizona Planning Association, Gowan Company and

other high profile clients in the first couple of weeks after opening, and provided the Quechan Senior Center with the facilities to hold their first annual Senior Gathering on November 21st and 22nd. With outdoor booths displaying locally-made craft items, even the general public was able to wander by and learn about much of what the Quechan Tribe has to offer.

Inside the Conference Center, the seniors were able to get together and attend presentations by ADAPP, the Diabetes Special Project, plus Housing and

Injury Prevention. Designed as an event that even those who are unable to travel could attend, the Tribal Police and Elder Assistance Project were also on hand to provide safety tips and explain the assistance available for seniors from the Tribal government.

The two day Gathering even had world-class entertainment, as Friday evening saw the entire group of attendees bused over the hill to the Paradise Casinos to enjoy a free show by Country and Western Legend Ray Price! Saturday evening was the night the Quechan Tribe holds the Annual Thanksgiving Dinner at the Community Center, so the kitchen staff at Pivot Point provided a full traditional turkey dinner for the seniors, with Councilman Todd Duran and his band providing musical accompaniment. The gathering closed with after-dinner entertainment by comedian Drew Lapaca.

The hotel and conference center project is expected to be a vital turning point for redevelopment of the Yuma Crossing Heritage Area, and will host guests who will find easy access to the Quechan Nature Park and Main Street Cinemas nearby, as well as the Paradise Casinos.



First Annual Fitness Event Brings Out A Crowd For Fun!



After introductory comments by Bryce Parker and Quechan President Mike Jackson, Sr., Brain Laban (first photo) of the Native American Fitness Council warmed up the crowd with a series of simple exercises while giving an inspirational message. After a lo-fat lunch provided by the paradise Casinos, everyone broke into age-appropriate groups and took part in spirited games such as shinny (photo 2), Red Rover (photo 3) and one-on-one running games of tag (photo 4).

QUECHAN NEWS Photos by William Isbell

A group of Quechan Tribe Departments got together with the Special Diabetes Project (SDP) to hold the first annual "Come Play On Our Land" Day on Saturday, November 15 at the San Pasqual Schools athletic fields.

With the Paradise Casinos providing lunch and the Strong Hearts Native Society volunteering to serve the lunch, the Community Health Representatives provided blood pressure and blood sugar checks and ADAPP, Language Preservation and SDP all handed out freebies at their information booths. Diabetes Committee Chairwoman Bryce Parker opened the event before passing the microphone to President Jackson, and they both spoke of the importance of taming the threat of Diabetes through exercise.

Lisa Ball of the Wellness Center followed, to introduce Brian Laban, a Hopi Indian and co-founder of the Native American Fitness Council. Brian spoke on the need to take opportunities as they are provided, and how a per-

son should see every opportunity as if you had won a \$1000 Lottery Scratcher. "You wouldn't say, I only need \$50, so I'll only take fifty of that, and throw the other \$950 away, would you?" he asked the crowd. "No, you're gonna want to keep the entire thousand dollars! So don't just take \$50, or \$100, or \$500 from this opportunity. Take the whole thousand dollars and use it to your benefit!"

He then got everyone on their feet and moving, using a series of simple exercises to provide a preview of the exercise to come in the afternoon.

Once lunch was finished, the tables were cleared from the field and everyone joined a group based on their ages and physical abilities. Children from toddlers to their 80s were able to run, jump and laugh together, playing everything from tag to volleyball, Red Rover and shinny.

The Wellness Center also gave away valuable Nike N7 athletic shoes, which are specially designed to fit the wider and taller feet of Native Americans. They say they'll be offering regular clients the chance to win more shoes in the months to come!



Seniors and those with limited mobility were even able to get involved in the competition, playing a seated version of volleyball.

Name The Park

In consultations with the Elder Village Focus Group and community members over the past few months, the Quechan EDA has heard people on many occasions asking about the park's name. Many feel that "Quechan Nature Park" lacks a real sense of Quechan identification and purpose.

Therefore, the Focus Group has decided to request Community input on naming the park.

For those unfamiliar with the project, the Quechan Nature Park will be a 4.5 acre park with walking trails, a lake and beach for swimming and canoeing, an amphitheater, 2 picnic ramadas, native plants, a raised garden, and an Elder Village. It will be just east of Indian Hill, south of the BOR Levee Road and north of the Colorado River.

To get some ideas to the community, please keep in mind the purpose of the park. The concept is a nature park where visitors can visit an atmosphere of trails, lake,

and enjoy the beauty of Quechan land in a natural environment. Concepts like the history and lifestyle of the Quechan and our relation to the river is important. Other word concepts can include earth, nature, land, air, and water. Feel free to use your knowledge and imagination.

We are encouraging entries to utilize the language. If you have an idea but don't know how to interpret it into the Kwat'san, please submit your entry and the group will work on the translation.

Entries will be reviewed by the focus group, with recommendations being presented to the Tribal Council for formal approval.

The deadline for entries is December 10, 2008 at 5 PM. Please submit your entries to Allyson Collins at the Quechan EDA Office, located at the Community Center, 604 Picacho Road, Suite 4. If you have any questions, please call Ms. Collins at (760) 572-5270.

ETSKA NAV AH PAI THE NEWS CARRIER

QUECHAN NEWS

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Have a story idea, or an event you want covered?

QUECHAN NEWS is here to cover the special events and everyday lives of Quechan Tribe Members, and the issues that affect you in the world today. This newsletter is here to keep the lines of communication open, to expand opportunities, and uplift the Native Spirit of the San Pasqual Valley. Your ideas and input are welcome!

Just call the QUECHAN NEWS office Monday through Friday at (760) 572-3912, or email your stories and story ideas to w.isbell@quechantribe.com. I'm looking forward to hearing from you!



Heritage & Culture

Ruben Polk Wins First *Iipaa Kwanamii* Title at Pageant



Strong Hearts Advisor Faron Owl explained the addition of the "San Pasqual Warrior" to the pageant.



The Warrior contestants served as escorts for the class representatives and Miss San Pasqual candidates at the opening of the Pageant. Ruben is shown above, escorting little Arianna Zarate from the San Pasqual pre-K, and Andre can be seen escorting Native Princess Candidate Danelle Ortega.

QUECHAN NEWS Photos by William Isbell

Cousins Andre and Ruben both had to make a short speech before proceeding to their talents, explaining the clothes they wore and the symbolism involved. Andre (on the left) wore a Plains Indian Grass Dance outfit, while Ruben wore a traditional Quechan Diamond shirt.



Ruben throws up his arms in celebration at the announcement that he is now the first *Iipaa Kwanamii* of San Pasqual High.



Ruben also escorted the eventual winner of the Indian Princess title, Janyse Collins-Solorio (above left) and sang Bird Songs as his talent.

Andre also stepped in to sing as Ruben joined with his extended family as part of the Road Runners song and dance group.

After years of only the girls at the San Pasqual Valley Schools having the opportunity to compete for recognition and a title, the Strong Hearts Native Society has added the position of *Iipaa Kwanamii* for the boys.

Designed as a position with the responsibility of speaking to the youth about the importance of native culture, important requirements include the ability

to also sing traditional songs and perform traditional dances.

Further, the winner will be expected to give assistance whenever asked by members of the community, and to demonstrate that he is a person who "accepts challenges and will show great courage, strength and respect for themselves and their culture" according to Mr. Owl's introduction of them.

Even though the decision to add this new position of honor and responsibility was made late in the weeks for planning the Indian Princess Pageant, both Andre Polk-Estrada and Ruben Polk volunteered to get themselves ready to compete for the title in front of friends, family and the community.

Both young men had already volunteered to act as escorts for

the young women in competition, so they were at least mentally prepared to be on stage. But the short notice meant they would have to quickly put together a speech on their outfits and the talents they would perform. Andre selected the Grass Dance outfit he uses to good effect in Pow Wow competitions, while Ruben relied on his experience as a member of the

Road Runner Dance Group.

Phil and Arlie Emerson, Randy Allen, Barton Levi and Titus Welsh volunteered as judges for the Warrior competition, and they determined that Ruben's abilities in public speaking and performing Quechan songs would be the more valuable contribution in passing on traditions to the younger children this year.

The President Reports to The People: Quechan Casino♠Resort Financing Status



**Mike Jackson, Sr.,
President of the
Quechan Tribe**

Makes this "Report to the People" to keep the community informed of the Council's views on important Tribal issues.

Photo: William Isbell, QUECHAN NEWS

There have been several stories in the *Yuma Sun* concerning the financing of the Quechan Casino♠Resort which did not contain factual information. The Quechan Nation normally does not respond to the local media, but instead chooses to communicate with our community members through our own internal media. However, apparently some of our Tribal members are choosing to use the *Yuma Sun* to address issues related to our Tribal government.

The Quechan Tribal Council has held several meetings regarding the new Quechan Casino♠Resort. Each time there has been a formal request for information on the project, the Council has met with those present. The same questions have been asked and answered on numerous occasions. In addition to special meetings, the Council also meets in weekly work sessions and holds a monthly regular meeting. At any of these times Tribal members may address the Council on any concern or issue.

If you recall, you have read the names of the same five Tribal members who have issues with the new resort. It is important to remember the Quechan Tribe has well over three thousand tribal members and these

five do not speak on behalf of our Tribe nor do they speak for our esteemed Tribal elders.

This same group has initiated recall petitions, all of which have failed. The President has never been recalled, as was reported in the *Sun*. The recall petition was deemed to be invalid by the Tribal Council as there were fictitious signatures on the petition. Many of the elders support the Casino♠Resort as the next milestone in the Tribe's economic development.

The financing for the Quechan Casino♠Resort is being provided through two bond issues, both held in the name of the Tribe. The negotiations for the financing were held with the Tribal Council and approval was given by the Tribal Council to secure the financing.

The down-grading of the bonds is believed to be a temporary issue by the rating agency until the additional funding is in place and the resort is opened. Finalization of the additional \$25 million in financing should be in place within the next few days. As soon as this process is completed the Tribal Council will report this information to our Tribal membership.

Those who have invested in our Project continue to receive any payments that are required.

There has been no demand for the money; there is no fear that our Tribal assets will be frozen. Like the United States economy, the Quechan Nation is facing many of the same struggles. With the struggling economy, the decrease in tourism and discretionary spending resources, our Nation experiences a decrease in revenue. However, we are able to meet the commitments that have been made.

What the Quechan Nation is currently experiencing is a vocal minority (five members) who are searching out a listening ear – and they have found that with the *Yuma Sun*. The message that is being conveyed is that the Tribal community is opposed to this project. This is just not true.

The Quechan Nation held an election on that question and the community supported the development of the Quechan Casino♠Resort.

The Quechan Tribal membership is excited about the future as the opening of the new Casino Resort nears. This has been a much anticipated project, with delay after delay as we sought to answer all of the questions that were brought to us. The questions we have answered, and we have moved forward. This same group continues to raise the same questions and to invent new issues, but the progress of this development cannot be stopped. The Quechan Nation has come a long way and we continue to make progress as a Tribe. The Quechan tribal members are proud of who we are, we will only grow stronger in the future.

*Mike Jackson, Sr., President
Quechan Nation*

QUECHAN TRIBE ENROLLMENT DEADLINE IS NEXT FRIDAY DECEMBER 5

Environmental Report Accepted on New Clinic

We have been advised by John Hamilton, Indian Health Services Official, on final environmental approval of the California State Historic Preservation Office for the new hospital.

This paves the way to start discussion on the actual construction of our hospital.

I spoke with Mike Walsh, Phoenix IHS Area Official, and he stated that he would like to meet with the Tribal Council some time in December to

start discussions leading up to a construction date. He would also like us to meet the architect and engineering firm who will be designing the hospital.

A December date will be finalized with Phoenix Area Officials to come before the Council to start planning for our new facility. It's been a long time coming, as you know, and now it will finally happen.

*Mike Jackson, Sr., President
Quechan Nation*

FORT YUMA INDIAN HEALTH CLINIC

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Please Choose a Primary Care Provider:

Clinic Patients must have a Primary Care Provider to improve the continuity of care. You can choose a Primary Care Provider if you don't already have one established. Please inform the appointment desk clerk of who you would like to have as your Provider no later than December 1st. Our Providers that have openings available are:

**Criselle Figueroa-Beverick, FNP - Women's Health
Loc Nguyen, MD - Internal Medicine
Rosa Peralta, FNP - Pediatrics/Family Medicine
Donald Smith, DO - Family Practice**

Change in Pharmacy Hours:

The Pharmacy is now closed on Saturdays. During Saturday Clinics, Providers will have some medications available for minor acute illnesses such as sore throats, infections, minor aches and diarrhea.

24 Hour Care Line: Free Nursing advice is available through YRMC 24 hours a day. The number is:

1 (888) 557-1991

Quechan Election Board Holds a Candidates Forum at QCC

With the election for Quechan Tribal Council less than two weeks away, the Election Board held a Candidates Forum at the Quechan Community Center on November 18th, allowing voters to come and hear those vying for office answer questions on five subjects selected by the Board.

The questions answered were on a form originally intended as an outline for the candidates to follow in explaining their stands on the issues in a printed hand-out for the voters. Those questions covered healthcare, education, economic development on the reservation, and land issues. Each candidate was given a strictly timed three minutes to give their answers to some fairly complex questions, and no one managed to work their way through them all in the time they had.

Kathy Webb Howard, the Election Board's Judge was



Those who came to question the candidates in person included Kendrick Escalanti, Myra Andrews, Preston Arrow Weed, and this year's Miss Quechan Nation, Tarryn Villacaña.

Photos by William Isbell

quick to step in and insure that no "campaigning" took place as the answers were given, and Marshall Wayne Chaipos, Jr. kept everyone to their time limits. All of the candidates seemed eager to address the need for a 24/7 Health Clinic here on the reservation, and most seemed to stress the need for some sort of nursing home for the elders here, also.

The candidates who came out to speak to the public were: current Council members Crysellle Uribe, Merrill Kelly, Emilio

Escalanti and James Montague, with Vernon Smith, Milton Jefferson, Sr., Lewis Jefferson, Sally Ann Maude, Patrick Olague, Jordan Joaquin, Darnella Melançon, Julianna Comet, Barbara Levy, Bernadine Swift Arrow, Melissa Mills, Rhonda Aguerro and Austin Dugan rounding out the group at the podium.

Unfortunately, the multipart printed questions for each of them each consisted of a lead-in statement on the subject, followed by two to three questions on specifics relating to the

topics covered. Some of those new to the political scene found it a struggle to work their way through just one of the topics before the ran out of time, so many of the candidates ended their time with the promise to stay after the forum closed and answer specific questions from voters one-on-one.

Once the Board's questions were addressed, the floor was opened to the approximately 90 members of the community in the audience, and a number of Tribe members took advantage

of the chance to step up to the mic and have their specific concerns aired.

A common concern for this year's electorate seems to be the overall national economy, and how it may impact those living here on the reservation. Everyone wanted to know if those running for office have a plan to increase revenue and continue economic development, while still being able to keep the culture intact. There was also a sense of frustration at how long it seems to be taking for the new Indian Health Clinic to move forward, as well as the need to have a care available 24 hours a day.

All-in-all, the forum managed to provide a cordial atmosphere for voters to meet and hear the thoughts of the candidates. Those voters can now formulate follow-up questions for specific candidates as they meet with them over the remainder of the election cycle.

Casino♠Resort Job Fair Gives Tribe First Shot at Openings



The Human Resources staff for the new Casino♠Resort will soon have hundreds of openings to fill, and they have begun the process of finding the employees to fill them. Although they have scheduled a Job Fair for the general public in early December, the management at the Resort wants to give qualified Quechan Tribe members the first chance at every position available.

To do so, they held a two-day Job Fair for those who are members of the Tribal community, and accepted almost one hundred applications for jobs in every department. Held at the Community Center on November 18 and 19, Tribe members and their families were able to meet with managers from every department and get the inside track on what will be needed once the Resort opens.

Head Start Veterans Parade



The Annual Quechan Head Start Veterans Day Parade had a new destination at the end of the route this year, as the tykes marched all around the office buildings on Indian Hill to end up at the new Veterans Memorial Eagle, just outside of the Tribal Council offices. Quechan Tribe President Mike Jackson, Sr. took the time to greet the children and thank them for their expression of citizenship, and then posed for photos with everyone at the base of the new Monument. Looks like they're having fun!

Photo courtesy of Cathie Soliz

After Years of Planning, A Dream Comes True: Veterans Memorial A Reality At Last



The Eagle arrived on Indian Hill securely strapped to a flatbed semi-trailer, and was carefully brought into position at the east side of the Administration Building.



President Jackson and Norman Osborne watched the start of the operation from the lawn where the Eagle would be installed.



Lonnie Gilmore (at left) assisted the installer from Heavy Industries in removing the tie-down straps and packing foam before the bird was lifted by the crane.



Mike Matthews spent a few minutes making sure the crane operator had everything ready to go.



The Eagle takes flight as the lift begins. Note the locating pins at the base of the sculpture.



The Crane Operator kept careful watch throughout the entire operation, with a smooth hand.



Gene Moore and Norman Osborne were interviewed by KSWT Television about the project.



Lead Sculptor Mike Matthews begins to drill holes for the locating pins, as Lonnie Gilmore watches.



Once the holes were drilled, the Eagle was carefully lowered into position and grouted into place.



Meanwhile, D & K Concrete men set the bronze dedication plaque into its stone base.



President Jackson and Councilman Todd Durand watched the final steps from the Council entryway.



Finally, a safety rail fence was put in place at the edge of the hill by an All Valley Fencing crew.

Quechan Legion Post 802 Commander Gene Moore and Norman Osborne, originator of the plan to create a Veterans Monumant for the Quechan Nation were up bright and early on November 10th, awaiting a truck coming in from far away Calgary, Alberta, Canada. That

truck bore the precious cargo of their long-awaited Veterans Eagle, created by renowned native sculptor Doug Hyde and the crew at Heavy Industries of Alberta.

Arriving from the west to avoid low overpasses, the truck pulled in at about 9:45 AM and

was guided into position next to the waiting crane from BLT in Yuma. Heavy Industries Lead Sculptor Mike Matthews was here ahead of time, to supervise all of the local workmen who'd gathered to lift the bird from the flatbed trailer and move it onto its base outside the Council En-

trance of the Tribe's Administration Building.

As the sculpture was brought into position, locating pins at its bottom were brought to rest just above the concrete base, and each pin's location was carefully marked. With the bird moved away, Lonnie Gilmore, Milson

(Engel) José and Mr. Matthews drilled separate holes for each pin. Brought back into place, the pins were carefully set into their holes, the Eagle lowered into place, and D&K Concrete completed the installation by using a thick, quick setting grout to lock it into permanent position.

Quechan Post 802 Hosts A

VETERANS DAY BLOW OUT!

On Indian Hill!

The U.S. flag flown over the Dedication Ceremony was a flag originally flown over Camp Phoenix in Afganistan and returned to the reservation by US Army Sgt. Joseph Jose in 2008.

On the Sunday before Veterans Day, community members, invited guests, Quechan Council members and the Legionnaires from Quechan Post 802 joined together to honor our Quechan Warriors throughout history, dedicating the American Eagle Veterans Monument on Indian Hill. Honored guests included the artist responsible for the new addition to our nation, Mr. Doug Hyde, who is profiled in a story on page 8.



Brothers Gordon and Norman Osborne had the honor of raising the first flag over the monument, and Gordon then gave the opening prayer at the event (photo 2) as Post 802 Commander Gene Moore stood aside and listened. The Border Patrol's Yuma Sector Color Guard then had responsibility of trooping the colors for their formal presentation at the flag raising, and QuechanTribe Member Sailea Poughn Leutakoun sang the "Star Spangled Banner" to complete the opening ceremony.



Among those speaking at the dedication were 5th Area Commander for the American Legion, Lee Quarcelino, who stated this was the finest Veterans Monument he has seen in his years of attending such events. He was followed by Vice President Keeny Escalanti, Sr., President Mike Jackson, Sr., keynote speaker Col. Gary Hovater, US Army retired, and Mr. Neil Hill, Chaplain of Quechan Post 802, who gave the closing benediction. All speakers recognized the sacrifices of Quechan warriors down through the years.



Cannons from the Revolutionary War, the War Between The States and the Spanish-American War period (shown) were brought in by Bob Hayes and his history reenactors from El Centro to fire a salute that set off car alarms in the Casino parking lot below the hill! Their portion of the Ceremony marked the recreation of the Legend of Eleven-Eleven-Eleven, commemorating the first Armistice Day on November 11th, 1918. Armistice Day has since evolved into Veterans Day, recognizing the sacrifice of our fighting men and women from all of America's conflicts throughout history. Members of Quechan Post 802 (second photo above) then fired a 21 gun salute, followed by one minute of silence, and the playing of "Taps" by a lone bugler playing in the distance. Once the dedication ceremony ended, the crowd gathered around to examine the artwork more closely, as area Veterans of all types (photo 3) gathered to discuss and reflect among themselves. Meanwhile, the Golding family presented traditional Quechan songs as the Ah Keel Dancers joined the newly installed Native Princesses of the San Pasqual schools in celebratory bird dances.

Both Pages: QUECHAN NEWS Photos by William Isbell

Native Sculptor Doug Hyde Brings Practical Experience To His Art

Some kids never seem to quite “fit in” at school, and find they’d rather fill their time with sketching and flights of imagination than buckle down and study in class. Doug Hyde was one of those kids.

Growing up on the Nez Perce reservation in Lewiston, Idaho, he suffered through the regular school year in anticipation of rejoining the tribe’s summer art program. “Every summer they’d bring in an artist who did drawings or painting,” he recalls. “so I had the basic parts of a portfolio . . . when the educational specialist at the tribe came looking for potential artists to join a new art school that was just opening up in New Mexico.”

Doug was just starting his junior year in high school when the chance to apply for The Institute for American Indian Arts (IAIA) came along. It sounded like just what he was looking for, and “Besides, my folks (were) trying to get rid of me!” he laughs.

“I had taken the art program (in Lewiston) for three or four years by then,” he explains, “so I sent what I had with my applica-

tion and I got accepted. Little did I know, everyone got accepted!” since the school had just opened and they were in desperate need of students to begin their first year of operation.

Although he doesn’t give the Institute total credit for changing his life, he does say “It really became what I evolved into: being a full time sculptor. I went back to the Institute (about 8 years after graduation) in ‘72 and taught for 3 years.”

During his year as a student, he took advantage of the fact that students were able to study painting, sculpture, ceramics and jewelry making all at the same time, to help them discover where their true talents would be expressed. “I actually went there for painting,” he says, “and switched everything over to sculpture when I found that I liked the feel of things in 3 dimensions. I was seeing things easier in 3 dimensions and feeling the resistance of the material made it a lot easier for me to visualize and work out what I was doing.”

He graduated in 1965 and left with a high school diploma and

credits (equivalent to) a 2-year post-graduate program. He says that the paper certificate didn’t mean a whole lot to him, “What really counted was two years in the studio, working.”

It was the fact that he had already completed nearly 60 stone sculptures at IAIA that got him accepted at the San Francisco Art Institute.

“The instructors there were still doing things in plaster, they weren’t even carving stone when I came in.” He then laughs, “I only stayed there for one semester, ‘cause what a crazy town that was! Haight/Ashbury was goin’ on - this was ‘66, and the whole hippie thing was goin’ full blast!” with love-ins in one part of town, and riots in another.

Doug was once again faced with the fact that he wasn’t fitting in at school.

“One day on the way to school, I realized I wasn’t learning a damn thing there, so I went and joined the Army.” He had come to the conclusion that the main purpose of the San Francisco Art Institute was to provide a draft deferment for young men looking to avoid the military, and “I

had received money from the tribe to go to that school, and I didn’t feel right in not learning anything. I figured they might forgive (my dropping out) if I went and did ‘the warrior thing’ and joined the service!”

“Besides,” he laughs again at the memory of the time, “they basically threw me out of school when they found out I was joining the Army!”

“Six months later, I was in Viet Nam.” He fulfilled a three-year enlistment, and even considered making the Army his career.

“I got wounded with a hand-grenade in ‘69,” he explains. “And that cured my military career. I was *thinking* about staying in until that happened! I always figured I was invincible, right up until it happened. Some guys are just lucky, and I guess my luck ran out!”

He spent 9 months in a state-side hospital, and his service



The artist and his work: Nez Perce sculptor Doug Hyde poses in the Paradise Casinos driveway, with his creation, “America” proudly standing behind him on Indian Hill.

QUECHAN NEWS Photo by William Isbell

profile read “no standing, stooping or bending” so the Army gave him an “early out”.

Returning to his hometown of Lewiston, Doug now had to find a way to earn a living.

“In the meantime, I got married while I was in the hospital. When I got home, I worked in a lumber mill ‘til the first winter came and I got laid off like everybody else!”

Story continued on Page 10



My name is Maritza Barley, and I was the Miss San Pasqual Middle School Native Princess for the 2007-2008 school year.

I am of Kwat'san and Kwapa descent, the daughter of Arace-

Middle School Native Princess Looks Back on Her Year

ly LeRoy and Marlon Barley, Sr. My paternal grandparents are Marveen Brown and Marlon Barley, Sr., and my paternal great-grandparents are the late Alice and Fritz Brown and the late Owen and Dolores Barley.

I’d like to thank everyone for coming out to this year’s Miss San Pasqual Pageant and the San Pasqual Native Warrior Competition, and giving your support to our native youth. I know it takes a lot of courage for them to come out and present their talent in front of a crowd of people. I ask everyone for a round of applause

to recognize these contestants.

During my term as Miss San Pasqual Middle School Native Princess I have been able to travel to many Pow-Wows and events. In doing so, I’ve learned a lot about myself, and had the pleasure of meeting lots of people from many other nations and learned much about their cultures.

It was a wonderful experience and I am very grateful for the chance you gave me to represent my Tribe and myself at those many celebrations.

First of all, I’d like to thank

my parents for all their support and encouragement. Without them, things would have been a lot harder! I’m very thankful for them being there for me through everything.

Second, I’d like to thank the Tribal Council for making it possible for me to travel to New Mexico to attend the Gathering of Nations Pow-Wow, and I would also like to thank my Aunt and Uncle Dorinda Iron Cloud and Alfred Tatro for helping me raise funds for some of the events I attended. I’d also like to give thanks to Marilyn

Galindo and Phyllis Montague for letting me travel with them.

And thanks to the Artist’s Marketplace for teaching me a lot about my Quechan Heritage. I’d like to thank Shirley Kelly for teaching me how to bead my own cape and how to make patterns. I also want to thank Bertha Ortega and Eileen Valenzuela for teaching me how to sew my own Ribbon Dress. I plan to pass my knowledge on as time goes by.

My term as Miss San Pasqual Middle School was definitely amazing! And once again – I am very grateful. Thank you!

EDA DIRECTOR TRAVELS TO BOLIVIA IN AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

Last month, as summer turned to fall here in the desert southwest, Brian Golding, Sr., the Quechan Economic Development Administration (EDA) Director, found himself in the South American country of Bolivia.

Brian traveled on behalf of Americans for Indian Opportunity (AIO), an indigenous rights organization founded in 1970. Based in Albuquerque, New Mexico, the AIO operates the American Indian Ambassador Program. Mr. Golding participated in the Ambassador Class of 1998.

"During my Ambassador class there ten years ago," says Brian, "we traveled to Venezuela, with an unplanned side trip into Colombia, so I'm not a complete stranger to South America."

AIO was invited to participate in an Indian Encounter in Support of

Bolivia, a gathering of Indian leaders and organizations throughout Central and South America being held in Santa Cruz, a city in the tropical lowlands of Bolivia. The Encounter was especially timely given that the day before Brian's arrival in Bolivia, the Bolivian government and its first elected Indian president,

Evo Morales (Amayra) reached a historic agreement to proceed with a referendum on a new constitution, one which reflects greater rights for the Indians of Bolivia. That referendum is scheduled to

occur on January 25, 2009.

Within six hours of landing in Bolivia, Brian found himself on stage, introducing himself and AIO to the Encounter, and expressing enthusiasm for the future of Bolivia's



Posing with EDA Director Brian Golding (at far right) is Bentham Ohia, President/CEO of Advancement of Maori Opportunity, a sister organization to AIO, and two leaders of CENPAC, an Indian organization based in Cobija, Bolivia.

Photo Courtesy of Brian Golding, Sr.

Indians. Afterwards, Brian met and shook hands with President Evo Morales and Vice-President Alvaro Garcia Linera. Brian met with and answered questions posed by Indian people from Brazil, Colombia, Argentina, Paraguay, and Ecuador.

"I extremely honored and humbled to have participated in the Encounter and this trip," said Brian.

Over the two weeks

he was in Bolivia, his travels took him from Santa Cruz, to Camiri near the southern border with Paraguay, to Cobija near the northern border with Brazil, to La Paz on the western border with Peru, and

a couple of places in between.

Brian visited 3 Indian villages, including San Jose de Uchipiamonas in the Amazon jungle. After visiting the Indians of Bolivia, he came away impressed with their spirit, despite the challenges they face in seeking a measure of recognition like that enjoyed by the Quechan.

"Trips such as this remind me of how important our sovereignty is and how we must exercise it wisely," said Brian. "What an exciting time to visit Bolivia, as the Indian people are hopeful that they will finally secure their rights and liberty under a new national constitution."

Brian will be sharing his experience with others in the community during a brief presentation of his photos and thoughts at the Quechan Senior Center, December 2 at 6 PM. Light refreshments will be served.

Beading Class at Parks & Rec

Native culture is being passed along in the form of instructional classes at the Quechan Community Center, sponsored by the Quechan Parks and Recreation Department. Open to everyone from school ages to adults, the beading class meets three days a week, Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons from 3:30 PM to 5:00 PM.

Taught by a husband and wife team, the class teaches beading using patterns from all nations, although Gina Ramon-Gomez says they concentrate primarily on Lakota, Diné, Cheyenne, Arapaho, and Kiowa from the U.S., and Otomi and Huichol patterns and techniques from Mexico.

Her husband, Akaxè (Ah-kah-chay) Yatzin Gomez is a Nahua Indian, raised in the northern mountains around Puebla. He also practices the native martial art of *yaotilitzli*, which he teaches along with philosophy to selected students. Akaxè has also recently begun to teach dance at the Community Center on Saturday after-



Gina Roman-Gomez, a Yaqui beading instructor helps River Montague with a beaded bracelet at the Quechan Community Center.

QUECHAN NEWS Photo by William Isbell

noons at 1:00 PM.

Gina says that learning how to bead teaches math skills as artists count the rows on their looms to work out patterns, as well as planning, perseverance and dexterity. Although the majority of their students are between fourth and eighth grade right now, they also

have an adult student right now, Martina Grill. Martina is visiting from Austria, and is concentrating as hard as the children to gain mastery of the intricacies involved in Native American Beading.

You may want to take advantage of this opportunity this winter while it lasts!



FT. YUMA METHODIST CHURCH

Holiday Festival

Saturday, December 13, 2008

10:00 AM TO 9:00 PM

10:00 AM RUMMAGE SALE,
FRY BREAD and BAKE SALE

10:00 AM CAKE WALK and FISH POND
to 7:00 PM HAMBURGER SALE
FRYBREAD SALE

5:00 PM CHRISTMAS CAROLS
to 7:00 PM

7:00 PM LIVE PRODUCTION of The Nativity along
the historic Ft. Yuma Indian Hillside with live
animals: One camel, 2 llamas and 2 roosters!
Also: *FREE* Hot Cocoa!

All Events Take Place at the Historic Ft. Yuma
United Methodist Church

CONTACT: Allyson Collins at (928)550-0178
For More Information

Five Generations of Quechan Gathered Together



Together at great-great grandma's, the family poses for a series of photos. In photo 1 (left to right) are Gabriela Zarate, Antoinette Montague and her mother, great grandma Lupe Montague (standing), while great-great-grandma Frances Flores holds new family arrival Sandra Montague. In photo 2, Junior Zarate joins the group and Antoinette is seen holding little Arianna Zarate. Finally, Junior, Antoinette and Lupe are all smiles as Layla Zarate joins great-great grandma Frances in her big, comfy chair.

Photos by Anthony Zarate

The combined Montague and Zarate families say they are blessed to have five generations all together here at the same moment in time.

The first generation is their little angel Arianna Zarate, born May fifth of 2006. The second little angel is Layla Zarate. She was born October 19th in 2007. The final little angel to arrive

in the family is Sandra Aldana, who was born May 5th, 2008.

Arianna and Layla Zarate's proud parents are Junior Zarate and Tiffany Polk. Junior currently works for the Winterhaven Fire Department, while mom Tiffany Polk works at the Paradise Casinos.

The proud parents of Sandra Aldana are Gabriela Zarate and

Arturo Aldana. Gabriela is currently a stay home mother. Arturo is currently employed by Jack In The Box of Yuma. Gabriela's proud mother (and Sandra's grandma) is Antoinette Montague, making the third generation of that part of the family. Antoinette works as one of the crew at the Quechan Andrade Parking Lot.

Anthony and Lupe Montague are Antoinette's parents, which brings the total to four generations.

Great-grandpa Anthony is still active, and working for the Paradise Casinos also, while great-grandma Lupe works at Lute's Casino in downtown Yuma.

Sitting as the maternal head over all of these generations,

Frances Flores is the proud mother of Lupe Montague, and great-great grandma to all those precious little angels. Frances is currently a house wife.

The pictures with this story were taken at a family gathering in October at great-great-grandma Frances Flores' house. Anthony Zarate, son of Antoinette Montague, took the photos.

Sculptor Doug Hyde

Continued from Page 8

"Being married, with my wife pregnant, I went looking for work. So I went to a tombstone place since I knew about sculpture, and that was the closest place I could find in Idaho where I could put my skills to work. We wrote up a proposal under the G.I. Bill for (some funding to learn) tombstone making, and submitted it and they approved it." Doug says the experience also enabled him to gain valuable knowledge in that industry, as well as helped him learn how to actually run a business.

"You know, that turns out to be a helluva good back-up plan too, because (I thought) if

I couldn't make it as a sculptor, I could always make tombstones!" he laughs.

He further says working for the tombstone company turned out to be a good deal for both the owner and Doug, since he brought a sculptor's creativity to the job, and enabled them to expand their business. With his skills, he began to draw out new ideas, create new patterns and to carve portraits in stone for various monuments.

He even made the tombstone for the last survivor of the Nez Perce Wars, Josiah Red Wolf. "I used a Pendleton blanket design for the background, and set in a

portrait of him, as well as all of his history. It's now at the Nez Perce Historical Park. It was kind of like your Eagle - it was a labor of love, and I donated my time on that one, too."

He worked there three years, and was allowed to use their equipment to develop his skills further, and to put together a few items to show. Once he had about a dozen items that he felt were acceptable, he held a show at the Northern Plains Indian Museum in Browning, Montana. He sold everything.

Shortly after, Alan Hauser, the Instructor at his old alma mater in New Mexico called, and said he was thinking of retiring. He asked if Doug would like to come down and take his place. When he said that he'd never managed to finish his de-

gree, Mr. Hauser replied, "Don't worry about it, we have a teacher's training program, and we'll show you how to earn your degree and become a teacher right here!"

But when he sold his house and moved to New Mexico, he found that the teacher's training program was cancelled, because no one else had signed up for it!

So he made a deal with the Institute to allow him to teach the night classes, and they went for it. "See, I brought technology to the school," he says. "I brought air hammers and all the things I learned making tombstones. Alan was still making everything by hand, and I said if they'd let me get my supplies from them, I'd teach all the latest techniques in the night classes."

The School saw that as a great

deal for them, and Doug was able to turn out 22 sculptures by the first Christmas, "and they weren't real happy, 'cause there went their supplies!" he says.

But he was able to teach his students that clients can't wait forever for a commissioned piece. He taught them to use the equipment efficiently, to turn out enough work to build up an inventory to keep the cash flowing, and not to tie up your entire success in one large piece you hope to sell for \$600,000.

"You need to keep it coming, especially if you have a family to take care of!" he explains.

So, in addition to being a talented artist, Doug Hyde has learned and passed along to those he meets the importance of being practical, as well as creative.

Introducing This Year's Princesses: Miss Indian San Pasqual

Janyse Collins

A senior at San Pasqual, Janyse has also served as Native Princess while in Elementary and Middle school.

Photo: William Isbell, QUECHAN NEWS



Hello! My name is Janyse Collins-Solorio and I am the proud daughter of Allyson Collins and Albert Solorio, Jr. My paternal grandparents are Marilyn Dewey and Albert Solorio, Sr. My maternal grandparents are Janice Emerson and the late John Collins, Sr. I am a 17 year old Senior, and of Quechan/Mojave/Pima nations.

ministration and graphic design, since I hope to own my own business and have my own clothing line in the future.

It is an honor to be representing all of my tribes, my community, and my school. I really like to encourage youth to get involved and keep our culture going, because culture is not dead.

The goals I hope to accomplish this year include: graduating high school and beginning college. I hope to major in business ad-

In my spare time, I love to play sports, and to play and listen to music. Right now, I'm playing basketball. GO LADY WARRIORS! If you'd like, we'd love to see you at one of our games!

So, If you ever see me, don't hesitate to come up and say hello, if I already haven't. I would like to thank everyone for their encouraging words and support. I know it's going to be a fun year with everyone in the community!

I would especially love to thank my family! They have been beyond the best supporters a young lady could have. I just want to let them know I love them very much.

Melanie E. Bell

In eighth grade at San Pasqual Middle School, Melanie also served as the Elementary Native Princess 3 years ago.

Photo: William Isbell, QUECHAN NEWS



Hello everyone, my name is Melanie Bell. I am 14 years old, and in the 8th grade. I am Quechan, Choctaw, and Maricopa. My mom is Kimberly Bell. My maternal grandparents are Lolita (Pedro) Bell and the late Frank

drawing pictures, and listening to music, as well as learning about other cultures. I would really like to go to Princeton, I am leaning more towards ASU, but I really don't know what college I will attend just yet.

Bell. My great-grandparents are the late Arthur Pedro and the late Rosita (Cachora) Collins.

My hobbies include writing short stories,

I would like to be a teacher when I grow up. Over this past summer I went up to the Artist Market Place and my aunts Shirley Kelly, Eileen Valenzuela, and uncle Johnny Norton helped me to learn to bead my own cape. They also told me stories about their past life and when they were little kids. My other aunties Nancy Montague and Ila Dunzweiler helped me memorize my speech.

I hope to experience different things by being at all of the activities and learning more about my traditions.

Ny-Lyn Duncan

A fifth grader at San Pasqual Elementary, Ny-Lyn comes from a large family with 9 siblings.

Photo: William Isbell, QUECHAN NEWS



My name is Ny-Lyn Vail Duncan. Ny-Lyn means "little girl" in Apache, I am 10 years old and in the 5th grade at San Pasqual Elementary. My tribes are Mohave and San Carlos Apache, and my parents are Tina Welsh and Mike Amador. I have 4 brothers and 5 sisters.

My grandparents are Lillian

a nurse, to help my community people. I love to play basketball in the Yuma League and here at Quechan Parks & Recreation, as well as softball. What I enjoy the most and love is bird dancing at bird gatherings and to dance in contests.

My family hails from the Colorado River Indian Tribe, from a

Welsh and the late Darwin Titus Welsh, Sr., of Parker, Az.

My goals are to one day be on the WNBA and also go to college to become

long line of Bird singers, including my late grandfather Darwin T. Welsh, Sr. and my uncle Clifton Welsh. I dedicated my traditional talent at this year's Pageant to my late uncle Darwin T. Welsh, Jr.

My traditional dress for the talent portion of the Pageant was metallic navy blue, with pink and green satin and cotton paisley diamonds. In Yuman culture, the diamonds are representative of the mountains that surround our lands thus was the influence for designing my dress.

I would like to thank my Auntie Mouse for my dress, and my cousins for singing for me. I love you and my whole family.

The "Street Smart" Seminar

Crime Prevention * Safety Awareness

Just one hour could dramatically reduce the chances of you -- or someone you love -- becoming a victim

Please ask yourself these questions:

- ▶ What time of day are you most vulnerable?
- ▶ What makes you an attractive target for criminals?
- ▶ GANGS! Can you read the writing on the wall?
- ▶ Could you tell if your child is involved in a gang?
- ▶ What is the fastest growing drug among teens today?
- ▶ How can your security system be disarmed?
- ▶ What is the number one mistake made at gas stations and pay phones?
- ▶ What would/should you do if...
- ▶ If you broke down, had a flat tire, or were bumped from the rear in an isolated area where your cell phone didn't work? Day or night?
- ▶ If asked to help a child that has stopped breathing in a parking lot?
- ▶ If someone were to snatch your purse?
- ▶ If, while getting into your car, you were approached and threatened by someone with a weapon who told you to drive where you were told?
- ▶ If you returned home to find the side, front or back door pried open?

Topics covered in this dynamic seminar include: carjacking, child abduction, home invasions, home security, gangs, drugs, travel safety, crimes against women, date rape, identity theft, workplace safety/violence, cons and scams, disguised weapons and paraphernalia and the pros and cons of common safety devices.

To be Held

Thursday, 18 December 2008

With 3 sessions offered:

10:00 AM ♦ 1:00 PM ♦ 3:00 PM

AT THE QUECHAN COMMUNITY CENTER

Quechan Tribal employees are strongly encouraged to attend this training!

Community members are also welcome to attend this informative Public Safety seminar.

Please call Pearl Cowan at 928-920-9987 or Terry Roper at (928) 580-4443 to provide your name and the session



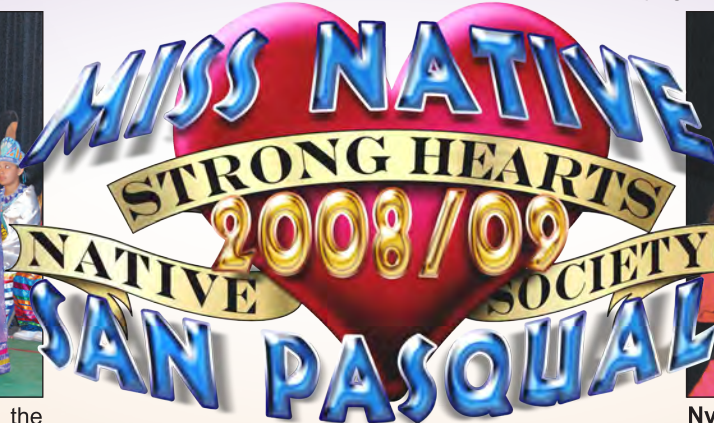
CRIT Council member Valerie Welsh-Tahbo from Parker served as Mistress of Ceremonies.

Both contestants and visiting Native Royalty gathered on stage at the Quechan Community Center on November 7th to take part in the annual selection of the year's top native representative for each of the San Pasqual Valley schools. This year, a new category of "San Pasqual Native Warrior of the Year" was added for senior class men. Read about the results of that contest inside this issue on page 4.

Judith Prietta-Osborne was given recognition as the San Pasqual *Shii-yii* for her language skills.



Middle School contestant Melanie Bell danced for the Strong Hearts Singers as a part of her talent demonstration.



QUECHAN NEWS Photos by William Isbell



Ny-Lyn Duncan received cheers from the crowd as she danced her talent portion with her cousins from Parker.



The new Elementary Indian Princess for 2008/09 is Ny-Lyn Duncan, daughter of Tina Welsh and Mike Amador. She is of Mohave and San Carlos Apache descent. Her mother works as the Secretary at Quechan Parks and Recreation, and her father works for the Bard Water District. Her grandparents are Lillian Welsh and the late Darwin T. Welsh, Sr. of Parker.



Melanie E. Bell was awarded the Middle School Indian Princess crown. She is of Quechan, Choctaw and Maricopa descent. Her mother is Kimberly Bell, office assistant for the Quechan Language Preservation Program. Her grandparents are Lolita Pedro and the late Frank Bell. She previously served as the 2005/06 Elementary Princess. She is 14 years old and in the 8th grade.



Janyse Collins, current Strong Hearts President danced both a Quechan Bird Dance (in the top photo) and the Pima Basket Dance for her talents, and breathlessly awaited the judges' decision with fellow high school contestants Danell Ortega and Sarah Duwyenie (below).



Still wearing her basket dance dress, **Janyse Collins** was made the High School Indian Princess this year. Her talents demonstrated her Quechan/Mohave/Akimel Au Authum background. Janyse was the Elementary Princess for 2001/02 and Middle School Princess in 2004/05. She is only the second young woman in Strong Hearts history to hold all 3 crowns.