



QUECHAN NEWS

VOLUME 103, Issue 1 ♦ WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2009

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Items Of Special Interest To Tribe Members



Look For This Symbol

ETSKA NAV AH PAI THE NEWS CARRIER
QUECHAN NEWS

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Voters Select Comet For Final Council Seat

Last week's run-off election was carefully designed by the the Quechan Election Board (QEB) to allow voters a simple "either-or" vote on the the two remaining candidates for Council, tied at 140 votes each during the General Election on December 1st. Voters were given a large rubber "X" stamp to mark their ballots, with pens and pencils banned from the polls, to prevent anyone from writing in any other candidate and further "muddying the waters." Any ballot marked otherwise would be rejected.

Voters streamed into the Community Center at a slow but steady pace all day long December 29th, with a last minute group of about 20 showing up just before the polls closed at 7:00 PM. Once the ballot box was opened, Kathy Webb-Howard, the QEB Judge, passed each ballot one-by-one under an overhead projector, allowing the audience of witnesses to see each vote as she read them off. Ballots were then passed to QEB Marshal Wayne Chaipos, Jr., who held up each ballot in turn allowing the two clerks, Bryce Parker and Angela Sandoval, facing him across the table, to see them also. He then

stacked them in separate piles for each candidate as the vote count continued. By the time the second chamber, containing absentee ballots in sealed evidence envelopes was opened, Juliana Comet was ahead of Emilio Escalanti by 182 to 127. The absentees tallied 20 more votes for the incumbent, Escalanti, to Mrs. Comet's 12, narrowing her lead, but not overcoming it.

The final total, presented to the Quechan Tribal Council sitting in a special session once the count was closed, showed

Juliana M. Comet as the winner, with 194 votes to Emilio Escalanti's 137. The Council's only question was to verify that only two ballots were counted as spoiled, and one, an absentee ballot having been marked with a check, rather than an "X", rejected. With that, the count was accepted unanimously by the quorum, with Vice President Escalanti and Councilman Merrill Kelly not present.

Finally, Emilio Escalanti stood to make a statement, thanking the Quechan people

for allowing him to serve for the past 12 years, and congratulating Mrs. Comet. His statement can be read on page 8.

The QEB posted their Official Abstract of the Vote Count late on December 30th, and the count has been accepted and certified by the Tribal Council. An Inaugural Ceremony, swearing in the new Council members was scheduled for Monday, January 5th at 10:00 AM in the Quechan Tribal Chambers, followed by a luncheon at the Quechan Community Center that same day.

Vote Totals from the Quechan Election Board

(as of Tuesday, December 30, 2009)

The Vote Totals listed in the first 3 columns are the results as posted by the Quechan Election Board for the first round of voting, which took place during the regularly scheduled election on Monday, December 1st.

Vincent T. Durand*	154	Sally A. Maude	45	Lewis M. Jefferson	17
Melissa Mills	28	Austin Dugan	96	Merrill D. Kelly*	116
Rebecca A. Kelly	52	Barbara A. Levy	49	Shawn Porter	31
Rosemary J. Pasqual	50	Emilio Esalanti*	140	James A. Montague*	188
Cryselle M. Uribe*	206	Regina M. Escalanti	47	Milton Jefferson, Sr.	50
Patrick Olague	114	Jordan Joaquin	232	Bernadine Swift Arrow	114
Lucinda E. Polk	40	Ronda Aguerro	85		
Juliana M. Comet	140	Virgil S. Smith	132		

(* Shows Incumbents)

Vote Totals for the Run-off Election on Dec 29:

(as of Tuesday, December 30, 2009)

Emilio Escalanti* 137

Juliana Comet 194

AWC and San Pasqual Host Baseball Camp

San Pasqual's Head Baseball Coach Faron Owl joined with the coaching staff at Arizona Western College to bring a day-long sports camp to the Quechan nation during the recent Christmas break, offering tips and personalized instruction to over 60 players from 15 different area teams and schools.

With students ranging from Little League to high school, the camp gave everyone an opportunity to have college-level coaches check their abilities and offer them solid advice to enable them to return to their home turf and improve their games.

AWC Head Coach John Stratton was joined by Jake Thrower, AWC's Infield/Hitting Coach, who acted as the Camp's Coordinator, setting up the instructional format for the day; Alan Manifest, their Pitching Coach; Jack Watson, their Catching/Hitting specialist; and James Kuzniack, who provides the college's team with strength training, as well



Ron Arviso, Coach of the Yuma Diablos carefully observes San Pasqual's Jaime Marquez at batting practice during the day-long camp.

Photos by William Isbell, QUECHAN NEWS

as Coach Owl and a number of younger coaches, fresh out of high school, who have gone on to play for various college teams since graduation.

Among the returning collegiate athletes on hand to "give back" by assisting the younger players was Coach Owl's son, Tyler, a San Pasqual graduate who now plays for Cal State/San Bernardino.

Players received instruction

on hitting, fielding, bunting, catching and pitching, rotating through both offensive and defensive strategies at various stations scattered around the San Pasqual athletic complex.

"We have kids here from about 8 or 9, all the way through high school," said Coach Stratton. "We've done tons of camps (with San Pasqual) so we've figured out how to split them up to keep them all in their same age

groups." Once everyone had their one-to-one instructional time in the morning, the camp broke for a barbecue lunch on the field.

"If we have time, after lunch we'll have another defensive session, and then we'll play a couple of short games with everybody. We try to keep it fun for the kids, too," continued Coach Stratton. "It's pretty hard for these (players) to just go all day in the instructional mode, so we try to vary it for them . . . It's a whole different type of thing for them in the afternoon."

Asked why the college continues to put on these camps, when the coaches could gain another day in their winter breaks to do other things, he said, "We do this as a service to the community. The Quechan Tribe helps us with sponsorships of our events, buying ads in our programs, things like that. They contribute a lot, as a booster to our athletic programs. They're a real good



Gabriel Sanderson of Woodard Jr. High smiles as he applies what he's learned at the camp.

bunch to work with, and we're just trying to help them out too, to give something back."

All of the students who attended the 2008 San Pasqual/AWC Baseball Christmas Camp paid a small fee to take part, which will go into the Athletic Fund at the school to help buy new equipment this year.



SWEATSHIRTS AWARDED

Each year in the spring, the San Pasqual Valley Unified School District administers the California High School Exit Examination (CAHSEE) test to all students from 10th through 12th grades. In order for a student to graduate high school in California, they must pass the CAHSEE exam with a score of 350 or higher on each part, covering English-language arts (ELA) and mathematics.

Those students who achieve a passing grade on both sections of the exam on their first try each year at San Pasqual are traditionally awarded a sweater or a jacket from the Stronghearts Native Society for this accomplishment. Here are the passing students for 2008.

Front Row: Julio Saldana and Jaime Marquez. **Middle Row, Left to Right:** Sarah Fairchild, Maricela Barley, Carmen Hernandez, Alicia Ramirez, Martha Garcia and Sunny Tamp. **Back Row, Left to Right:** Kassandra Ripley, Vanessa Esperanza, Taylor Thomas, Joshua Avila, Aaron Lucero, and Nina Illingworth. Not shown: Kacee Figueroa, Danell Ortega, and Alex Marquez.

Photo: Courtesy SPVUSD

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

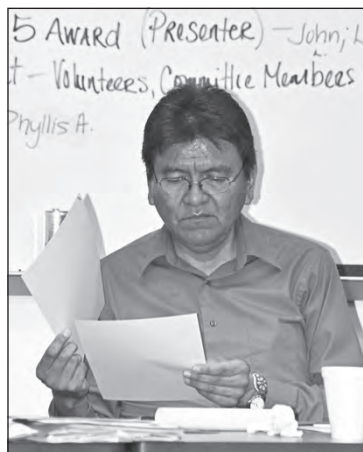
QUECHAN NEWS is here to cover the special events and everyday lives of Quechan Tribe Members, and the issues that affect you in the world today. This newsletter is here to keep the lines of communication open, to expand opportunities, and uplift the Native Spirit of the San Pasqual Valley. Your ideas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

Senior Center Hosts AZ Indian Council On Aging Quarterly Meeting



Lee Begay is the ITCA's Area Agency on Aging Program Director. He was the main speaker on the opening day of the 3 day Conference, and delivered reports on public hearings, the State Budget issue and the upcoming statewide Conference in April.



The Senior Center's main conference room was filled with representatives from Arizona's Indian tribes. Among those attending were the Hualapai, Havasupai, Tohono O'odham, Pascua Yaqui, San Carlos Apache and Navajo tribes, as well as the Parker area's Colorado River Indian Tribes. Photos by William Isbell, QUECHAN NEWS



Joining Mr. Begay at the front table during the second day of the Conference were Janelle Lane (on the left) and Tiffany Yazzie, from the Inter Tribal Council's Phoenix office. Here, they go over the planned agenda for April, sorting out everyone's responsibilities.

Last month, The Quechan Tribe was selected to host the Arizona Indian Council on Aging's final quarterly meeting of 2008, set up with a goal of making the final arrangements for their statewide meeting during the week of April 6th through 10th, in Mesa, Arizona.

The three-day quarterly meeting filled the Quechan Senior Center with visitors from tribes all over Arizona. Lee Begay and his Human Services Program staff from the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona (ITCA) gave reports on what has been accomplished since their last quarterly meeting. Also presenting reports on aging assistance programs were Region 8 representatives from the San Carlos Apache, Pascua Yaqui and Colorado River Indian Tribes.

Newly hired Senior Center Program Director Vernon

Smith acted as the official host of the event, along with Juanita Flores, Charlene Emerson, and the entire Senior Center staff. Although he had only started as Senior Center Director two days prior to the Conference, Mr. Smith was able to use his experience as a past Tribal Administrator and current school board member to keep the discussions on track and moving along according to schedule.

Mr. Smith says that once the reports were completed, a great deal of the remaining time was spent discussing plans for the upcoming National Indian Council On Aging Conference (NICOA), set for Albuquerque, New Mexico in 2012. Those plans also affect the agenda for the ITCA's Arizona Conference in April, which will see further discussion on the Albuquerque Conference, still 3 years in the

future.

"They also discussed the need to find more volunteers for the elder assistance programs on the reservations," Smith told the *Quechan News*.

"They'd like to train some of the elderly to help take care of those who are unable to get out, to take care of themselves," he explained. "What they'd like is to have the tribes identify both elders and some younger people, who can be trained by ITCA, to return to their tribes and go to the homes and provide whatever it is that needs to be done (for the homebound and infirm). We had a long discussion there on what works, and what doesn't."

The hope is that elders who are still active and want to make a contribution can get the training needed, alongside young adults just entering the elder care field, to provide a

valuable service to their fellow tribe members that also give their own lives a new sense of purpose.

While on the subject, Mr. Smith elaborated: "The thought is that they will relate better (to those needing assistance), being of the same age, and being tribal members, rather than an outsider coming in and having to be taught about our culture and history - what we like to eat, how we relate to each other."

One additional item included in the planning for the Arizona Conference in April, is what to do to assist the Havasupai Tribe in their recovery from a disastrous flash flood last summer, which took out roads and campgrounds on the floor of the Grand Canyon that the tribe depends on for income.

Don Watahomigie, a Havasupai Tribal Councilman, gave

a report on the damage to the tribe's infrastructure done by the flood, and those listening found it heart-wrenching.

The Havasupai have been unable to book tourists into their lodge or campgrounds for over 4 months now, and have lost substantial income while they try to clean up and rebuild.

Therefore, an item added to the April agenda is the need for donations from all the tribes attending, to help get Supai back into business. While a Blanket Dance will be held at the close of the conference to collect funds, the Quechan delegation has suggested setting up a display of photos of the disaster, as well as a collection box in the main hall for the full 5 days of the Conference, to increase opportunities for donations. ITCA in Phoenix confirms that they now intend to do that, as well.

Strong Hearts Tour New Casino ♠ Resort



The Strong Hearts students got a good look at the interior of the Casino (at left), stopping at several points along the way to hear Project Manager Steve Jones describe the layout and materials being used in the construction. They also got a good look at the Events Center (center photo), where Steve went over some of the high-tech jobs that will need to be filled once trade shows and concerts begin to fill the Center. Brian Golding (at right) of the Quechan Economic Development Agency also went over the need for higher education to fill those openings. More than anything, the students seemed impressed with the quality of materials being used in the construction.

QUECHAN NEWS Photos by William Isbell

Members of the Strong Hearts Native Society from San Pasqual High School enjoyed an otherwise cold and rainy Monday with a field trip to the new Quechan Casino♠Resort in mid-December. Steve Jones, Project Manager for the Cumming Corporation acted as their host and tour guide, directing the group through the main floor of the new Casino and into the lobby area, food court and events center in a visit lasting a little over an hour. Also accompanying the students were Brian Golding, Director of the Quechan EDA and Pearl Cowan of the Tribal Employment Rights Office.

The main purpose of their visit was to encourage students to pursue further training and education, to help them qualify for jobs either at the Casino or with the Quechan Tribe itself. Before entering the complex, Mr. Jones let the students in on the fact that the project is now almost 75 days ahead of schedule and under budget(!), with the public being able to come out and see everything for themselves by the middle of February.

"You're about to walk into 300,000 square feet of your future," he said, "with 3 restaurants, a food court, a gaming floor that will accommodate 1100 machines, 24 poker tables as well as a poker room that will have 12 tables in there, so stick

close, because it's an active construction site, and I want to be sure you all make it back to the bus in one piece!"

And it was very active! Although the carpet had just been laid over the recessed flooring that hides the wiring chases to the slot machine stations, dozens of workers were all over the vast room, cutting, hand fitting and laying tile, installing counters, fixtures and solid granite countertops in the adjacent Sports Bar, and climbing up and down ladders making final adjustments to the dozens of custom lighting fixtures.

Mr. Jones bombarded the group with statistics on the incredible array of high tech features going into the building, like the 24 large screen HD television screens in the Sidewinder Sports Bar, with a stage in the rear able to hold a band with as many as 6 members, plus a 17-foot by 21-foot screen that can drop down behind the stage, which has its own high definition projection system.

"We can show the Super Bowl on that screen, and the players will be larger than they are in real life!" he said. He then went on to describe the 80-seat Steak House next door, which will have an entirely different, quiet and relaxed ambiance, perfect for private dining.

He also went on to describe

some of the advanced technology built into the building, to allow constant communication between the "back of house" operations and the gaming floor, as well as the latest reconfigurable under floor wiring layout, which will allow the staff to expand or change the layout of the gaming floor as needed to meet the demands of the Casino's clients over the years to come.

In covering the subject, Jones told the students, "We have over \$2 million in equipment in just the data center to handle all of today's technology, as well as the technology we are sure will come in the next few years."

They then moved into the lobby area, to get a look at where the Hotel and Casino come together, next to the indoor Cultural Center. The group was unable to enter the Hotel wing, however, since workmen were doing final installation on the fixtures and furnishings of the rooms, and the Hotel would then be closed and sealed, "frozen" in Jones terms, to keep it pristine until new employees begin their training in late January, just before the Grand Opening.

Everyone was able to walk through the Food Court, which is still a buzz with activity, as the workmen are in the process of installing counters and equipment there, also. Then it was out onto the circular covered patio

for a look at the "lazy river" and pools, which were getting their final skim coats of fine grained concrete before all of the textured walkways and further details are laid in around them.

The final leg of the tour was a walk down the hallway between the Casino and the Events Center (which also opens out into the pool area), for a look at the enormous enclosed space of the Events Center main hall. There, both Jones and Brian Golding described the opportunities to come for tribal members with education, as the entire Quechan Casino♠Resort is designed for meeting the needs of visitors with modern technology.

The Events Center, for instance, is specifically designed to enable easy access of vehicles to the main floor, enabling concerts to bring in their own equipment, live trucks (such as those used by ESPN) to tap into the communications and power grid for national broadcasts, and events such as car shows to drive vehicles in for set-up and display.

With a stage and lighting system on one end and 14-foot tall roll-up doors at the other, the Events Center will need a full-time staff ready and able to accommodate almost any type of event.

Combined with the on-site water treatment facility, the Casino♠Resort will have all of the facilities needed to allow those interested in engineering to find and hold a career position with a chance for upward mobility.

During his presentation at the end of the tour, Mr. Golding also described future job potential for the Tribe in fields such as environmental science, planning, green energy, telecommunications and computer technology, and public administration, whether as technicians or as policy makers.

And that is how the tour ended, with a plea for the students to continue their education, so they will be prepared to step into those positions and take charge of their own, and their Tribe's, futures in the 21st century.

CORRECTION

The Casino♠Resort Update on page 12 of the December 17th, 2008 issue of *Quechan News* was incorrectly labeled the "Update for September 2008". The Header Box for that page was copied from an earlier issue and was not corrected before going to the printer. It *should* have read: "Casino♠Resort Update for December 2008."

Community Health Reps Return to Refurbished Offices



The Quechan Community Health Representatives (CHR) held an open house just before Christmas that featured catered Chinese and Mexican foods served outdoors under a tent. One thing included in the new layout that Avis Black enjoys (center) is the fully equipped central kitchen area, which makes the long hours put in by the staff much easier. On the right is a look at the new Transportation Office in the back, filled with modern furnishings, new carpet and triple-paned energy efficient windows.

QUECHAN NEWS Photos by William Isbell

After almost 10 months of sharing quarters with the staff at the Diabetes Special Project across their parking lot, the Quechan Community Health Representatives (CHR) returned to their own building in early December and held a “Housewarming Party” for themselves and the community on December 19 to celebrate the event.

“We really appreciated the hospitality (of Special Diabetes) in housing us from February to November,” says Sosa Diaz, Director of CHR. “We even gave them their own appreciation lunch and little personalized gifts when we moved out. Still, we enjoy being back in our own building, and the way it looks inside is totally different than

what it was before.”

It is indeed. Gone are the dark wood paneling and “popcorn” ceiling treatments. In their place are bright, straight, smoothly textured white walls, new doors and modern furnishings. Francisco Sanchez of Adany Remodeling spent six weeks completely rebuilding the interior, once the asbestos removal crew

finished their work in October. A new transportation office was built into the area behind the front reception desk, and a fully equipped kitchen was installed in a passageway between transportation and Avis Black’s Maternal/Child Health office. The passageway also leads out to the parking area next to the utilities office, allowing transporters to

park right next to their offices.

The CHR offices have all had new solid-core, pre-hung doors installed, as well as new carpeting and electrical fixtures. All offices are also connected to the internet, and those with windows on the east side have new triple-paned, energy efficient windows that can also unlock and crank open for fresh air circulation.

GINGERBREAD HOUSES



The Annual Gingerbread House night at the Quechan Community Center was well attended, with so many families showing up to participate that the Parks and Recreation staff found themselves setting up extra tables to accommodate the overflow crowd up to an hour into the program! Evonne Estes from Yuma School District One agreed to come and provide instructions once again, leading at least 400 youngsters (and their parents) through the process. Seen above, Angelina Rae and her daughter, Calista, finish frosting their roof with “snow”, while (at left) Leanne Talaswaima delicately prepares to make an addition to her house.

Photos by William Isbell



Quechan Commodities Adds 4 New Items To Standard Food Package

Debbie Hill of Quechan Food Commodities Distribution would like to offer a big thank you to her staff for their hard work and commitment in providing good service to our community. Commodities currently serves approximately 200 households, with a total of 700 participants.

Last year brought an increase in both clients and food products offered, which meant another worker was very much needed. Debbie says that Ms. Rashelle Palone, hired in April 2008 to provide that needed assistance, has been a plus to the program.

New items added to their food package in late 2008 are:

1) UHT (ultra high temperature) 1% fluid milk, 32 oz.

2) A 2 lb. frozen beef roast
3) A fully cooked, 2 lb. frozen turkey ham

4) 12.5 oz. canned chicken
The Commodities staff has also been giving out a cookbook during the month of December (which incorporates the commodities issued); a nutritional calendar; and a monthly planner to help households make notes on their issuance appointments throughout the coming year.

Low-income American Indian and non-Indian households residing on the reservation and households living in approved areas near the reservation that contain at least one person who is a member of a Federally-recognized tribe, are eligible to participate in the Federal Food Distribution Program.

Households are certified based on income and resource standards set by the Federal government, and must be recertified at least every 12 months. Households may not participate in the Food Distribution Program and the Food Stamp Program in the same month. Each month, participating households receive a food package to help them maintain a nutritionally balanced diet.

Participants receive a variety of over 70 products, including canned and frozen meats, poultry and fish; pastas; cereals, rice and other grains; as well as canned fruits and vegetables; canned soups and spaghetti sauce. For more information on what Quechan Commodities has to offer, call (760)572-0740.

New Treatment Process at Clinic Shows Promise

Chronic wounds which seem to never heal properly, such as those often suffered by diabetics with poor circulation in their lower extremities, can now be brought under control and even healed, thanks to advancements in how those wounds are “dressed” after debridement.

Pam Murphy, the Wound Treatment Nurse at Fort Yuma IHS says the usual method followed for years by medical professionals was to simply remove and change the dressings with each visit. “Basically, you took the old dressing off, cleaned the wound, and put a new dressing on.”

This was fine for a wound on someone without a compromised immune system, or those healthy enough to heal on their own. But what about those with too much sugar in their blood (and bacteria love sugar!), or those with poor circulation,



Physician's Assistant Gilbert Vega (left) watches as Wound Treatment Nurse Pam Murphy prepares to wash and debride a foot wound, prior to the application of a silver based dressing. Photo by William Isbell, QUECHAN NEWS

which keeps nutrients in the blood from reaching the wound? Both problems, by the way, are common among diabetics.

“Almost 100% of our wound care is directed towards our diabetic patients,” she says, “and we’ve been looking for a better

way to treat those wounds, and actually get them to heal, to save their toes, their feet, and get people up and walking again.”

As articles in Medical Journals began to increasingly feature new medications and methods for treating chronic wounds,

Gilbert Vega, the Clinic’s Physician’s Assistant, took notice and began to seek out training on those methods.

On his own initiative, once he found that training was available in San Diego, he arranged to attend the training last September, paying for it out of his own pocket. “I did it because I wanted to learn a little more,” he says. It’s one thing to read about a new treatment, it’s another to actually visit those who do it, and learn to apply those methods yourself.

When the Doctors notice a wound, they immediately refer the patient to the Wound Care Clinic. After assessment, Gilbert prescribes a course of treatment, while Pam provides the on going, hands-on care on a daily basis as Gilbert does the follow-up. When the wound is healed, the patient is referred back to the original provider.

“We still take the old dressing off, of course” says Nurse Murphy, “but now we also have chemical debriders (which assist in scouring away dead tissue), creams (to provide nutrients and aid the healing process) and all sorts of new dressing materials to go back over the wound.”

One new material that seems to hold special promise is an ultra-thin, 5 layer dressing that is made of a metallic silver mesh top and bottom, with 3 layers of absorbent material on the inside. Silver has a natural antibiotic capacity to prevent infection, so it rests against the wound.

“The silver kills the bacteria and absorbs it off the wound,” says Nurse Murphy. “So you no longer have dead bacteria in the wound. Then the absorbent layers trap it in the middle, so when I peel it back off (on the next visit) it also helps to

(Continued on next page)

Quechan EDA Welcomes New Planner to the Staff

As the Quechan Economic Development Administration (EDA) prepares for further expansion of the Quechan Tribe’s housing, commercial development and infrastructure, the need for additional planners to keep up with the new projects is also expanding.

The newest planner, joining the staff at EDA in November of 2008, is Michael Abraham. One of a very few local Certified Planners, Michael will be assisting the Quechan Tribe EDA with the creation of a Comprehensive Development Plan.

“A Comprehensive Plan is a decision making document that expresses the hopes and desires of the community for the next generation,” he points out. “There are many elements that go into such a plan - for instance, there will be a housing element, a transportation element, and in-



Michael Abraham

Has served as a Planner for the City of Yuma and both Imperial and Yuma Counties.

Photo: William Isbell, QUECHAN NEWS

frastructure to tie it all together. You have to plan for everything, from waste water treatment and your source of potable water to electricity . . . even the wildlife in the area has to be considered. How do you want the traffic to flow as growth increases?”

Michael says there are thousand of things to be considered in putting together a Comprehensive Plan for a community, looking ahead to the growth projected over the next few decades.

“We try to get input from everyone in the community, looking ahead to what they want to

put those plans for the future together. It’s pretty much used as a decision making document.”

“There is a lot of public input that goes into these plans,” he concludes. “So when the final plan is approved, it’s not my plan, it’s not the Council’s plan, it’s everyone’s plan for the future (of Fort Yuma).

Michael came to the Yuma area from Greensboro, North Carolina by way of the United States Marine Corps. While stationed at Marine Corps Air Station between 1990 and 1992, two major events would shape his fu-

ture. First, he was deployed to Saudi Arabia as part of the Persian Gulf War; second, he met his future wife, Regina, a local girl born and raised in Yuma.

After his tour of duty in the Marines ended, Michael decided the best way to provide for his new family was to further his education. He attended Arizona State University (ASU), majoring in Geography and Planning. These were Michael’s two favorite subjects, forming an excellent foundation for community planning.

After graduating from ASU, Michael went on to work for the Imperial County Planning Department, then worked for the City of Yuma for several years. Just prior to coming to work for the Quechan Tribe, he was a Planner for Yuma County. His strong roots in the area now include two teenage boys attend-

ing Yuma High School.

Michael feels certain the planning experience he gained in working with the larger local communities will serve the Tribe well in developing and revising its Comprehensive Plan.

“When I found out the Tribe was looking for a Planner, I thought it would be an excellent opportunity. I’d never had the opportunity to be somewhere, basically, right at the beginning of their growth - to be in on the ground floor. It’s exciting! I’m so glad the Tribe chose me to join the staff and help put this all together.”

In his spare time, you can find him training for local running events and testing new chili recipes, which have won awards in several local chili cook-offs. And if his picture looks familiar, you may have seen it hanging on the wall in Chili’s Restaurant.

New Wound Treatment at IHS Clinic

Continued from Page 7



Doctor Smith drops in to check on the amazing progress that one patient has experienced.

debride the wound, taking the dead cells off with it.” To further speed healing, she and P.A. Vega have an assortment of creams they will also apply to the wound, before they enclose the whole area with the typical gauze wrapping designed to keep everything clean and in place until the next treatment.

“One of the creams has (digestive) enzymes in it, like little Pac Mans, that will digest the hard parts of the scar tissue, and soften it up,” says Murphy. “Then I can go in there and cut it out, or pick it out with tweezers, so the whole area finally gets down to just good tissue, so we can feed that tissue with vitamins and zinc, and use the silver to kill the rest of the bacteria, so you can bring it back and get it to heal, with nice, healthy tissue again.” They have many new dressings to choose from, depending on the recommended course of treatment, including one that contains a water activated surfactant foam, which works in a different way to help the wounds heal.

The new treatment method is to aggressively clean out the wound and to provide an environment around the wound that promotes active healing, rather

than simply providing a clean dressing to prevent further infection, as all medical facilities did for too many years.

So, how well do these new methods work?

One patient in particular has seen amazing results in a little over a month. He’s had a wound that developed around Halloween of 2007, and it gradually grew into a hardened callus with a silver dollar sized hole in the center of his foot, that just would not get better. When he first spoke to the staff at IHS and showed them the wound, P.A. Vega was concerned that it might even extend down into the bones of the patient’s foot, leading to serious infection (and a possible partial amputation, if that was the case.)

To their relief, X-rays showed that all of the bones were intact, so Vega and Murphy immediately began to apply their new techniques to his treatment.

By the end of December, his wound had softened and shrunk to an area as small as a dime, and was rapidly on its way to closing completely. Everyone involved expects his foot to be completely healed by the end of February, an excellent result for a wound that had resisted healing for over a year prior to their intervention at the Clinic.

“It’s amazing!” says the patient’s wife. “And I think it’s just great that (Vega) took it on himself to go get this training, and bring it here where we need it so badly.”

They have a further option of sending patients YRMC or the El Centro Medical Center, for hyperbaric (high pressure oxygen) treatment in particularly tough cases.

The IHS Clinic also has a new “Happy Feet” Program for diabetic patients to assist in maintaining a patient’s foot health.

Emergency Management Hosts Crime Prevention Seminar



Lt. Thommy Halfen of the National Crime Prevention Task Force demonstrates how easily a push button door lock can be defeated with a forceful application of an adjustable locking wrench.

QUECHAN NEWS Photo by William Isbell

Tribal employees were encouraged to attend a class on Crime Prevention Strategies just before the Christmas break, to increase their awareness of simple methods that can thwart a thief’s intentions, and increase the employees’ chances of not being selected to be a victim.

Hosted by the Quechan Office of Emergency Management, the class was presented by Lt. Thommy Halfen, an 18 year law enforcement veteran with experience in vice, narcotics and undercover work. He also served as the Assistant Chief of Police in Emerson, Georgia before joining the National Crime Prevention Task Force. As a member of the Task Force, Lt. Halfen travels the country giving talks to community groups, other law enforcement professionals and college sororities.

“I’ve gone to Georgia Tech, Alabama, Auburn, and Columbia Universities, going to the ‘safety stand-down days’ for their college sororities,” he says, “giving them what I call my ‘Date Rape Class’, telling ‘em how to be safe together, what to look out for.”

A burly southerner, Lt. Halfen’s father (by his own de-

scription) was “a Jew from the Bronx”, while his mom was a “good little Catholic girl” from Georgia. Though he grew up in Georgia, Thommy picked up his father’s New York (almost south Jersey) speech patterns. With the Bronx accent coming on thick and fast as he talks, he is able to keep his audience amused as he moves quickly from one surprising subject to the next, peppering his comments with both abrupt, direct statements and a joking manner that holds your attention.

He sounds like a carny, challenging the listeners to pay attention and guess where he’s going next. And he goes everywhere during his presentation, from identity theft to physical security, keeping things moving at a quick pace that barely allows time for one amazing fact to be absorbed before he jumps to the next subject, asking you to create a scenario in your own mind, then whipping out another unanticipated problem that could frustrate your efforts to keep one step ahead of the bad guys.

But it’s not all hopeless. As the program develops, he begins to reorient the audience’s



Tribal police officers were among those attending the December class at the Community Center.

thinking to consider what a criminal might be looking for as they select their victims.

One thing a woman living alone might want to do is to create the appearance that she lives with someone you wouldn’t want to mess with. Rather than decorating the house with a rainbow or unicorn flag (which shouts to everyone passing by that you only see the bright side of life, and are thus unprepared when a violent criminal shows up at the door), a woman might want to hang an NFL or Hockey banner under the carport. And since most burglaries happen during the time people are at work (from 9 to 5, during the day) it might help to post a sign reading “No Soliciting - Day Sleeper”. To complete the illusion, a pair of size 11 work boots covered in mud left just outside the carport door would imply that the man of the house works outdoors and comes home tired (and grumpy) every morning. Such boots might cost \$10 at Goodwill.

“And ladies - if you leave the TV on to make ‘em think some body’s fallen asleep there, don’t leave it on daytime TV!” he says. “Nobody is afraid of anybody who watches Oprah! Leave the TV on a 24 hour sports channel, turned down low. Everybody knows men watch sports!” Just one more fact that could be turned in your favor!

2008 Christmas Lighting Contest Winners



Emilio Escalanti's Statement Conceding The Election

"I just want to give a big 'Thank You' to the Quechan people for allowing me to serve on the Council for the time that I have been allowed. It's been a good 12 years, and I've learned a lot, while being able to work with a lot of really wonderful people, that I may never have otherwise gotten the chance to work with."

"Working with the late Mrs. Muriel Brown and the late Mr. Gregory Yuma, plus my dear friend, Mitzi Osborne, as well as all of the people that have come through the Tribal Office and passed into and out of my life has really enriched me. I still really miss some of them, like the late Mrs. Owl, who taught me a whole lot while I had the opportunity to work on the Cultural Committee with her, along with my Aunt Pauline."

"You know, I'm really thankful that I've had this opportunity to learn a lot about how the Tribe works. I look forward to what is going to happen next with our people."

"I think God has really blessed us, in bringing us to the point where we are now. When I came onto the Council, our financial standing was almost nothing. I had nothing to do with that, but with the way things have turned out, and with the Councils that have worked to make things better since then: It has really turned, and I hope it continues to do so."

"You know, I just pray that God continues to bless those that are in our leadership with wisdom, giving them the forethought to really consider what may happen in the future, both financially and in every other way. Their decisions will affect not only those of us here right now, but as they say, those who will be living five generations down the road. So I pray for our Council: I pray that God will work in their minds and in their hearts, as they are dealing with people."

"It's not just about budgets; it's not just about raising your hand, yes or no for passing budgets and resolutions: It's also about dealing with people's lives. Sometimes, you don't realize that. I'm sure the secretaries here (at the office) realize that, because they work those long hours, along with the Council, seeing that the people's business gets done. I just want to say I appreciate that."

"And to Juliana Comet: Congratulations and have fun! Thank you."

Students Tour Casino ♠ Resort



Members of the Strong Hearts Native Society recently got the chance to tour the new Quechan Casino ♠ Resort on a rainy December morning, along with EDA head Brian Golding, Sr.; the Quechan Tribe's TERO Officer, Pearl Cowan; and Steve Jones of the Cummings Corporation, who acted as the tour guide. The high school students were taken through both the main Casino itself (at right and below) as well as through the food court area to the shaded outdoor dining area near the pools (above).

With the construction rapidly coming to completion, a good part of the tour covered the need for qualified employees to fill hundreds of new positions. More photos and a story are inside on page 4.

QUECHAN NEWS Photos by William Isbell

