



QUECHAN NEWS

VOLUME 103, ISSUE 4 ♦ WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2009

In This Issue:

Fire Service Award
Page 2

Pow Wow in March
Page 3

Tribal Night at QCR
Page 4

Seniors Valentine Party
Page 5

IHS Diabetes Clinic
Page 6

TGO Float Wins First
Page 7

Princesses in Parade
Back Page

Items Of Special Interest
To Tribe Members



Look For This Symbol

ETSKA NAV AH PAI THE NEWS CARRIER
QUECHAN NEWS

is published by

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Winterhaven, Ca. 92283
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Giant Turnout for Grand Opening!



While the Quechan Tribal Council, Miss Quechan Nation Tarryn Villacaña and Quechan Casino Resort CEO Marty Gross gathered to cut the red ribbon under the *porte-cochère*, thousands of visitors lined up at all the entrances, waiting to get in and check it all out!

QUECHAN NEWS Photos by William Isbell

Any doubts that the communities surrounding Fort Yuma had no desire for a new entertainment destination under the current economic climate evaporated at sunrise on February 13th, when the staff of the new Quechan Casino Resort reported for work. QCR staff found the parking lot already

filling up with customers, hours before the scheduled Grand Opening.

While the California Fire Safety Code lists the capacity of the main gaming floor of the new Casino as 4,150, there were perhaps 8,000 people lined up at all four main entrances, with more cars backed up on the Al-

godones Road on-ramp, even before the Quechan Tribal Council stepped up to the front entry for the ceremonial ribbon cutting which allowed the public to get inside!

"Every entrance was filled," said Marty Gross, CEO of the Quechan Casino Resort. "In all my years in the casino business, I've never seen a floor fill up so fast!" Luckily, there was plenty of overflow room with the Food Court, Poker Room and dining venues off the main gaming floor for the crowd to explore, preventing any real safety issues from developing.

Quechan Tribal Councilman Todd Durand got a laugh during his comments under the *porte-cochère*, saying "You know how they said in that Kevin Costner

movie, *Field of Dreams*, 'If you build it, they will come'? Well, boy, did they come today!"

They came so fast, the California Highway Patrol put extra patrol cars on the Interstate in both directions, performing a slow, rolling escort to exit 186. One patrol car would start off from just outside Winterhaven, while another would come in from Felicity, both of them driving down the center of both lanes, light bars flashing, to guide dozens of cars into the off-ramps in a controlled manner. Fellow officers waited at the top of the overpass to direct QCR traffic late into the night.

The traffic seemed unending, with cars backed up over a mile towards Winterhaven as late as 10 PM!

Winterhaven FPD Wins Fire Protection Contract

The Winterhaven Fire Protection District (WFPD) has been "placed on retainer" by the Quechan Tribe, winning the contract to provide first response fire protection and emergency medical support for the new Quechan Casino ♠ Resort on Algodones Road.

The Quechan Tribal Council announced in the last quarter of 2008 that they would accept bids to provide emergency services for the new Resort as a part of the Tribal Gaming Compact with the State of California. Among the agencies responding to the Request for Bids were Winterhaven FPD, Rural Metro and Imperial County. Once the Council and the Tribe's Financial Comptroller looked over the bids, they consulted with Pearl Cowan, the Quechan Tribe's Emergency Management Director for further advice on the various response times of the agencies, as well as their ability to interface with the local governmental structure.

The final decision came down to Winterhaven being the agency that will best be able to provide a timely and trained response for any emergencies that may occur at the new resort. No doubt working in Winterhaven's favor were facts such as their quick response in support of the Quechan Tribe during the wind storm that swept through the main portion of the Fort Yuma reservation last August, as well as their will-



Chief Steve Taylor of the Winterhaven Fire Protection District receives the first quarterly check to provide fire service for the Quechan Casino♠Resort from Pearl Cowan, the Quechan Tribe's Emergency Management Director.
QUECHAN NEWS Photo by William Isbell

ingness to train and hire tribal members as part of the town's Fire Protection staff.

"This is the first paid, signed agreement by the Tribe for such services in 65 years," says Quechan E.M. Director Pearl Cowan. "It went into effect on January 1st, 2009."

The first of four quarterly checks paying for those services during calendar year 2009 was awarded during the Tribal Council Work Session on February 5th. Pearl Cowan actually handed over the check to Chief Steve Taylor of the WFPD, who thanked all of the members of the Tribal Council for placing their confidence in his staff and equipment.

Chief Taylor was accompanied at the ceremony by WFPD Captain Robert Heine, Chief Fire Officer Dennis

Robertson, the department's administrative assistant, Angela Guajardo, and probationary Fire Fighter César Duarte, Jr., a Quechan tribal member.

"We know how important it is for our community to have fire protection," said Quechan Tribe President, Mike Jackson, Sr., at the meeting.

"It took a long time to work this out with you, but the Tribal Council was willing to work with you in reaching this agreement, and we're also looking to the future to improve upon this, for the whole community and everyone who lives here."

The first emergency the Fire Department responded to was an overheated car which caught fire in the gravel parking lot after waiting in traffic for hours at the Casino♠Resort's Grand Opening on February 13th.

Diabetes Wellness Center Employees Run The Carlsbad Half Marathon



Ricardo Juan and Lewis Throssell travelled to Carlsbad, California on January 25th, to take part in the Annual Half Marathon Competition. Lori Vest, a Teacher's Aide at Quechan Head Start went along as their driver.

The Carlsbad Race is the first Race of three in a "Triple Crown". Lewis and Ricardo are planning to return for the second race, in La Jolla, CA in April.

"I would like to congratulate Ricardo on completing his first ever half marathon," said Lewis. "All of his training really paid off. He finished with a time of 2 hours and 41 minutes. I also did well, with a finishing time of 2 hours, 6 minutes."



Lewis Throssell is seen on the left midway through his half marathon, giving the camera the thumbs-up, while Ricardo Juan shows off his medal for the event at the finish line (above).

Photos Provided by Lewis Throssell

Lewis says he hopes to continue training here at Fort Yuma, and hopes to get his time down to less than 2 hours next time.

He also says "Both Ricardo and I would like to thank the Quechan Tribal Council for their help, and for sponsoring us in our run. We would also like to thank Quechan ADAPP for allowing us to utilize one of their vans for the trip. And, of course, for Lori being our driver, and getting us to the run on time!"

They both want to remind everyone they plan to hold a fundraiser sometime in the next couple of weeks, to raise money for their trip (and entry fees) in La Jolla. They say your help and support is greatly appreciated!

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

Native Culture Lead Attraction at Annual Strong Hearts Pow Wow



A great selection of arts and crafts can always be found at the Pow Wow (at left). Nothing beats the pageantry of a Grand Entry (above), while a great surprise may be the big talent found in the smallest dancers (right)!



QUECHAN NEWS Photos
by William Isbell

Tribal members and the general public alike will get the chance to bask in the welcoming atmosphere of a good old fashioned Pow Wow, as the Strong Hearts Native Society presents their 29th Annual early spring celebration over the first weekend in March.

Strong Hearts Advisor Faron Owl has gotten together with Lucia Duwyenie and all of the student members at the San Pasqual Valley schools to bring a great line up of entertainment to Fort Yuma, with four great native drum groups performing as honored staff at this year's Pow Wow. The group "Thunder Bear" from Little Eagle, South Dakota will be here as host of the Northern Drums, joined by "12 Gauge", host the Southern Drums from Ignacio, Colorado. Other drums will include "Keres Nation" of San Felipe, New Mexico and Chinle, Arizona's "Buc Wild"!

There will be 18 dance cat-

egories for the drummers to play for this year, including golden age contests. Special dress/dance contests start Friday evening, with the Teen Girls Ribbon Dress (sponsored Miss Indian San Pasqual High Janyse Collins/Solorio) and Tiny Tots (sponsored by Miss Quechan Nation) taking place. The Andre Polk-Strada family will also sponsor the Men's Solo Bird Singing Contest on Friday, as well as the Men's Old Style Grass Dance on Saturday afternoon.

Saturday's Spotlight Special Fancy Dance will be sponsored by Mike Salabye and Victor Bob, and Howard Bobtail Bear Memorial Singing Contest that same afternoon will be sponsored by the Bobtail Bear family.

The fun starts on Friday evening, March 6, with the traditional Quechan Gourd and Bird songs taking place at 7:00 PM. The first night is a fairly informal event, as natives from all over the

southern United States begin arriving to set up their craft booths or register for the dance contests taking place over the next two days. Everyone is welcome to dress up and join the dancing in the arena, as local song groups serenade the crowd. Almost every year sees a spectacular sunset and cool weather on the first night of the Pow Wow, so you don't want to miss it! There will already be lots of food booths offering Indian Tacos, fry bread and ice cold drinks, so you can have dinner under the stars and meet old friends in the laid back, casual atmosphere that always accompanies this event.

Things will really get hopping on Saturday, though, with Gourd Dancing to honor our native veterans starting promptly at 10:00 AM. Master of Ceremonies Pat Pacheco of Bernalillo, New Mexico will be joined by the Arena Directors, Mike Salabye and Victor Bob in rotating the dancers through the accompani-

ment of various drum groups during this popular and colorful pageant.

The first Grand Entry of everyone involved will take place just after lunch, at 1:00 PM, and registration for all events will close at 3:00 PM sharp on Saturday afternoon. Dance contests will commence after the first Grand Entry, with a supper break scheduled for 5:00 PM, followed by another Gourd Dance at 6:00 PM, and the evening's Grand Entry (allowing those entered into different contests a chance to appear in another outfit) at 7:00 PM.

Sunday's Gourd Dance also begins at 10:00 AM, with the Grand Entry at noon. Judging should be complete and awards presented by six o'clock Sunday evening. And remember: all Quechan Tribe members get in to the Pow Wow free with their valid enrollment card!



The mixture of old and new can be seen in many outfits: note the patriotic American flags on this dancer's gauntlets!

Quechan Tribal Members Enjoy Their Own Night Before The Public Enters The New Quechan Casino♠Resort



The Quechan Spirit Runners, joined by local Bird Dancers covered the route from the Interstate 8 and Algodones Road exit on foot, singing songs and following the wonderful scent of sage from a smoke pot.



A huge crowd respectfully stood quietly awaiting the Runners arrival, which would be the signal to start the evenings events.



Once in place, the crowd broke out in songs of praise and celebration, as more and more tribal members filtered into the *porte-cochère* to either join in the dances or watch from the sidelines.



Quechan Post 802 posted the colors of the Quechan Tribe, California and the United States.



And at last, the Tribal Council, Casino staff and Miss Quechan Nation, Tarryn Villacaña cut the big red ribbon, throwing open the doors to all Quechan tribal members after 18 months of construction work!



Casino♠Resort managers stood to one side, anxiously awaiting the reaction of the owners of the building: The Quechan People!



President Jackson thanked every Tribal member involved by name!



Quite a few people with kids stopped by to check out the facilities at the Food Court.



While others opted for a sit-down meal and buffet service in the Ocotillo Café.



Some people couldn't wait to hit the floor and try their luck at the new slots (left) while others seemed content to just gather in any open area of the new building and continue dancing.

QUECHAN NEWS Photos by William Isbell

Quechan Senior Center Valentines Royalty 2009



The 2009 Valentine Queen Lolita Bell with her
Valentine King, Phillip Jonico



Terry and Mary Lou Phillips



Walter and Maxine DeGrande

Photos Courtesy of
The Quechan
Senior Center

The Quechan Senior Center held their Annual Valentine's Party on Friday night, February 13th, sending out invitations to everyone in the area over 55 to come on down and have dinner, swing to the beat of the oldies, and try out for the most romantic couple of the year.

Getting under way at 5:00 PM (dinnertime, for those of you so on the go you forget when to eat!), the party goers were greeted by a fully decorated Senior Center Dining Hall, complete with bright red wallpaper (the

color of passion!), crepe draperies and hearts hanging from the ceiling. DJ Oscar Chavez was there, ready to spin their favorite oldies from the 40's and 50's.

Assistant Cook Brandy Cachora went all out in her decorations, and all the ladies agree she did a wonderful job dressing the place up with a hearts and flowers theme! The Senior Center staff also says she did a great job, and they're so happy with the way it all turned out, she might have to be in charge of the decorations for all of

their get togethers!

Senior Center Activity Coordinator Barbara Levy acted as hostess, announcing the Valentine's Royalty Contest, as Pat Quahlupe of Quechan Social Services crowned the winning couple.

With over 60 elders on hand to watch (and compete) for the titles, the room filled with anticipation. Lolita Bell received the crown as Valentine's Queen for 2009, and Phillip Jonico ascended to the throne as her King. Congratulations!

Flying ELVI Thrill The Crowd at Casino

One of the truly thrilling moments for the crowd attending the Grand Opening of the Quechan Casino Resort was the appearance by the world famous skydiving show, "The Flying ELVI", from Las Vegas, Nevada. Two "sticks" of 5 skydivers dressed in Elvis jumpsuits and wearing bright pyrotechnic sparklers on their boots exited their plane at over 10,000 feet, to land in the south parking lot just after sunset. Even the Border Patrol lined up on a nearby hilltop to watch the show!

Photos by William Isbell



Office of Special Trustee (OST)

The Office of Special Trustee
will be available at the
Fort Yuma Agency
on these dates:

MARCH

- 3rd (Tuesday): 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
- 4th (Wednesday): 8:00 AM - 12:00 Noon
- 18th (Tuesday): 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
- 19th (Wednesday): 8:00 AM - 12:00 Noon
- 31st (Tuesday): 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

APRIL

- 1st (Wednesday): 8:00 AM - 12:00 Noon

If you have any questions, please contact
The Fort Yuma Agency at (928) 782-1202
or the Colorado River Office of Special Trustee
at (928) 669-7196



Ft. Yuma IHS Clinic Updates

By Kathy Shaffer, RN, Diabetes Nurse Case Manager
Indian Health Service, Fort Yuma Service Unit

THE DIABETES CLINIC

The diabetes clinic of Ft. Yuma began operating in late April of 2008, as the result of a “call to action” in order to improve care and outcomes for patients with this chronic disease.

A diabetes team approach was implemented to address the many aspects of diabetes care, to ensure that none were missed. Diabetes care consists of many lab tests, patient history and physical exams; looking for other diseases which could complicate treatments: checking weight, blood pressure, thyroid, neurological checks, foot exams, retinal eye exams, medications, diabetes education; and referrals to our dietician, podiatry or ophthalmology departments.

In addition, there must be an EKG test, certain blood and urine tests performed at regular intervals, as well as immunizations. Diabetes patients also require screening for tobacco use and

depression. Blood sugar tests are performed, and medication may need to be added or adjusted.

It is easy to see how some parts of diabetes care could be missed, because there are so many, and patients may have to meet several or ongoing appointments. Patients who have uncontrolled diabetes may need to make extra clinic visits. Others may require regular visits for wound care or complications. Some patients may find it difficult to get to the clinic due to their physical condition or a lack of transportation. In some cases, patients miss appointments and may get behind in their care.

It is a challenge to keep all patients up-to-date with their care; however, the diabetes team is committed to finding creative ways to help this happen.

The diabetes team members receive special training in diabetes management and work to-

gether to help patients meet the recommended standards of treatment for diabetes care.

The diabetes team is made up of medical providers: nurses, nursing assistants and a case manager. Other members of the extended diabetes care team include the pharmacist, dietician and community diabetes educator, podiatrist, lab, dentist, JVN vision technician, optometrist or ophthalmologist.

The diabetes nurse case manager identifies patients who are missing pieces of diabetes care, or who need counseling or education about how to manage their diabetes. This service is available with appointment or by walk-in as available. Patients often report that this service helps them improve their diabetes self-management and gain better control of their condition.

So, what happens at a clinic visit? During patient screening, all patients are asked to take off their shoes, so the nursing staff can perform a brief foot assessment. They look for possible foot problems which can be addressed during the provider visit before any foot problems the patient may have become more serious.

The “Happy Feet” program for our diabetic patients is very popular, and a nurse with special training performs a foot exam, offering hands on foot care and education to patients. Patients enjoy feeling good about their feet, and learn how to better care for them. This service can be arranged by appointment.

The medical providers spend time counseling and educating the patients, as do the nurse case manager, pharmacist, dietician

and others. There are patient literature hand-outs available and diabetes group classes are offered.

State of the art glucose meters are issued to patients along with education about blood sugar monitoring. The patients are encouraged to bring the meters back to clinic visits, so that their blood sugar testing results can be downloaded and printed out from a computer.

When patients see their blood sugar results graphed out in color, they suddenly gain a better understanding of how well or how poorly controlled their diabetes is, and can make a specific goal to improve it as needed. Others can see great improvements and can feel a sense of accomplishment. This is a valuable tool for the patients, in taking charge of their own progress.

The wound care nurse is a specialist with specific training on how to get wounds to heal as quickly as possible. She uses the latest techniques and products to help diabetes patients treat wounds, abscesses and ulcers. There is also a medical provider who specializes in wound care. When diabetes is not under control, wounds heal much more slowly and may worsen if not addressed early.

Many diabetes patients experience depression. Diabetes can be overwhelming and challenging. Patients who have identified depression can receive medical attention or support services from mental health counselors. Also, a support group for diabetes patients is being formed.

The clinic dietician can provide medical nutrition therapy (MNT) for diabetes patients, as well as weight management.

If eye problems are found, the JVN technician will take digital images of the patient’s retina and send them by computer modem to an ophthalmologist in Phoenix for diagnosis and recommendations. This also helps patients meet the annual eye exam requirement.

The Ft. Yuma Clinic also offers

tobacco cessation help (smoking counseling), with individual and group support classes for those who use tobacco, or who are interested in helping a loved one who uses tobacco.

In the future, the services of an exercise specialist will also become available to the diabetes clinic.

An important philosophy of Ft. Yuma’s diabetes clinic is the belief that the patient is at the center of care and is actively involved in decisions about his care. Patients can take charge and gain control of their diabetes by making important decisions.

One way for a patient to take charge is by knowing what tests are needed to take care of his health, and to keep track of them. In this way, patients are managing their diabetes, and the diabetes is not managing them!

Here are some guidelines for diabetes care. Ask about them when you visit the diabetes clinic:

► Get a review of your blood sugar readings, by bringing in your glucose meter or log sheets. The readings should usually fall roughly between 80 and 160. Be sure to request a print-out to take home with you.

► Check your blood pressure at every clinic visit and have staff tell you the result. It should be 130/80 or less. If not, are you on any special medication?

► Get your weight checked at every clinic visit and get the result. Find out your BMI (Body Mass Index) number and whether you are overweight or not. If so, a referral for help with weight management can be made.

► Have a brief foot exam at every visit and a yearly comprehensive foot exam with a monofilament to check for nerve or circulatory damage. Do you know how to check your own feet with a mirror?

► The report card of your overall blood sugar control is the A1c Level. Get your blood A1c tested every 3 months and write that number down. It should be less than 7.

► Get a urine micro-albumin

NOTICE

**The Quechan Indian Tribe
is seeking one Tribal Member
to serve on the
QUECHAN TRIBALLY
DESIGNATED HOUSING ENTITY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**If interested, submit a
Letter of Interest to the
Tribal Council Secretary
at the Tribal Administration Office**

TGO Rodeo Parade Float Wins First Place Trophy

The Arizona Tribal Gaming Office (TGO) has their third First Place Commercial Float Award in as many years, thanks to the well coordinated efforts of everyone involved.

In 2007 and 2008, TGO Chief Inspector Dwayne Waters created the artwork that decorated their floats. This year, Vincent Tiger, the son of Vernalda Silos (a TGO Inspector at the Paradise Casino) was given the opportunity to do the art. Vincent is a Diabetes Counselor at the Quechan Special Diabetes Project. He spent his spare time and lunch hours over the first two weeks of February researching famous Indian chiefs from history, to produce portraits of four nationally famous greats, as well as a local favorite, Chief Pasqual, of the Quechan nation.



Quechan tribal member Vincent Tiger enlarges his portrait of the tribe's Chief Pasqual (at left), working on craft paper to lend a leather-like appearance to the final product. At right the finished work can be seen along with his other portraits created for the Tribal Gaming Office float. QUECHAN NEWS Photos by William Isbell

The four chiefs sharing space on the float with Chief Pasqual included perennial favorites Sitting Bull and Crazy Horse of the Sioux Nation and the Apache leader Geronimo, as well as the wise Chief Joseph, of the Nez Perce people. Vincent drew

each portrait in dark pencil on thick Kraft paper, lending them the appearance of having been burned into leather. Each portrait also received a label, telling the people along the parade route who these great men were.

As the artist for this year's

float, Vincent was given an honored seat at the front of the float. He brought along his son, Vincent Tiger, Jr., to share the trip down Fourth and Orange Avenues to the end of the line at the City of Yuma Housing Authority parking lot.

Once they arrived at the end, the First Place Trophy they'd received was passed around to give everyone got a good look, before Dwayne Waters brought it into his office for display.

Mr. Waters also took part in this year's parade, driving the Dodge Dakota tow vehicle pulling the TGO float.

Others who got to enjoy a Saturday morning trip through north Yuma, waving at the snowbirds and citizens from the TGO float included: TGO Inspector Michelle Jackson and her daughter, Jordan Solis; along with Isaiah and Jared Vasquez. Isaiah and Jared are the grandsons of TGO Inspector Vernalda Silos.

The Arizona Tribal Gaming Office is charged with the regulatory responsibility of gaming activity at the Paradise Casino.

THE DIABETES CLINIC

(Continued)

test done yearly. Get the serum creatinine test, too. Make sure you are given the results; these are important measures of your kidney function. Long term high blood pressure can damage kidneys. Find out your status!

► Ask about your yearly eye exam. If you have eye problems, make sure you get more than one eye exam per year, as needed. You can also get a referral.

► See the dentist for a yearly mouth exam. (Diabetes patients tend to have more problems with the mouth and teeth.)

► Get your blood fats, or lipids, also known as cholesterol, checked yearly. You should know those numbers! Your total cholesterol should be under 200, with LDL cholesterol under 100, while triglyceride should be below 150. If not, are you on a medication? Do you know how to eat a lower fat diet and get more physical activity?

► Are you on a daily aspirin as anti-platelet therapy to prevent your blood from being sticky? Diabetes patients are at a higher risk of stroke and heart attack, and taking an aspirin daily helps to prevent this.

► Expect a depression screen every year. If the result shows the possibility of depression, ask what help and support is available. There *are* options!

► Try some diabetes self-management education to learn how to manage your diabetes. Even if you have had classes, there is always something new to learn as time goes on. Ask about the diabetes case manager who can help you review your personal diabetes care plan and answer your questions.

► Get a yearly flu shot, and the pneumonia shot. Diabetes patients get more complications from the flu than non-diabetes patients do.

► Make sure your tetanus and diphtheria shot is up to date. This shot is given every ten years.

► Be sure to request a Hepatitis B shot if you have problems with your kidneys.

► Have you had an EKG test of your heart function lately? If not, find out when yours is due. Heart attacks are a greater risk in diabetes.

► Do you use alcohol or other substances? Be sure to tell the nurse or provider, and ask for information and assistance, which is available. Alcohol and diabetes can lead to dangerous low blood sugar episodes. Do you know if there is a safe level of alcohol to drink? We can explain it.

► Also, make sure to find out if your tuberculosis screening is up-to-date. Past positive skin tests may activate tuberculosis disease later in life in uncontrolled diabetes.

► Find out which kind of physical activity, or exercise, is good for you. Physical activity is one of the best medicines for diabetes patients.

And finally, we encourage you to ask questions in the Ft. Yuma diabetes clinic about your diabetes care. When you come into the Clinic, please be sure to provide us with feedback about the services you receive, and help us to better help you.

As a Reminder . . .



The Quechan Diabetes Nutritional Breakfast is every Tuesday from 9 AM to 11 AM

At the Ironwood Community Center

Any Questions?
Contact the Quechan Special Diabetes Project:

572-1286

Quechan Royalty Appears In Yuma Rodeo Parade



Janyse Collins, San Pasqual High Indian Princess waves to the crowd at the start of the Silver Spur Rodeo Parade. Seen above are Melanie Bell and Ny-Lyn Duncan, Middle School and Elementary Princesses, being chauffeured by Melanie's mom, Kimberly Bell, of the Quechan Language Preservation Project. At right is Tarryn Villacaña, Miss Quechan Nation, riding on her float with Stephanie Escalanti.



QUECHAN NEWS Photos by William Isbell

The Quechan Indian Princesses made their first big appearance outside of the Fort Yuma Reservation for 2009, appearing in the Annual Silver Spur Rodeo Parade on Saturday morning,

February 14th - Valentine's Day for most people, but also the anniversary of Arizona's admission to the Union as the 48th state in 1912.

Miss Quechan Nation, Tarryn

Villacaña, was really treated as royalty, riding in a 20 foot long float decorated with arrow weed and handmade fired pottery vessels. She was attended by Quechan Elder Vernon Smith, Director of the Quechan Senior Nutrition Center, as well as Zion White, dressed as a Quechan warrior from the 1800s. Also along for the ride were Diona Nerva, wearing a grass skirt and carrying a beautiful handmade reed basket, and Stephanie Escalanti, who rode right next to Tarryn on a Pendleton blanket.

The San Pasqual High School Indian Princess, Janyse Collins, rode on a similar blanket, atop the boot of a beautiful black Lexus convertible, driven by her mother, Allison Collins, an Economic Development Specialist at the Quechan EDA. Janyse wore a white, full-length Mojave patterned dress, reflecting her Quechan/Mojave/AkimalAu Athum heritage.

The final group was made up of the Elementary Princess, Ny-Lyn Duncan, and the Middle School Princess, Melanie Bell, in a similar white Lexus, driven by Melanie's mom, Kimberly, the Office Assistant at the Quechan Language Preservation Office, with her husband, Dana Miller, Sr. riding shotgun. What a great looking group!

STRONG HEARTS NATIVE SOCIETY INVITES YOU TO JOIN THE

29th Annual **POW WOW**
San Pasqual Valley Unified School District

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2009
SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 2009
SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 2009
San Pasqual School Football Field
676 Baseline Road
Winterhaven, California

SPECIAL DANCE PERFORMANCES
Friday, Grand Entry7:00PM
Saturday, Grand Entry1:00PM
Saturday, Grand Entry7:00PM
Sunday, Grand Entry12:00PM

ADMISSION
\$6 Adult
\$2 Juniors (11-17)
10 and under FREE
\$8 WEEKEND PASS

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