ETSKA NAV AH PAI THE NEWS CARRIER

QUECHAN NEWS

VOLUME 103, ISSUE 5 WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2009

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Look For This Symbol

ETSKA NAV AH PAI THE NEWS CARRIER
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is published by
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Quechan Nature Park Planted Despite AZ State Funding Cuts

Quechan tribal member Chase Choate explains to a group of student volunteers from Redlands University how they will be binding and planting sandbar willow along the bank of the lake at the Quechan Nature Park, below Indian Hill. QUECHAN NEWS Photo by William Isbell

Arizona's state budget woes have now grown to the point that they are having an impact here. The *Yuma Sun* trumpeted the fact a couple of weeks ago that the Yuma Quartermaster Depot was "saved" without any mention of other local projects facing difficulty.

At about the same time Yuma was rejoicing with the news on the Quartermaster Depot downtown, the Quechan Economic Development Administration (EDA). EDA received notification from Arizona State Parks (ASP) that all of the State Parks administered state funded grant programs were discontinued until further notice. This action was taken due to Arizona's $1.6 billion budget shortfall, with the Arizona State Legislature cutting all local and regional state parks (LRSP) funding. With that notification, ASP directed the EDA to halt any construction work occurring at the Quechan Nature Park project site and EDA was required to submit final payment requests.

"The Arizona State Parks funding represents half of the funds necessary to construct the Quechan Nature Park," says Brian Golding, EDA Director. "The other half, our match, comes from a Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) grant that is managed by the Yuma Crossing Heritage Area. That funding is unaffected by the Arizona budget cuts."

The EDA is working together with the Tribe's Yuma East Wetlands partners (the Yuma Crossing Heritage Area and Fred Phillips Consulting) to seek funding alternatives to keep the project moving forward.

At the time of the notification, the Quechan Nature Park had completed its design phase. The lake at the center of the park had been excavated, all rough grading was finished, and the culverts for the drain basin had been installed. EDA was just weeks away from beginning the park's construction phase.

Much of the planting within the area is also complete, thanks in part to the visiting college students brought in every year to enhance their environmental studies education by volunteering on projects such as the Yuma East Wetlands. Right now, the Quechan EDA and its partners are identifying additional work that could be done utilizing BOR funding within the Nature Park site.

The challenge for the Tribe in the meantime, besides seeking funding, will be to keep the site clear of weeds and debris. The EDA will be working with our partners in the Yuma East Wetlands to develop some alternatives for handling maintenance, especially weed control.

Plans to develop the Elder Village may still move forward, as that part of the project was never dependent on the grant's funding. The Elder Village Focus Group planned to appear before the Council last week to seek approval of the Elder Village Plan, so that construction of the traditional mud hut and ramada structures in the Elder Village may proceed.

Student Volunteers Arrive To Assist Planting at Nature Park

Each year, students in southern California are invited to earn extra credit and advance their education through hands-on experience by taking part in practical field work related to their studies. In late February, 55 students arrived in Yuma from the University of Redlands (near San Diego) and California State University to take part in a volunteer effort to complete the revegetation of the Yuma East Wetlands.

Bussed in on a Friday, the students camped in Yuma's Riverside Park, below Prison Hill. Although they were here to do the physical labor of planting sand bar willows and marsh grasses, they also had the opportunity to learn a little of the local culture, receiving instruction on the historical importance of the Colorado River and the natural bounty it provides to the Quechan people.

The first part of their practical education began that same Friday night, when the students were invited to join Phil Emerson, of the Quechan Events Committee in a sweat lodge ceremony on his land. They stayed in the lodge for three hours, as Mr. Emerson sang songs and told them stories of Quechan history. The ceremony finally ended about midnight, and the students were bussed down to their campsite by the river for a good night's sleep.

Saturday morning began bright and early, with unseasonably warm weather. A campfire breakfast was served, and everyone then travelled across the Ocean-To-Ocean Bridge to begin their work.

New growth sand bar willows had been left lying for two weeks in the slough that fills the Nature Park's lake to stimulate root growth. Everyone grabbed a bunch and proceeded to transport them - some went east to an open area near the agricultural fields that are a part of the Yuma East Wetlands, and others joined Chase Choate to take them for planting along the edge of the lake to the west.

Both Chase and Mark Winterowd (who work for Fred Phillips Consulting, the designers of the Nature Park) explained every step of the planting to the volunteers and gave careful explanations of why certain steps are taken in planting.

Once in place, the willows are trimmed to a height of 2 feet encouraging all of their energy to go into growing roots, so they will flourish and be healthy. With the coming warm weather, the tops will then begin putting out new leaves and shoot up to a height of 12 to 15 feet in no time, providing welcome shade for the wildlife in the area.

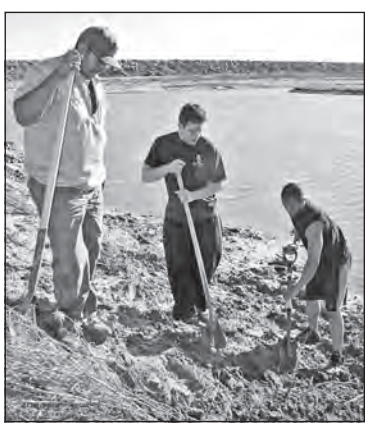
The students also planted marsh grass that will stay low to the ground near the bulrushes, encouraging waterfowl visiting the lake to move in and nest. The entire weekend not only helped to restore the area, it helped to build lasting friendships between everyone involved.





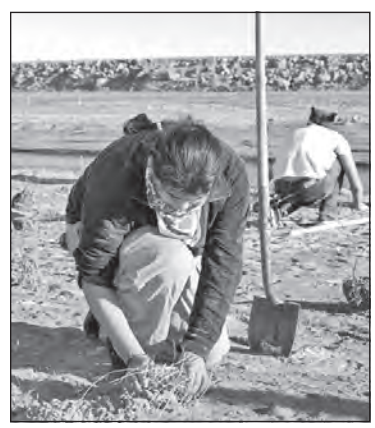


Volunteers are seen above removing sand bar willows from the stream that feeds the lake in the Quechan Nature Park, carrying some east to an area near the ag fields. The willows were planted about four feet deep in holes dug in the soft ground by an auger, and then filled in and watered with an injector to get the soil to settle in and remove any air pockets.









Quechan tribal member Chase Choate led a group that planted willows on the steep west bank of the lake, and also took time out to answer questions for a documentarian from Zimbabwe. Once in place, the willows were cut down to 2 feet and sealed, promoting new growth. Volunteers also planted marsh grass on the east of the lake. Photos by William Isbell

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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

6th Annual Quechan/Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area Youth Cultural Festival 2009

Education in the Spirit of Fun







Saturdays events began with Mr. Owl forming up with the Strong Hearts Native Society (at left) and calling all the visiting college men down to the speaker's circle to join them to play gourds and tin rattles (center) as they sang. All of the women visitors were encouraged at the same time to join the Strong Hearts girls and other women dancers in the crowd (at right).



It seems everyone got on their feet to join in the dancing sooner or later, as the party continued long into the night!

Saturday was the big day for this years Youth Cultural Festival, an annual event sponsored by the Yuma Crossing Heritage Foundation, Fred Phillips Consulting and the Quechan Tribe, which joined together in the Fort Yuma Diabetes Walking Park to thank all of the student volunteers who arrived to "do the dirty work" of planting and clean-up at our riverfront parks.

After a long morning spent planting seedlings at the Quechan Nature Park east of Indian Hill (see related stories), the college aged volunteers were treated to an afternoon of singing and dancing, courtesy of local Quechan song groups. One after another, the Strong Hearts, Roadrunner Singers and Ah Keel Dance Group took the stage at the speaker's circle in the Diabetes Walking Park to encourage the volunteers to join with them, feel the rhythm, and enjoy bird dancing as a group.

Additional cultural education for our guests included a little history, courtesy of Quechan Game Warden Gordon Osborne and singer Chris Emerson, as they gave a little history of the Quechan people while explaining various songs and symbols.

The dancing finally broke up at sunset for a delicious buffet dinner, prepared outdoors during the dancing. Then Yuma Clapper Rails, the 696 Project and Thunderbird took turns playing a little more modern, amplified music at the circle, allowing everyone to enjoy the night.



Chris Emerson of the Ah Keel Dance Group entertained the group with a little local history before he began to sing.







André Polk was joined by male college students who hopped and danced together before the crowd during the Strong Hearts second session in the afternoon. Just after sundown (center), Allyson Collins presented Pat Quahlupe, past Vice Chairwoman of the Quechan Tribal Council with a silver necklace from Fred Phillips Consultants, as thanks for her participation in the event. Phillips and the Yuma Crossing Heritage Area also made cash donations to each singing group before everyone filed past to shake the singers' hands (at right). QUECHAN NEWS Photos by William Isbell

Fort Yuma HIV/AIDS Day is Saturday, March 14



Last year's National Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day filled the Diabetes Walking Park, with educational exhibits, fun activities and free giveaways to adults, promoting healthy lifestyle choices. Photos by William Isbell

In an effort to get everyone to slow things down a bit in their personal relationships and consider the consequences of their actions, the National Native American AIDS Prevention Center sends out materials every spring promoting the National Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day.

And with native peoples making up the third largest group affected by HIV, an educational program such as this might have a positive impact, if enough people take part and really learn something.

Of course, education doesn't have to be confined to the classroom. It can take the form of field trips, role playing and other fun activities that not only provide information, but provide it in a way that doesn't "beat you over the head with it". And it doesn't hurt if there are incentives involved.

This year's Quechan Tribe HIV/AIDS Awareness Day will be held on Saturday, March 14 at the Diabetes Walking Park.

The whole event is jointly sposored by Ft Yuma ADAPP, CHR and the Quechan Special Diabetes Project. Beginning at 10 AM, the five hour program will run until 3 PM, with a barbeque lunch served for active participants in the event around noon.

Last year, one of the most popular parts of the program was a series of role playing games led by Tom Fernandez and other counselors from the Fort Yuma ADAPP Program. Christina Allen, the ADAPPP HIV/AIDS Prevention Coordinator says HIV rapid test will be done on-site as high point of this year's event, also.

"And we're going to have a separate area, near the playground, set up for the little kids," she says, "with lots of activities and games for them, so they can have something to do while their parents and elders are taking part in the 'adult' things, over by the ramada."

One of those 'adult' things will be handing out free condoms to those 18 and over (please!) as well as guest speakers offering examples on the tragedy of HIV/AIDS, from their own life stories. Some of the stories shared last year were truly heart-rending, and helped to pass along to everyone there the true, lasting consequences of momentary decisions.

Regardless of your thought on the subject, you should try to attend - you might learn something that could change your life!



AIDS Prevention information is the primary focus of the Native American HIV/AIDS Day event at Diabetes Park this coming Saturday

San Pasqual Valley Middle School Honor Roll - 2nd Quarter

High Honor Roll Grade Point Average of 3.5 To 4.0

6th Grade

Avila, Kristopher
Cota, Mckayla
Gutierrez, Damian
Israel, Isidro
Maila, Lerma
Ruiz, Victor
Lucero, Ana
Montoya, Gerardo
Ramirez, Luis
Castaneda, Madonna
Ramirez, Victor
Aguerro, Samantha
Cloud, Janel
Jackson, Yapah
Jaime, Ennis
Quintana, Yuliana
Sandoval, Joseph
Short, Rhiannon
Soto, Bianca

7th Grade

Sanchez, Jared
Maldonado, Max
Ramirez, Maria
Emerson, Jacob
Garcia, Victor
Robles, Cielo

8th Grade

Sanchez, Drew
Santamaria, Isidro
Thomas, Matthew
Rodriguez, Ernesto
Rogers, Jasmine

Honor Roll Grade Point Average of 3.0 To 3.49

6th Grade

Escalanti, Keeny
Nunez, Fernando
Bohanon, Lenwood
Escalanti, Kristen
Illingworth, Raven
Marquez, Katya
Jaime, Ricardo
Reyes, Jesus
Conde, Enrique
Frans, Amanda
Meeden, Eric
Morrisey, Angela
Teton, Darlene

7th Grade

Allsup, Lucille
Guillen, Jonathan
Campoa, Linda
Bohanon, Zayana
Nerva, Evelyn
Nunez, Alfonso
Ramirez, Kevin
Renteria, Julio
Teton, Burns
Jimenez, Jose
Thompson, Jeffrey

8th Grade

Blanquet, Sayeg
Coronado, Jesus
Fernandez, Nashdira
Montiel, Luis
Ramirez, Simon
Orozco, Denisse
Ramblas, Yanira
Welch, Greg
Montiel, Brian
Tellez, Noemi

WILDCATS RULE!

"Fit For Life" Elders Earn Free Nike Walking Shoes

Lisa Aguerro spent the morning of her birthday in February giving away gifts to the members of her "Fit For Life" walking group. She presented everyone who came out to walk that morning with a brand-new pair of Nike N7 Native walking shoes, worth over $40 a pair.

Elders who gather twice a week at the Quechan Diabetes Walking Park to take part in the "Fit For Life" program can earn incentives beyond better health and renewed energy. They can take part in the camaraderie of like-minded individuals of the same age, while looking forward to earning a new pair of shoes specifically designed by Nike to fit the wider, taller Native American foot, in as little as 6 weeks.





Lisa Aguerro, Quechan Injury Prevention Coordinator, holds up a brand-new pair of Nike N7 Native walking shoes, which she is about to present to a member of the "Fit For Life" walking club. At right, she is seen presenting Linda Rivera with her second pair of N7 shoes, along with a Certificate of Acheivement. Elders who walk at least 12 sessions in the club per season are eligible. QUECHAN NEWS Photos by William Isbell

"Everybody here has come to at least 12 sessions since we started walking again this year," says Lisa. "Since we meet every Tuesday and Thursday at 10:00 AM to walk around the park, it doesn't take a person that long to get a pair."

Still, "I walked many miles to get these," says Nancy Montague, Sr., who just earned her first free pair. Her friend, Linda Rivera is hooked on the program, and received her second pair for walking that same day.

"When I started, I was using a walker," says Linda. "I had a cane after that, and now I just walk. I'm doing a lot better now because of this."

Linda became a walker in early 2008, shortly before Ladd Bouts joined. The group takes a break from walking when the heat rises in the summer, staying active by meeting at the Rainbow Pool twice a week for swimming excercise.

Ladd had quadruple bypass surgery last spring, and says the swimming and the walking both contributed greatly to his recovery and renewed health.

"I used to just sit and watch TV, maybe just mow the lawn for excercise," he says. "Now I come here and walk twice a week, and on Monday, Wednesday and Friday I'm at the Wellness Center, on the treadmill and lifting weights for a cardiovascular workout. My health has improved by maybe 95%!"

Tribe Member Ready For American Idol

Sailea Poughn's recent appearance, opening both days of the Yuma Jaycee's Silver Spur Rodeo with the national anthem gave her another opportunity to sing before a huge crowd, preparing her for her upcoming Phoenix audition for the 2010 season of *American Idol* later this year.

Sailea has been singing since the age of 3, and has developed a "free style" of R&B. "She's going to continue doing what she loves best," says her mother, Dawn Escalanti-Leutakoun, "which is singing in front of an audience."

Video of her February Rodeo performance demonstrates how she "wows a crowd". This year, she sang "The Star Spangled Banner" once the US Army's Golden Knights parachute team brought in the American and Arizona flags from 10,000 feet for the hoisting of the colors.



Sailea singing at the Veterans Memorial dedication. Photo: William Isbell

Although she wasn't able to perform for the Grand Opening of the Quechan Casino♠Resort, Sailea says she'd welcome the opportunity to sing there sometime in the future, and would like to thank everyone in the community for all of their warm appreciation and support.

UNITED WAY MUSIC FEST 2009

West Wetlands Park
Saturday, March 21, 2009
12 p.m.–6 p.m.

Performing Lineup:
• Mexican Ostrich
•Slick Nickel
•3-Forty
•South County
•Mirage

Bring your own blanket & chairs
Food and drink available
PLEASE do not bring any food, drinks, coolers or bookbags!
Kids Activities Include:
⋆ Clowns ⋆Facepainting ⋆Horseback Rides
. . . . . AND MORE!

Cotton Candy! Indian Fry Bread! Sausage!
Ice Cream! Lemonade! Tacos and Quesadillas!
Chocolate Dip Cheese Cake! Kettle Popcorn!

FREE ADMISSION!

LIVE UNITED™ United Way



Ft. Yuma IHS Clinic Updates

With Dr. Kent Smalley, Clincal Director
Indian Health Service, Fort Yuma Service Unit

THE TEAM APPROACH

At the beginning of 2008, the Fort Yuma Service Unit of the Phoenix Area Indian Health Service (IHS) faced a daunting challenge: How to reduce the terrible morbidity and mortality rates that had been allowed to grow out of proportion here in our service area, through an attitude of "business as usual".

While the national median age of death for all races in the United States was 76, Native Americans nationwide were dying (on average) at age 57. Even worse, the Fort Yuma Service Area was experiencing a median age of only 53 at death!

Contributing to this unacceptable reality was the fact that the health care system here at Fort Yuma had somehow allowed the prevalence of diabetes among the native population to rise to nearly 24% of the population, or almost one and a half times the national average for Native Americans!

When I came on board, I immediately formed a multidisciplinary team of IHS providers, tribal community representatives and other appropriate disciplines committed to diabetes management, to develop a quality health care management system that is patient centered.

Working with the Tribal Diabetes Programs, we began a community screening approach to systematically identify those who are at high risk for developing diabetes, and those who already had diabetes but did not know it.

Once we had the core of patients most at risk identified, we implemented a diabetes self management educational program to bolster the Tribal Programs. As we evaluated the effectiveness of that program over the first few months of its existence, we were careful to consider the patients' progress and satisfaction with the program, and to review clinical variables to compare patients who had received education with those who did not.

In addition, it became apparent that a non-threatening approach to weight management was needed, emphasizing lifestyle as a way to manage obesity issues, while concentrating on weight loss combined with the benefits of exercise.

All of which were a great start, but as more data came in, it soon became apparent that it would also be advisable to keep better records on every visit to the Clinic, to prevent adverse reactions to treatment which sometimes result when the wrong medications are used in combination. If every patient was assigned to a specific physician, backed up by a consistent team of medical assistants and nurses, that team would become familiar to the patient over time, and allow them to communicate more freely.

Also, as the team worked with the patient over time, everyone would come to be aware of the individual patients' medical history, and thus be more informed as to the treatment regimen prescribed, limiting the complications of adverse reactions to treatment.

The focus of the "Team Approach" is to improve each patient's access to care, their continuity of treatment, and permit them a voice in their treatment, which we call "empanelment".

By asking each patient to select their own primary care physician, it is our hope that each patient will be the beneficiary of advanced access to medical care.

Advanced access is defined as: NO delays for appointments, CONTINUITY for both the patient and their physician, and, most important, doing today's work TODAY.

To ensure that each patient gets the care they deserve, we have set up five medical care teams, each of which serves a core demographic. For instance, those patients whose chief ailments center around rheumatology and chronic pain are assigned to myself and Dr. Posever, working with Nurse Wilson as the team specializing in the treatment of pain and neurological problems.

We also have a "core" services group that provides daily support for "walk-ins", as well as a Family Practice/Women's Health/Pediatrics team and a Diabetes/Internal Medicine/Family Practice team. A part of that team also specializes in Podiatry (foot care) as well as wound care.

Finally, we also have a community health care team, which handles social services concerns and diabetes education, as well as home visits.

But the most important member of each of these teams is you - the patient. Only through open, honest communication can we find the answers to the problems which have beset our health care system for so long, and improve the response to your needs.

By establishing a continuity between visits, a relationship can be formed between you and the other members of the team, which will help everyone identify those items needing immediate attention, and help the doctors on staff recognize a chronic ailment as it develops, rather than seeing a patient's complaints as isolated events, related only to a particular visit to the Clinic.

We have already made a great deal of progress, as we return to a time-honored method of medical care - the Doctor/Patient relationship pursued on a one-to-one, personal level. With your help, that progress will continue long into the future.

San Pasqual Lady Warriors Softball



2008/2009 REGULAR SEASON

HOME GAMES LISTED IN BOLD TYPE

March 10	**Antelope**	**4:00 PM**
March 12-13	Yuma Catholic	Tourney - TBA
March 20	**Valley Lutheran**	**4:00 PM (Double Header)**
March 27-28	Salt River	Tourney - TBA
March 10	**Orme**	**12:00 Noon**
April 8	Bagdad	3:00 PM
April 11	**Mayor**	**1:00 PM**
April 8	Salome	4:00 PM (Double Header)
April 15	**Veritas**	**4:00 PM**
April 17	Salt River	4:00 PM and 6:00 PM
April 21	Mayor	4:00 PM
April 24	**Surrey Garden**	**4:00 PM**
May 1	**Tempe Prep**	**3:00 PM**

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

IHS Clinic: One Year Into Their "Call To Action"

Last year, representatives of the Phoenix Area Indian Health Service (IHS) met with the Tribal Councils of both the Quechan and Cocopah Tribes, to hear their concerns and develop a plan to better meet the needs of the local population they serve.

A series of meetings over the first quarter of 2008 resulted in a list of 19 points labeled "A Call To Action": items in need of immediate attention to improve the quality of care in service to the Indian communities in the Yuma service area.

In the final week of February 2009, Dr. Kent Smalley, Clinical Director of the Fort Yuma IHS Clinic presented the Quechan News with a list of changes made at the Clinic since last March, in answer to the "Call To Action".

The first item on that list was to hire a Nurse Practitioner, with special emphasis on the care and treatment of diabetic patients. Dr. Smalley says they have gone one better on that point, hiring Doctor Don Smith to fill that need. They have also assigned a Nurse Specialist to serve as the Case Manager for all diabetic patients, to see that they all receive appropriate follow-up in their care.

Both of these positions are a part of the diabetic clinic, which was re-established in 2008 and now meets 4 days a week, with 3 Physicians assigned to that clinic. This allows the diabetic clinic to expand when needed, and meet more frequently when circumstances (or patient demand) requires it.

The IHS Clinic has also contracted with a local podiatrist, Dr. Feinberg, who provides his services on a weekly basis. A lot of Dr. Feinberg's referrals come through the diabetic clinic.

With the emphasis on diabetic care being foremost of the concerns of both Tribal Councils, Dr. Smalley also makes note of the fact that they have trained most of nurses to conduct foot exams whenever they meet with a diabetic patient. Some nurses are also pursuing certification in foot care for their diabetic patients, and that training includes emphasis on the importance of nail care for those patients.

In fact, the emphasis on Diabetic patient care was so pronounced that the Nurses finished their foot care training by the end of March, 2008.

All of the above mentioned changes were implemented to meet the first five points required by the "Call To Action". Further changes implemented over the past year include:

1) Hiring a Community Health Nurse to visit patients with chronic ailments in their homes, with a special emphasis on care for the elderly and home-bound Diabetic patients.

"Rosa Peralta (who came in to fill that role) has since become a Nurse Practitioner," explained Dr. Smalley. "She is now doing our pediatrics, and has been since last April . . . so right now, we are in the process of hiring a new Community Health Nurse" to replace her in that position.

2) Revising the pharmacy formulary (the medications they commonly keep on hand to fill prescriptions immediately), to provide more than just the generic equivalents that Doctors may request.

"We've added newer drugs on the market, such as Januvia, Byetta and Fortamet," says Smalley. "Those three are all special diabetic medications. We've added a lot of new 'meds' to our formulary, at a cost of about $600,000. These new medications should offer us improved patient outcomes," he emphasizes.

3) The development and implementation of a smoking cessation program, which is currently being run by Art Worden, a Registered Nurse and Lt. Commander Ray "Ford" Forrest, who both serve as Pharmacists at the Ft. Yuma IHS Clinic. Both men are Certified Smoking Cessation Counselors, with Lt.Cdr. Forrest about to attend additional training on at the Mayo Clinic.

4) Increasing their outreach to the Quechan Special Diabetes Project, to gather community input and ensure continuity of care. "We're having frequent meetings with them, and planning some health fairs and other outreach for later this year," says the IHS Clinical Director.

5) "We're also (in the process of) hiring a Physical Therapy Assistant," says Smalley, to take charge of the Clinic's physical therapy program, and lead a planned "Winter Olympics" for the youth of the community during the schools' holiday break next Christmas. "Dr. Don Smith will be in charge of that program," adds Dr. Smalley. "Of course, once we get our new facility, it's going to have a Wellness Center, and some of these things will be further developed at the Wellness Center."

6) Lt. Mike Reed of the IHS Clinic is now working with Lisa Aguerro, of the Quechan Injury Prevention Office, to develop a more comprehensive injury prevention program at the Clinic.

7) They had also contracted with a substance abuse specialist (Art Worden, R.N.) to provide patients with assistance in that area of treatment. However, with Mr. Worden about to retire at the end of March, Dr. Smalley says the Clinic will be replacing him with a Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner as their substance abuse and addiction specialist later this year.

8) They have begun using Contract Health Services (CHS) money to encourage annual mammograms for women over 40, as well as colonoscopies for everyone over the age of 50. "We used to function under a continuing resolution for our budget," says Smalley, "we might go that way for a couple of years." Under continuing resolution, "IHS wouldn't allow colonoscopies or mammograms, except in emergencies. Now, we have permission from Phoenix to always allow colonoscopies, to always allow mammograms, so we've seen them increase dramatically."

9) Increasing the number of specific support groups for specific diseases such as asthma and diabetes. With the prevalence of asthma among children, Rosa Peralta (the pediatric nurse practitioner) is leading that group, while Deborah Drumel will lead the diabetes group.

"We also started a weekly women's clinic, which has now expanded to everyday," notes Dr. Smalley. "Chris Beverick, one of our Nurse Practitioners is in charge of that, and the women's clinic is open from 8 AM to 5 PM every weekday."

10) Mike Moore, a local counselor, grew up in the Navajo Nation has been brought in to provide behavioral health counseling with the understanding and sensitivity to Native American culture that only another native can achieve. Mr. Moore was working at a counseling firm in Yuma, and is currently working on the final stages of a Ph.D.

11) And finally, the clinic has added a radiology suite, providing digital X-ray services for diagnostics at the clinic, which uses much less radiation (and provides clearer images) than the traditional method.

Dr. Smalley and his staff say they are proud of the way they have responded to the specific concerns of both of the tribes they serve here at Fort Yuma, and hope to create a new culture in the Clinic that better serves the community.

They hope as they get farther along in their "Call To Action", they will create a new environment that can be successfully transferred to the new IHS Clinic once it is built.

Office of Special Trustee (OST)

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

MARCH

- 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

Kenny Loggins Opens Pipa Events Center

Twelve days after the Grand Opening of the new Quechan Casino♠Resort, workmen completed laying the final square of carpeting in the Pipa Events Center, screwed in the final light bulb, and turned over the keys of the Events Center to the management of the new Resort. Even as construction workers were sweeping up the final remnants of their efforts, events staff at the Resort were rolling in stacks of padded chairs and mapping out a floor plan for the first live concert held in the room.

That same day, audio and concert lighting specialists arrived to prepare the room for Kenny Loggins, who would arrive within 48 hours, to play before a packed, sold-out room!

With decades of professional experience in live performances in rooms (and arenas) of all shapes and sizes, Mr. Loggins' road crew spent hours tweaking the sound system and consulting with the events staff, to be sure everything was as perfectly balanced as possible. With the front row of seats only eight feet from the stage, the road crew and events staff closed off the rear third of the room keeping the music contained in only the area required. All the preparations provided every member of the audience with excellent sound and a great view, with giant video projectors at both sides of the room showing larger than life close-ups of both Kenny and his band throughout the show.

Local media were even more impressed, as they were invited to a pre-show cocktail dinner, mingling with the management and marketing team of the Quechan Casino♠Resort, and sampling a buffet spread of salmon, crab cakes and beef tenderloin cuts from the kitchen. It was the experience of a lifetime, and right here at Fort Yuma!

Images from The February 25th Concert:



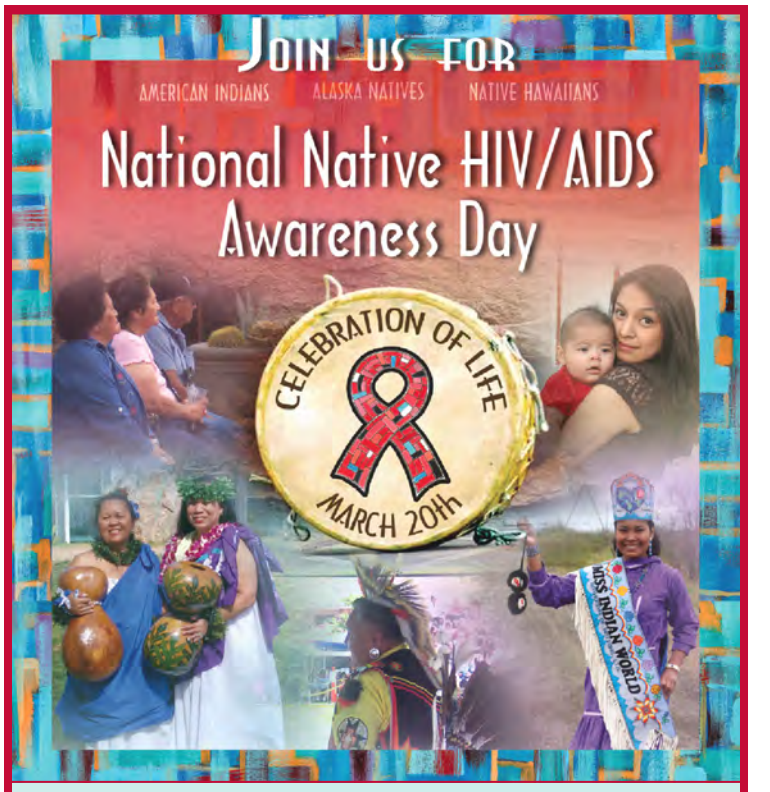
The huge crowd was still winding their way to their seats when multi-Grammy winner Kenny Loggins began his show with "Danny's Song", and old favorite for many sentimentalists. Photos by William Isbell



Quechan Casino♠Resort CEO Marty Gross had the honor of stepping on to the stage to introduce the first artist to appear "Live At The Pipa", bringing the crowd to their feet at the first mention of Loggins' name.



Despite the size of the room, which held over 2000 people, a very intimate setting was created by the sound mix and lighting, giving everyone the chance to feel close to the stage. The Pipa Events Center is so large, the rear third of the room was closed off as un-needed space for this concert. That allowed the lighting crew to set up their spotlights almost 60 feet closer to the performers, while remaining behind a gap in the roll-out walls, separated from the audience in another room!



DATE: Saturday, March 14, 2009
TIME: 10:00 am to 3:00pm
PLACE: Diabetes Walking Trail Park

There will be HIV/AIDS Education, guest speakers, entertainment and food

Hosted by the Quechan Community Health Representatives (CHR), Diabetes Prevention and Fort Yuma Alcohol and Drug Awareness and Prevention (ADAPP) program.

For more information, contact:
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