ETSKA NAV AH PAI THE NEWS CARRIER

QUECHAN NEWS

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In This Issue:

Roadway Improvements
Page 2

Documentary On PBS
Page 3

Prom Held at the Q
Page 4

Employees Recognized
Page 5

Stimulus Funds for Tribe
Page 6

2nd Place for Students
Page 7

Entertainers at Casinos
Back Page

Items Of Special Interest To Tribe Members

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Look For This Symbol

ETSKA NAV AH PAI THE NEWS CARRIER
QUECHAN NEWS
is published by
The Quechan Indian Tribe
350 Picacho Road
Winterhaven, Ca. 92283
Phone: (760)572-3912
Fax: (760)572-3910

Council Reviewing Final Clinic Design

Finally, after years of preparation, our new clinic is becoming a reality. The Quechan Tribal Council is working together with Indian Health Service (IHS) officials in Phoenix in reviewing three proposals submitted by the architects contracted to design the new Fort Yuma Clinic, to select the design that will best meet the needs of this community.

The Tribal Council has also met with Dr. Kent Smalley and his staff at the current clinic, to collect their input on the three proposals. At the same time, the Quechan Economic Development Administration and Health Planning Committee are also going over the plans to determine which might best fulfill their requirements and expectations for the new facility.

All of the groups are scheduled to meet over the next couple of weeks to discuss the preferences and opinions of each. They hope to come to an agreement on which of the proposed layouts best meets the specifications of everyone involved on or about May 12th, so that ground-breaking and construction can get underway this fall.



The Indian Health Services Clinic was built in 1936, and has long been considered inadequate. Plans for its replacement, to be built just north of Indian Hill, call for a much more modern layout of almost three times the size of the current facility, with a commensurate increase in staff. QUECHAN NEWS Photo by William Isbell

Those meetings will also review the clinic's planned reorganization which involves both staffing and procedures, and is already going into effect. The clinical staff is working to develop a new workflow and business model which should be up and running long before the new facility is built. They hope to have everyone, staff and patients alike, comfortable with their new system by the time they move into the new clinic below Indian Hill in late 2010.

Dekker/Perich/Sabatini of Albuquerque are the architects selected to provide the designs. They have years of experience in healthcare, higher education, and laboratory building designs. They have partnered with The Innova Group of Tucson on the three separate designs to fit the proposed site. All of them take into consideration how a patient will move from one department to another, to insure a comfortable visit. Insuring the privacy and recordkeeping for patients are high priorities in both the new business plan and how the new clinic will be laid out.

The Quechan Tribal Council is also already at work lobbying the Congressional Representatives for both Districts in California and Arizona, to ensure that the funding for the clinic remains intact in the FY2010 federal budget. "We've worked too long and too hard to get this," says Quechan Tribe President Mike Jackson, "and we intend to see that the federal government and the Indian Health Service follow through, to give us the healthcare facilities our people deserve."

Funding Approved to Begin Work on Residential Roadways

The Quechan Tribally Designated Housing Entity (QTDHE) has been awarded $825,000 in funding thorough a successful grant application for the Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG).

The Quechan Tribal Council made the decision to allow the housing entity to apply for the grant and assisted them in improving their grant application score by contributing $275,000 in matching funds.

The ICDBG application was submitted in July 2008, but the award announcement was not received until late January of this year. The grant will be used to fund a project known as the Old Subdivision Road and Sidewalk Improvements Project.

Improvements to be made under the project encompass an area that includes all of Sapphire Lane and the streets to the north in the rental section: Garnet, Emerald, Firestone and Bluestone. New curbs and gutters are scheduled under the project, as well as the removal and replacement of all the asphalt on the streets being improved.

The plan also includes new driveways in affected areas wherever wheelchair-accessible sidewalks are to be installed. Traffic control and the safety for the continual foot traffic in the Old Subdivision are also addressed, with new speed bumps planned for crucial locations. Not only will the entire appearance of the neighborhood be improved, but the storm drainage will also have a better design.

The environmental division of Nicklaus Engineering of Yuma has already completed the Environmental Assessment for the project. Actual demolition and removal of streets and curbs is scheduled to begin in the month of July. The concrete work and paving will follow for an estimated completion date of November 2009. During the time of the project there will be some rerouting of traffic and the need for alternate parking spaces.

On a related note, staff from QTDHE recently attended an ICDBG Implementation Training at the Southwest Office of Native American Programs. That conference left them with the understanding that a successful completion of the street improvements project will ensure continued grant awards for the Quechan Tribe in the future.

You can also read a related story on housing renovations to take place later this year on page 6 of this issue.

Quechan Trailer Village Soon To Be History

The first concrete signs of progress in preparing the site for the new Indian Health Service (IHS) Clinic are now being seen, as workers from Quechan Special Projects have begun to remove vacant pads for mobile homes that have moved out of the Trailer Village below Indian Hill.

Staff members from both the IHS Public Health Department and Quechan Utilities have also been on site to locate underground water and powerlines and discuss other things needing to be done to have the area cleared in time for work to begin on the new clinic this fall.

Some documentation on the exact locations of underground utility lines and drainage features connected to the septic systems for the Trailer Village could be better, they say, but all are confident that the workers who are demolishing the remaining structures and clearing the way for heavy construction will be able to locate and mark everything that needs to be moved or abandoned below ground.

Although most tenants are expected to be out of the Village by the first of May at the latest, some may remain for a few more months while they continue to look for another place to live. Those who remain behind for now may need to relocate onto the pads that will remain south of Agnes Road. Since actual construction of the Clinic will begin at the north end of the site (where the Pipa Market is currently located), those at the south end have more time before they have to leave.

The Fort Yuma Trailer Village was originally built in the early years of the 1970's.

It's Time Once Again For The 2009 T-Ball Season At Quechan Parks & Rec!

Registration is now open for all Boys and Girls ages 4 to 7!

DEADLINE For Registration is Friday, May 8 at 5:00 PM!

For more information, contact

Quechan Parks & Rec @ (760) 572-1242

PUBLIC NOTICE

LETTER TO HOUSEHOLDS ABOUT THE NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM AND THE SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM FOR THE 2008-09 SCHOOL YEAR:

The San Pasqual Valley Unified School District takes part in the National School Lunch and/or School Breakfast Programs. Meals are served every school day at all schools.

In accordance with federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability.
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NOTICE

The Quechan Tribal Council has made a decision to stop ALL Per Capita Advances as of Friday, April 16, 2009.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact: Robin Estrada, Finance Manager at (760) 572-0213, Ext. 214

ETSKA NAV AH PAI THE NEWS CARRIER
QUECHAN NEWS
William Isbell
Newsletter Coordinator, Fort Yuma Quechan Nation
350 Picacho Road Winterhaven, CA 92283
Phone:(760)572-3912 Fax: (760) 572-3910
Email: w.isbell@quechantribe.com

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

Quechan's Documentary Gets National TV Exposure

Both Quechan tribe members and the national public have a chance to see the locally produced documentary on a native musical genre over the next few weeks, as the Public Broadcasting System (PBS) shows Daniel Golding's *Waila: Making the People Happy* as a part of the new *We Shall Remain* series on *The American Experience*. The film was written, directed and produced by local Quechan tribe member Daniel Golding.

The half hour program has already been seen locally a number of times, most recently during the Native Films Festival at Quechan Indian Days last October. Although Mr. Golding has also presented the program at a number of film festivals in California and Arizona since it's completion in 2007, this is the first time it has been available to a national audience on broadcast television.

It tells the story of "Waila", a fusion of Central European polka music and the Mexican Tejano, Cumbia and Norteno styles developed among the Akimel and Tohono O'odham peoples throughout the early and middle years of the 20th century. The documentary focuses on the contributions and fame of the Joaquin brothers as a way of showing how the Waila style has become integrated into the native culture of the American southwest.

The Joaquins spent a good part of their lives travelling throughout the southwest and border region, playing at almost any venue that would let them in the door, developing an act that finally brought them to play New York's Carnegie Hall.

The film's creator grew up with a passing familiarity with "chicken scratch" music, having heard it played at Indian Days dances and similar events. After graduating from film school, while looking for subjects to base future film projects on, he came across a book on the history of "chicken scratch" (the more common term for "Waila" among the natives of the southwest). He read the book, and realized it would be an ideal subject for a documentary offering a more contemporary take on native life.

"So many people, when they think of native peoples, have their minds stuck in the past," says Mr. Golding. "What I wanted to do was update the image a little bit, and show how things have changed as modern music has become accepted, and how these people (the Joaquins) have taken it, worked it over their own way, and made it into something new, something different."

The idea first occurred to him in 2000, and it would take him almost four years to actually begin shooting it. He first had to travel all the way from San Francisco (where he was living at the time) to visit the Joaquins and discuss the idea. Then he had to put together an outline of what he had in mind and shoot enough footage to create a sample reel and "shop it around" in search of a grant to fund the work. Everything finally came together in 2004, when he received his first grant from the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians.



Producer/Director Daniel Golding (seen above) from Yuma created the documentary with the cooperation of the Joaquin family of Sells, Arizona. PBS has created a number of materials to help publicize the inclusion of Mr. Golding's film in the "We Shall Remain" series on "The American Experience", such as this full color post card mailer (at right). QUECHAN NEWS Photo (above left) by William Isbell

Later on, as work progressed on the film, the Quechan Tribal Council would kick in more funds to allow him to continue his project.

All together, the documentary took Mr. Golding the better part of three years to put together, as he travelled between Fort Yuma and the Joaquin's home turf. Once he had it all "cut together" in an acceptable form, he began to take it around for exhibition at various film festivals in Arizona and California.



The famous Joaquin Brothers during a show at the height of their popularity (from left to right): Daniel Joaquin, Fernando Joaquin and Angelo Joaquin, Sr. Photo courtesy of Daniel Joaquin

Overall, reaction was so good, he made a proposal to PBS to get it played nationwide in one of their native films series.

Once they had a copy to review, PBS decided it would fit with their plans if cut down to a half hour. That process took him the better part of a year.

PBS added "Waila" to the rotation on "American Experience" in early April, with the show premiering on a number of stations in both Kentucky and Ohio on April 3rd. It made its California broadcast debut on San Francisco's KCSM TV on April 5th, and was replayed there on the 14th. It has since played in other markets all over the country, including Los Angeles, Philadelphia, and Lubbock, Texas.

The first broadcast in the Fort Yuma area was on Monday night, when it was shown by KAET television, the PBS affiliate located at Arizona State University in Tempe. KAET's signal is carried by Time/Warner cable as channel 8, and broadcast over the air from Telegraph Pass on UHF analog channels 19 and 61. Watch for further broadcasts on KAET over the summer.

Quechan Casino♠Resort Hosts S.P. Prom



The Pipa Event Center closed off a quarter of their floor space on Saturday night, April 18, to host their first high school prom ever. there were 74 members of the San Pasqual Valley High School's junior and senior class in attendance, enjoying a 25 foot long buffet table of snacks, a dance floor and DJ with a full light show, plenty of door prizes and glow in the dark decorations. A highlight of the evening was when Anthony Daniels' brother, David, got moving and everyone stepped back for a good five minutes to watch him dance up a storm!



Some students acted surprised to be caught dancing! That's Sarina Salas on the left, miming embarrasment. She can't resist hitting the floor despite the injury she received in a softball game!



Prom royalty elected by their fellow students as they entered the event center smile after accepting the cheering acclaim of everyone in the hall. Standing on the left are junior class Princess Kailah Durand and the junior class Prince Jaime Marquez, while on the right are Prom Queen Janyse Collins-Solorio with her King, Andre Polk Estrada. The Prom Queen is also the President of the Strong Hearts Native Society and the reigning Miss San Pasqual Indian Princess this year. Andre is also active in Strong Hearts and is a grass dancer and bird singer.

Diabetes Education for Tribal Members on May 16

The Quechan Tribal Council, the Special Diabetes Project and the Quechan Health Board Committee are working with other area officials to put together a large scale diabetes education clinic at the Quechan Community Center on Saturday, May 16th. The meeting is scheduled to get underway at 10:00 AM, and will cover a variety of healthcare concerns related to the unique problem of diabetes among the Quechan people, as well as the latest strategies of prevention.

All three groups are working closely to bring in additional Yuma area experts for presentations on diabetes prevention. Guest speakers will project both PowerPoint and other audio/visual presentations for the audience, giving everyone a clear view of the subject matter.

They further plan to have handouts available to allow everyone to follow along and keep track of the facts presented, and will follow-up with a question and answer period to clarify and expand on the subjects discussed. The professional presentations may provide new information on diabetes, its prevention and treatment, so if you or someone you know is concerned with finding out everything you can about limiting your exposure to the effects of this disease, you will not want to miss it!

"We've seen a real need to act on the terrible onslaught of diabetes in our community," says Quechan Tribe president Mike Jackson, Sr., "and we are tasked to provide both education and prevention when we receive federal funding through the Special Diabetes Project. This meeting, we hope, will be just the first this year to provide that education."

New Postal Meter System Means Improved Service

Tribal members and businesses receiving regular payments or other mailings from the Quechan Tribe should notice faster, more efficient service over the coming months, thanks to a new, computerized postal metering system installed in the mail room at the Tribe's administration offices.

The new "postage by phone" system is able to use an internal modem to communicate with the US Postal Service (USPS) and the Pitney+Bowes office in San Diego, downloading updates and ordering supplies when requested by its operator. That means any time the Postal Service changes rates (as they are scheduled to do when first class mail goes up to 44¢ an ounce on May 11th), the meter will receive that update the morning the rates change, as soon as it is turned on.

The new postal meter is also able to create certified mail with electronic tracking by the USPS and receive internet confirmation of delivery. That means the little green card attached to the back of a certified letter is no longer needed, with also requires additional postage so it can be returned to the sender. The meter also has its own weigh scale built in, to calculate exact postage for any type of mailing desired, from bulk mail to first class.



Brenda Rummel, mail clerk for the Quechan Tribal Administration offices, receives training from PitneyBowes tech Jeremiah Winkler.
QUECHAN NEWS Photo by William Isbell

It is this combination of daily updates and computerized data tracking that should be able to increase efficiency while also saving the Tribe money through the ability to track postal costs to the exact penny, and prevent overpaying when shipping items via the mail service.

"I know Brenda is glad to have this new machine," says her supervisor, executive secretary Marsha Emerson. "The old one was probably ten years old, and it was getting to be obsolete." Mrs. Emerson, mail clerk Brenda Rummel and receptionist Shari Mattias have all received training on the new system, to insure its proper operation. All three also express their appreciation to the Quechan Tribal Council for approving the new meter.

Tribal Employees Recognized For Service at Annual Dinner

The Quechan Tribe held their annual Employee Recognition Banquet on April 23rd to present awards to those who have passed significant milestones in their service to the community. This year's event was the first to be held at the Quechan Casino♠Resort, utilizing a quarter of the immense Pipa Center for the semi-formal dinner.

Brian Golding, Sr., Director of the Quechan Economic Development Administration acted as Master of Ceremonies, with assistance from Tribal Administrator, Robert Klein. Both are members of the Employee Appreciation Committee which also includes the head of Human Resources, Andrew Hastings as well as Benefits Coordinator Juan Reyes and Karen Preston, Director of the Tribe's Head Start Program. Quechan Tribe President Mike Jackson, Sr., Vice President Keeny Escalanti, Sr. and the Tribal Council were also on hand to congratulate the employees on their accomplishments and let them know that their efforts are appreciated.

The theme for the evening was that professionalism, loyalty and integrity, backed by a strong work ethic and a willingness to adapt and grow are the keys to success. All of these valuable attributes have helped the Quechan Tribe, through their public employees, continue to grow and achieve much as a team over the past year, including the opening this past February of the site of the dinner, the new Casino♠Resort.

Nearly three dozen employees were singled out to receive engraved awards for milestones of service in five year increments. The longest serving employees (with at least 30 years of employment with the tribe) also receive a special 30 year ring. Only one person qualified for that special honor this year, the tribe's Head Game Warden, Gordon Osborne.



Head Game Warden Gordon Osborne (in the center) holds his 25 and 30 year service awards, flanked by Quechan Tribal Council members Jordan Joaquin, Todd Durand, James Montague and Quechan Tribe President Mike Jackson, Sr. QUECHAN NEWS Photo by William Isbell

Here is a list of all of the employees who have past a milestone and received an award this year:

30 Years of Service:

Gordon Osborne,
Fish and Game Warden

25 Years of Service:

Carlton Hill,
Mosquito Abatement

20 Years of Service:

Deborah Hill,
Food Distribution/Commodities
Douglas Osborne,
Tribal Work Force
Danette Joaquin,
Head Start

15 Years of Service:

Chano Escalante,
Andrade Parking Lot
Pamela Manchatta,
Johnson-O'Malley

10 Years of Service:

Leatrice Brown,
Tribal Gaming Office
Louis Robles,
Parks and Recreation
Arlene Kingery,
Environmental
Rosaline Chaipos,
Alcohol & Drug Prevention
Felix Montague,
Tribal Gaming Agency
Judith Sanchez,
Paradise Child Care
Milton Jefferson, Sr.,
Sleepy Hollow RV Park

5 Years of Service:

Marlow Jose,
Hub Liquor
Destry Esclanti,
Facilities/Maintenance
Woodrow Brown,
Mechanic
Francisco Bustillo,
Tribal Gaming Office
Robyn Waco,
Tribal Gaming Office
Thomas Larios,
Tribal Gaming Office
Press Alire,
Environmental
Anthony Montague,
Tribal Gaming Commission
Melanie Bard,
Gaming Construction
Dora Avila,
Tribal Gaming Agency
Brian Golding, Sr.,
Economic Development
Allyson Collins,
Economic Development
Amber Cachora Espino,
Ft. Yuma Trailer Village
Carolyn Welsh,
Parks and Recreation
Claudio Palone,
Parks and Recreation
Michael Duran,
Utilities
Maria Alfaro,
Head Start
Peter Perez,
Food Distribution
Sharon Mattias,
Tribal Administration
Fayeanne Dugan,
Tribal Security

Somehow, Gordon Osborne managed to "slip through the cracks" for recognition between his 20th year with the Tribe and this year. When the Employee Recognition Committee was checking anniversary dates while putting together the list for the plaques, they noticed that Mr. Osborne had never received his quarter century(!) award in 2004. That error was rectified this time, as he was presented with both his 30 year ring and the engraved award he should have received at the time he achieved the 25 year mark.

Among the remarks made to emphasize the length of his service was the joke that upon "cracking open the archives" to find out when he began, Human Resources discovered that the Tribe's records at that time were so old they were in petroglyphs!

Yuma Charity Event Canceled At Request of Quechan Tribe

Two Yuma nonprofit groups, which had teamed up to hold a charity event on the famous Ocean-To-Ocean Bridge that provides access to the Quechan administrative center as well as the Tribe's Paradise Casino have cancelled that event at the request of the Quechan Tribal Council.

The "Sunset On The Bridge", event was to have been a fundraising party featuring cocktails, live music, dancing and dinner. Unfortunately, the event was to take place on the actual roadway of the Ocean-To-Ocean Bridge on Saturday night, April 25th, closing down all traffic across the bridge for at least that afternoon. To make matters worse, this year the organizers wanted to close the bridge for 18 hours, from 6 a.m. to midnight, severly impacting business at the Paradise Casino on what is normally a very busy day each week.

The Tribe notified both the Rotary Club of Yuma and the Arizona Children's Association in early April that they would not be permitted to close the bridge for such an extended period.

"That would be a long time for the bridge to be closed. That would be much more of a financial loss for us than last year," says Quechan Tribe President Mike Jackson, Sr.

Mr. Jackson also notes that the Tribe offered use of several other locations, including the Paradise Casino, Pivot Pointe Conference Center or at the new Quechan Casino♠Resort.

"We don't like to get in the way of kids, because they need all the help they can get, especially in these economic times," he said, adding that the tribal government also has a responsibility to our children. "But we also have to look at our tribal nation. We have babies to feed. We have students to send to school."

The event's co-chairman, Dan Montoya says they respect the Tribe's position, and they hold no grudge.

Stimulus Funds for Housing Repairs



This home on Arnold Road is among those that may be refurbished using federal stimulus funds that will soon be released to the Quechan Tribally Designated Housing Authority. QUECHAN NEWS Photo by William Isbell

The Quechan Tribally Designated Housing Entity (QTDHE) reports the housing entity is scheduled to receive a grant totaling over half a million dollars under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, one of the first pieces of legislation passed under the current administration.

Funds appropriated by Congress for the Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG) Program will be made available this year to the Quechan Tribe for housing repair and improvements in the amount of $567,753.00.

Under the terms of the grant, these funds are designated for a number of categories of assistance.With this additional funding the QTDHE will be able to move forward and expand their plans for the renovation, rehabilitation and modernization of both their managed unit inventory and the Project 54 - 1, 2 & 3 homes dating from the 1970s.

Along with the stimulus funds allocated to QTDHE, they will also have an opportunity to submit another application for competitive grants to be awarded later this year. Those grants will come from a total of $242,000,000 that has been set aside by the federal government for Indian housing.

The extensive amount of renovation work that exists currently will be the focus of our grant request. This will also include funding for relocation that will be necessary with large-scale remodeling of homes. The success of last year's Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG) application leads the QTDHE to believe they will qualify for a grant award and obtain additional stimulus funds.

Quechan Tribal Member Vincent Brafford to Graduate from U of A



Vincent Brafford will be graduating from the University of Arizona in Tucson, May 16th 2009. An enrolled member of the Quechan Tribe, Vincent's parents are Rhonda L White and John Brafford of Phoenix, AZ. He is also the great nephew of Don and Mercedes Escalanti of Phoenix and a cousin to Christoble Emerson, manager of the PIPA Market.

Vincent majored in the arts, and will be graduating with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree. He spent time on the Dean's list in both 2007 and 2008.

Vincent has always been interested in art and realized his potential in 5th grade when he began winning various awards and ribbons for his artwork. He says he enjoys the freedom in art to express himself.

He graduated from Phoenix's Maryvale High School in 2003 *Magna Cum Laude*, with a 3.7 grade point average. He also received an award for outstanding English student of 2003.

His hobbies are (of course) art and photography. He hopes to pursue a career in publications, illustration or photography.

To get through college, he took out loans from Sally Mae, and received a grant from the Quechan Education Department to cover expenses. He also took out personal loans to finance his college career. He is especially grateful for the help given by the Quechan Tribe, he says.

He is currently considering graduate school to expand his knowledge of art or to move into teaching. At this time before graduation, he has examples of his art in 3 shows in 3 different galleries in Tucson.

QUECHAN HEALTH BOARD COMMITTEE

ATTENTION ALL QUECHAN PATIENTS!

The Quechan Health Board Committee is here to offer our assistance in resolving any concerns you may have with health care/treatment issues. Our main focus is seeing that you obtain the high quality of care that you deserve.

Please feel free to contact us at:

(760) 996-1210

Brycea Parker Barbara Levy
Ramona Engler Judith Osborne
Marilyn Hammond

Distribution Deal: Main Street Cinemas May Present STAR TREK A Day Early



The manager of the Main Street Cinemas in historic downtown Yuma has confirmed that thay will be permitted to begin screening the widely anticipated summer film *STAR TREK* on Thursday, May 7th. Theaters often project films with a built-in fan base "early" by holding midnight shows that begin at 12:01 A.M. However, in this case, even though Paramount Pictures has been publicly promoting the May 8th release date for well over a year, they have relented to public demand and will allow the Main Street Cinemas (and some other theaters) to show the $165 million science fiction epic beginning as early as next Thursday at 7:00 P.M.. J.J Abrams, creator of ABC TV's "Lost" produced and directed this origin story, a retooling of the popular 1960's television show. The Main Street Cinemas is a Quechan tribally owned business partnership with Casandra Salaspatas-Metz.

Student Creativity Shines at "Odyssey of the Mind" Competition

The advanced art class at San Pasqual High School has reason to feel confident that they can solve nearly any problem presented to them, having made an excellent showing in the recent California State "Odyssey of the Mind" Competition.

Created in 1978 by Professor Emeritus Dr. C. Samuel Micklus, of Rowan University in New Jersey, "Odyssey of the Mind" is a competitive program that's all about creativity, an often overlooked element in the growth and development of many students. It began when Dr. Micklus noticed that "out of the box" thinking was a skill undeveloped even among his college aged students. To encourage critical thinking, he developed this international educational program to provide creative problem-solving opportunities for students from kindergarten through college. Those involved apply their creativity to solve problems that range from building mechanical devices to presenting their own interpretation of literary classics.

Seven team members consisting of mostly Native American students from San Pasqual High competed in the 1997-98 school year, and students succeeded at state to win the coveted Ranatra Fusca (*Water Strider*) Award for creativity. That earned them the chance to compete in the world competition, but the limited financial support of that time meant they weren't able to continue further.

Those students were Jessica Sandoval, Lincoln Miller, Nicolas Jose, Travis Owl, Travis Chibbity and Robert Navarro.

This year, Mr. Ferguson noticed a group of students showing similar promise, when Melissa Montoya decided to build a miniature framed house out of balsa wood to learn home construction techniques. As she ran into difficulties, Mr. Ferguson suggested she pick a couple of fellow art students to assist her in problem solving. The team she put together included Jessica Torres and Andrew Baltazar, and they overcame the difficulties to quickly produce an excellent scale model of a framed two bedroom ranch house.



Art teacher George Ferguson (at left) stands in front of the "brick walls" backdrop created for a skit, holding up the top of the "shockwave" tester. Centered on the pole of the tester is the small balsa wood structure his students tested to 765 lbs. At right, the students included Aileen Velardé, Kellie Wong, Melissa Montoya, Andrew Baltazar, Jaimz Terry and Jessica Torres. The wings of Snoopy's biplane can be seen on the right.

Photos: William Isbell, QUECHAN NEWS (at left), George Ferguson, San Pasqual High (right)

Recognizing their abilities, Mr. Ferguson suggested they look over the materials for the "Odyssey" and to recruit a number of other students, to see if they'd like to enter the competition this year. Their final team also included Jaimz Terry, Aileen Velardé, Kellie Wong and Andrew Baltazar. As a group, they decided to enter the same part of the contest that had proven a winner for the '97-'98 team, the "Shockwave."

The shockwave is a tough problem to solve. Students must use thin balsa strips to create a structure weighing only 18 grams and standing only eight inches tall that can hold up hundreds of pounds. That much is easy(!). The "shockwave" part comes in as spacers of varying thickness up to one inch are pulled out from between the weights atop their structure, which can pulverize the little creations. But that's not all they had to do!

They are also required to develop a skit explaining the problem, and present that to the judges while assembling their test rig and smashing the weights down on the structure. As art students, the team realized the skit was where they could rack up the extra creativity points they might need to put themselves over any engineering or physics majors in the competition.

They developed a story of a rich heiress who travels to Hawaii to build a memorial bridge for a family member. The heiress and her secretary would consult with an architect on the best way to overcome the seismic challenges of erupting volcanoes on the island, and ensure the bridge could stand up to any earthquake it might encounter.

With three scenes, their skit required two office sets, cars to travel between them and an airplane to get to Hawaii! All of their props and sets were built of discarded materials, and designed to fold up to fit in their van to get to the competition.

The sets were made of a refrigerator box, cut in half top to bottom to create two brick walls on one side, and the rooms they represented in the skit on the inside. To create the look of bricks, the outside of the box was scored in a 8" X 15" pattern and the outer layer peeled away to reveal the corrugations underneath. Spray painted in a speckled stone texture, the walls look convincingly heavy until you spin them around to reveal the "offices" inside. One box holds the heiress' office in her California mansion, the other box the architect's office in Hawaii.

The airplane (with Snoopy as the pilot) was built using cardboard and bungee cords, and held together with interlocking tabs and paper clips. A 2-sided car (with a red paint job for California and blue paint for Hawaii) was constructed of cardboard to resemble a Smart Fortwo. The car also had corrugated plastic water bottles to represent headlights and tail lights. All of the set's office furniture and chairs were made of cardboard, the costumes of paper and plastic sheeting.

The students repeatedly refined and tested their shockwave structure until they had a design that could withstand an incredible 765 lbs. of force! They loaded all of their props and materials in two vans, and headed to the first phase of the competition, in Palm Springs, in late March. Once there, they discovered that

Continued on Back Page

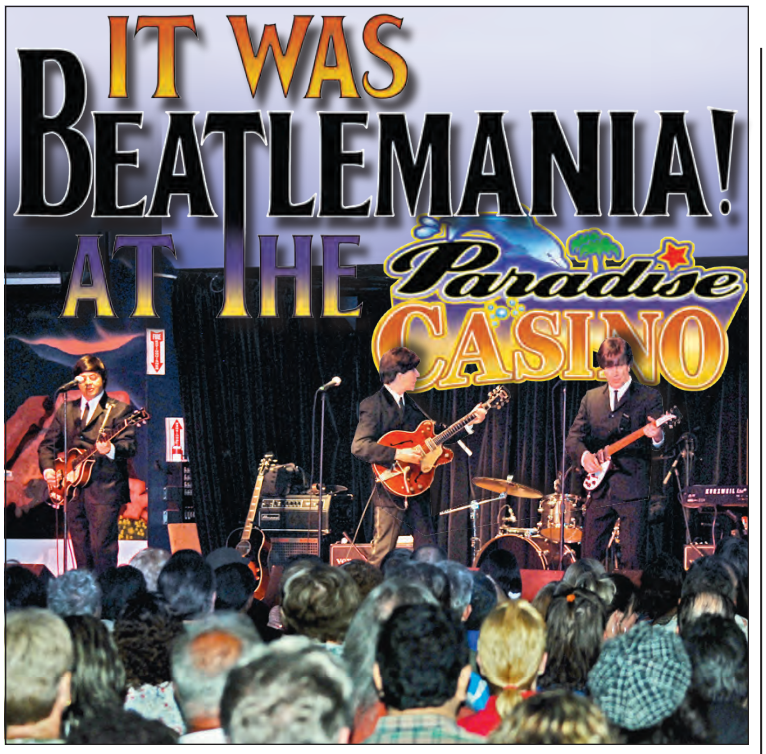
Longer Hours For Diabetes Special Projects

To better serve the community, the Quechan Special Diabetes Project has extended their office hours another 8 hours every week.

They will be staying open two hours later every Monday through Thursday, to give those needing help more time to stop by after work. Their new hours are from 8:00 AM until 7:00 PM Monday through Thursday, and from 8:00 AM until 5:00 PM on Friday.

Everyone at the Special Diabetes Project wants to remind you that the 3 keys to stopping diabetes in the Quechan community are education, understanding and a belief in one's self. If you would like to learn how to cook and plan meals for diabetes, or to pick up blood glucose monitoring supplies, or to just talk to someone about living with diabetes, you can stop by anytime they are open. They are located on San Pasqual Road just east of the Community Center.

For more information on what the Quechan Special Diabetes Project has to offer, call (760)572-1286.



An incredible simulation of a live concert by the greatest rock band in history began shortly after 7 PM on April 17, as a touring group from "Beatlemania" took the stage at the Paradise Casino's Atlantis Room. Playing for another sold out crowd at 9:30, the group varied their set list a little for both shows, to keep things fresh as they took the audience through the history of the band as haircuts, clothes and musical styles changed over the course of the 1960's.





"John" stayed on stage alone to sing "Imagine", bringing a roar of applause from the crowd as the rest of the group ducked back stage to change out of their "*Sgt. Pepper's*" outfits. That's "George" in his spangled gear playing an authentic "Gretsch" hollow body guitar from the era.



The band finished their set dressed as the Beatles on the cover of the album, "*Abbey Road*". One song from this set that got the room jumping was their version of "Revolution", complete with vocal chord shredding howls and driving bass drum beats. QUECHAN NEWS Photo by William Isbell

Country Superstar Greets Quechan Council Members



Councilman Todd Durand posed with fellow entertainer Dwight Yoakam (above), as did new Councilman Jordan Joaquin (below).



The shows just keep getting better and better at the Pipa Event Center, with Country superstar Dwight Yoakam being the latest entertainer to play to standing room only crowds.

While previous acts have agreed to "meet and greet" selected VIPs and members of the public in the hallways back stage, Mr. Yoakam asked to have those wanting to meet him brought on board his luxury tour bus for a personal hello.

Dwight Yoakam has won Grammys in 1993 and '98 for Best Male Country Vocal Performance and Best Country Collaboration With Vocals. He has nine Top 10 hits, including a No. 1 hit, "Streets of Bakersfield," with California-country pioneer Buck Owens. He also played a villain in the film *Sling Blade.*



Also making a visit aboard the star's tour bus were Councilman James Montague and his wife, Corie. Photos courtesy of Quechan Casino♠Resort

Student Creativity Shines

Continued from Page 7

only Chino Valley Advogate School had also selected their particular problem. Each group was sent to a separate classroom to go up against those involved in the same challenge, and to also demonstrate their ability to "think on their feet" with a spontaneous puzzler presented by the judges without warning.

It was their ability to solve the spontaneous problem - getting the largest number of items into increasingly smaller jars, without asking the judges too many questions (which would cost them points) that really put the local students over the top.

Their creativity and presentation skills enabled them to leap ahead of many other teams (and trounce their direct competitors in the shockwave test), and they finished the regional contest in second place overall!

Their results permitted them to move on to the State level, and they left for Brentwood, California on April 2nd. Unfortunately, in all of their careful preparations, the team failed to notice that the rules specified that their structure had to fit over a two inch pipe when secured inside the shockwave test stand. They had used a smaller center pipe in their class, and their finished structure was 1/32nd of an inch to small to fit over the pipe! The judges allowed Jaimz Terry to make modifications, and he whittled away enough of the structure to allow it to fit into the test stand.

It was their need to make last minute modifications, along with the fact that the entire team wasn't able to go along for the state round (three members were missing) that meant that the state competition was their final step on the ladder to national, and then international competition.

Still, they were credited with having the most creative backdrop design and construction, as well best props. Good enough to place 3rd in the state in the spontaneous challenge, with only 2.67 points separating them from the leaders!

Though disappointed at being counted out of further competition this year, they hope to correct their mistakes and re-enter the "Odyssey of the Mind" problem solving competition next year and go even further!