



QUECHAN NEWS

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Items Of Special Interest
To Tribe Members



ETSKA NAV AH PAI THE NEWS CARRIER
QUECHAN NEWS

is published by

The Quechan Indian Tribe

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Summer Youth Programs Are Up and Running



Summer day camp participants Michael Phillips, Michael Sestiaga, Angelo Palone, Mary Amador and Deshane Taylor III spent the past few days playing video games, air hockey, ping pong and billiards, along with learning crafts and swimming. Photos by William Isbell

Now that school is out and the kids are free to roam the reservation all day, everyday, what's is there to do that has a little structure (and includes adult supervision)? Turns out - there is a lot to do!

Quechan Parks and Recreation has their "Summer Day Camp" program for the youngest among us. First and second graders can enjoy a half day of activities weekday mornings at the Quechan Community Center until July 2nd. Then it's the 3rd, 4th and 5th graders turn for Day Camp, from July 13th to the 31st. Summer Day Camp features crafting activities, plenty of opportunities for exercise with the gym and ball field out back, plus swimming at Rainbow Pool and the game room at the Community Center.

The Alcohol and Drug Abuse prevention Program (ADAPP) is offering kids with dependency problems or living with at-risk adults the chance to get out of the house and receive a little encouragement with their Summer Youth Program. Right now, kids from kindergarten to 2nd grade are learning how to cope with dependent parents and the means of developing a positive

self-image. But it's not all lectures and serious subjects. They also get the chance to go swimming, play games, see movies (in town at the theater!) and they'll even visit Yuma's newest attraction: The Fun Factory!

All of the kids enrolled in the ADAPP Summer Youth Program will have a similar curriculum, geared for their ages, all the way to high school. Plus, Christina Allen says at the end of each session, they hope to take each group on a special out-of-town trip to places like Knott's Berry Farm, Magic Mountain or Sea World. You can find out which session is appropriate for your child by checking the chart on page 6 listing all of the summer programs by age groups.

The Johnson O'Malley Program (JOM) at the Quechan Education Complex is set up to address the unique cultural needs of American Indian students through their summer program planned, developed and approved by the Quechan Education Committee. They have a sort of "summer school lite" system that keeps the kids reading and working on their language skills and computer literacy, with some projects for

the older students being a little more self-directed than method used in the public schools. the JOM elementary program runs through June 29th. Middle school kids (who will be in 5th through 8th grades this fall) have their 3 week session at the Education Complex starting July 1st, and the high school students will be there from July 22nd to August 10th.

Finally, the Quechan Language Program, which is also involved as visiting instructors in all of the programs above has their own "full immersion" *Kwat'san Iiya* classes up in their own classroom on Indian Hill.

The began their 1st through 3rd grade classes on June 15th, which run from 9 AM to noon, Monday through Thursday until June 25th. Next Monday, another three week session begins for kids in 4th, 5th and 6th grades, and the older kids are invited to learn the language from July 13th to the 24th.

There is a little overlap in all of these activities, with the Special Diabetes Program and the Artists Market place pitching in to offer healthy meal choices and arts and crafts instruction, too. Something for everyone!

Quechan Culture Center Now Open at “The Q”



The items currently on display include the unique “mouse” gourd rattle loaned by Felix Montague, Sr., metate’s recovered from the field by Gordon Osborne, and a cradleboard shade, a collection of various rattles, plus antique dolls made of both plant materials and pottery.



Economic Development Specialist Allyson Collins adjusts some small pottery dolls in one of the display cases at the Cultural Center of the Quechan Casino Resort in early June. The center will feature a rotating display of donated items explaining the Kwat’san way of life to patrons passing through the Resort.

QUECHAN NEWS Photo by William Isbell

The Quechan people have a connection to this land going back into the mists of time, a unique history and heritage unknown to most of the hundreds of guests passing through our Casinos every day. Those people know very little about how the *pipa* lived off the land for centuries before tourism (and casinos) gave most outsiders a reason to visit this little corner of the desert southwest. But that is about to be remedied!

With the successful Grand Opening of the Quechan Casino Resort and four months of exciting operations now complete, the Tribe’s Construction Committee, assisted by the Quechan Economic Development Administration (EDA) and Casino Operations, is busy putting the finishing touches on the Q’s Cultural Center.

Included as an important feature from the very start, the Cul-

tural Center is located inside the *porte-cochère* entrance to the Q’s hotel, right across from the Gift Shop.

Intended to become a showcase of our Tribal heritage and culture that we can share with the Tribe’s guests and patrons, the Quechan Cultural Center will feature educational displays of both historic and cultural items related to the traditional way of life. As many Indian casinos throughout Arizona and California have shown, the display of Tribal cultural items helps to increase the patrons’ awareness and understanding of the Tribes that operate the casinos/resorts.

Many tourists and visitors to the reservation are fascinated by the Tribe’s way of life. They enjoy reading about the Tribe’s history and seeing its remarkable cultural items. The Cultural Center will help satisfy that interest.

One challenge faced by the Cultural Center is providing an ever-changing and diverse display. By looking at the Cultural Center as an opportunity to encourage Tribal members to lend cultural items from their own personal collections, Tribal members can proudly participate in the sharing of the Tribe’s culture and heritage.

When it first opens to the public this week, the Cultural Center will feature items lent from the personal collections of two Tribal members, Mr. Felix Montague, Sr., and Mr. Gordon Osborne. The items on display include traditional gourd rattles, bows and arrows, cradleboards, cloth dolls, clay dolls, a beading loom, several beaded items, and grinding stones.

The Quechan Tribe is grateful to its initial lenders for the above mentioned items, and hopeful that other Tribal members will

be willing to lend, too.

To that end, the EDA asks interested Tribal members to contact them at (760) 572-5270 by July 15, 2009, so that a “fresh” display can be installed by July 31, 2009.

Interested Tribal members can set the length of time of their items are on loan, from as little as three months to as long as a year. Photos to document the condition and appearance of the items will be taken and kept on file. All items on display at the Quechan Cultural Center will be well-protected from harm or theft, as they will be kept in locked display cases and under constant closed-circuit video surveillance. If necessary, loaned items can be returned before the loan term is expired.

Please consider lending your items, and play an important part in sharing the Tribe’s culture and heritage.

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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

Rediscovering the Past Through Quechan Crafts and Song



The traditional beading class in early June found elder Phyllis Jones (at left) and Senior Center worker Crystal Cachora (next photo) eagerly jumping in to learn the age old methods of creating pottery beads. During the class, visiting assistant instructor Kevin Stevens (third photo) received a gourd rattle from the Artist's Marketplace, and sang three songs for the students before returning to Laveen, Arizona. At right, Griselda Joaquin and Jackie Duro discuss their projects as they string their handmade pottery beads together. Photos by William Isbell

A nationally known Pee Posh/Quechan bead artist from the Gila River Indian Community was in town during the second week of June to teach traditional beading techniques to elders at the Quechan Senior Center. The first of many guest speakers at the planned summer-long program to "Step Back Into Tradition", Ms. Hart Stevens brought along an assistant, Kevin Stevens, to grind, mix and prepare clay from their reservation in the creation of handmade pottery beads.

"Once Kevin had the clay to a dough-like consistency," she explains, "everybody got a piece to make their own beads."

Told to think of different shapes and forms, the students also had examples of Ms. Hart Stevens work to look at for inspiration and guidance in re-creating ancient patterns. Some of the beads made by the class were basically round, some oblong (like a long, thin barrel), some were discs, and some even

had petroglyph designs incised into their surfaces.

The newly formed beads were left to air-dry overnight and then brought up to the firing pit at the Artists Marketplace on Indian Hill, to be fired in the open pit in the traditional manner.

"The skill and technique of bead-work was here, long before glass beads arrived," she says. "Shells, bones, stones, seed, clay — they were all used

to make beads in the 1700's and 1800's, before the glass beads arrived (with white traders)."

Having taken advantage of the opportunity afforded her to visit the National Museum of the American Indian, Ms. Hart Stevens has researched everything she could find in their collection relating to "Yuman" techniques and materials of the past. While there, she saw handmade beads from the southwest

(perhaps even from this area, she says) that were made in the same fashion.

"But those were so old, they didn't have holes drilled through them — they had a natural fiber substance . . . probably yucca, with the clay actually rolled onto it to make the string of beads. And with my mother being a Maricopa pottery maker, I began to want to incorporate clay beads into my own work,

along with the glass beads. It makes for a great contrast in materials, it makes it interesting to look at."

While at the Artist's Marketplace, Kevin Stevens was quite taken with a handmade gourd rattle on display, and the class bought it for him to thank him for his contribution in providing the materials. As security guard with the Gila River community, Kevin had to return early to get back to work, so he sang three songs for the class before leaving, to thank them in return.

Both Kevin and Yolanda volunteer to "help wayward youth" (as she calls them). One thing they always do in those classes is have everyone contribute a string of beads for a community project, which becomes a huge, multi-strand necklace. The Quechan elders also created a community necklace, which will be on display and for sale in the Senior Center Gift Shop. You can also see some of their other bead creations there, too.



Crystal modeled her bead project once it was completed.



Visiting instructor Yolanda Hart-Stevens prepares to add Myra Andrews' beaded contribution to the community project strands.

NAFTA Tribunal Denies Glamis Gold Claim

On June 9th of this year, the NAFTA Tribunal in the Glamis Gold dispute against the United States and the Quechan Indian Tribe released its long-awaited decision.

The Tribunal found that the State of California's and the United States' actions in regulating hard rock mining on public lands did NOT violate provisions of NAFTA.

"We were the first tribe to have our briefs accepted in a NAFTA claim dispute" stated Mike Jackson, Sr., President, Quechan Nation. "The award shows that the Tribunal understood that the Indian Pass area is a sacred area to the Quechan people, worthy of protection from hard rock mining. After battling the mining company for nearly 15 years, it is good to have this decided."

"In the end," Jackson continues, "Glamis officials did not realize who they were messing with. The Quechan Nation are a tenacious people that will move to protect our history and our sacred sites at all costs. I credit this victory to all the Quechan people: The Tribal Council, our Cultural Committee, the Spirit Runners, the elders, the young generation — they were all there, to protect the land our ancestors left for us. So this case, keeping hard rock mining out of our sacred lands in the Indian Pass is a great victory for all of the Quechan Nation."

"We are very pleased to see that an international tribunal recognized the obligation of state and local governments to respect indigenous cultural rights. We also note the United States Government worked with the Quechan Tribe in defending its interests, and that the Tribe's voice was heard at the hearing," stated Courtney

Ann Coyle, Attorney for the Quechan Tribe.

"We sincerely hope that the Tribe's actions will pave the way for increased participation by other indigenous peoples in international economic law disputes."

However, the ruling does not appear to affect GoldCorp's mining claims in the land. The Tribe has continued its strong opposition to mining — or any development — in this sacred place. The Tribe will be examining its options to further ensure protection of this place in perpetuity.

Preservation would be consistent with the United States' position in the dispute that, "Glamis's unpatented mining claims . . . never included the right to mine in any manner which interfered with the state's ability to accommodate the free exercise of religion, injured Native American sacred sites or endangered the environment or public health and safety."

Under such an interpretation of the law, use of the land cannot proceed in violation of those tribal rights/interests. The international tribunal found Glamis's claims wanting, as the Clinton Administration found their claims under domestic land use laws equally flawed.

The Tribe intends to call upon the Obama Administration to confirm the validity of the original Solicitor's Opinion in this matter, which determined that BLM has the ability and indeed the obligation to deny mines that would impair or degrade native sacred places.

A federal court agreed with the original Opinion, application of which would lead to another denial of the mine, should GoldCorp or another company foolishly seek to permit it in

Obama Announces Senior Policy Advisor for Native American Affairs

Courtesy of The White House - Office of the Press Secretary

In taped remarks to the 2009 National Congress of American Indians Mid-Year Conference, President Barack Obama announced the appointment of Kimberly Teehee as Senior Policy Advisor for Native American Affairs. The Conference was held Monday, June 14th to June 17th in Niagara Falls, New York. As a member of the Domestic Policy Council, Teehee will advise the President on issues impacting Indian Country.

President Obama also announced that the White House will hold a Tribal Nations Conference later this fall.

"Kim Teehee will be a tremendous asset to our team as we work to strengthen and build on the Nation-to-Nation relationship between the United States and tribal nations," said President Obama. "She is rightly recognized as an outstanding advocate for Indian Country, and she will provide a direct interface at the highest level of my Administration, assuring a voice for Native Americans during policy making decisions."

Since January of 1998, Teehee has served as a Senior Advisor to the House of Representatives Native American Caucus Co-Chair, Congressman Dale Kildee (D-MI). A member of the Cherokee Nation, she has also served as the Director of Native American Outreach for the Presidential Inaugural Committee for President Clinton's second Inauguration. Prior to that, Teehee was the Deputy Director of Native American Outreach at the Democratic National Com-

mittee. She has also held various positions with the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, including serving as a Law Clerk in the Division of Law and Justice.

Teehee received her Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Northeastern State University and her Juris Doctorate from the University of Iowa, College of Law. While in law school, Teehee was honored with the Bureau of National Affairs Award and served in leadership positions in the National Native American Law Student Association and the Iowa Native American Law Student Association.

President Obama's taped remarks to the National Congress of American Indians Mid-Year Conference follow:

"Good morning everyone. I appreciate this opportunity to speak with you today and to express my admiration and support for the critical work NCAI does advocating for the rights and aspirations of American Indians and Alaska Natives. I'm also pleased to have the chance to acknowledge your President, Joe Garcia, for his outstanding leadership in this regard."

"As you all know, our nation is at a defining moment, facing challenges unlike any in our lifetime, both at home and abroad. And as we work to rebuild our economy, strengthen our security and ensure that our children have every opportunity to fulfill their dreams, we'll need every American and every community to get involved".

"That is why I am committed

to strengthening and building on the Nation-to-Nation relationship between the United States and tribal nations. That commitment started with the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which provides over \$3 billion in funding for Indian Country. And it extends to our work to empower Native communities to address their pressing local priorities, starting with significant increases in the 2010 proposed budget for health care, law enforcement and education."

"I recognize that this budget proposal does not make up for past deficiencies, but it does reflect my determination to work with you to reevaluate our spending priorities and include Native Americans in the national policy debate."

"These efforts will not be easy. At times the pace of progress will be frustrating. But I am confident that we can bring the change we need, particularly given the outstanding team of leaders and experts whom I've chosen to join my administration. And I am delighted to announce that someone many of you know — Kim Teehee — will soon be joining the White House Domestic Policy Council."

"As we move forward, I want you to know that my staff and I are eager to engage with Indian Country on your priorities — to listen to you and learn from you. I am particularly looking forward to meeting with many of you at the Tribal Nations Conference we will hold at the White House later this fall."

spite of the site's history.

The traditional lands of the Quechan Tribe include the area protected in the Clinton-era decision originally denying the Glamis Gold mine, a denial that was later rescinded by the Bush

Administration.

The Indian Pass area then became the poster child for successful hard rock mining reform in California. The Tribe has utilized the Indian Pass area since time immemorial for

religious, ceremonial and educational purposes.

The Indian Pass area was also designated as one of the 11 Most Endangered Historic Places in 2002 by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Pipa Market To Relocate After July 4th Weekend

San Pasqual Seeks Input on Programs



Take a good, long look: The original Pipa Market will soon be gone, to make way for a new Indian Health Service Clinic to be built in the same location. QUECHAN NEWS Photo by William Isbell

Construction continues on the old Senior Nutrition Building, as the conversion continues for its new tenants: Pipa Market and the Quechan Barbershop.

Walt Brooks of the Quechan EDA reports that things are proceeding nicely, and they are even a little under budget right now. All of the new walls are in and textured, and the roof has been replaced, right down to the trusses in some areas.

New plumbing to accommo-

date sinks for the barbershop has been installed, and the restrooms are also refurbished.

Meanwhile, the original Pipa Market will stay in business through the July 4th holiday weekend, to serve the hundreds of boaters and off-road enthusiasts passing through to Senator Wash and Picacho Peak. Once the holiday rush is over, Mr. Brooks expects the new location to be completely ready, so Chris Emerson and the Pipa Market

staff can pack up for their move across the street beginning the week of July 8th.

The new Pipa Market (and Barbershop) should be open for business by mid-July.

Once they've moved, demolition will begin on the old store, originally built in the early 1970's. The Quechan Economic Development Agency says it will come down much faster than it went up, so it will be only a memory by August 1st.

The California state budget problems that have been in the news most recently have "trickled down" to impact local agencies, and are beginning to affect plans for the upcoming school year at the San Pasqual Valley Unified School District (SPVUSD), as well. Recognizing the need to be prepared for possible further cutbacks, the District has prepared a survey, asking both parents and students to express their preferences on both athletic programs and extracurricular activities.

The surveys were distributed to students to bring home to parents about the middle of May. However, many parents attending the school board meeting on June 9 expressed surprise when told that the survey had been conducted. Apparently, as soon as they were passed out, quite a few students "lost" their survey forms between their classrooms and home.

Superintendent David Shoneman says the survey period is still open, and welcomes any additional input the community wishes to provide prior to the return to school in August. He says his staff still has the survey forms available at the District Office at the corner of Baseline and San Pasqual School Road.

Parents and guardians wishing to take part in the survey can drop by and pick up a copy of each of the surveys during normal business hours any time this summer. Although the District has not set a closing date for the survey, the sooner you make your opinion known, the sooner your votes will be counted!

Each survey has been custom designed to fit the curriculum and expected activities for each school; elementary middle



Baseball or football? Wrestling or track? The San Pasqual Unified School District faces tough decisions under pressure from the state's budget woes.

QUECHAN NEWS Photo by William Isbell

school and high school.

The elementary school survey lists a total of 18 possible "clubs" that could be promoted at the school, from art to dance, to Taekwondo or Quechan Language studies. A similar survey for middle school lists 8 additional interests, such as ceramics, guitar and fitness.

Both the middle school and high school also have surveys available devoted strictly to possible athletic programs for the coming school year.

Each survey asks parents to go down the list of clubs or sports, and mark a box next to each, rating their interest from 1 to 5. The athletic surveys also have an additional box that can be marked as indicating "no interest at all". All surveys also give a "1" rating as the top choice, with a "5" being last place (just like grading a test).

So, if your child excels in sports or reading, loves gardening or really wants to take part in creative learning activities, now is your chance to give your child the boost he or she needs.



Eligibility Limitations for Quechan School Clothing Assistance Program 2009

New eligibility limitations have gone into effect for the Quechan Tribe's School Clothing Assistance Program.

This year, the program will be limited to Tribal Members from age 3 through 18, or those entering the Head Start Program through 12th grade. In previous years, higher education students going to college or trade school were also able to apply for clothing assistance, but the current economic climate has impacted tribal revenues, leading to

some program cutbacks.

Rather than end this program altogether, the program's directors feel the younger students (not yet old enough to hold a job and earn extra clothing money for themselves) should continue to receive necessary support, while the older (adult) students will be better able to seek employment or other means to provide their own clothes for school.

Applications for the School Clothing Assistance Program will be available at the Tribal

Administration Office beginning at 8:00 AM, Monday, July 13. Students must be enrolled in school full time in order to participate.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact one of the following at the Quechan Tribe Finance Office at (760) 572-0213: Either Robin Estrada (Finance Manager) at Extension 214; Dianna Waters (Revenue Distribution Manager) at Extension 274; or Ina Hopper (Revenue Distribution Assistant) at Extension 220.

Tribal Court Moving

The Quechan Tribal Court will soon be relocating to its new building behind Paradise Casino formerly known as the Tribal Gaming Agency (TGA) office. The move should take place the week of June 29th - July 3rd.

The Quechan Tribal Court's mailing address will remain the same:

P.O. Box 1899, Yuma, AZ 85366

Their new physical address will be:

450 Quechan Drive, Winterhaven, CA 92283

If you have any questions, you may call

(760) 572-5552

PUBLIC RELEASE (Nonpricing Program)

The Quechan Tribe Education Complex (Head Start - Quechan Child Care - Paradise Child Care - JOM/IEC) announces sponsorship of the Child Care Food Program. The program is available without charge to all eligible participants. Children are served the same meals at **no separate charge**. "The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, or political beliefs. Persons with disabilities who require alternate means for communication or program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (Voice and TDD)."

To file a discrimination complaint, write:
USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights
Room 326-W, Whitten Building
4th and Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 290250-9410
or call 202-720-5964 (Voice and TDD).
USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

For more information, contact:

Ft. Yuma Quechan Head Start
628 Picacho Rd. Building 4
760-572-0263



A Message to all Quechan Tribe Members:

A Community Meeting has been called by the Tribal Council to combat Diabetes and its terrible effects

DIABETES AND YOU!

All Tribal members are encouraged to attend this very important meeting on Diabetes education and prevention. The time for you to learn about Diabetes is NOW! Special guest speakers will focus on:

How to prevent Diabetes How to live with Diabetes How to control your Diabetes

It's time to be pro-active and take action now to reduce the impact of Diabetes on you and your family!

Breakfast and lunch will be provided - Participants that stay through the whole event will receive T-Shirts

Saturday, June 27th, 2009
10AM to 3 PM at the Quechan Community Center
Sponsored by the Special Diabetes Project and The Special Diabetes Committee

Quechan Summer Programs By Age Groups

Kindergarten - 2nd Grade ADAPP

Monday Thru Thursday
12:30 PM Until 4:30 PM
June 22nd to July 9th

1st and 2nd Grades Parks and Recreation

Monday Thru Friday
8AM Until Noon
June 15th to July 2nd

1st Thru 4th Grades JOM "Elementary"

Monday Thru Friday
9 AM Until 3 PM
June 10th to June 29th

3rd Thru 5th Grades Parks and Recreation

Monday Thru Friday
8AM Until Noon
July 13th to July 31st

Grades 1st Thru 3rd Quechan Language Program

Monday - Thursday
9:00 AM To 12:00 Noon
July 15th to June 25th

3rd Thru 5th Grade ADAPP

Monday Thru Thursday
12:30 PM Until 4:30 PM
July 13th to July 30th

Grades 4th Thru 6th Quechan Language Program

Monday - Thursday
9:00 AM To 12:00 Noon
June 29th to July 9th

5th Thru 8th Grades JOM "Middle School"

Monday Thru Friday
9 AM Until 3 PM
July 1st to July 20th

Grades 7th Thru 12th Quechan Language Program

Monday - Thursday
9:00 AM To 12:00 Noon
July 13th to July 24th

11 to 14 Years Old ADAPP "Middle School"

Friday, July 3rd and
Friday, July 17th
4 PM Until 7 PM

15 to 17 Years Old ADAPP "High School"

Friday, July 24th and
Friday, July 31st
4 PM Until 7 PM

9th Thru 12th Grades JOM "High School"

Monday Thru Friday
5 PM Until 8 PM
July 22nd to August 10th

For More Information on Parks and Recreation Programs, Call: 572-1242

For More Information on Quechan Language Programs, Call: 572-4412

For More Information on Johnson/O'Malley (JOM) Programs, Call: 572-0648

For More Information on ADAPP Programs, Call: 572-0232

Census Bureau Seeking Tribal Partnerships

The United States Commerce Department spent the early part of June putting a great deal of effort into recruiting Tribal members as “Tribal Partnership Assistants” to conduct the Census in 2010. Part of that effort involved meeting with Pearl Cowan of the Quechan Tribe’s Tribal Employment Rights Office (TERO) and Allyson Collins of the Economic Development Administration (EDA), to get the message out that the Census wants to hire workers locally. They are looking for people who live here and know the area, who know their neighbors, to be sure that every effort will be made to get the most accurate count possible.

“This is a great opportunity for community members to actively engage themselves,” says Pearl, “to efficiently communicate and coordinate with the community “one-on-one”. Plus, it gives them the opportunity for a great paying temporary Federal job!”

One position, the Tribal Part-



U.S. Census recruiter Jack Carey explains the testing process to applicants who have applied for positions in the area. Photo by William Isbell

nership Assistant, will help make up for the fact that the Census Bureau has always seen Tribal lands (and similar rural communities) as “hard to count”. With reservations being sovereign nations, the Bureau has often been viewed as an unwarranted intrusion, poking about in private matters when they appear once every ten years, asking questions and “poking about” people’s property, sometimes even inadvertently ignoring tribal norms

and customs in the process.

But the results of the Census affects funding in our community, which affects our voice in Congress, and the Quechan Tribe’s representation in state and local government by determining the borders of Congressional Districts. The Census helps to inform the community in deciding changes that are crucial to many planning decisions, such as where to provide services for the elderly, where to build

new roads and schools, or where to locate job training centers.

With so much riding on an accurate count, the Census Bureau has made local Census Workers an important part of their plan.

Allyson Collins says the recruiting drive in June saw up to 30 Quechan Tribe members expressing an interest in testing for the positions available here at Fort Yuma. On June 16th, Jack Carey of the Riverside Local Census Office conducted testing at the Quechan Education Complex for those who applied.

The hour-long test is made up of five parts: Clerical skills, reading ability, basic math, evaluating alternatives (problem solving) and organizational skills. Applicants can also pick up extra points based on additional characteristics such as being a veteran or spouse of a service member.

Of course, the Census doesn’t expect to need all 30 applicants once the actual count begins next April, so they will be able to choose only the most highly

qualified applicants available once the Census begins.

“National Census Day” on April 1st has always been the traditional start of the process, so Census Workers will receive about 3 and a half days of training in late March of 2010, to be ready to start the job of counting fellow Tribe Members on the first Thursday in April.

Partnership Assistants can be trusted voices within the community, and can motivate and encourage everyone to take part in the 2010 count. Since they will be people who live here and know their neighbors, their habits, and their families, it is hoped that even those who live in the most isolated, out of the way locations will be contacted and included in the count.

Pearl Cowan, of the TERO office, sums it up this way: “When you see your Tribal member knocking at the door or gathering data for the U.S. Census at traditional and cultural events next spring, please remember they are there for you.”

NOTICE

**The Quechan Indian Tribe
is seeking interested
Tribal Members to fill
the position of Clerk on the
Quechan Election Board.**

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

The Deadline is July 2nd, 2009

COMMUNITY EXPRESSIONS

In memory of our beloved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, the family of Thelma Rita Aguerro extends a sincere “Thank You” to our relatives and friends during our recent time of sorrow:

Thank you all, to the Quechan Tribal Council; Quechan Casino Resort; Quechan Artists Marketplace; Quechan Police Department; Father D. Monahan of the St. Thomas Catholic Church; Quechan Senior Center; the combined choirs of Fort Yuma; the Peace and Dignity Runners; Quechan Paradise Casino; Evelyn Berryman at the Ross Corner Store; Mr. Ruben Macias and the Aztec Dancers of Baldwin Park, CA.; Mr. John Crisman

and Mr. Bobby Wallace of the Viejas Tribe; Mr. Leroy Elliott of Manzanita; Quechan elder Mr. Vernon Smith; Mr. Samson Evanston of Needles, CA; Mr. Larry Hammond, Jr. and Lionel Hammond; Millie Grover and Willetta Wilder of Peach Springs, AZ; Susan Koteen; the volunteers and kitchen staff; Cryselle Uribe; Mr. Keeny Escalanti, Sr.; Mr. and Mrs. Mike Jackson, Sr. and family; uncle Marlo Rose; the Quechan Ah-Keel Group; the Meetah Clan; and the Meeden family.

And thanks also to anyone we may have missed.

*Respectfully Submitted by
Christina and Arlie Emerson*

*Christopher M. Emerson & Family
Rodney W. Hunter and Family
Daniel J. Hunter and Family
Jamison L. Emerson and Family
Roosevelt Family
Aguerro Family
Gary L. Hunter
Robin Estrada and Family
Montano Family
Wallace Wilson and Family
Emerson Clan
Ruby Johnson and Family
Pearl Robles and Family
Manchado Families*

You can bring your Community Expressions letters to The Quechan News office on Quechan Drive or mail them to the address on bottom of page 2.

LONESTAR PLAYS AT THE NEW PARADISE EVENT CENTER



Country superstars Lonestar opened the new Paradise Event Center on June 7th with a sold-out 90 minute concert. The new event center was created by refurbishing the old California Casino, and locals did all the work. Tribe members Alex Waters and Darwin Welsh even manned the spotlights for the first show!

KING OF THE CAGE



The "Q's" CEO Marty Gross sat at ringside with King of the Cage founder and owner Terry Trebilcock.



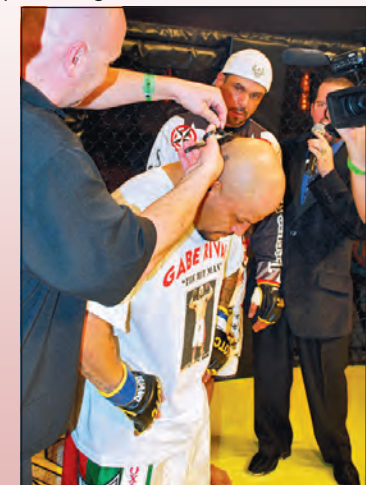
Though some matches were pretty punishing to watch, some were definitely more punishing than others!



Roscoe Jackson wasted no time in his bout against Anthony Rowland as he rained blindingly quick blows on his opponent. Here he stands over Rowland seconds before his win.

Victor Valenzuela captured the Junior Welterweight Title in the final bout of the night against defending champion Gabe Rivas.

The first live, nationwide pay-per-view broadcast from the Q was a "blow-out" success, with a sold-out crowd at the the Pipa Event Center. Mixed martial arts fighters from all over the desert southwest engaged in no holds barred contests inside the cage, as fans all over America got a good look the Quechan nation's newest venue for sports and entertainment during intermission. Things went so smoothly, the promoter is even considering returning for another pay-per-view show in September!



Gabe Rivas has his famous long braided lock of hair cut away from the back of his head, signifying he has retired from the ring at the completion of his last fight at the Quechan Casino Resort.

Splash Day Fun for '09

As soon as school gets out for the summer, the Rainbow Pool holds "Splash Day" every year, marking the beginning of the carefree vacation months that kids look forward to all year. This year, Splash Day was held on Saturday, June 6th, and the entire community turned out for food, fun and frolicking in the sun. The afternoon event saw hundreds of kids from 2 to 62 laughing and swimming during the coolest summer day in recent memory. Adults and kids were even seen passing each other on the water slides!



Splash day always features lots of great giveaways for everyone, regardless of age. Adults and kids lined up for their free raffle tickets, and listened through out the day for announcements of the winning numbers. Their were towels, water toys and even MP3 players awarded for both boys and girls - mom and dad, too!



The pool-side basketball net also got more than it's fair share of action, with a game of hoops that rotated players going at it all afternoon. It seems as if every kid there in fourth, fifth and sixth grade took turns shooting and blocking the ball and performing spectacular leaps and saves - after all, the water in the pool is a lot softer than the gym floor, so more risks can be taken!

All Photos on this page by William Isbell