

VOLUME 103, ISSUE 16 ♦ WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2009

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A Report from The
QUECHAN CULTURAL COMMITTEE
 Advancing Kw'ts'an Culture Through Preservation

Kw'ts'an Traditional Lands Under Attack

In an effort to raise awareness within the community about projects affecting Kw'ts'an cultural resources off of the reservation, the Historic Preservation Office, on behalf of the Kw'ts'an Cultural Committee, will write a monthly column on current and upcoming projects. This month's column will focus on the "Windzero" Project in Imperial County and renewable energy projects throughout Yuma and Imperial Counties.

Written By:
Bridget Nash-Chrabascz,
Historic Preservation Officer

Located on private land in Ocotillo, California, the "Windzero Project" will consist of several test tracks (for law enforcement training), apartments, convenience stores, and Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) areas.

An archaeological survey was conducted of the area and over one-hundred sites were located within the project area, nine of which are cremations. Numerous letters from the Historic Preservation Office, the Native American Heritage Commission, as well as other Tribes within the area, have been written to the Imperial County Planning and Development Office expressing concerns about the project, demanding that the project not be permitted to move forward. To



Quechan Cultural Committee member, Manfred Scott, and his daughter, Vemocka, walk the desert.

QUECHAN HISTORIC PRESERVATION Photo by Bridget Nash-Chrabascz

date the project is still being reviewed by the County.

In June 2009, President Obama instructed all federal agencies to allow renewable energy development on lands under their jurisdiction. Because of this mandate, we have seen a flood of solar, wind, and geothermal energy project applications into the area. The Bureau of Land Management has been hit the hardest and is currently fast-tracking roughly 676,048 acres for solar energy development (there are many more but these are the first out of the gate). Some of the areas proposed for solar energy development lie adjacent to reservation along the north and west boundaries. Solar projects have recently

been proposed near Dateland, Quartzsite, Blythe, and Indian Pass. Numerous tribes, including the Kw'ts'an, and environmental groups have raised concerns over the number and size of these projects.

Each project has the potential to encompass several hundred thousand acres and each will require large quantities of water. With the number of applications and the large area needed for the panels and operation, not including the required transmission lines, we are faced with significant losses of cultural resources, animal and plant habitats, and water. In an effort to reduce the number of solar and geothermal projects in the desert, many environmental groups have begun

asking that the renewable energy companies seek out and only be permitted on abandoned farm lands, instead of the desert, as the abandoned farm land had been repeatedly disturbed previously. Concern over the technology has been raised as well. Due to solar technology being fairly new, it is constantly being updated.

Many environmental groups, as well as Tribes, are concerned that once the technology placed in the ground is obsolete that it will be abandoned only to have another solar plant with newer technology built down the road.

Due the number of projects

threatening the Tribe's traditional land area the Cultural Committee is currently seeking new members.

If you have an interest in preserving and protecting the resources of the Tribe please write a letter to Pauline Jose, Cultural Committee Chair, expressing your interest. You do not need to speak Kw'ts'an to be a member of the Committee.

If you have any questions or would like more information about the aforementioned projects please feel free to stop by the Historic Preservation Office or call Bridget at (760)572-2423.

FORT YUMA INDIAN HEALTH CLINIC

Beginning Tuesday, September 1st, the Fort Yuma Service Unit began a concerted effort to update each patient's demographic, insurance, and contact information. The goal is to update 100% of all patients over the next 60 days.

Updated and current demographic information is advantageous to both you as the patient and Ft. Yuma IHS as your healthcare provider. First and foremost it will improve continuity of care by enabling your primary provider, health care team, and Contract Health Services to contact you for pertinent medical issues (such as critical lab results, referrals to outside providers, medication adjustments, appointment confirmation or changes, etc). Secondly, it improves our business processes (such as 3rd party, Medicare, or Medicaid billing) and efficiency paying outside medical sources.

The Fort Yuma Patient Registration Staff will be leading this effort. Therefore, when you sign in for an appointment you will be asked to update your demographic, insurance and contact information. Also be aware that you can update your information at any time – no appointment is required. We are asking for your help with this effort and want to thank you in advance for that assistance.

Ric Pollard, RN
Indian Health Services - Ft Yuma Service Unit

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 Kw'ts'an Pipá. 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

Items Requested For Display Rotation At the Quechan Casino Cultural Center

*Courtesy of Allyson Collins
Quechan EDA*

Since the publication of the June 24, 2009, issue of the Quechan News, which included an article announcing the opening of the Cultural Center at the Quechan Casino Resort (the Q), the Quechan Economic Development Administration (EDA) has received word from only a few Tribal members interested in lending cultural items for display.

The lack of wide-spread interest in lending cultural items for display threatens the sustainability of the Cultural Center. With the late-August expira-



Some of the items currently on display at the Quechan Casino Resort's Cultural Center will soon go home with their owner. Do you have items you'd like to share?
QUECHAN NEWS Photos by William Isbell

tion of one of the two lending more items.

agreements for items currently To date, EDA received word on display, the Cultural Center from four Tribal members will now has space to display several ing to display their items, includ-

ing beaded capes, traditional dresses, and arrows. Readers of the *Quechan News* will soon see such items on display. For the Cultural Center to be sustainable, a steady inventory of items for display must be available on a rotating basis.

The EDA strives to give opportunities to other Tribal members interested in sharing some of their cultural treasures with the public. The EDA renews its call to Tribal members to consider lending their items for display at the Cultural Center.

Interested Tribal members can contact Allyson Collins, EDA Specialist, at the EDA Office, at (760) 572-5270 to arrange for their items to be displayed. A written agreement will be used by lenders to set the length of time that the items would be displayed, from as little as three months to as long as a year. Tribal members lending their items can feel secure as all items

on display at Cultural Center are well-protected from harm or theft, are kept in locked display cases and under constant closed-circuit video surveillance. If necessary, Tribal members can retrieve their items before the term expires.

If the EDA receives calls from only a few interested Tribal members, then the EDA will have to place on hold the plans to further develop the Cultural Center, and consult with the Q and the Tribal Council to re-evaluate whether more appropriate uses for the space exist.

Many patrons of the Q desire opportunities to see our rich Quechan history and the Cultural Center is an outstanding space for that heritage to be displayed.

Please consider lending your items, and play an important part in sharing the Tribe's precious culture and heritage, before it is too late.

Get Ready for the Fall Festival September 26, 2009 From 4 to 8 PM At the West End of Indian Hill

With Music and Games* for the Kids:

**Fish Pond • Basketball Throw
Cake Walk • Face Painting**

**Food*: Frybread
Hamburgers • Root Beer Floats**

**Tickets will be sold
for these items*

**And Drawings* to be held
for various items/prizes**

**A Fundraiser Event
for the
Ft. Yuma Methodist
Church**

**Contact:
Pastor Lilda Burnham
(928) 920-5458 Cell**

PUBLIC NOTICE:

Change in Pharmacy Hours

*The Pharmacy at the Ft Yuma Indian Health Clinic
will be closed for 30 minutes every Friday,
from 11:30 AM to Noon.*

*This half hour closing each week allows the
Chief Pharmacist time to hold meetings
with her staff.*

*This time was selected because it has proven to be
the time period each week least used by patients.*

*The Pharmacy will continue to be Open
from 9:00 AM to 7:00 PM Monday thru Friday*

Planning Begins for Quechan Riverfront

Continued from Page 1

He explained that a grant from the Bureau of Reclamation allowed them to begin planning for the park about six months ago. Their concept is now far enough along to seek community input, before too many details are “locked down”, and changes (or improvements to the plan) become difficult.

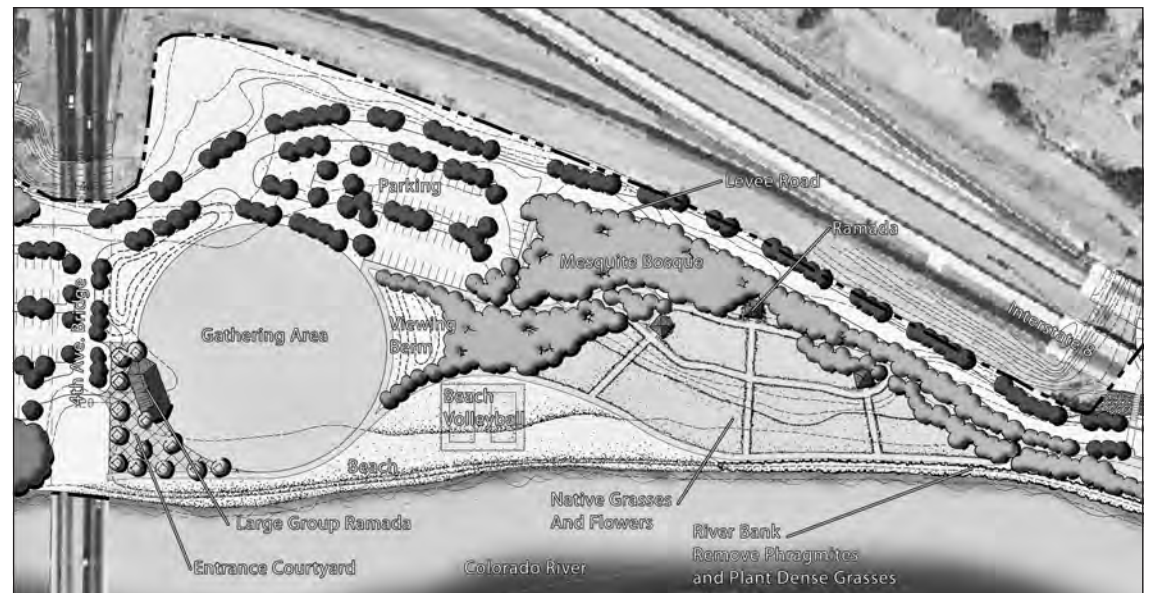
“We’ve had a positive response so far both from the Tribal Council and from the elders we’ve presented this park to,” said Phillips, “and after you’ve seen our presentation today, Allyson Collins and Brian Golding of the EDA and I hope you can give us your comments. Once we know what you think of it and what you like, we will put a final concept together, and then we’ll go and get some money, and we can start building it!”

The first section of the park and the portion that they hope to begin with once construction gets under way is a beach area that runs west of the Ocean-To-Ocean Bridge towards the Fourth Avenue Bridge. Right now, that area doesn’t have a lot to recommend it as a place to take your family, he says,

but once the weeds and debris are removed from the retaining walls around the I-8 bridge area, and the bulrushes along the banks of the Colorado are pulled out, it should be easy to extend the beach area and make things there much more presentable.

A walkway that skirts the edge of the river will begin in this area, and circulate west past a display covering the history of the Quechan Ferry from the 1800’s, then to a small pier, and on farther past a native grass and flower garden. All along the walkway, higher up the bank, will be mesquite and willow tree plantings. The walkway will continue along the edge of the river to beach volleyball courts and a large, circular grass gathering area that will have a viewing berm on one side, and a shaded ramada on the other. The main parking area for the park will also be located nearby.

Once the walking trail passes under the Fourth Avenue Bridge, it will enter an area set aside for dry camping under a cottonwood grove. The roadway for cars and RVs will also pass under the bridge and circulate through the cottonwood groves, and alongside a huge mesquite



A large, grassy gathering area with a large, covered ramada may be built just next to the Fourth Avenue Bridge, to take advantage of afternoon shade. Nearby will be a beach with volleyball courts, and native flower plantings.

bosque to the north. Across from the campground, a tree farm will be planted on the other side of the drainage canal.

One highlight not mentioned so far is the plan to include a multilevel wall and pathway, with plantings in the center that comes to a point, directed south towards the Pivot Point. Right now, the planners are calling this area “Eagle Plaza”, because the point resembles an eagle’s beak, and the two slightly curved wall extending east and west from it give the impression of wings.

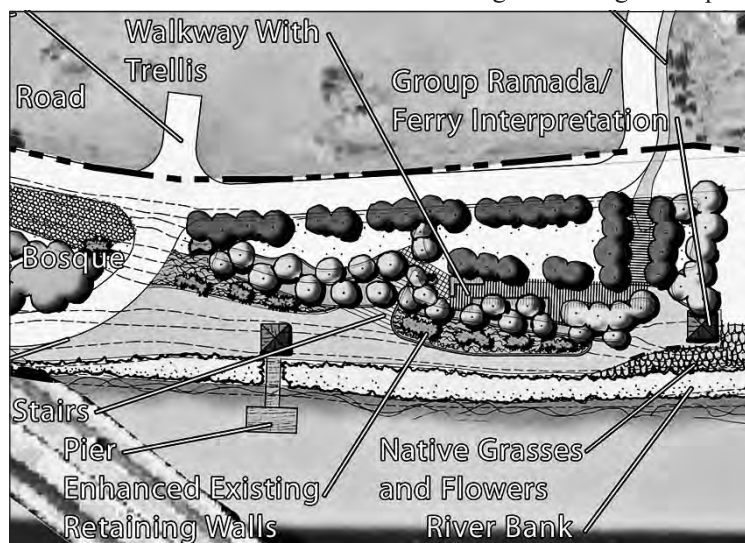
Just north of “Eagle Plaza”, a walkway will connect the ex-

isting Diabetes Walking Park to the river walk trail system of the new beachfront park. When completed, a person will be able walk for miles along the trails and move easily from the campground area to the Evergreen Park. The whole complex of parks and trails on the southwest side below Indian Hill could allow the Quechan Tribe’s Indian Days Celebration (as well as other gatherings) grow into even bigger, more comfortable family affairs.

Of course, all of this is still a year or two away and there are a thousand details still to

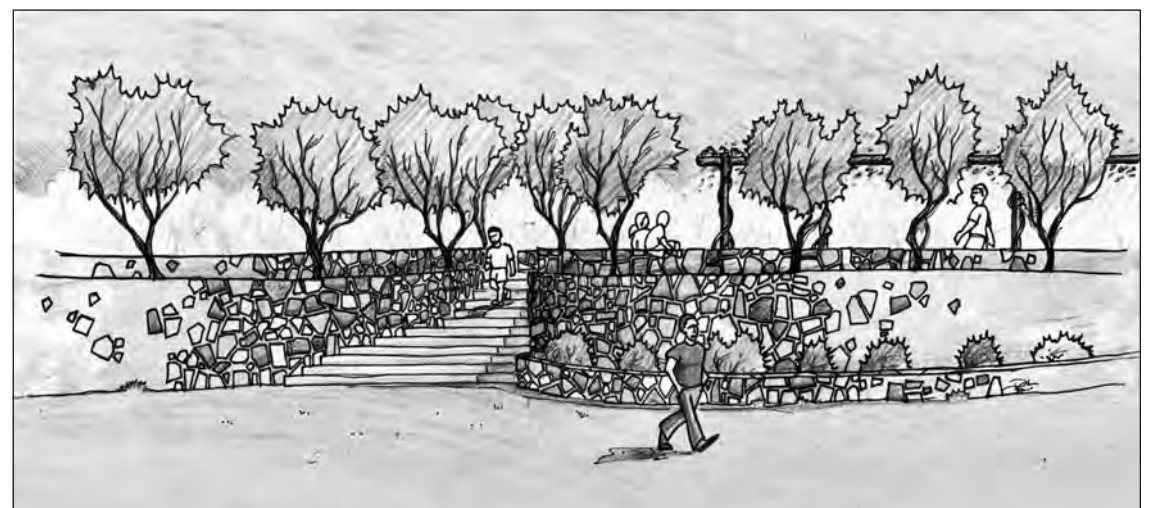
be worked out. Not to mention, locating the grants to fund the construction, as well as the environmental permits that must be gathered, when working so close to a major waterway!

Although the EDA and Fred Phillips passed out comment sheets to get ideas and input from everyone at the meeting, this won’t be the last time they ask for input on the new park. Once the suggestions from everyone who attended the August meeting are incorporated, there will be further presentations made, so watch for those announcements!



One unique aspect of the park as currently planned is this handicap accessible pier that extends out over the river, allowing everyone a chance to “get out on the water” to intimately experience the Colorado River.

Concept Illustrations courtesy of Fred Phillips Associates



The retaining walls along the edge of the Interstate will have the weeds and debris that has blown up around them removed, and mesquite trees planted, along with a trellis, to create a shaded walkway above the pier.

Little “JAMS” Dancer Prepares For Yuma High Invitational Program

Five year old Anaya Cachora enrolled in the Yuma JAMS Dance Center in April of this year, partly because she thought she might like it, and part because her mom, Nichole, wants her to get into healthy habits. As time went on, it quickly became obvious Anaya enjoyed the activity and motion of dance, so she continued through the “Summer Intensive Program” at JAMS. During the summer, she made sufficient progress in her dancing to make the school’s “Jamies” list, made up of the smallest students, from 3 to 7, who take part in their public programs and recitals.

Now that the fall season has begun, Anaya is enrolled in four classes, to prepare for the annual Yuma High Invitational Dance Performance in November. To prepare for her part in the show, Anaya is taking acrobatics, jazz dance, the tap and ballet combination class, and the special



Five year old Anaya Cachora is currently enrolled in four classes at the JAMS Dance School, and is looking forward to her part in the presentation her school will make in November. QUECHAN NEWS Photo by William Isbell

class for *Jamies* that teaches them how to work together in a dance company, learn their parts, and prepare for performing in front of the public.

She’s made such rapid progress in dance that her mother is not only thrilled, but she wants the community to know how much it seems to have advanced both Anaya’s self-esteem and

her general health.

“It’s teaching her discipline and giving her exercise,” says her mom, Tribe Member Nichole Montague. “That’s something I’m very big on. Whether she ends up in dance, softball, or basketball, whatever it is she does in life, I want her to dive in and just ‘go for it!’”

Her mother is really empha-

sizing the activity and exercise angle of modern dance for it’s important health benefits, in addition to the social aspects of being part of a larger group.

“With tribal members being so prone to diabetes, developing heart disease, and all of that,” she explains, “I hope that if we start her being active right now, as a child, she’ll keep active for

the rest of her life. Plus — it’s a great way to maybe end up with a ‘full ride’ scholarship later, and her athletic ability will be that much greater!”

But Nichole also has another item she’s hoping to stress, and that is the benefit other Tribe members may gain in joining the JAMS Program, and moving through the ranks with her little girl over the coming dance seasons. “She’s the only tribal member in JAMS,” says Nichole, “and it would be great if more of her people were here with her, so she could open up more, and relate better with her people.” Nichole says that as much as Anaya enjoys dance, she knows that she’d love it even more if she had friends there with her, to share in the experience.

“And you know, it’s really affordable,” she continues. “We started out small, only putting her in one class when she

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Update on Stimulus Grants For Water/Sewer Improvements

The August 12 issue of *Quechan News* carried a story on four recent grant awards that are earmarked for infrastructure improvements to the water and sewer systems on the Quechan Indian Reservation.

A number of tribal members have been asking about possible job openings on the projects described in that article. Bill Hirt, the Quechan Water and Sewer Project Coordinator has provided further details regarding employment opportunities on these upcoming projects.

He says there are still several permits and last minute engineering hurdles to be cleared before the first spadeful of dirt can be turned, but he expects to put current tribal employees



to work constructing the water service lines and the sewer line. He also says a limited number of new workers may be needed as things get rolling. Both of these projects are expected to “get off the ground” early this coming winter or in the spring of 2010.

The more complex lift station rebuild and sewer manhole re-

build projects mentioned in the August article will be contracted out. Work on those two projects is expected to start in the time-frame of March of next year.

The contractors who submit winning bids may need workers for both of these projects. Pearl Cowan will be working with these companies through the TERO program to ensure that as many tribal members as possible are hired for this work.

Altogether, the projects could take up to a year to complete, he said.

Job openings for these projects will be publicized in this newsletter. If you are interested, please watch for news of further developments as they become available.



Summer Youth Program 2009

The summer sessions of the Quechan annual WIA/DOL youth work experience program came to an end on August 14, 2009.

This year was a very successful year inasmuch as we were able to serve 205 youth, with 185 completing the program. This almost doubled the number of youth served last year.

We would like to thank all the departments that offered worksites as the program would not have been successful without them. The WIA/DOL staff would also like to thank all the partners and participants for their cooperation.

This year we received additional funding through the

Presidents American Recovery Reinvestment Act coupled with the Quechan tribes support and funding assistance, which allowed for the additional number of participants to be served.

We have also received several requests from worksites to extend participants as they proved to be very efficient on the job and showed their interest and appreciation for giving them the opportunity to gain work readiness skills.

We are looking forward for another great summer program for next year.

Mr. Earl Daniel
WIA/DOL Director
Ft. Yuma Quechan Tribe

HUNTING ON THE QUECHAN RESERVATION

With the Annual Dove Season now upon us, and thousands of hunters descending on the area to “bag” their share of the tasty little critters, it is a good time to remind everyone of the rules for hunting on the reservation. The permit prices below went into effect on August 1st, 2009. Annual Permits expire on June 30th, 2010.

For more information, contact Quechan Fish and Game at (760) 572-0544.

HUNTING PERMITS:	FISHING and CAMPING (3 Month Permit):	FISHING (Annual Permit):
\$65	\$100	\$65
OFF-ROAD PERMITS:	OFF-ROAD (One Day):	FISHING (One Day Permit):
\$65	\$10	\$10

Early Dove Season runs from sunrise to sunset each day from Sep. 1st to the 15th.

The 45 day Late Dove Season runs from sunrise to sunset each day from November 15, 2009 until December 29, 2009.

Bag Limits on Mourning Doves and Whitewing Doves: 10 per day on day one of each season, and a limit of 20 birds in possession (in aggregate) for each day thereafter.

There is NO LIMIT on non-native Eurasian (Banded Neck) Doves

Quail Season runs from sunrise to sunset each day from Oct. 17, 2009 to Jan. 26, 2010. There is a limit of 10 birds per day on Quail

Campers WITHOUT A VALID PERMIT will be subject to having their equipment and items confiscated and stored at the owner's expense until a fine is paid. Tribe members living on the Fort Yuma Reservation don't need a permit to hunt or fish, but they MUST show proof of enrollment and abide by the Bag Limits that apply to all hunters.

Little “JAMS” Dancer

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started. The first class is \$30.00, and each class after that is only twenty. So right now, in four classes, it's only \$90.00 a month for us, really reasonable.”

Although that may sound like a lot to some people, it costs her parents even less than minimum wage to be enrolled in JAMS. Anaya attends her 45 minute dance classes three days a week (with two classes on one day), so she's receiving the benefits of a professional teacher and coach for about \$7.50 an hour!

“We had her in another school before, and that one was \$45 for just one class!” she exclaims.

And with those classes have already led to five year old Anaya progressing to the level of making it to the Yuma High Invitational. The Invitational is an annual event held at Snider Auditorium, which has every dance school and studio in the area gathering to demonstrate



JAMS owner/instructor Myriah Farrar Heida helps Anaya show off her acrobatics and dance flexibility.

QUECHAN NEWS Photo by William Isbell

their expertise in ballet, jazz, modern interpretive dance and lyrical forms. If you are interested in getting involved, you can call the school at (928)783-3303, or drive by and speak to them in person at 845 South 3rd Avenue in Yuma.

ATTENTION! ATTENTION EVERYONE!

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN!

Time For The

YUMA STAR TALENT CONTEST!

*Come on out
and enjoy a night
of fun entertainment
as local talent*

**SAILEA
LEUTAKOUN**

*serenades herself
into our hearts!*



TICKETS ARE ONLY \$5

Wednesday, September 16 @ 7 PM

**At the Historic Yuma Theater
254 South Main Street**

(Get your Tickets from Dawn Escalante at the Quechan Senior Center)

Thanks a bunch! Hope to see you there!

Old Quechan Courthouse Gone



QUECHAN NEWS Photo by William Isbell

A work crew made up of workers from Quechan Utilities and the Quechan Work Force have spent the past couple of weeks removing the temporary buildings that once housed the Quechan Tribal Court and the Tribal Security Office.

Both offices relocated in July to the building behind the Paradise Event Center that once housed the California Tribal Gaming Agency. Their old offices next to the Pipa Market on Quechan Drive had slowly deteriorated in the extreme climate here at Fort Yuma.

The Quechan Economic Development Administration has already making plans for the area the buildings once occupied. When anything comes of those plans, you'll be sure to hear of it in the *Quechan News*!

Quechan ADAPP Volunteers Feed Crossroads Mission Clients

Volunteers from among both staff and clients of the Fort Yuma Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Program (ADAPP) pitched in to serve an “ethnic night” dinner at the Yuma Crossroads Mission on August 26th, bringing their infectious sense of fun and camaraderie into a sometimes gloomy world.

The whole idea of having the ADAPP crew help out at the mission began “percolating” in early August when Myra Gartlett (who “runs the Mission”) began teaching at an Assembly of God Church in Somerton to stand-in for a while as their substitute pastor. While there, she struck up a conversation with Frances Williams, an ADAPP client who is very involved as a local volunteer.

Ms. Bartlett told Francis about some of the failings the Mission seems to experience in reaching certain demographic groups for assistance, such as blacks and some Native groups. Her solution was to try to find representatives from those groups to come in to the Mission and help with “ethnic nights”, offering meals and entertainment that would appeal to those they are



“Little” Valerie José amazed the Crossroads staff with her speed in preparing the fry bread dough!



ADAPP Volunteer cooks crowd around the industrial kitchen stove at Yuma's Crossroads Mission. Shown here preparing the traditional frybread for the evening meal are Fredina Medina, Phelina Roosevelt, Francis Williams and Valerie José. QUECHAN NEWS Photos by William Isbell

trying harder to reach.

When Frances explained her connections to the Fort Yuma ADAPP Program, they both agreed that the first such “ethnic night” might come about through the assistance of volunteers from the Quechan Tribe.

When Frances then brought the idea into ADAPP the following week, Tom Fernandez brought her plan to ADAPP Director Randy Allen. Both Randy and Christina Allen said they would be happy to see what Frances could put together to make a Native American dinner at the Mission a reality.

Right now, the Crossroads Mission is celebrating their 50th year. Their stated goal is to offer life-changing programs that help individuals who are homeless, chemically dependent, or otherwise in need find stable employment and independent lives. As such, their objectives line up extremely well with the goals of the Fort Yuma ADAPP Program. Everyone on staff at ADAPP agreed that if their clients could put this together, it would be a great step toward their recovery, and a wonderful

opportunity to give back to the community, as well.

So, Frances brought a sheet of paper to Tom's next group meeting, and asked if anyone else was interested in pitching in to cook and feed the sheltered residents at the Crossroads Mission on August 26th. She soon had a full list of names! The plan quickly came together, and Mr. Allen arranged for supplies through the ADAPP budget.

On the afternoon of the 26th, most of the volunteers gathered at the ADAPP office early, to begin mixing up the ingredients and making the dough for about 12 dozen fry-bread tortillas. At the same time, Eileen Valenzuela-Tatro also began to produce the same amount in her kitchen at home, to add to the dough being made at the office.

By 2:00 PM, everyone piled into the ADAPP vans to swing by Eileen's house and pick up the other half of the dough, and they then headed into Yuma to take over the kitchen at the Crossroads Mission.

Going along with their “head cook, Frances Williams, the volunteers included Patricia Sweet-

ny, Denise Figueroa, Fredina Medina, Valerie José, Phelina Roosevelt, Marla Pacheco and Richard Cachora. Tom Fernandez went along to supervise, and he brought along a 10-year old student volunteer, Oliver Sweeny, who also wanted to do his part in “giving back”.

Kitchen Supervisor Kimberly Schaefer led the ADAPP volunteers into the kitchen, and they immediately “took over”, cooking up over 300 hot, delicious fry bread tortillas to accompany the menu of seasoned, shredded beef, rice, three kinds of beans, and salsa. A full spread with shredded lettuce, diced onions, cheese and tomatoes was also laid out, all washed down with lemonade, iced tea and Kool Aid. There was even cake for dessert!

Dinner was served at 4:45 and dozens of people lined up for a

great, free, hot meal. The volunteers also got to eat, and then they hopped up to let other take their places and continue their service to the community.

“I've been with the ADAPP Program for awhile now,” says Frances, “so I've been able to recover a bit of my self-esteem already. But the other ladies who stepped up for this were all so happy to be able to do something for somebody else, they all told me it made them feel so good, for the first time in a long time.”

“I just want to say that our clients took the lead on this,” says ADAPP Addictions Counselor Tom Fernandez. “Yes, Mr. Allen and Christina Allen approved and encouraged the whole project, but it was our clients who really stepped up and did a great job of putting this whole thing together for the Mission.”

THE HEAD START STAFF IS GEARING UP FOR ANOTHER SCHOOL YEAR!

On Tuesday, September 8, 2009 school begins for the Head Start students. We are anticipating the excitement of brand new parent(s) bringing their child to school for the first time.

It's an exciting time and we want to make sure all of our family members and visitors are safe while here.

We also have parents bringing their infants and toddlers to their Day Care providers. We know children can be unpredictable at times, many things catch their interest and they are easily distracted; to keep them safe we ask that when driving your vehicle through that you take extra precautions and watch for our little ones.

PLEASE allow yourself the time that you need to avoid any rushing and unexpected delays.



Young Fan Gets Best Seat in the House!

Ariel Gilbert's mom is a "big 80's fan" when it comes to music. Her kids hear it at home and in the car, all day long.

Some of that rubbed off on Ariel, who has developed into a huge *Blondie* fan. When she heard the band would be here, appearing at the Quechan Casino Resort, she began to pester her mom for tickets. But you have to be 21 to get into concerts at the Casino, since alcohol is served in the audience seating area.

Still, her mom, RoseAna Williams, thought it couldn't hurt

to ask. So she went right to the top, and asked Quechan Tribe President Mike Jackson, Sr. if it was possible her little girl, who is recovering from recent lung surgery, might be able to at least meet her idol, Deborah Harry. The President's response? "I'll see what I can do."

Well, on the night of the show, Ariel, her mom and her sisters all got to meet the band before the show, and Deborah Harry even signed all of the *Blondie* CDs little Ariel had brought along.

Then, when the band left the

room to prepare to go on stage, Denise Gloria of the Casino staff came in to tell Ariel and her mom that they'd be seeing the show, compliments of Deborah Harry! And better yet, she wanted them on stage with her, to get the full experience! (Plus, if they weren't in the audience, the alcohol rule wouldn't apply - nice!)

Even though Ariel was still recovering from surgery only a week before, and was still in a little pain, she insisted on staying right where she was, to enjoy the entire concert!



Ariel Gilbert and her mom, RoseAna Williams, enjoy last week's *Blondie* concert from better than front row seats at the edge of the stage. When Deborah Harry and the band learned nine year old Ariel was a fan, they insisted Ariel and her mom join them right there!

QUECHAN NEWS Photo by William Isbell

Quechan Housing and Home Depot Team Up on Home Care Event at Q.C.C.



Courtney Valardé hammers in a nail on her "Bean Bag Toss" game kit, while mom, Courtney, holds a block of wood in place for her.

With more and more Tribe members becoming homeowners thanks to the new development and scattered home sites construction over the past year, the Quechan Tribally Designated Housing Entity (QTDHE) has begun to help educate the new homeowners on home improvement and repair tasks they can tackle themselves.

In late August, the QTDHE teamed up with the various specialists at Home Depot® in Yuma to hold a "Home Show" in miniature at the Quechan Community Center. With almost a dozen

booths offering advice on plumbing, air conditioning, painting and flooring, the "Home Show" instructors brought their expertise and advice to the Quechan Nation for free. (Of course, if those attending the show found they enjoyed the work, and got the notion to pick up the supplies and get busy, there is a good chance they'd later stop by the Home Depot® to get those supplies, so it was a good investment of their time!)

One of the more popular booths offered kids of all ages (even adults!) the chance to

build a wooden game kit for table top entertainment, such as a bean bag toss. Whole families, like the Velardes and Montagues lined up to pound nails and glue their creations together.

The Home Depot® instructors were able to pass along great tips on preparing the work area, while showing how the one-step-at-a-time method is the best way to approach even the biggest home improvement project. They even had a raffle that gave away plants and garden tools, to get the kids interested in gardening outdoors!



Daniel Sanovia selects a potted plant for his mom after finding out that Beth Nelson of the Home Depot pulled his name in the raffle.



The Quechan Community Center was filled with interesting, informative booths manned by helpful Home Depot employees, ready to give basic instruction in woodworking (at left) where kids could assemble game kits. One popular booth had Dan Dan the Paint Man showing people (like Geronimo White Wolf, in the center) how to use clear painters caulk to seal masking tape, insuring a sharp edged line. Meanwhile, nearby, Maria Bômba was showing Valencia Gilbert the finer points of tile setting.



QUECHAN NEWS Photos by William Isbell