

ETSKA NAV AH PAI

GREAT SEAL  
TOGETHER WE PROGRESS  
F.T. YUMA QUECHAN INDIANS

THE NEWS CARRIER

# QUECHAN NEWS

VOLUME 103, ISSUE 19 ♦ WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2009

## ***In This Issue:***

Seniors Branson Trip  
Page 2

Elder Village Events  
Page 3

Bird Dance Winners  
Page 4

Awards Listings  
Page 5

QCR Chef Wins  
Medal in Competition  
Page 6

A Special Thanks  
Page 7

Miss Quechan Nation  
Back Page

Items Of Special Interest  
To Tribe Members



Look For This Symbol

ETSKA NAV AH PAI THE NEWS CARRIER  
**QUECHAN NEWS**

is published by

**The Quechan Indian Tribe**  
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# ***Great Indian Day Turnout This Year***

Beautiful, cool breezes and temperatures in the 80s contributed to a great Indian Days turnout for the Quechan Nation this year, as the annual event got underway with the Miss Quechan Nation Pageant on Thursday evening, October 8th. This year, Miss Sasha Nerva came out at the top in the competition, besting Miss Markia Barley in the first Pageant held at the new Paradise Event Center. Photos and more details can be found on the back page of this issue.

Another first was the opening of the Elder Village in the Sunrise Point (*Anya Nits Pak*) Park, under construction just to the east of Indian Hill on the banks of the Colorado. The Elder Village events included an overnight camp-out and lots of great, traditional foods cooked over firepits along the beach.

Friday was a full day, with the Elder Village gathering starting things off at 8:00 AM, as people were able to ride canoes down from the confluence of the Gila and Colorado Rivers to arrive in time for a 9:00 AM opening ceremony. Vice President Keeny Escalanti, EDA Director Brian



**Young women aged 18 to 49 compete** in the Bird Dancing Contest at the Quechan Indian Days Celebration on October 10th. The three day celebration was centered on Evergreen Park, but events also took place at the Paradise Event Center, the Elder Village at Sunrise Point Park, and the Quechan Community Center through out the weekend.

QUECHAN NEWS Photo by William Isbell

Golding and other local dignitaries spoke of future plans for the park, and encouraged visitors to check out the construction so far.

Later that afternoon at the Evergreen Park, the traditional Indian Days events included children's games on Friday, with adult and family competitions on Saturday. Vendors

offered everything from tacos and fry bread to T-shirts and jewelry. Local bands, including the 696 Project and Jah Rockers entertained with amplified music during the nights, and local singing groups kept things moving on a more traditional level during the afternoons of Friday and Saturday.

Dozens of tribe members,

both local and out-of-town, gathered for bird songs and dance contests, battled each other for supremacy at peon, and engaged in volleyball and horse-shoe competitions throughout the three days of events.

Now that it's all over, there are those who can hardly wait to start again next October!

**Winners on Pages 4 and 5**



## SENIORS RETURN FROM BRANSON, MISSOURI



The Quechan elders sat for a group photo prior to boarding the "Branson Belle" for a dinner show and cruise aboard the *Branson Belle* paddlewheel steamboat.

Photos Courtesy of Gene Moore

A group of 30 elders from the Quechan Senior Center took off for the Phoenix Sky Harbor airport the Tuesday after Indian Days weekend, to board a non-stop flight to Kansas City. After a quick dinner there, they boarded a bus. Their final destination: the entertainment mecca of Branson, Missouri!

The annual senior trip this year saw seniors Ivan Moore, John Weeks, Phyllis Jones, Erna Jackson, Patricia Quahlupe, Charlotte Hills, Perdius Escalante, Veronica Aguerro, Myra H. Andrews, Rosaria Nez, Donna

Herrera, Tessy Escalante, Randolph Allen, Joanna Allen, Peggy Meeden, Lolita Bell, Ellen Parks, Mary Sethi, Erna Jackson, Vernelda Silos, Jacqueline Duro, Valverine Barley, Ressie Watts, Elvera Millard, Irene Salas, Trudy Lopez, Rosalinda Dewey, Marilyn Dewey, Andrea Waters, and Phyllis Hill all enjoying a 5 day guided tour of the Branson area to sample everything to Missouri foothills have to offer.

Although it rained for almost the entire week before they arrived, it was cool and dry for the time the Quechan seniors

were in town, marveling at the bright fall colors as the seasons changed and the leaves around them were ablaze in oranges, reds and yellows. Though it was much cooler than Yuma, as long as they had their jackets on, everyone was comfortable.

Branson now has over venues for stage shows, dining and general relaxation. The group was able to see comedian Yakov Smirnoff, visit the Mt. Pleasant Winery and the Titanic Museum, as well as see the 50's at the Hop Show and The New Shanghai Circus. The Titanic Museum building is built to half the scale to the original ship, towering 100 ft. about the ground, and holds 400 priceless artifacts in 20 galleries. That was a must see!

The elders also saw the Baldknobbers Jamboree at Silver Dollar City and enjoyed dinner and a show onboard the Branson Belle, cruising beautiful Table Rock Lake before returning home on Monday, October 19th.



The entire 5 days was taken up enjoying the great variety of the entertainment options Branson has to offer.

## Tribe Members Stand Out at Homecoming



Freshman Red Hawk Welch was a constant threat to Ajo, with 3 TD runs and 125 yards gained.

Two San Pasqual High football team members who are also Quechan tribal members contributed immeasurably to a Homecoming blow-out that will be remembered for years to come, as the Warriors trounced the Ajo Red Raiders 47 to 30 in their final game of the season.

Freshman phenom Red Hawk Welch earned the respect of his fellow students as the wide receiver managed 4 receptions,

running for a total of 125 yards and 3 touchdowns.

At half time, his team mate Kailah Durand, a female lineman, also managed to keep her game face intact as she was elected Homecoming Princess for the 2009/10 football season!



Linebacker Kailah Durand was elected Homecoming Princess and took her place at halftime next to "Prince" Jaime Marquez.

## 2010 Census Recruiting More Positions

Tribal Partnership Assistant (TPA) Rainier Reyes wants to alert both the Tribe and the community that he anticipates hiring more locals for Census work to be done from January to the end of March, 2010.

The positions to be filled will be those of enumerators and census crew leaders. Enumerators - Go door to door to gather information from non-responsive survey participants. Crew Leaders - Will do the same job as the enumerators, but also hold

supervisory responsibilities.

Testing for both positions is currently scheduled for the 2nd week of November.

Testing will be held at the Parks & Recreation Game Room at the Quechan Community Center. The test consists of 38 questions. Applicants must arrive with current state ID, their Social Security Card and Tribal I.D. (Two photo IDs are required at the time of testing.) For more information call TPA Rainier Reyes at (760) 673-3696.

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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 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](mailto:w.isbell@quechantribe.com). I'm looking forward to hearing from you!





# Heritage & Culture

## Elder Village Presented To Community



Volunteers from the Elder Village working group prepared the area for cooking and camping in anticipation of the visitors they expected to “drop in”. Friday’s cooks included Barbara Cachora and Marsha Emerson, seen preparing an industrial size pot of beans. Meanwhile, under the ramada at the east end of the Elder Village, the Roadrunner Dance Group was joined by a group of traditionally dressed ladies, dancing to Bird Songs prior to the guest speakers making their appearances. QUECHAN NEWS Photos by William Isbell

An addition to the Indian Days calendar was made this year with the public unveiling of the first phase of the Elder Village at the new Quechan Sunrise Point Park on the Colorado River.

Allyson Collins and Brian Golding, Sr. of the Quechan Economic Development Administration (EDA) joined with the Elder Village Focus Group to host this first look at the project so far.

Starting at sunrise (*Anya Nitiz Pak*) Friday morning, a blessing of the Village was conducted by Quechan elder Christine Emerson.

The two-day event had canoe rides, speeches, story telling, bird-dancing and plenty of things for kids to do, with paths to roam, water to splash in and interactive instruction in traditional crafts and music. Chase Choate (of Fred Phillips Consultants) and fellow volunteer Reggie Antone provided the canoes and the strong arms to power the rides down river.

Barbara Levy led the afternoon activities with her story telling session. Judith Prietta-Osborne followed up by sharing

her basket weaving skills with those interested in learning the traditional skill. Several youths (and adults) walked away with baskets they made with their own hands that day!

The real highlight of the event was the Friday night camp-out, including a wonderful bonfire right on the riverbank and plenty of food cooked over a campfire for everyone who dropped by!

The Elder Village Focus Group is made up of elders from the Quechan Senior Center, who provide their knowledge and ob-

servations of the past, working with youthful volunteers who are providing the muscle and manpower to create an authentic representation of a Quechan Village from the turn of the last century. They’ve already built a mud hut, and contributed a huge shade ramada for the Indian Days event, with plenty of room for three dozen dancers (or more) to gather underneath.

Since the ramada is less than 100 feet from the river, a cool breeze coming off the water kept things moving right along,

and made for a happy place to gather for meals and stories throughout the weekend.

More structures are planned as the Park (and Elder Village) continues construction this coming winter.

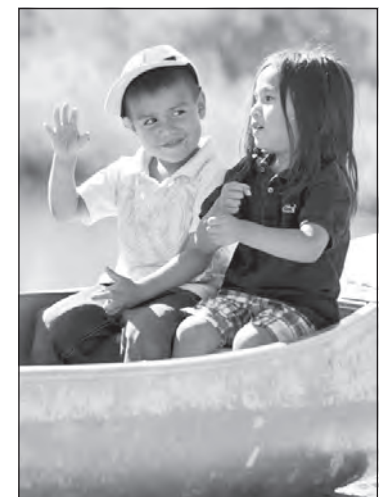
At Friday’s opening ceremony, EDA Director Brian Golding, Sr. said Arizona has renewed funding for the Yuma East Wetlands in the Arizona State Parks System, so construction and further landscaping of the entire Sunrise Point project could move ahead, soon.



**Little girls at the Village** crowded around Mercedes Golding for a look at her baby, Itzell.



**Ladies who came prepared to dance** under the ramada included Olivia Esperanza, Gina Rivera and Maritza Barley from the Strong Hearts Society; Quechan elder Barbara Levy; Allyson Collins from the EDA, San Pasqual High Native Princess Janyse Collins-Solorio and the new Miss Quechan, Sasha Nerva.



**Blue Sky Lopez** and Nathaniel Golding were quick to enjoy some fun in a canoe by the river.



# A Thanks to Elder Village Volunteers

The Elder Village Focus Group (EVFG) graciously acknowledges the following 75 volunteers whom, throughout the duration of the Elder Village Project's first phase or at one point, contributed to the success of the Elder Village Project.

These individuals gave their time and energy to the project and should be highly recognized by the community for their efforts. This project could not have been realized without the help of the below volunteers, individuals, and organizations.

The volunteers are: Vernon Jose, Brendan Jose, Brian Golding, Sr., Valverine Barley, Jackie Duro, Allyson Collins, Chase Choate, Yvonne Choate, Phyllis Jones, Kenrick Escalanti, Janice Emerson, Barbara Levy, Kailah Durand, Gina Rivera, Jessica Collins-Solorio, Janyse Collins-Solorio, Isaac Collins, Edison Johnson, Sean Johnson, Steve Veneski, Connor Veneski, Mia Escalanti, Michael Salinas, Brian Golding, Jr., Charlie Golding, Maggie Golding, Arno Dick, Reggie Antone, Elias Collins, Sr., Stacy Durand, Norrine Hill, Charlene Emerson, Marsha Emerson, Barbara Cachora, Adeline Apauty, Tessie Escalanti, Perdius Escalanti, Augustine Pastores, Veronica Hill, Albert Solorio, Jr., Christina Solorio-Jackson, Dustin Jackson, Elizabeth Ruiz, Adrianna Ruiz, Rosalie Villalpando, Paula Veneski, Maritza Barley, Maricela Barley, John Paul Rivas, Jodeci Williams, Apollonia Casteneda, Denise Orozco, Brian Montiel, Mandel Sanchez, Jr., Redhawk Welch, Domonique Rueda, Jaime Marquez, Jordan Joaquin, Willis Hawkins, Jr., Annette Cachora, Shirley Hart, Essie Gilmore, Angel Hill, Vanessa Ruiz, Malik Slaughter, Kyle Slaughter, Di-

anne Moccasin, Ila J. Hart, Ashley J. Hart, Marissa J. Miller, Chana Escalante, Myra Antone, Vernon Smith, Lucinda Polk, Faron Owl

The Elder Village Focus Group also wishes to thank the following individuals and organizations that contributed to this project through their donation of time, material, and knowledge (*with special mention to those names in bold*):

From the Quechan Tribal Council: **Keeny Escalanti, Sr.**; John Norton; Willard Golding, Sr.; Christine Emerson; Victor Curran; Judith Osborne; Fred Phillips Consulting: **Fred, Chase, Sergio, John Mahkewa, Reggie, Claire, Stephanie and Martha**; The Strong Hearts Native Society; Quechan Senior Nutrition Center; Quechan WIA Summer Program: **Brandon Frank, Theresa Brown, Pierce Cachora, Dan Hunter, Theron Prettybird, Paul Hopkins and Marian Bradford**.

A special thanks also to the **Paradise Casino Purchasing, Maintenance, and Engineering Departments**; Quechan Casino Resort: **Lycia Ortega**; Quechan Parks and Recreation; Quechan Utilities; Quechan Environment: **Bill Hirt**; Quechan TERO: **Pearl Cowan**; Quechan Security Department; Quechan Police Department; Quechan Fish and Game; Quechan Workforce: **Mike Jackson, Jr. and crew**; *Quechan News*: **William Isbell**; Quechan EDA: Walt Brooks and Mike Abraham; Events Committee; and from the Yuma Boy Scouts of America: **Brett Bybee**.

**Thank You All!**

Submitted October 19, 2009  
By: Allyson Collins, EDA Specialist/EVFG Facilitator

# Bird Songs Bring Out the Best For Indian Days Competition



**Saturday's Bird Dance Competition** brought dozens of tribal members out to capture a prize. Starla Shaffer (in foreground of the photo below) was judged the best Woman Bird Dancer for ages 18 to 49 this year.



The Indian Days weekend once again brought out dozens of tribal members, both local and out-of-town, to take part in all sorts of good-natured competitions. Although Friday was taken up primarily with fun and games, on Saturday the competition really got down-to-business once the Traditional Bird Singing and Dancing kicked off in the afternoon.

As usual, the ladies got to go first, and a large group of the girls got a chance to loosen up and practice their moves when the men began to gather and test their voices even while registration for the contest was still going on. Singers from Yuma to the Sycuan reservation and all points in between gathered around the microphones at the

arena to sing their favorites in turn.

By the time the actual competition had begun, they'd fallen into a pattern that often had young Titus Welsh beginning the cycle for each new group of women who came to dance. All of his singing for the dance competition paid off, as he then stepped up to win both the Men's Bird Dancing and Bird Singing Contests in his age group later Saturday evening.

All of the winners for this year's competition are listed in order to the right.



**Reno Tapia** captured first place in Bird Singing and 2nd for Bird Dancing for Boys under 17.

## WOMEN'S TRADITIONAL BIRD DANCING

### Girls Aged 6 to 12:

3rd: Ny Lyn Duncan  
2nd: Norasia

**1st: Sonya Lopez**

### Girls Aged 13 to 17:

3rd: Deleane Benson  
2nd: Catherine Kelly

**1st: Kayla Sanchez**

### Women Aged 18 to 49:

3rd: Heather Medart  
2nd: Kimberly Duran

**1st: Starla Shaffer**

### Golden Age Women 50+:

3rd: Corrine Shaffer  
2nd: Verna Parker

**1st: Lillie Townsend**

## MEN'S TRADITIONAL BIRD DANCING

### Boys 17 and Under:

3rd: Jerryn Go Forth  
2nd: Brandon Hernandez

**1st: Reno Tapia**

### Men Aged 18 and Up:

3rd: Elias Ameclyenah  
2nd: Tyrone Harper

**1st: Titus Welsh**

## MEN'S TRADITIONAL BIRD SINGING

### Boys 17 and Under:

3rd: Jerryn Go Forth  
2nd: Reno Tapia

**1st: Brandon Hernandez**

### Men Aged 18 and Up:

3rd: Bo Bull Child  
2nd: James Cuero

**1st: Titus Welsh**



# Quechan Indian Days ♦ Contests Winners



**Chlöe Short** won the Traditional Dressed Baby Girl Contest.

## TRADITIONAL DRESS BABY CONTEST

### Girls Aged Infant to 5:

3rd: Leyla Anderson  
2nd: Loveleigh Durand  
1st: Chlöe Short

### Boys Aged Infant to 5:

3rd: Elan Medart  
2nd: Jayven Medart  
1st: Darwin Titus Welch IV

## CHILDREN'S GAMES

### Foot Race - 5 to 7 - 50 Yards:

3rd: Silas  
2nd: Vincent Hartt  
1st: Elijah Cachora

### Foot Race - 8 to 10 - 50 Yards:

3rd: Francesca Samudio  
2nd: Jason Coyote  
1st: Eddie Thunder Cloud

### Foot Race - 11 to 14 - 50 Yards:

3rd: Angel Koteen  
2nd: Kymona Wilson  
1st: William Koteen

### Foot Race - 15 to 18 - 50 Yards:

3rd: Keanu Cachora  
2nd: Christian Lopez  
1st: Shane Thomas

### Foot Race - Adults - 50 Yards:

3rd: Marissa Cachora  
2nd: Sean J.  
1st: Mike G.

### Cracker Eating - 8 to 10:

3rd: Leyla Anderson  
2nd: Angel Barley  
1st: Francesca Samudio

### Cracker Eating - 11 to 14:

3rd: Amaya Koteen  
2nd: Kymona Wilson  
1st: Angel Koteen

### Cracker Eating - 15 to 17:

3rd: Alec Cachora  
2nd: Abel Mills  
1st: Matthew Thomas

## PLEASE NOTE:

All names listed are from handwritten winners lists: If your name is wrong, PLEASE accept my apologies!

### Cracker Eating - 18 & Older:

3rd: Keanu Cachora  
2nd: Sean Johnson  
1st: Mike Gilbert

### Soda Drinking - 8 to 10:

3rd: Brinna Iron Cloud  
2nd: Angel Barley  
1st: Francesca Samudio

### Soda Drinking - 11 to 14:

3rd: William Koteen  
2nd: Daniel Mills  
1st: Kymona Wilson

### Soda Drinking - 15 to 17:

3rd: Fernando Luna  
2nd: Abel Mills  
1st: Jackson Chaparosa

### Soda Drinking - 18 & Older:

3rd: Michael Gilbert  
2nd: Sean Johnson  
1st: Marissa Cachora

## ADULT GAMES

### 5 Mile Run on Friday:

Overall 3rd: Frankie Caesarez  
Overall 2nd: Michael Throssell  
Overall 1st: Luther Emerson

### 5 Miles, Men Age 10 to 19:

2nd: Devin Martinez

### 5 Miles, Men Age 20 to 35:

2nd: Michael Throssell

### 5 Miles, Men Age 36 & Up:

1st: Rod Escalanti

### 5 Miles, Women Age 20 to 35:

1st: Patty Castillo

## INDIAN DAY PARADE

### Best Float Award Winners:

3rd: Quechan Senior Center  
2nd: Aztec Dance Group  
1st: Paradise Casino

### Specialty Award Winner:

Eye Wear Sunglasses

### Best Performance Group:

Strong Hearts Native Society



**Darwin Titus Welch IV** won the Traditional Dressed Baby Boy.

## SATURDAY FRYBREAD COOKING CONTEST

### Men's Best Frybread Cook:

Gilbert Mills

### Women's Best Frybread Cook:

Sarah DeLowe



The Indian Day Parade down Quechan Drive to the Evergreen Park had a wonderful variety of entries this year, making the judges work hard to determine who had "the best of the best". In the end, the entry from Paradise Casinos (at left) with huge photos of famous Native Athletes took the top prize. Later that morning, Quechan Casinos CEO Brian Parrish was all smiles as he accepted the top parade trophy from Miss Quechan for 2009/10, Sasha Nerva (at right).

All Photos by William Isbell



## SATURDAY Garbage Pickups Have Moved To FRIDAY

Previous Saturday garbage pickups have been moved to Friday pickups. This new schedule will allow each of our drivers a 2-day weekend. Please direct any questions to the Utilities Office at 760-572-0667.

## NOTICE

Change of Office Hours:  
Effective September 30, 2009  
the office hours for the  
BIA-Fort Yuma Agency  
will be:

**Monday thru Friday  
7:30 AM — 5:00 PM**

\*Now open from  
12:00 PM — 1:00 PM  
If you have any questions,  
please contact our Agency at  
**(928) 782-1202**

## PUBLIC NOTICE:

Effective on Wednesday,  
**October 7, 2009:**

All requests for Social Service  
Assistance will be  
discontinued.

Signed:

*Keeny Escalanti, Sr.* 10/7/09

**Mr. Keeny Escalanti, Sr.**



# Chef Wins Bronze Medal at Culinary Competition in Mesa

Dale Jäger, Food & Beverage Director at the Quechan Casino♠Resort and Sous Chef Alex Trujillo travelled to Mesa, Arizona at the end of September, to compete in the Annual Robert Bland Culinary Competition at the East Valley Institute of Technology.

The competition is a sanctioned event of the American Culinary Chefs Association, and finds chefs from four star resorts from all over Arizona and the desert southwest demonstrating their finest creations in strictly defined areas of expertise. Dale and Alex entered a very difficult food styling event that assigns points on creativity and presentation. Their task was to create a five course hot meal and present



**QCR Head Chef Dale Jäger** with his recent Bronze Medal from September. Photo: William Isbell

the end result cold, as if it were to be used in a photo layout for a resort magazine or as an illustration for a glossy project in "Scottsdale Living" magazine.

Their *menu gastronomé* in-

cluded soup, a salad, two appetizers and an *entrée*. Their soup was *veal consommé*, the salad a spiced poached pear with citrus vinaigrette, appetizers included *beouf filet foie gras* and scallops and shrimp timbali with pastrami cured salmon, followed by a pork chop with mushrooms and seafood pouches and peruvian potato *purée* and vegetables for the main course.

The Robert Bland Competition has chefs compete strictly for points, not against each other. This year saw only one Gold Medal awarded. In his second time competing in the contest, Mr. Jäger was awarded his second Bronze Medal at the Bland. Throughout his career, Dale has won at least 3 dozen awards.

# The Temptations Open Fall Concert Season at QCR

A Sunday night concert by *The Temptations* opened the line-up of great acts coming to the Quechan Casino♠Resort for the busy fall season.

Their two-hour show kept the capacity crowd energized and begging for more, as they belted out hit-after-hit from their 40 year career going back to the '60's.

Next up will be a tribute to Motley Crue with the cover band *True 2 Crue* appearing at the Paradise Event Center on Saturday night, October 24.

Comedy great Ron White from the Blue Collar Comedy tour will be appearing at the QCR Event Center on November 22. Known as "Tater Salad", he's rarely seen without a drink in one hand and a smoke in the other, as he expounds his philosophy that "You Can't Fix Stupid!" Ron has played to sold-out audiences all



**Motown's long lasting singing group** kept the crowd dancing in the aisles during their October 4th concert. QUECHAN NEWS Photo by William Isbell

over the United States, and ticket sales for his Quechan appearance may require adding another show here!

Country singer Dierks Bentley follows up at the QCR on Saturday night, December 12. A member of the Grand Ole Opry,

Dierks has released a series of number one hits including "Settle for a Slowdown" and "Come a Little Closer."

One week later at the Paradise Event Center Tony Orlando will present his Christmas Show on Friday night, December 18th.

# Charity Fashion Show By The Pool at QCR



**With a theme of "Capture Your Inner Animal"**, the clothing, hair and makeup for the show to benefit Amberly's Place got pretty wild!

Photos by William Isbell, QUECHAN NEWS

A major social event for the fall season in Yuma was held at the Quechan Casino♠Resort on October 11th, when an annual charity benefit fashion and hair show took over the lazy river and pool deck for the evening.

Wayne Rooks and the Resort's events staff set up a maze of chairs and posing stations among the bridges and walkways of the central area outdoors. Taking advantage of nearly perfect early evening weather, a group of 14 models from the Yuma School of Beauty wound their way through an audience

of fashionistas, accompanied by music and spotlights, to create the illusion of a European high fashion modeling show.

Created to raise funds to benefit of Amberly's Place in Yuma, the theme of this year's show was "Capture Your Inner Animal". A Yuma School of Beauty alumnus and recent fashion school graduate, Tawni Ryan custom made every dress on display, fitting them to specific models. This year's graduating students (including Quechan tribal member Markia Barley) created the hair and makeup to accentuate the "wild" intent of each outfit, with the models separated into groups representing Africa, Under The Sea and Exotic Birds.

Between each group of models, Jazz of Yuma and the dance group "So Explicit" entertained the crowd. Tribal member Gabe Massey and his group "Big Daddy" also provided a half-hour intermission show to extend the bidding on a silent auction. Local talents Brian Clarr and Gina Flores lent their musical skills as well, and the comedy dance group "Dragalicious" rounded out the night's entertainment with a great musical skit.



**Tawni Ryan of Ruination Creations** custom fitted each outfit to specific models for the show.





Farren Escalanti sent along this example of his art with his letter expressing his thanks for the Kwat'san Language Program.

## COMMUNITY EXPRESSIONS | A Special Message of Thanks for The Kwat'san Language Program

I wanted to thank the "Kwat'san Iiya" language preservation program for their support. It was a pleasure meeting Mrs. Judy, sitting with her and swapping stories while working on various parts of the float for the 2009 Indian Day(s).

You know, being 43 and doing artwork now for some 27 years, I did not know the real language or dialect, mannerisms and spelling of the Kwat'san language. Now, it has opened new ways of expression and creativity for myself.

Judy, I admire you for taking on this task and teaching others like me about the form, writing and history of the Kwat'san language.

I encourage others to seek out the speakings and writings that have been around us for so long.

In other words, being with my grandmother from the time I was very young into my late twenties, I didn't understand the value of that time I spent with her. She "knew" all these things, speaking no English, conversing

only in Kwat'san.

I should have learned a lot from her.

Now, it seems while designing these works, I have the feeling she was the real spiritual inspiration for my art, which I am truly honored to share with others.

"Better is a person of humble standing who works for himself, than one who plays the great person but lacks food on the table."

Well, ladies, the artwork is back in storage, the fry bread

contest is over (who won????!!) and it's time to get back to work!

Love God, Always!

Uutox!!!

Farren Escalanti

*Please email your Community Expressions letters to [w.isbell@quechantribe.com](mailto:w.isbell@quechantribe.com), or you can deliver them to The Quechan News just north of the Senior Nutrition Center, or mail them to the address in the box at the bottom of page 2 in every issue.*

## The Strong Hearts Native Society Presents the MISS NATIVE SAN PASQUAL PAGEANT

*"A Cross Cultural Educational Program"*

**FRIDAY NIGHT, NOVEMBER 6  
AT THE PARADISE EVENT CENTER  
PROGRAM BEGINS AT AT 6:00 P.M**



**Admission  
is free!**

*Come & Show  
Support for  
Our Young  
Native Women!*



Judith Prieta-Osborne  
Our Shiiyii  
(Grandmother)

*Sponsored in part by the  
Strong Hearts Native Society  
and the Quechan Nation*

For information contact San Pasqual School  
**(760)572-0222 ext. 2231**

**Fry Bread Dinner  
From 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM**

**All profits will go towards the  
San Pasqual Warriors  
Booster Club**

## FORT YUMA INDIAN HEALTH CLINIC OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2009

**Routine vaccines for all ages  
Seasonal flu vaccines for all ages  
H1N1 Nasal Spray Vaccines  
are now available for:**

- Ages 2 – 18 years who are healthy
- Healthy caregivers of infants under 6 months

**At the Public Health Nursing Office  
(behind the clinic in trailers)  
October 28, November 4, 10, 18, 24  
From 3:00 PM to 7:00 PM**

### Questions?

**Call Rebecca Leach, PHN at (760) 572-4227  
or Claudia Lorentz, PHN at (760)572-4225**

INFORMATION WILL BE PROVIDED TO THE COMMUNITY  
AS SOON AS THE INACTIVATED  
H1N1 INFLUENZA VACCINES ARE RECEIVED

**CLINIC WALK-IN APPOINTMENTS:**  
**Monday through Friday 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM**  
**Or call for a Nurse Visit (760) 572-4147/4149**



2009

Photos by William Isbell

for the QUECHAN NEWS

# MISS QUECHAN NATION 2010



**Richard Limones and Neveah and Josiah Monatague** opened the Pageant, recreating the "Legend of Miss Quechan" to tell the story of the importance of the role she fulfills for the Quechan Nation.



**Sasha Nerva, a 20 year old Tribal Member** was declared the winner at the end of the Pageant. She is a graduate of Cibola High in Yuma and works at the Winterhaven Fire Protection District as an office assistant.



**Sasha (at left) and Markia Barley (right)** were presented to the audience, flanking Miss Quechan Nation for 2008/09, Tarryn Villacaña. Their escorts were Kirk Nerva, Daniel Ortega and Mike Morales.



**Sasha dances** to the accompaniment of Christopher Emerson during the Talent competition.

This year, for the first time, the Miss Quechan Nation Pageant was held inside the new Paradise Event Center, which opened only a few months ago.

The Pageant Planning Committee and casino staff put on a real professional show, with a runway for the contestants that extended out into the middle aisle and spotlights to follow the action. A small ramada hung with gourd rattles, handmade baskets and cradle boards took up the center of the stage, surrounded by prop boulders covered with petroglyphs in front of a painted backdrop.

Preshow entertainment included a reenactment of "The Legend

of Miss Quechan" along with a Grand Entry of all the visiting royalty and their retinue.

Visiting emcee Bobby Wallace introduced Quechan Tribe president Mike Jackson, Sr. and Pageant Committee Liason (and Tribal Council member) Cry-selle Uribe to open the event.

This year's contestants, Sasha Nerva and Markia Barley were then formally presented to the audience, and each of them gave their lineage and a short outline of their lives here at Fort Yuma. They were then challenged to answer a randomly chosen question from a large basket, and each made a very good impression while "thinking on their

feet." Following their questions, they modeled their traditional diamond dresses before surrendering the stage to the outgoing Miss Quechan, who gave thanks to all those who helped her fulfill her duties over the past year, and handed out gifts to those who were particularly deserving.

Once the outgoing Miss Quechan completed her final dance, the two ladies vying for this year's crown danced against each other. Members of the Hopi and Apache Tribes then entertained the crowd while the judges' votes were counted. Finally, the suspense ended, as 20 year old Sasha Nerva was crowned Miss Quechan Nation for 2009/10.



**Markia smiles** and shows great personality while she takes part in the Traditional Dress presentation.



**The final dance for Tarryn Villacaña**, the retiring Miss Quechan Nation for last year, took place at the front of the stage and soon included all of the visiting Native Royalty, their attendants and members of the audience.



**A Hopi traditional dance group** led by Elmer Saufke put on quite a show during the later part of the Pageant, while the Judges point totals were tallied.



**Sasha receives a special blanket** as Tarryn gives her the new Miss Quechan Nation crown, while runner-up Markia Barley looks on at the left.