

ETSKA NAV AH PAI



THE NEWS CARRIER

QUECHAN NEWS

VOLUME 104, ISSUE 2 ♦ WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2010

In This Issue:

Bill M. Manes Moving
Page 2

New Park to Open
This Spring
Page 3

Census Needs Workers
Page 4

New at Senior Center
Page 5

Water Service Fixes
Page 6

Cobell Settlement
Page 7

Gabriel Iglesias Show
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

350 Picacho Road

Winterhaven, Ca. 92283

Phone: (760)572-3912

Email: w.isbell@quechantribe.com

"New Year - New You" Health Challenge Begins

The Quechan community kicked off 2010 with the start of a 12-week body fat challenge at the Diabetes Walking Park on Saturday, January 9th.

Of the 72 community members and well wishers who came out for the event, over 35 registered for the competition. "That many entries means

the challenge is sure to be a huge success," says Sandy Palone, a personal trainer with the Diabetes Wellness Center.

All of those entering the competition had their measurements recorded: height, starting weight and body mass index, to provide a starting point for determining who is the most improved at the end of the 12 weeks.

Lisa Aguerro from Quechan Injury Prevention had an informational booth in the park. Nearby Indian Health Service (IHS) nutritionist Deborah Drummel offered proper diet tips to help the competitors reach their goals. Rebecca Leah, an IHS

Public Health Nurse and Dr. Nancy Resnick also had informational booths with handouts on healthy lifestyle choices.

A light breakfast of various fruits provided by Paradise Casino was served, and a jumper was set up to keep the kids there entertained.

Physical Trainer Ricardo Juan was in charge of the actual physical activities for the day. He conducted a group warm-up prior to the start of a 5K walk/run for the participants. This is the first of 4 organized walk/runs the Diabetes Wellness Center will hold throughout the 12-week challenge.

Tom Vosberg (aka Dr. Lubb Dubb) also held a fun walk/run for the kids in the park's entry area while their parents strolled the Walking Park's trail.

Many of the younger participants earned various prizes for every mile they completed, including ribbons, plaques and T-shirts.

"It was great to see that everyone in attendance took part in the 5k," says Sandy. "And we gave everyone who came out and did it a T-shirt at the end of the walk."

She also pointed out that anyone who wants to can take part in the upcoming 5k events. You

don't need to be "officially" involved in the "New Year, New You" program to join in.

The Wellness Center staff thanked everyone for coming out at the conclusion of the event and reminded them all that they have until April 2nd to drop by the Wellness Center to record their final weight.

The Diabetes Wellness Center would like to thank Parks and Recreation for the use of their tables and chairs. They would also like to give a special thanks to Mickey Jackson, Jr. and David Taylor from the Quechan Grounds Crew for all their help with the opening event as well.



Everyone in the Diabetes Walking Park stands at their booths to join the group warm-up (in the background) just before the start of the 5k walk/run that kicked off the "New Year - New You" challenge on January 9th. The weight loss challenge will run for the next 12 weeks, ending on April 2nd.

QUECHAN NEWS Photo by William Isbell

Groundbreaking for Bill M. Manes' Move to Main School Campus

The Bill M. Manes Continuation High School, located in the Bard Community since 1975, will soon relocate to the main campus adjoining San Pasqual High School.

The San Pasqual Valley Unified School District held a ground breaking ceremony in early January for the new home of the Bill M. Manes School, which will be built immediately south of the One Stop Family Resource Center. The district has taken this opportunity to move the school closer to District Services using newly available one time federal stimulus dollars.

The ceremony opened with welcoming comments by San Pasqual's District Superintendent David Schoneman, who then turned things over to Quechan elder (and San Pasqual Valley Unified School District Board member) Vernon Smith.



School board members Vernon Smith and Rebecca Ramirez prepare to break ground at the site.

Mr. Smith offered a traditional sage smoke blessing, and explained the significance and symbolism of his actions for the non-native members of the assembled throng.

Mr. Owl and the Strong

Hearts also sang two traditional songs before another member of the Board of Trustees stepped forward, Ms. Rebecca Ramirez.

During her remarks, Ms. Ramirez offered her recollections of beginning her career at San Pasqual as Mr. Bill Maines' administrative assistant in the early 1980's, before moving her way up through the years to her current position as head of the Quechan Education Complex. She spoke fondly of her early years under his mentorship.

Both Ms. Ramirez and Mr. Smith were then offered shovels by Superintendent Schoneman, and moved out near the center of where the new school's foundation will be going in, to turn the first spadefulls of earth and pose for photos.

Students of the Bill Maines School, bussed in from Bard to take part in the ceremony, were then invited to step forward and

take up shovels and pose for their own group photo.

The project will be financed primarily through federal Impact Aid Stimulus funding. The balance will be covered using funds that were previously set aside for that purpose.

The new school building, which will resemble the nearby classroom building 304, should be opened around Easter time.

Construction is expected go quickly, since Mr. Benedict with the School District "had the foresight to install all of the electrical infrastructure and prepare the underground water service for Bill M. Manes when

the One Stop building was built on site" in the past, according to Superintendent Schoneman. "That will save us a lot of money, and time."

Also contributing to the speed of the move, is the fact that the new building will be of modular construction.

Once the foundation slab is poured and the utilities work completed, the new building will be delivered and a construction crane will be used to set it in place. The electrical connections will be made and plumbing installed, and the new school will then be ready for students and staff to move in.

Interim Appointment Leads to All Quechan School Board

The October, 2009 resignation of San Pasqual Valley Unified School District (SPVUSD) Board of Trustees member Rory McDade has led to an historic moment, as the remaining Board members voted to install another Quechan Tribal member, Ramon Barton in his place.

The interim appointment, made on voice vote at their regular Board meeting on January 12 at the San Pasqual High School library, marks the first time that the entire Board of Trustees has been made up entirely of members of the Quechan Tribe.

The Board had requested letters of interest from the community at large as soon as they were informed of Mr. McDade's intentions to resign. The Board spent a portion of their Decem-

ber 15, 2009 meeting interviewing the two applicants for the open seat, Mr. Ramon Barton and Mr. George DeCorse.

Mr. Barton's interim appointment will expire in November of 2011 with the original term that would have been fulfilled by the previous Board member.

Ramon Barton only recently retired from the SPVUSD, where he had been a groundskeeper for 20 years. He was originally hired in August of 2009. His wife, Wanda Barton, is a telephone operator at the Fort Yuma Indian Health Service Clinic.

Mr. Barton will be sworn in at the School Board's next regular Tuesday night meeting at the high school library, at 6:00 PM on February 9th.



Students of the Bill M. Manes Continuation School also took the time at the end of the ceremony to take up the shovels on the grounds that will soon house their new classroom. QUECHAN NEWS Photos by William Isbell

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

Anya Nitz Pak Park Substantially Complete, Opens This Spring



This view of the new Sunrise Point Park was taken in mid-January, just a couple of days prior to the final inspection of the work done by JSA. Most of the pathways have been completed, and the final touches are being made to the stonework, irrigation controls and plantings around the main plaza overlooking the lake. All of the electrical utilities in the park are solar powered on-site. Summer grass will be planted in early June, completing the final touches.

QUECHAN NEWS Photos by William Isbell

A worker from JSA construction tamps the ground flat in the area surrounding the amphitheater's stage (at right). Solar lighting, which is used all over the park, can be seen at the rear of the stage.



Stone cutters (at left) complete the final touches installing a seating area atop the low wall surrounding the central plaza, and haul away rock chips during their cleanup at the end (above).

The Quechan Tribe's contribution to the Yuma East Wetlands park system, the *Anya Nitz Pak* (Sunrise Point) Park is now ready for its public unveiling, which will be announced to the community in the coming months.

The stonework, large scale structures, underground irrigation systems and landscape contouring was completed by JSA Construction in mid-January. The Quechan Economic Development Administration (EDA) and representatives of the design contractor, Fred Phillips Associates, inspected the site soon after on behalf of the Quechan Tribe, to accept the work.

The park has pathways and parking areas, as well as a large arbor and 2 ramadas. The arbor overlooks the lake, right next to the circular main plaza in the center of the park. Both ramadas

provide shade for barbeque pits and handicapped accessible picnic tables. There is even a floating swimming platform for the lake. The amphitheater is also finished.

The only major element remaining is the ground cover of bermuda grass. The lawn will be planted in early summer, during its preferred growth season, which will allow the turf to properly take root and continue thriving. Once the grasses are in, the park will be complete.

Allyson Collins, Project Manager for the Anya Nitz Pak project says that a formal unveiling of the park will be scheduled for sometime early this spring.

"With the Tribal Council's support, the entire community will be invited to share the first day with us, as we open the gates for the public to begin using it for recreation and community

gatherings," she says. "That's still a few weeks in the future, but if you watch the *Quechan News*, we'll be printing up an announcement of all the events planned and the day's schedule, before it all takes place.

In the meantime, she says, the Elder Village Focus Group has begun construction of the next phase of the Elder Village at the south end of the Park along the riverbank.

Volunteers from the San Pasqual High Strong Hearts Native Society and community members have begun the brush hut, and plan to have it finished prior to the "Grand Opening" celebration for the Park.

If you'd like to volunteer some of your time on the Elder Village construction project, go see Allyson Collins at the Quechan Economic Development Administration or call her at (760) 572-5270.

U.S. Census Still Needs Workers, Apply Now For Available Openings!

A Martin Luther King Day “Job Fair” at the Quechan Language offices brought out a number of interested tribal members, curious about the remaining openings working for the U.S. Census this spring. Of the seven who applied that Monday, three tribal members brought all of the paperwork needed to complete their testing, and their materials have been sent on to Palm Springs for processing.

If hired to take part in collecting census data, all trainees will be asked to report to either Palm Springs or El Centro for 3 to 4 days of paid training. “Everyone who goes for training is also paid for their mileage, at 55 cents per mile,” according to those already hired to work for the Census.

Mileage is also paid to the workers while on the job collecting Census data, in addition to their regular pay as a Census Worker. They will also be paid from the minute they leave their door and drive to Palm Springs, all day there during the time



Rainier Reyes, Joel Gabaldon and Angelina Garcia with the U.S. Census are seen with Census T-Shirts and other free items at their recent MLK Day Job Fair on Indian Hill. Photo courtesy of Joel Gabaldon

they are testing, and for their time on the road driving back home—they are on the clock and paid for that time.

Both Angelina and Rainier Reyes, Quechan Tribal Partnership Assistant for the U.S. Census, stress that tribal members should be sure to bring their Tribal I.D. as well as their social security card and state drivers license (or 18th birthday photo I.D.) with them to apply for the training and available jobs here at Fort Yuma. “The Cen-

sus needs tribal members, but the only way you can get hiring preference for the job is to bring in your Tribal I.D. when you apply,” they say. And the earlier you apply, the longer the job (and the money) will last.

One more thing: the territory covered by local workers includes the areas that encompass Bard and Winterhaven. So there will be plenty of work for those who want to work up to the 40 hour limit each week while the Census is in progress.

***Recruiting
Native Americans!***



**TESTING FOR AVAILABLE
POSITIONS WILL END SOON!**

Testing Site:

One Stop Office at the
Family Resource Center
696 Baseline Rd. - Bldg. 306
(Next to San Pasqual High)
Winterhaven, CA.

Testing Hours:

1st Test: 9 AM to Noon
2nd Test: 1 PM to 3 PM
Monday thru Friday

**Available positions include: Census Takers, Crew Leaders
Crew Leader Assistants, Recruiting Assistants
and Census Clerks.**

**Please bring your: Arizona or California Photo I.D.,
Tribal Identification and Social Security Card**

**These temporary, part-time jobs offer good pay and flexible
hours, close to home! Applicants must be at least 18 years
old and willing to travel for up to 3 - 4 days. Training will be
held in Palm Springs or El Centro, California.**

If hired, you can work part-time, up to 40 hours per week.

**CONTACT: Recruiting Assistant Angelina Garcia
(928) 246-8301**

Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 9 AM to 3:30 PM

**The Quechan Indian Tribe
is seeking
interested tribal members
to serve on the
Quechan Enrollment Committee
(There are 2 Vacancies to fill)**

**If interested, submit a
Letter of Interest
to the Tribal Council Secretary
(Georgina Massey)
at the Tribal Administration Office.**



The Quechan Wellness Center was the scene of a “Zumba Fitness” demonstration class on January 20th, as Certified Zumba Instructor Vanessa Robledo brought the latest fitness craze to Fort Yuma for community members to give it a whirl.

Lisa Ball, Special Diabetes Project Manager says that if enough people want it, they will bring Zumba back as a part of their regular fitness offerings at the Wellness Center.



The backroom of the Wellness Center is filled with spinning, dancing, gyrating fitness fanatics, dancing to the Zumba beat. Instructor Vanessa Robledo led 10 people in the demonstration of the latest fitness craze on January 21st, which may be added to the regular workout schedule soon, depending on interest. QUECHAN NEWS Photo by William Isbell

New Developments at the Senior Center

The new year brought new developments for the Quechan Senior Center, chief among them a new Senior Center Director, Rosie Jack-Sestiaga.

Of course, Rosie is not new to the Quechan community, just new to the position. A long-time fixture here at Fort Yuma, Rosie spent 8 years as the Recreation Coordinator at the Quechan Parks and Recreation Department. Her responsibilities there included scheduling events, supervising the staff while “setting up” for and “tearing down” after events, and ordering supplies for the huge community gatherings such as the annual Christmas and Thanksgiving dinners when they were held at the Community Center.

Now that those events have shifted to the Paradise Event Center and the Casino has taken over primary responsibility for such things, Mrs. Jack-Sestiaga has taken her past experience

in oversight of staff and large-scale logistical planning to a new level, accepting the position of Senior Center Director.

Another new development at the Senior Center you may have noticed are the new signs that have been installed, identifying the building. The first sign, created and installed by Sign Masters of Yuma at the end of the first week in January, consists of two foot tall letters, with a Quechan Tribe Seal, right on the west end of the building, facing Quechan Drive. It resembles similar signage installed along the front of the Quechan Education Complex. The second sign is a 4-foot by 8-foot sign, with the Senior Center address (472 Quechan Drive) placed alongside their driveway entrance, directing visitors into the Center.

Also, the Gift Shop in the Senior Center was able to extend their hours to 9 AM to 5 PM, Monday through Friday during



Jordan Bowers of Sign Masters puts the finishing touches on the new Quechan Senior Center sign, installed January 7th.

QUECHAN NEWS Photo by William Isbell

the holidays, thanks to a temporary hire through the Department of Labor. The funding for that position may end in mid-February. If the position does end, the Gift Shop will return to their previous Monday through Friday hours of 9 AM to 1 PM beginning February 15th.



*To the Ft. Yuma Community
We wish you and yours a
Happy, Healthy New Year
From Ft. Yuma Service Unit
Patient Registration Staff
Mike Watkins
Becky Kelly
Austin Dugan*

FORT YUMA INDIAN HEALTH CLINIC PATIENT CHANGES

In order to meet your transportation needs, the Ft. Yuma Indian Health Service Clinic has set up a “One Stop” Transportation Shop —
**For YOU
The Patient!**



**If you need transportation
to any appointments
that we refer you to:**

Please Call:



(760) 572-4176

**We hope this change will be a great benefit
to YOU - our patients!
Thank you for entrusting us with your care!**



Johnson O'Malley (JOM) Parent Advisory Committee Meetings on the Schedule

The mission of the Johnson O'Malley (JOM) program is to address the unique cultural and educational needs of American Indian students on the Quechan reservation through a supplemental program of services planned, developed and approved by the Quechan JOM Parent Advisory Committee (PAC).

Funding for the Johnson O'Malley Program at Fort Yuma comes from both federal grant sources and casino revenue money.

Bernadine Swift Arrow at the Quechan Education Complex serves as Director for

the JOM program, and Pam Manchatta is the Assistant Director.

JOM provides an after school tutorial program and provides three summer sessions for students in the 1st through 12th grades.

The JOM Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) primarily meets quarterly or on an as needed basis. Members are parents/guardians/relatives of Native American children, K-12 grades.

The most recent meeting for the PAC was scheduled for Tuesday evening, January 26th at the JOM building of

the Quechan Education Complex at 6:00 PM.

The Committee provides input as to how the program and funding should be spent. They develop, review, and amend the bylaws.

If you are the parent of a Native American student eligible for enrollment in the JOM Program here at the Fort Yuma reservation and would like information on the discussions or decisions that may be reached at these meetings, please call the JOM office at (760) 572-0648.

(See 25 CFR, Part 273.11, “Eligible Applicants”.)

Old Water Line Replacement Project Ready to Start

Tribe gets \$250,000 in EPA grant funding to replace deteriorating pipes

The Quechan Tribe's Economic Development Administration (EDA), has joined with the Indian Health Service (IHS) and the Quechan Tribally Designated Housing Entity (QTDHE) to begin work on a project that will replace deteriorated water service lines going to nearly 70 homes on the Fort Yuma Indian Reservation.

The Tribe received a \$248,000 Border Infrastructure grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Act program late last year to pay for the project.

Many of the homes on the Reservation that were constructed over 30 years ago have water service lines made of polyethylene (PE) pipe, and many of these lines show signs of deterioration.

Polyvinyl chloride (PVC) pipe is the material of choice in newer home construction because of its strength and durability. A total of 68 homes, mostly on scattered sites, have been identified as candidates

for service line replacement.

Replacing water service lines consists of digging a trench from the main water line to the home, replacing the deteriorating PE pipes with PVC pipes, and installing a new water meter.

"We're pushing to replace six service lines a week," says Walt Brooks, EDA's Director of Construction Services. The goal is to have the project completed by May of this year.

Once work begins on a home's service line, there will be intermittent water service interruption ranging from thirty minutes to two hours.

The construction crews will have bottled water on hand, courtesy of QTDHE, to provide to homes enduring the longer interruptions.

Prior to performing any work at the 68 homes, EDA staff will be contacting each homeowner to give an overview of the grant project, to seek the homeowner's consent to have the service line replaced, and to schedule a time to perform the work.

Record Your Own Story for Posterity at Quechan Language Today!



The StoryCorps mobile recording booth (inside the Airstream trailer) and StoryCorps Founder David Isay are seen above. StoryCorps facilitators with recording equipment will be on-site to collect stories at the Quechan Language Preservation Office on Indian Hill on January 27th. Photo Montage by William Isbell, Photos Courtesy of StoryCorps

StoryCorps, one of the largest oral history projects of its kind, will be on site at the Fort Yuma Quechan Language Program this Wednesday, January 27th, collecting oral histories in the Kwat'san language in order to preserve a vital part of the history of the Kwat'san people.

StoryCorps is an independent nonprofit project whose mission is to honor and celebrate one another's lives through listening. Since 2003, their facilitators have interviewed over 50,000 everyday people, preserving a small slice of the personal histories of family and friends all over America. Each conversation is recorded on a free CD to share, and is preserved at the Library of Congress.

Their mission is to honor and celebrate one another's lives through listening. Through the process of sitting down and having a conversation, they remind us of the importance of listening to and learning from those around us.

"It celebrates our shared humanity," says founder David Isay, on the Mission Statement of their website.

"It tells people that their lives matter and they won't be forgotten. Through StoryCorps, we hope to create a kinder, more

thoughtful and compassionate nation."

The heart of StoryCorps is the conversation between two people who are important to each other: a son asking his mother about her childhood, an immigrant telling his friend about coming to America, or a couple reminiscing on their 50th wedding anniversary. By helping people to connect, and to talk about the questions that matter, the StoryCorps experience is powerful and sometimes even life-changing.

"The stories we disseminate demonstrate our shared humanity. We preserve and present interviews with the deepest respect for the participants whose

stories we are celebrating," says Isay.

With the permission of the participants, edited stories from each booth are broadcast on a partner public radio station. One story is broadcast nationally on NPR's Morning Edition each week on Friday mornings.

If you would like to take part in this experience, allowing the StoryCorps crew to collect, preserve and share your story with the world, contact Kimberly Bell at the Quechan Language Program at (760) 572-4412 and reserve a time right away!

If the line is busy, perhaps you could stop by and get your name on the reservation list, before the opportunity slips away!

The 30th Annual

STRONG HEARTS NATIVE

SOCIETY POW WOW

IS COMING ON MARCH 5TH, 6TH & 7TH!

People wanting to reserve a Food Booth

for this year's Pow Wow should contact

Faron Owl at San Pasqual High right away!

Call: (760)572-0222 Ext:2231



Eddie Vanegas and Mike Duran of the Quechan Work Force team up to siphon water out of a low spot on Quechan Drive during last week's inundation. Other crews from both Quechan Utilities and Facilities were also out at the same time, trying to limit damage during the recent rains. QUECHAN NEWS Photo by William Isbell



Psychic Sylvia Browne to Appear at Casino♠Resort

Sylvia Browne, world-renowned psychic and *New York Times* best selling author, will appear live at the Quechan Casino Resort on Saturday, January 30, at 8:00 PM in the Pipa Event Center.

Sylvia Browne is the enig-

matic, outspoken, sometimes gruff, and often controversial psychic medium who has become a legend in her own lifetime, thanks to regular engagements on The Montel Williams Show and Larry King Live.

Browne celebrates a long-

standing career that has earned her the titles of renowned psychic, prolific best-selling author, TV personality, president of the Sylvia Browne Corporation and founder of her own church, Novus Spiritus.

Sylvia will perform live

readings from the audience. Watch her transform and touch the audience with her gift. Come witness her teachings and spiritual insight.

Tickets start at \$35. All seats are reserved and you must be must be 18 or older to attend.

\$3.4+ Billion Settlement Announced in Federal Mismanagement Of Individual Indian Trusts

Plaintiffs Compromise to Achieve Result, Ending 13-Year Battle with U.S. Departments of Interior and Treasury

The U.S. Department of the Interior and the U.S. Department of the Treasury have apparently agreed to settle the long-running class action lawsuit against the federal government for mismanagement of individual Indian trust accounts.

The American Indian Plaintiffs announced the settlement in early December on their website, www.cobellsettlement.com, and at a press conference at the Department of Interior.

Under the terms of the settlement in *Cobell v. Salazar*, the federal government will create a \$1.4 billion Trust Accounting and Administration Fund and a \$2 billion Trust Land Consolidation Fund.

The settlement also creates a \$60 million federal Indian Education Scholarship fund to improve access to higher education for Indian youth, and it includes a commitment by the federal government to appoint a commission that will oversee and monitor specific improvements in the Department's accounting for and management of individual Indian trust accounts and trust assets, going forward. This settlement is believed to be the largest ever against the

federal government and dwarfs the combined value of all judgments and Settlements of all Indian cases since the founding of this nation.

Elouise P. Cobell of Browning, MT, lead Plaintiff in the class action, joined U.S. Attorney General Eric H. Holder, Jr., and U.S. Secretary of Interior Kenneth L. Salazar at the Interior Department in Washington, D.C. during the public announcement.

"We have achieved a measure of justice and financial compensation for individual Indians whose trust accounts were mismanaged by our government," said Ms. Cobell, Executive Director of the Native American Community Development Corporation.

"Indians did not receive the full financial Settlement they deserved, but we achieved the best settlement we could. This is a bittersweet victory, at best, but it will mean a great deal to the tens of thousands of impoverished Indians entitled to share in its financial fruits, as well as to the Indian youth whose dreams for a better life including the possibility of one day attending college can now be

realized."

The first legal action in *Cobell v. Salazar* was filed in June 1996 by Ms. Cobell and four other Indian claimants on behalf of all present and past individual Indian trust beneficiaries, including over 300,000 then-current Individual Indian Money account holders. The Secretaries of the Interior, Treasury and the Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs are the named defendants in the suit.

The case was tried in the U.S. District Court in the District of Columbia many times between 1998 and 2008, involving hundreds of trial/hearing days, over 3600 filings and millions of pages of discovery, 80 published opinions and 11 appellate decisions.

"Over the nearly 14 years that I've been visiting reservations to discuss with individual Indians the suit and its slow progress through the federal court system, I've seen a dramatic decline in the number of original Indian account holders," said Ms. Cobell.

"Time takes a toll, especially on elders living in abject poverty. Many of them died as we continued our struggle to settle

this suit. Many more would not have survived long enough to see a financial gain, if we had not settled now. This, more than any other factor, motivated me to work toward an agreement now. If I were the only one affected by the egregious behaviors of the federal government in managing my trust account, I'd fight another 100 years, but I did what was best for the people who so badly need this money."

The agreement creates two groups of Indians eligible to receive money from the legal settlement — the Historical Accounting Class and the Trust Administration Class.

The Historical Accounting class comprises Indians alive on September 30, 2009 who had at least one transaction in an open Individual Indian Money (IIM) Account between October 25, 1994 and September 30, 2009. The Trust Administration Class comprises individual Indian beneficiaries alive on September 30, 2009 who have or had IIM Accounts dating from approximately 1985, as well as individual Indians who, as of September 30, 2009, had a recorded or demonstrable interest in land held in trust or restricted status.

Other eligibility conditions and exemptions for each class are detailed in the agreement.

The exact amount each individual is eligible to receive varies, based on several factors. Most individual Indian beneficiaries are included in both classes and will receive no less than \$1,500 under the terms of the settlement.

IIM Account Holders or heirs of IIM Account Holders who have not been receiving information on their IIM account from the government should register now at www.cobellsettlement.com/register.php. They will then receive further information and the Settlement Notice.

Specific information about the Trust Fund Settlement and information and directions on how to register to determine eligibility in each class are available online at cobellsettlement.com and from the Settlement's toll-free telephone line, (800)961-6109.

Attorneys with the plaintiffs and government spokespeople associated with the settlement state that Account Holders and their heirs should register as soon as possible.



With the First Anniversary of the Quechan Casino Resort quickly approaching, planning has begun for a big celebration taking place on Saturday, February 13!

Lycia Ortega, Special Events Coordinator at "The Q" says, "We will be having a month long drawing as we approach the Anniversary. Every Monday (and on the anniversary date of February 13) we will have a drawing for winners to get into a cash booth where they can win up to \$10,000 in our Horses and Hybrids promotion! This promotion lasts until March 1st, when the Grand Prize win-

ner will take home either a brand new 2010 Ford Mustang or 2010 Toyota Camry Hybrid, a \$200 gas card, \$200 in slots Free Play, and one minute in the cash booth!"

There will be a big fireworks show at the Q on Saturday night, February 13th. Festivities will begin at 5:00 PM. Lycia also wants every tribal member to know "We are welcoming vendors to come and participate in the celebration. If you are interested, contact me as soon as possible at (760)572-1631. Limited space is available."

This is an all ages event, but remember that all casino promotions

are only for guests 21 and older.

Special seating will be available for Elders, members of the Tribal Council, and VIPs to view the fireworks show. "This is a time to proudly celebrate both of our successful Casinos," she says. So come out and enjoy both the fireworks show and prize drawings on February 13, 2010!

Continuing the celebration, the classic rock group Foreigner will appear at the Pipa Event Center on Valentine's Day. Tickets are on sale now at both Casinos' box offices, startickets.com, and by calling (800) 585-3737.

Want to send a Special Someone a Message?

Now is the time to send your Valentine's Day Message to the Quechan News!

Email your special greeting to:

w.isbell@quechantribe.com

or drop it off at the Newsletter Office just north of the Senior Center on Quechan Drive before the close of business on Monday, February 1st!

GABRIEL IGLESIAS BRINGS "THE FLUFFY SHOP TOUR" TO THE PARADISE EVENT CENTER!

Comedy great Gabriel Iglesias completely sold out two shows at the Paradise Event Center in January, as he made the second stop of his most recent Comedy Central outing: "The Fluffy Shop Tour".

The tour began in Tucson on January 8th, then moved to Yuma for the Paradise shows on the way to the next stop in Bakersfield the following Thursday.

The much anticipated show

was sold out long before Iglesias arrived. "Gabriel Iglesias is a local favorite and we are excited to bring this kind of entertainment to our patrons," said Randy Maddocks, Special Events Manager for both the Quechan Casino Resort in California and the Tribe's Paradise Casino in Arizona.

The tour gave the comedy-loving Yuma audience great value, with the headliner bringing along his long-time friend and fellow comedian, Martín Moreno, to both open the show and act as emcee for the acts to follow. Those who came expecting to see only one act were in for a great treat, as three more comedians came along to perform their own sets: Latino comic Alfred Robles, Native American deadpan specialist Larry Omaha and the energetic 5-foot-two bundle of nerves, Noé Gonzales, who stayed on stage to help Moreno do a bit on their "Mexican Yard Sale" near the main



Gabriel's favorite clothing items right now are black T-shirts — he fits in real well around here!



Fellow comedians Martín Moreno and Noé Gonzales came out just before the headliner to show "Fluffy Tour" T-shirts, which they themselves sold to the crowd!

exit, where they would have T-shirts for sale after the show.

Finally, the "Fluffy Man" himself appeared! Iglesias regaled the crowd with material new and old, took requests, and even shared a drink with a member of the audience before leaving the stage at the end of the show.

Iglesias then stood at the main exit until 2:00 AM, signing every last autograph and shaking the hands of everyone who wanted to meet him!



The always accessible entertainer came out to stand at the main exit at the end of the second show, to sign autographs and have photos taken with fans for posting on his "Facebook" page. Nearby, the other cast members also signed autographs. QUECHAN NEWS Photos by William Isbell