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

is published by

**The Quechan Indian Tribe**

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# ***Anniversary, River Daze Keep Visitors Happy***



**Brian Parrish, CEO of the Quechan Casino Resort** joins Tribal Council members Juliania Comet and Cryselle Uribe as President Mike Jackson, Sr. offers a hard cider toast at the beginning of the February 13 celebration of the First Anniversary of the new Casino Resort.

QUECHAN NEWS Photos by William Isbell

The weekend just before the President's Day Holiday was a busy one for Yuma, with the Jaycees Rodeo and Parade, Yuma River Daze and the gala first Anniversary Celebration of the Quechan Casino Resort all taking place over the same three days!

With Quechan Tribal members taking part in all three events, the Fort Yuma community was a blur of activity. The impending closure of the Yuma Territorial Prison State Park found the Yuma Heritage Festivals doing every-

thing they could to encourage attendance at the downtown River Daze. They made sure everyone knew that the cultural events of the Quechan Tribe were mentioned in all of their print materials, and included shuttle stops on Indian Hill for the convenience of winter visitors.

Victor Curran of the Artists Marketplace says they had a "pretty good weekend, better than I expected" as a result of the influx of curious sightseers. The Quechan Roadrunner and Ah Keel Dance Groups joined

out-of-town guests from the White River Apache Tribe in explaining the centuries of native cultural heritage that still lives through song and dance.

Yet, even with both River Daze and the Rodeo siphoning off potential guests, the parking lot at the "Q" was filled with party goers by 3:00 PM, an hour before the Spirit Runners made their entrance down Algodones Road, kicking off the Anniversary events. A large part of the reserved parking area east of the Casino's front entrance was

set-up with stadium seating, a stage and vendors booths.

The Spirit Runners and just about every local (and visiting) gourd singer and native dancer in town crowded in between the stage and seating area, to celebrate the past year in an impromptu native dance party. Jay Walker from KTTI radio spent the afternoon cutting in live updates for everyone listening, and both local TV news crews were all over the area, gathering updates and waiting for the fireworks show that would cap things off for the night.

Once the initial burst of excitement was released by the crowd, President Jackson took to the stage with fellow Tribal Council members Cryselle Uribe and Juliania Comet, to join the Q's CEO, Brian Parrish in an apple cider toast to the employees, guests and planners who'd made it all possible. Councilman James Montague would have joined them, but he was having too much fun checking out the vendors' booths at the time! The stage was then turned over to local bands who kept the crowd entertained into the night, until the fireworks show that exceeded expectations at 9:30!

# "New Year New You" 5K Fun Runs Continue

The "New Year, New You" Health Challenge (featured on the front cover of issue 2 in January) continues with the Diabetes Wellness Center offering 5 kilometer fun runs for everyone wanting to improve their fitness and loose weight - whether you've signed up for the challenge or not!

The second of the four planned "New Year, New You" 5K runs was held shortly after sunrise on Saturday, February 6th at the Yuma Gateway Park.

Wellness Center staff including Supervisor Sandy Palone and Fitness Trainer Lewis ("marathon man") Throssel joined Diabetes Prevention Aides Vincent Tiger and Ana Hartt-Villareal in setting up the course, which proceeded from the parking lot entry of the Yuma Gateway Park, west along the pathways and levee route almost as far as the Yuma West Wetlands and back.

With a 9:00 AM start time, 24 participants came out to take on



**Lewis Throssel (facing the camera, center)** checks the countdown on his stopwatch just prior to starting the 5K run at the Gateway Park. Participants wait anxiously for his signal at the edge of the parking lot. QUECHAN NEWS Photos by William Isbell

the 3.2 mile course.

"We had a great turnout and are very proud of everyone for completing the course", said Sandy Palone, Wellness Center Supervisor.

"It's great to see that our community is making a healthier change in their lifestyles and taking part in our events", stated

Trainer Lewis Throssel.

"It's our program's mission to promote physical activity for everyone in our Community, young and old, beyond the activities at the Wellness Center", said Sandy.

Locals taking part in the run included Quechan Tribal Administrator Robin Estrada and Winterhaven firefighters Anthony Ruinoza and Justin Zahn. The two firemen paced themselves over the entire route, running side-by-side at a brisk trot, returning to the finishline first with a time of 20 minutes, 34 seconds.

Only four minutes behind were San Pasqual students Steven Gilmore (who attends the Bill M. Maines Continuation School) with a time of 24 mins. 37 sec and his cousin, Austin Gilmore (at 24 mins. 42 sec.) who's in 7th grade at the middle school.



**Winterhaven firefighters** Anthony Ruinoza and Justin Zahn completed the course side-by-side in only 20 minutes, 34 seconds.



**Rosie Herrera was the first** female to cross the finish line in the February 6 run, with her personal best time of 29 min. 57 seconds.



**Runners (and walkers)** head off from the Yuma Gateway Park to the turn-around point just east of the Yuma West Wetlands.

## NOTICE!

Sapphire Lane will be subject to closures beginning this **THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25** for repaving work which may continue for 3 to 6 weeks.

*Please observe all signs and follow the directions of the flag crews on-site*

ETSKA NAV AH PAI THE NEWS CARRIER  
**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

## Ah~Keel Dance Group Keeps Kwat'san Traditions Alive



The ladies of the Quechan Ah-Keel (Harvest) Dance Group form a line and sway to the music of the Gourd Throwers at last week's Yuma Crossing Day Celebration (at left). Later that afternoon, the older members of the group, together with Miss Quechan, Sasha Nerva (third from left in center photo) watched the visiting White River Apache Crown Dancers perform. Current patriarch Arlie Emerson (at right) also stepped forward to explain the Ah Keel dance and song cycle to the visitors.

QUECHAN NEWS Photos by William Isbell



The youngest members of the almost 60 year old dance group include (from left to right), Cynthia Emerson, Joanna Herrera, Teresa Valenzuela, Alaina Paz and Ramona Emerson.

The Quechan Ah-Keel Dance Group was formed in the early 1950s by Mr. and Mrs. Lee Emerson and Mr. Ignatius Cachora. Together, they were both the leaders and singers of the group, which travelled all over not only the southwest, but also the west coast and surrounding areas.

As Mr. and Mrs. Emerson got older, they eventually passed on responsibility for the group to their eldest son, Arlie, who cur-

rently works for the Quechan Language Preservation Department. "The Ah-Keel Dance tells the story of the harvest season," says the Group's Leader, Arlie Emerson, "which begins in October and ends in April here at the southern end of the Colorado River Valley. In the songs, the *Kwat'san Pipa* gave thanks to *Kwi Ku-ma'at* for our bountiful crops growing along the river. The people would gather and have a big feast and dance for the harvest."

The dances also describe the movements of the Night Hawk and "the little birds" (*oo-roo*). "We also dance for the evergreens," he notes, "and we recently revived the harvest cere-

mony, and we will have another dance this coming October."

Many Quechan Tribal members have spent time dancing in the Ah-Keel Group, some of whom currently work for the Tribe. They include the current Tribal Administrator, Robin Estrada; employees of the Q and Paradise Casinos such as Lou Jean Nuñez, Peggy Sue Waters, Carol Jean Miguel, Jessica Paddock, Audrey White and Deborah Villacaña; Phil Emerson of the Rainbow Pool; Eileen Valenzuela at the Artists Marketplace and Ranier Reyes, who's now with the US Census.

Others you may know include Rydell and DeShane Taylor (working for Quechan Maintenance); Crystal Cachora and Bianca Salinas (with Senior Nutrition); Avis Black (with CHR); Allyson Collins (of the EDA) and Susan Koteen (who's with the Quechan Head Start Program).

And don't forget Cristoble (Chris) Emerson and Jonathan Koteen, who both can be found behind the counter at the Pipa Market.

An example of how busy they can be was February 13th when the Ah-Keel Dancers marched in the Yuma Jaycees Rodeo Parade, going north on Fourth and Orange Avenues to the parking lot next to the new City Hall. Then they "hot-footed it" back over the Ocean-to-Ocean Bridge to take part in Yuma Crossing Day before packing up and heading out the Quechan Casino Resort for the Anniversary events!

The group currently includes their leader and current patriarch, Arlie Emerson; Alva, Christoble, Christine, Cynthia,



Adult members include (L to R): Chris Emerson, twins Asia and America Nerva, Miss Quechan Nation Sasha Nerva, Sunny Manson (with his little daughter, Keiona) and Arlie Emerson.

Robert and Ramona Emerson, as well as Chris Emerson, Jr.; Eileen and Teresa Valenzuela; Alaina, Chandra and Christina Paz; Jessica and Charmaine Paddock; Susan Koteen; Kimberly Durand; Sunny and Keiona Manson; Donna, Clarisse and Joanna Herrera; Rosie Dewey; Chloë Short; Matillas Howard and Gary Gilbert. All dancing together to preserve the cultural traditions of the *Kwat'san Pipa*!

# Quechan Seniors Celebrate Valentine's Day

The Quechan Senior Center celebrated Valentine's Day one night early, with their traditional Valentine Masquerade Party, complete with the election of Valentine Royalty.

The February 13th party began with a sumptuous early afternoon dinner at 2:30 PM. Volunteers from the Strong Hearts Native Society served the diners. The menu included prime rib, baked potatoes and corn with salad and dinner rolls. A suitably "romantic" dessert of strawberry shortcake followed.

Once everyone was seated and enjoying the meal, the Senior Center staff revealed the results of the past weeks' vote tally and announced this year's Quechan Seniors Valentine's Royalty: The Valentine King for 2010 is Doyle Desechine, and his Queen turned out to be none other than Jackie Duro!



**Festive Valentine decorations of ribbons, hearts and balloons** created a fantasy atmosphere at the Quechan Senior Center, as they celebrated with their annual Valentines Day Party on February 13. Photo by William Isbell

The two popular seniors made their way to the specially prepared Valentine throne for their Coronation, and accepted the adulation of their subjects as they received their crowns, scepters and the cheers of the

assembled throng!

The party then continued with the first three of six raffles, featuring all sorts of great prizes specifically chosen to reinforce the afternoon's romantic theme.

With lunch over and the Cor-

onation of Royalty complete, it was time to dance!

The "Secret Love Station" (a non-alcoholic bar serving punch and soft drinks) opened, as DJ Oscar Chavez cranked up the tunes, spinning great oldies

and opening up the floodgates of memory. Couples took to the dance floor in the main dining room, the lights turned down to permit them to drift away to the romantic days of their youth as each pair enjoyed the privacy of their murmured conversations.

The mood was enhanced by the fact that the senior center staff (and a dedicated group of volunteers) spent the better part of Friday evening and Saturday morning converting the dining room into a Valentine's themed prom night recreation. Hearts, balloons and dozens of twisted crepe paper decorations disguised the room they are so familiar with. Ladies present also received their choice of either carnations or roses.

The music of the 50's and '60's filled the air, allowing the Quechan seniors to enjoy the good times all over again!

## VOLUNTEERS CONTINUE WORK ON ELDER VILLAGE



**Volunteers at work on the Anya Nitz Pak Elder Village** included Kailah Durand and Gina Rivera of the Strong Hearts Native Society, seen at left removing arrow weed from the roof of the shade ramada at the village in preparation for it's new roof. Most volunteers have been working on the new "brush hut", seen in the second photo above. Maggie Golding prepares palm frond ties for attaching willow wall laths in the third shot, while Chase Choate of the Quechan Environmental Department uses the ties in construction at right. Photos by William Isbell, QUECHAN NEWS

Volunteers from both the San Pasqual School's Strong Hearts Native Society and the general community have continued work on the Elder Village within the *Anya Nitz Pak*, despite recent rains that could

have literally "dampened" their spirits!

They have been pulling out some of the arrow weed and willow branches used for the roof of the shade ramada on the riverbank, to re-build a section

of the roof that began to sag due to the damp winter season. By leaving the replacement willows out to dry for a longer period before re-doing the roof, they expect it to stay in place (and in shape) much better.

Student and adult volunteers with the Elder Village Focus Group are also busy building the brush hut near the already existing mud hut. Materials have been gathered from vegetation planted just for that purpose over a year ago.

If you'd like to participate in this fun and educational volunteer project, give Allyson Collins a call at the Quechan Economic Development Administration: (760) 572-5270.

# Federal Grants Provide New Law Enforcement Vehicles

The Quechan Police Department received three grants in 2009 from the Department of Homeland Security under their program known as “Operation Stone Garden” (OPSG). The three grants totalled \$239,567.

“Stone Garden” funds are distributed to local law enforcement agencies, including Indian Tribes, to enhance law enforcement preparedness and operational readiness along the borders of the United States.

Arizona state agencies also received \$7,223,737 from the Federal Government in 2009 to share with other agencies. Those grants will go to fund overtime and equipment in patrolling and securing the international border with Mexico.

Tony Badilla, Chief of Police for the Quechan Indian Tribe says the goal of all this new funding is to secure and to enhance cooperation and coordination between federal, state, local and tribal law enforcement agencies in a joint mission to secure the United States Southwest Border.

The QPD used their grant to purchase two Kawasaki 750 “BruteForce” All Terrain Quad Vehicles and a 15 foot-trailer in January of this year.

The Quads will be used by QPD officers working overtime in areas of the reservation along the border. They will be on the lookout for border-related crimes specifically along the U.S./Mexico fence, the Andrade Port of Entry, the Colorado River and railroad areas.

“We already have two officers who’ve completed a basic ATV course,” says the Chief, “and we’ll have additional officers to be trained in the future.” The QPD also purchased night vision thermal imaging goggles, and OPSG will allow them to

add new ballistic vests for their officers, 10 new radios, a 2010 Ford pickup truck and various other items.

Chief Badilla said “obtaining grant funding from outside sources allows the QPD more resources to provide more manpower. The availability of tools and equipment like this makes our community a safer place to live.”

At the same time, the Quechan Fish and Game Department (QF&G) also received three OPSG grants from the Department of Homeland Security, with a total funded amount of \$63,032.

Gordon Osborne, the Head of Fish and Game for the Quechan-Tribe will also use a portion of their grants for overtime and equipment in securing the reservation’s border with Mexico.

Last October, QF&G purchased a Kawasaki 700 “Brute”



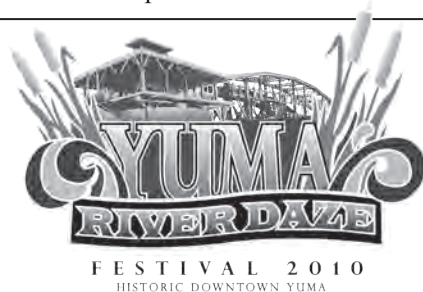
Accepting delivery of the new quads are Quechan Fish and Game Officer Andy Paddock, and Quechan Police Officers Juan Rodriguez, Marco Veloz and Quechan Police Chief Tony Badilla. Photo by William Isbell

All Terrain vehicle with the funds provided by “Stone Garden”. They also have a 15-foot trailer on order which will be used to transport the Quad to remote duty areas.

Fish and Game’s ATV will be used in much the same manner

as the QPD, working areas on the reservation keeping a lookout for border related crimes.

Quechan Fish and Game currently has two officers who completed the basic ATV course and they will also train additional officers in the future.



## Brings their Downtown Crowd to Indian Hill!



The Yuma River Daze Heritage Festival had shuttles running from historic downtown Yuma to the Indian Hill Artists Market/Quechan Language Complex all day on February 13. Visitors could see dance groups (like the White River Apache Crown Dancers, above), visit with native Kwat’san speakers and learn a few words, or examine the wares of local artisans at vendors booths and the Marketplace. QUECHAN NEWS Photo by William Isbell

## ATTENTION

### INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS ON THE WATER/SEWER PROJECT, PHASE 2

will be convened by the EDA at the Quechan Community Center on  
**Tuesday, February 23rd**  
**From 5:30 To 6:30 PM**  
**and Saturday, February 27th**  
**From 10:00 To 11:00 AM.**

The meetings will be to seek consent from interest holders in allotments along Picacho Road, Baseline Road, Miguel Road, Ross Road, and Jackson Road to allow surveyors to enter their land while conducting survey work to identify whether and how much allotted land would be needed for easements to install water and sewer lines that would provide services to their lands.

# Warriors Complete a Winning B-Ball Season

*Special Thanks to:*

**Diane Lindemann**

San Pasqual Middle School

Basketball fever has caught on at San Pasqual Valley High School, and the outcome has been positive for the present, and the out look is positive for the future, much to the pleasure of Warrior fans.

Boys Varsity basketball has been humble at best during the past few seasons, and only the faithful have filled the stands to cheer on the team. That all changed this season when the 10 all-tribal members of the Warriors squad began to work their way through the season, culminating in a Regional Conference playoff game as second seed against Joy Christian High School on February 3rd.

When word spread about the Warrior's success, people began coming out to see for themselves, as the charged-up Warriors taking on opponent after opponent, packing the gym.

Win or lose, the Warriors put on a show of fast and furious basketball focusing on teamwork as they improved game after game. Their improvement caught the attention of the 1A



**The 2009/2010 Warriors basketball team** was made up of (top row, left to right) Mandel Sanchez, Redhawk Welch, Angelito Alvarez, Brandon Frank, Michael Sanchez and (bottom row) Brendan Jose, Dameon Duncan, Steven Vasquez, Andrew Lomaintewa, Frankie Casarez. Coaches (not pictured) were Ricky Barnes and Shonti Land.

Photo courtesy of Diane Lindemann, San Pasqual Valley Unified School District

conference: Though the Warriors were once an easy win for the others, they had now become a formidable opponent!

Even rainy winter weather couldn't hold back the Warriors' determination to make the playoffs as they played back-to-back games to make up for games cancelled earlier in the season.

Finally, on February first, the Warriors beat Bagdad twice during a late-season double header, locking up their position at second place in Division 1. That position in the state's athletic

hierarchy earned them the right to play third place Joy Christian High (from Division II) on February 3rd, a team the Warriors were eager to tangle with after a December loss earlier in the season. Making up for that loss was a high priority for everyone, from the players to the coaching staff, and this match-up might see them get their revenge.

The contest between Joy Christian and the Warriors was a seesaw battle with the lead changing hands throughout the game. Both teams started out playing tentatively, with the

exception of two freshmen: Andrew Lomaintewa, who showed no fear going after rebounds and loose balls with fierce determination, while mixing it up against the leading freshman scorer for Joy Christian. The game's fast and frenzied pace saw both teams repeatedly exchanging the lead.

A contingent of Warrior fans and Booster Club members along on the trip to Phoenix was loud and proud as they could be heard above the screaming Christian Joy fans!

The game went into over-

time, and both teams exchanged baskets. The Warriors tied up the game on the front end of a 1 and 1, and Joy got the rebound. With 1.2 seconds on the clock, the Warriors fouled Joy and their player made the first free throw to put Joy in the lead 51-50, but he missed the second shot. The Warriors got the rebound and immediately called time out. San Pasqual then inbounded and got off a last shot, just grazing the edge of the basket with just over a second remaining on the clock, ending their so-far successful season.

The Warriors, coached by Ricky Barnes and Shonti Land, consisted mostly of freshmen and sophomores. Led by the lone senior Damien Duncan, juniors Frankie Casarez, sophomores Manny Sanchez, Steven Vasquez, Brendan Jose and Angelito Alvarez, and freshmen Redhawk Welch, Andrew Lomaintewa, Brandon Frank and Michael Sanchez. Both coaches stated they were ready to start the next day preparing for next year, despite their missing the Division title by just one basket in the final second of their final game. Everyone at San Pasqual is proud of their efforts!

## Power Agreement Signed with Imperial Irrigation District

When the Quechan Tribe built the new "Q" Resort on Algodones Road, existing powerlines across the empty valley that would contain the Resort were moved to help protect cultural resources at the north end of the site. Prior to the start of construction, the Tribe approached the Imperial Irrigation District (IID) about providing electric service for the development, and negotiations began.

At that time, IID insisted upon a lease of 3.2 acres upon which IID would construct a

substation. They wanted the Tribe to pay for the cost of constructing the substation, which IID would own. Furthermore, the Tribe would have no say about IID's decision to extend service to off-reservation users from the substation; and the Tribe would only have a two-year period within which to recover a portion of substation costs from any off-reservation user IID extended service to.

Other plans were then researched, to develop a 13.8 kilovolt (13.8 kv) distribution

line from the substation owned by the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) at the Yuma Desalting Plant. The plan would have allowed the Tribe would receive power purchased on the wholesale power market as mainstream utilities do, as well as power the Tribe is entitled to from WAPA's Colorado River Storage Project.

When it became clear that the Cocopah Tribe would not consent to a use right for the Quechan Indian Tribe in the area where the line would cross

the North Cocopah Indian Reservation, the Quechan Tribe decided to suspend the development of that distribution line.

Still, the construction plans for the Quechan Casino Resort had always included 3 backup diesel generators near the loading docks, with each generator capable of providing 2 megawatts of electricity. There is also space to install a 4th backup generator should the need arise.

The backup generators provide 150% coverage of the Q's designed demand. With

construction delays factored in for getting the original IID powerline installed, the Tribe had always expected to use the generators for power over the opening week. But with such an excellent source of power on-site, the Q then kept the generators humming, providing all the Resort's power for Casino operations, the hotel and concerts for the next 11 months.

In fact, at the price levels for diesel fuel over the last year, and accounting for the increased

*Continued on Page 7*

# BOATING SAFETY TRAINING FOR QUECHAN FISH & GAME



Senior Patrol Agent Tomas Diaz of the U.S. Border Patrol poses with Quechan Fish and Game Officer Travis Owl, California State Game Warden Jim Nemlowil and John Rodriguez, the Supervisory Border Patrol Agent and Director of Marine Operations for the Yuma Sector.

Photo Courtesy of US Border Patrol

Recently, the U.S Border Patrol invited the Quechan Fish and Game and California Fish and Game to participate in a 3-day boating safety course. From February 1st to February 4th, Quechan Fish and Game Officer Travis Owl joined the Yuma Marine Station Interdiction Unit's training cadre to complete the Customs and Border Protection (CPB) Crewman Certification Course.

The entire course covered 24 hours over 3 days. It is taught by Border Patrol Agents-Ma-

rine (BPA-M) who specialize in marine operations.

The first day saw Officer Owl in a classroom learning many subjects, from nautical terminology and safety equipment to how to conduct emergency action drills and use marine communications equipment.

Students also learned the proper methods for transport, launch and recovery of boats; marine environment tactics; how to safely board a vessel to conduct a search; confined space handcuffing; use of force;

anchoring a vessel, and how to trailer their boats.

They were also schooled in Law and Authority (the legal and maritime laws that give Customs authority for boarding other vessels) and docking.

The second day of the class found them on the Colorado River between Squaw Lake and Martinez Lake, as the topics introduced on day 1 were demonstrated in what law enforcement professionals refer to as a "scenario based environment". Students were tested on both compliant and non-compliant encounters, pursuit drills, and vessel handling.

The final day had a written test, followed by trailering evaluations. Everyone then returned to the river for an on the water orientation of the unit's current area of responsibility, which is the Colorado River between Morelos Dam and the Ocean to Ocean Bridge.

The same training will also be offered to Quechan Fish and Game and other law enforcement officers here on the reservation later this spring.

## Yuma Sector Border Patrol Announces Citizen's Academy

The Yuma Sector Border Patrol will host a Citizen's Academy beginning Thursday, March 4, 2010.

The Citizens Academy is a program designed to provide Yuma residents first-hand knowledge of how the U.S. Border Patrol operates.

The class will meet every Thursday evening over a period of four weeks.

The academy will give business, civic, religious and community leaders an inside look at what it's like to be a Border

Patrol agent in Yuma.

"This is a great opportunity for tribal members to become familiar with our mission and operations in and around the reservation," says Agent Carlos Dominguez, the Tribal Liaison Officer for the Yuma Sector.

"In our last meeting with the Tribal Council, they requested that we let the community know about this course when it became available."

Throughout the course, citizens will become familiar with the Border Patrol's philosophy

and personally experience the Border Patrol first-hand.

If you'd like to be a part of this fun (though sometimes grueling) March Citizen's Academy experience, contact the Yuma Sector Public Affairs Office at (928)341-6520 to request an application.

Applications also are available at the Yuma Sector Headquarters building located at 4035 South Avenue A in Yuma.

Only 25 applicants will be accepted to the course, so sign up early.

## Power Agreement Signed with Imperial Irrigation District

*Continued from Page 6*

maintenance costs, the cost of power generated by the Q's generators was less than IID power under their original proposal! Also, the Q never suffered even a moment of power loss during the time the generators provided power, even when weather related outages were occurring all over Yuma and the eastern portion of Imperial County.

Once it became apparent that the Q could function without IID power, negotiations were re-entered. A new Uninterruptible Power Agreement was finally reached between the Quechan Tribal Council, the Tribe's attorneys and the Imperial Irrigation District at the end of 2009.

IID ultimately agreed that the Tribe would develop the substation at its cost, and that the Tribe would own the substation. The agreement allows the Tribe to determine whether to extend services from the substation, and cost of constructing a service line from IID's existing 34.5

kilovolt (34.5 kv) transmission line south of the All-American Canal to the Tribe's substation will be financed over 5 years at IID's cost of money, plus they will provide the Tribe with a 3% discount applied to the typical cost of power over that 5-year period, and they will provide the Tribe with a monthly credit for agreeing to suspend its use of IID power, upon advance notice by IID, and to then utilize the Tribe's backup generators to provide primary power.

The Imperial Irrigation District began delivering power over the service line to the Tribe's substation on Algodones Road on December 23, 2009.

IID power began to flow to the Quechan Casino Resort on January 6th of this year upon the successful closing of the main utility switch. The final testing of the grid and power service was completed the following week, on Friday, January 12, 2010.



**Fall Semester  
Grant Application Deadline:  
Friday, June 4, 2010**

**Applications and Grant Requirements  
can be picked up  
at the Higher Education Office  
628 Picacho Rd, Winterhaven, CA**

*For additional information, call  
**(760)572-5268***

# QUECHAN TRIBE IN THE RODEO PARADE!



Tribal groups representing the Quechan people included the Ah Keel Dance Group, seen at left marching behind their banner on the Orange Avenue portion of the February 13 parade route. The Ah Keel Dancers are also featured inside this issue on page 3. In the center, Miss Quechan Nation 2009/10, Sasha Nerva waves to her public from the bed of the Chevy Silverado that carried her and her retinue. At right, members of the Quechan Tribe's California Gaming Agency tool down Fourth Avenue in their unique double decker parade float, representing an old west saloon casino, complete with oversized "one armed bandits" on the upper floor!

QUECHAN NEWS Photos by William Isbell



The Strong Hearts Native Society from the San Pasqual Valley Unified School District was also represented by their high school Native Princess, Kailah Durand and the Native Warrior, Taylor Thomas (riding together, at left) and the middle school and elementary Native Princesses, Alyssa Shepard and Winter Alvarez (at right).

## FOREIGNER MAKES THEIR OWN CONTRIBUTION



The Valentine's Day *Foreigner* concert played to the usual sold-out crowd at the Quechan Casino♠Resort Pipa Event Center. Visiting Shriners were in town at the same time for the Rodeo Parade. Given the chance to make their own contribution to the Shriner's Hospitals for Children, *Foreigner* donated an autographed electric guitar as a raffle prize for after the show. Everyone who bought their new CD/DVD combo, "Can't Slow Down" got a free entry. Five dollars of the \$20 purchase price went to the Shriners. The winner (at right) was Marco Ramirez of San Luis, R.C., Mexico. Awarding his prize is Donald C. Humes, Ambassador at Large for the South Dakota Naja Shriners.

QUECHAN NEWS Photos by William Isbell

STRONG HEARTS NATIVE SOCIETY AND THE QUECHAN NATION  
PRESENT THE  
**30TH ANNUAL POW WOW**  
MARCH 5, 6 & 7, 2010  
AT THE SAN PASQUAL HIGH ATHLETIC FIELD

Host Northern Drums  
"White Eagle"  
Arizona & Washington

Host Southern Drums  
"Southern Krew"  
Anadarko, Oklahoma

"Bow Guard"  
Albuquerque, New Mexico

"Southern Outlawz"  
Shiprock, New Mexico

Join us Friday Evening, March 5th at 7:00 PM for  
**TRADITIONAL QUECHAN TRIBAL SINGING AND DANCING**

Master of Ceremonies: **Pat Pacheco**, Dakota/Santo Domingo Nations, Bernallillo, NM  
Honored Visiting Elder: **Mary Jane Cantsee**, Navajo Nation, White Mesa, Utah  
Honored Visiting Elder: **Yazzie Etsitty**, Diné Nation, Chinle, Arizona  
Head Woman Dancer: **Miss Indian Nations XVII Jennifer Millette**, Standing Rock Nation, McLaughlin, South Dakota  
Head Man Dancer: **Thomas Goodeagle**, Pawnee/Osage, Anadarko, Oklahoma  
Head Young Woman Dancer: **Jaydean Randall**, Lakota/Diné Nations, Sacramento, CA  
Head Young Man Dancer: **T J Sherman**, Navajo Nation, Twin Lakes, New Mexico  
Head Gourd Dancer: **Larry Anderson**, Diné Nation, Fort Defiance, Arizona  
Head Judge: **Darrell Goodwill**, Dakota/Nakota Nations, Saskatchewan, Canada  
Arena Directors: **Mike Salabiye**, Diné Nation, Ganado, Arizona  
**Victor Bob**, Navajo Nation, Gallup, New Mexico

**18 Dance Catagories Including Golden Age**  
*Attention Vendors - Only 45 Spaces Available!*  
*Point system will be used for judging on Saturday and Sunday!*  
Excellent Camping! Everyone Invited!

**REGISTRATION CLOSSES PROMPTLY AT 3:00PM SATURDAY!**

| Saturday                    |          |
|-----------------------------|----------|
| Gourd Dancing               | 10:00 AM |
| Grand Entry                 | 1:00 PM  |
| Supper Break (Bird Singing) | 5:00 PM  |
| Gourd Dancing               | 6:00 PM  |
| Grand Entry                 | 7:00 PM  |

| Sunday        |          |
|---------------|----------|
| Gourd Dancing | 10:00 AM |
| Grand Entry   | 12:00 PM |
| Awards/Close  | 6:00 PM  |

All times listed are Arizona Mountain StandardTime!

**Women's Jingle Special**  
Sponsored by Kailah Durand  
Miss Native San Pasqual

**\*SPOTLIGHT SPECIAL CONTESTS\***  
• Men's Grass Dance  
Sponsored by AJ Neskahi and Family  
• Women's Golden Age 65 & Over  
Sponsored by Mary Jane Cantsee  
• Men's Fancy Dance  
Sponsored by Mike Salabiye and Victor Bob

**Jr. Boys Traditional Dance Contest**  
Sponsored by TJ Sherman & Family

For more information contact: Faron Owl at (760)572-0222, Ext. 2231  
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