



QUECHAN NEWS

VOLUME 102, ISSUE 13 ♦ WEDNESDAY, JULY 2, 2008

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Look For This Symbol

ETSKA NAV AH PAI THE NEWS CARRIER
QUECHAN NEWS

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The Paradise Casinos parking lot takes on a family carnival atmosphere every year at the Casino's July 3rd Festival and Fireworks Spectacular!

In true Paradise Casinos tradition, the annual 4th of July Festival and Fireworks Spectacular kicks off early once again with a dynamite celebration, Thursday, July 3rd from 7 to 9:30 p.m. on the casino grounds.

"Paradise Casinos is the only venue where spectators will be able to witness the biggest, loudest, most elaborate and most extensive fireworks show not just in Yuma, but across the region," according to Barrett DeFay, Director of Marketing at the Casinos. "It's the perfect way to celebrate our nation's independence and to enjoy the beauty and excitement of fireworks without the danger of setting them off yourself."

As always, a variety of food booths will be there, with carnival-style games and prizes, as well as live bands and other entertainment. Free sodas, snow cones, popcorn and cotton can-

dy along with children's jumpers will be there. The newest Pepsi products will be available at Pepsi sponsored stands.

Pulling out all the stops with daring free-style performances are the Boost Mobile FreestyleMX.com Tour, presented by the Monster Energy motorcycle stunt team. The 15-minute motorcycle stunt exhibitions will take place at 7, 8 and 9 PM.

Also featured this year are two of the regions hottest bands.

Performing from 7 to 9 PM for the crowd outside is the up-and-coming rock band, Pride Before The Fall. Casino customers inside Sharky's Lounge from 9 PM to 1 AM will be entertained by regional reggae favorite, Casper and the Mighty 602 Band.

You also don't want to miss the night's biggest attraction: an impressive series of powerful booms and flashing lights that

promise to excite and thrill the audience starting at 9:15, closing off the night with an aerial display of over 3,400 dazzling fireworks and brilliantly-colored aerial shells ranging from 1½" shots to huge 12" shells.

DeFay says that Paradise Casinos expect to welcome between 3,000 and 4,000 people to the pre-Independence Fourth of July event on July 3rd. Attendees are encouraged to bring their own picnic and lawn chairs to the fireworks show.

"This is one of the ways the Quechan Indian Tribe and Paradise Casinos team up to give back to the community that has given so much to us," said DeFay. "Normally, minors are not allowed to be a part of casino functions, but today, we are happy to invite the whole family."

The show will open at 6:45 on Thursday night with a flag raising by Quechan American Le-

gion Post 802 at 7:00 PM. The game and food booths open immediately afterwards.

KTTI will have local celebrity DJs on hand to provide announcements, and open the first of the three Motocross Stunt Shows by 7:15 PM. As soon as the bikes and riders are all safely back on the ground, Pride Before The Fall begins their first set. They will play until 8 PM, when the Boost Mobile FreestyleMX stunt team does their thing once again. Another 45 minute outdoor rock concert will then be followed by more announcements, and the final motocross stunt show of the night.

The food booths close at 9:15 PM, to give everybody time to find a good spot to lay back and enjoy the fireworks spectacular, set to launch their first aerial bombardment at 9:25 PM.

This is one show you don't want to miss!

Senior Center Gift Shop Offering Hand Made Shawls For Sale



Adeline Apauty, Assistant Recreation Coordinator at the Quechan Senior Center admires the handiwork of the ladies sewing circle.

Photo: William Isbell, QUECHAN NEWS

Nearly a dozen ladies at the Quechan Senior Center have begun their Summer Sewing Project, creating a series of beautiful shawls for traditional and dressy occasions.

The shawls are offered for sale at the Senior Center Gift Shop, just inside the main entrance of the Center. Priced as low as \$25.00 for the smaller shawls and \$40.00 for full-length shawls that drape to the ground, each item is a unique design, with no two having either the same color, pattern or materials as any other.

"We have a really talented bunch of older ladies here," says Barbara Levy, the Senior Center's Recreation Coordinator.

"Each senior has their own creative spirit, and they've got their own ideas in mind whenever they sit down to start one of these. Every one of them is different, and they are all really colorful."

Every shawl in stock has a contrasting lining sewn to the back, to create a wondrous display of color and motion, when worn as a dance accessory. A purple and green tartan design may have a brilliant turquoise lining of a satiny polyester, while another may carry a red theme on the outer covering with a shiny, jet-black underside. A few even carry special designs either centered on the back or along the outside edges, where they might show just below the shoulders in the front, as they are worn draped in the traditional manner.

Although the small shawls average about 48 inches wide by about 30 inches, to drape from the neck to the waist, they can carry some fairly intricate designs. Every shawl has a hand-tied fringe, and some have beadwork at the edge of the hem, with the fringe tassels below.

The ladies even carried their sense of design into the fringe, with some tied off in macramé fashion, with two or three rows of a diamond net design along the hem that falls away after an inch to become the fringe.

"The fringe is the real work - that takes time!" says Barbara.

Both Barbara Levy and her assistant, Adeline Apauty point out that although the Center budgets for craft projects and purchased some of the materials used in the shawls, a great deal of the material used in the quilted details were produced using donated items. If you have any surplus fabric, beading supplies or other crafting materials that are currently "gathering dust", the Senior Center would appreciate the donation, and put it to good use.

"You know there are a lot of Pow Wows coming this summer, and then Indian Day, and the fall will be here," says Ms. Apauty. "Any of those gatherings are places where a woman might need a shawl to complete her outfit for dancing."

Barbara chimes in to point out, "They make good gifts, and giveaway items, if you are going to a gathering, too!"

Both say the shawls should be on sale throughout the summer months, and that the ladies in the Senior Sewing Circle may also turn out some aprons soon, which were very popular and sold out very quickly the last time they were offered.

The Senior Center Gift Shop is open to everyone, weekdays from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

Diabetic Eye Exams Return to IHS Clinic

Diabetes is a large and growing problem in Indian Country. Diabetic retinopathy is an eye disease that occurs in people with diabetes and has become the most common cause of blindness among adults. Because it can lead to blindness without warning, people with diabetes should have their eyes examined on an annual basis.

The Fort Yuma Service Unit will resume using technology that will help provide early diagnosis of diabetic retinopathy and identify patients in need of immediate intervention. The Joslin Vision Network (JVN) system uses a specially designed digital camera, computer and electronic network to record and send images of the eyes to specially trained analyzers at the Phoenix Indian Medical Center (PIMC) who "read" the images to determine a diagnosis.

The JVN procedure takes ap-

proximately 30 minutes. It is virtually painless, using low-level light that does not require dilation of the pupils, and is as accurate as a dilated eye exam. The system takes 11 high-quality detailed images of each eye. Images are forwarded electronically for analysis. Based on the analysis, a treatment plan ranging from a simple one year follow-up to the need for urgent treatment is put in place.

Any diabetic patient who has not had an eye exam within the past 12 months is eligible for imaging, and meets the entrance criteria for the JVN System.

Studies conducted at Phoenix Indian Medical Center (PIMC) show that the JVN System can improve diabetic eye care and treatment by more than 50%. So, as part of our Diabetes Care Goals, the Fort Yuma IHS Clinic recommends that you talk to your health care provider to schedule an appointment.

Fort Yuma IHS Service Unit Evening Services

The Fort Yuma Service Unit weekday hours of operation are 8 AM to 7 PM and from 10 AM to 4 PM on Saturday.

Therefore, on weekdays, the front doors will remain open until 7 PM, with the last appointment being made at 6:20 PM. Patients who come to the facility after 6:20 PM will be screened by the medical team on duty to determine the urgency of care needed. On Saturday, the timeline is adjusted making the last appointment at 3:20 PM.

If it is determined that immediate care is not required, the patient will be asked to make an appointment to be seen at a later date. Under no circumstances will a patient requiring immediate care be refused medical services during our hours of operation.

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QUECHAN NEWS

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Have a story idea, or an event you want covered?

QUECHAN NEWS is here to cover the special events and everyday lives of Quechan Tribe Members, and the issues that affect you in the world today. This newsletter is here to keep the lines of communication open, to expand opportunities, and uplift the Native Spirit of the San Pasqual Valley. Your ideas and input are welcome!

Just call the QUECHAN NEWS office Monday through Friday at (760) 572-3912, or email your stories and story ideas to w.isbell@quechantribe.com. I'm looking forward to hearing from you!



Heritage & Culture

Volunteer Extravaganza Day at the Yuma East Wetland

On Saturday, May 31, a Volunteer Extravaganza Day was held at the Yuma East Wetlands.

Clairisse Nash, an Intern for Fred Phillips Consulting facilitated the effort with the assistance of John Mahkewa and Mark Winterowd.

The Yuma East Wetlands' projects encompass both Tribal lands as well as non-tribal lands, making the the Quechan Indian Tribe a major player in the Yuma East Wetlands projects.

Thirty volunteers from both the Quechan and Yuma communities showed up to volunteer their labor for the good of the Yuma East Wetlands. Of those 30 volunteers, 80%, or 24, were from the Quechan Community. Another OUTSTANDING volunteer effort displayed by the Quechan Community!

The volunteers planted 1500 plugs of Alkali Sacaton and 200 plugs of Inland Salt Grass in the Yuma East Wetlands.

According to Mark Winterowd, the the grasses were planted due to the high saline content of the soil in that particular area and to get ground cover growing so unwanted or "exotic" vegetation will not take root. The species selected will hopefully thrive in the months ahead "to keep out the stuff we don't want [growing] out there," said Winterowd.

Ms. Nash held a cook-out for

the volunteers at the river once the hard work was completed, just below the Ocean to Ocean Highway Bridge. Volunteers were able to enjoy sodas, hamburgers, hot dogs, corn, and potatoes. It was the perfect way to

thirst, cuts, and calluses.

EDA would like to acknowledge the Quechan Warriors' Babe Ruth Team, who showed up and were very respectable young volunteers. Throughout the year, many local organizations ap-



In front, from left are Sean Johnson, Andrew Lomaintewa, Jr., Jaime Marquez, Jordan Davis and Reggie Sanchez. Standing in the rear, Mike Gilbert, Jr., Mandell Sanchez, Alex Marquez, Josh Owl, Redhawk Welch, Aaron Lucero and Jason Lomaintewa, all members of the Quechan Warriors Babe Ruth baseball team that came out and volunteered their time at the Yuma East Wetlands.

Photo Courtesy of Faron Owl, Quechan Warriors

treat the volunteers, especially since most volunteers are at that "river rat" age and love any excuse to be at the river.

Allyson Collins, Economic Development Administration Specialist at the Quechan Economic Development Administration (EDA) wishes to thank all of the volunteers who came out, saying the hard terrain made it very difficult when digging holes. Planting in those conditions is not ideal, so she really has to give a lot of credit to the volunteers for their time, sweat,

proach the Tribal Council for financial donations/sponsorship for the many projects they are engaged in, and the Quechan Warriors are one such group. Therefore, it is commendable that such organizations "give back" to their communities, showing their gratitude to the Tribe for the support they have received. All volunteer efforts embrace this concept, and the Tribal Council is thrilled that the Quechan EDA has received such awesome support in their volunteer recruitment.

EDA would also like to pub-

licly acknowledge two Quechan tribal member elders, Marsha and Janice Emerson, who both have volunteered at the recent River Clean Up and the YEW Volunteer Extravaganza, with their grandchildren in tow. They have taught their grandchildren the importance of volunteer work in the community by doing exactly that. Therefore, kudos to these women and their grandchildren.

It should also be mentioned that a group from Fort Yuma ADAPP volunteered, and were ready to plant that morning, but they were not able to locate the site or reach Ms. Collins by cell phone to join the group.

The Quechan EDA still wants to thank them because they did come out with the intention of volunteering, which is admirable on their part.

Yuma East Wetlands Spring Planting Volunteers

Redhawk Welch	Quechan Warriors*
Reggie Sanchez	Quechan Warriors*
Jason Lomaintewa, Jr.	Quechan Warriors*
Mandel Sanchez, Jr.	Quechan Warriors*
Sean Johnson	Quechan Warriors*
Jordan Davis	Quechan Warriors*
Josh Owl	Quechan Warriors*
Alex Marquez	Quechan Warriors*
Andrew Lomaintewa	Quechan Warriors*
Jaime Marquez	Quechan Warriors*
Faron Owl (Coach)	Quechan Warriors*
Mike Gilbert	Quechan Warriors*
Aaron Lucero	Quechan Warriors*
Alex Marquez, Sr.	Quechan Warriors*
John Amador	Quechan Warriors*
Jessica Collins	Quechan Community
Janice Emerson	Quechan Community
Marsha Emerson	Quechan Community
Lauren Talaswaima	Quechan Community
Leanne Talaswaima-Puggie	Quechan Community
Breanne Talaswaima-Puggie	Quechan Community
Allyson Collins	Quechan Community
Isaac Collins	Quechan Community
Summer Juan	Quechan Community
Clayton Pitcher	Troop 61 – Yuma
Belinda Pitcher	Troop 61 – Yuma
Heidi Leach	Yuma Community
Louis Spitzer	Yuma Community
Jennifer Spitzer	Yuma Community
Sabrina Ernst	Yuma Community

* Yuma Babe Ruth Baseball League

Answers to Questions on Casino♠Resort



**Mike Jackson, Sr.,
President of the
Quechan Tribe**

Makes this "Report to the People" to keep the community up-to-date on the Council's views of important Tribal issues.

Photo: William Isbell, QUECHAN NEWS

On Friday June 6, 2008 the Tribal Council was called to a Special Meeting by signatures by the group known as the opposition to the tribe's new Casino/Resort.

Involved in this group and at that meeting were Valerie Jose-O'Brien, David O'Brien, Vernon Smith, Milton Jefferson, Preston Jefferson, Priscilla Prettybird, Yolanda Escalanti and Roderick Kelly.

I called the meeting to order, setting the rules for the meeting while informing everyone in the Tribal Chambers that they were just a handful. I told the group that we have heard their same concerns time and time again. The Tribal Council must abide under the Constitution. Therefore, we called the meeting as requested and we let them know we would hear their concerns and respond.

I also made it clear that I wanted to keep the meeting orderly and let them know that we (the Council) would not engage in any arguments with the group and we requested the same courtesy.

The group expressed their issues and concerns to Council, which again have no merit, no facts, amounting to a collection of rumors and innuendo. In the end we responded with facts, and the Council's response is listed below. The opposition group called the Council liars and told us in that meeting that they will never believe us.

The Council can only respond

with the truths and facts. If they don't accept it, then there's nothing to talk about in the future.

The only mission of this group is to stop the construction of our new Casino Resort and be politically negative against the Tribal Council.

This is not going to happen, since the Council is charged with carrying out the wishes of our tribal membership and the members of this group are against the tribal membership's wishes.

The group is lying to tribal members and telling them untruths about the Tribal Council; their goal is to misinform tribal members in advance of the upcoming elections in December.

The tribal membership can only make their own decision as to who they feel can best serve our Tribal Nation.

The meeting eventually got out of hand, so I called for adjournment. Security was called and a member of their group was arrested. That person was one that was arrested for assaulting another tribal member who didn't agree with them or their radical views. It is my view that the Tribal Chambers were totally disrespected by this group, who are supposed to be adults and responsible tribal members.

This group is very radical, has no credibility and think they speak on behalf of the tribal membership. The Council understands that we have to abide by the Constitution and when called to a Special Meeting by signature, we have to meet. In

the future if we meet with this group we will hear their concerns and then inform them we will respond in writing to them and adjourn the meeting. We will not let them get physical nor will we allow this group to disrespect our Tribal Chambers again. The Tribal Council feels we need to inform the membership about this group, and whether you agree with this group or disagree, there is a right way to solve tribal concerns. Below follow the issues raised by this group and the Council response:

The Group's Question: - Was the May per capita lower because of the Fitch rating?

Answer: - The Fitch Rating is a financial agency who gives credit rating on corporations and companies. They did the credit rating for our tribe. This involved our financial position and borrowing power to go into the bond market. This Fitch rating is the standard for the investors to purchase bonds or not. Our credit rating was lowered due to the negative financial market crisis, but this did not impact the May's per capita distribution.

Group's Question: - Why wasn't the membership informed of the enrollment cut-off date to receive per capita?

Answer: - There has always been an Enrollment cut-off date to enroll new members into our Tribe, as passed by Tribal Resolution. The dates each year are: June 30th and December 31st. If they qualify, new tribal members are enrolled and they are then eligible to receive per capita payments.

Question: - The group claims there was a shortage of \$480.32 in May's per capita disbursement and wants the \$480.32 they claim is due to them.

Answer: - This is not true. There is no shortage in the May per capita distribution, the

money generated in the previous months dictates how much money will be distributed to the tribal membership. The simple fact is the amount is dependent upon how many patrons visited our casino and how much money they spent.

Allegation: - The Tribal Council raided the Minors Trust Account and they will do it again in the future.

Response: - Again not true. The council never raided the children's trust account. The Council changed the per capita plan with the approval of the membership. The old plan had 25% of Casino revenues going to per capita with the adults and minors getting an equal share of the money. Later the plan was changed to 40% going to per capita, with the adults getting 80% and the minors receiving 20%. Because the council changed the plan from 25% to 40% for the distribution of per capita, the minors actually gained more money into their account. This change was approved by Tribal membership, Tribal Council and the Department of Interior. The group doesn't like the change but the Tribal Council answered up to the majority of the tribe.

Question: - If there is a recession going on why is the Council not cutting back on the tribal budget and controlling spending? And why is the Tribal Budget over budget each year on our Social Services line items and why do we keep giving money to tribal members who are incompetent?

Answer: - The Council has cut back on spending, as the Directors of our Tribal Programs realize. The Social Services budget line item is just that. We know some of our tribal members will always depend on the Tribe, but we would never call them incompetents as they are tribal members like anyone else

but they need a little more help than others. The council did inform the Vice President to cut back on social services funds, while continuing to help those who qualify and are in need.

Question: - Why hasn't the council shut down tribal enterprises that don't make money?

Answer: - The Council is trying to turn these enterprises around and make money, but we also realize these enterprises provide employment for tribal members to feed and care for their families. Shutting down these enterprises will be the last option for the Council but it will be something to consider in the future.

Question: - Why is the Tribal Council supplementing Tribal Programs and wasting the Tribe's money?

Answer: - The grant money only goes so far with tribal programs that bring services to our membership. Programs services expand just like our tribal membership. The programs need more funding to keep bringing important services to our community. Again tribal members are employed in these programs and we want to keep as many tribal members employed as we possibly can.

Question: - Why does Council give out advance per capita payments and where is the money coming from?

Answer: - The Council made this decision years ago and we consider the money to be the tribal memberships money. If they want to take out an early per capita, the Council agrees. The money comes from money flow the tribe has in the bank as stated before. This group is against early per capita payments, but again the Council listens to the majority of our membership and not to this small group.

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The President's Report to The Quechan People

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Question: - When the Tribe went to the bond market to fund the new Casino why didn't any investors buy the bonds? And why are we still building the casino with no money?

Answer: - Investors did buy into the bonds to fund the construction of our Casino Resort in the amounts of \$45 Million in non-taxable bonds and \$110 Million taxable, for a total of \$155 Million. The tribe is currently \$25 million dollars short of funds needed; this is because of the condition of the market due to the recession. The council is working with an experienced financial group to borrow the rest of the money.

Question: - Who signed off on the bonds documentation? And what percentage of interest rate were the bonds funded?

Answer: - I, as President, signed off on the bonds funding on the authority of the Tribal Council and in my absence the Vice President has that authority. When the tribe first went to market on the bonds we could have received the money at 8% interest rate, but due to the small group of opposition and questions by some tribal members, the Council at the time decided to let the membership vote on the new casino. This took time and the market changed during that time so we had to settle for an interest rate of 15% and it cost us millions of dollars more than if we had not delayed the start of construction to hold that election.

Question: - Why did the Council loan \$30 million dollars to keep the Casino operation going and why wasn't the Casino management fired for losing money?

Answer: - The \$30 million loan wasn't to keep the Casino in

operation. The loan was for the construction of the new Casino. We are not paying the 15% interest on this inter-fund and the savings for the Tribe amounts to \$4.5 Million a year. This short term loan was a great financial move for the tribe. As we previously reported to the membership, all Indian Casinos as well as Las Vegas revenues are down due to the economic recession, and our Casino management is doing the best they can during this slow down of the economy.

Allegation: - The Tribal Council is illegally taking money from one category in the allocation plan and putting it in another category without amending the allocation plan.

Response: - Again this is not true. The approved tribal allocation plan is divided up into 4 categories: (1) Per Capita at 40%. (2) Tribal Operations at 25.5%. (3) Economic Development at 25.5%, and (4) General Welfare at 9%. The casino started operations in 1996. The Revenue Allocation Plan was first approved in 1999. Per Capita payments started out at 20.9% and were increased to 25% in October 2002, then increased again to 40% in May 2005.

Allegation: - The Council lied to the people saying that the new Casino Resort will be constructed with exempt bonds money and only 18 million dollars of the Tribe's money will be spent. The Tribal Council has spent \$45 million on the Casino Resort using the Tribe's money, and that's why the per capita for May came up short by \$480.32 per person.

Response: - Not true. The Tribal membership was told at community meetings that the tribe's part to construct this new casino will be \$18 to \$32 millions dollars from the tribe. When we received the bonds funding in May 2008 the tribe had spent \$25 million and when the bond funding was approved we received an \$8 million dollar reimbursement from the bonds proceeds so the total amount we spent is \$17 mil-

lion from the tribe's money.

Allegation: - Vice President Escalanti told us that the new Casino won't have any power once it is ready to open and Keneey also said to bring power to the site we will have go through land that belongs to a Non-Native American private property owner on the Arizona side. Further, the Council is doing this without his approval. The Vice President also stated that we're not using IID for power. Instead, we're talking to WAPA for power even though the Tribe is suing them. And finally he said we don't even know what amount of electrical power the Casino will need.

Response: - Again the group is misinformed as the private landowner has already agreed to let us go through this land to provide electrical power to our new Casino. The council decided not to use IID for power because they are not dependable and too expensive. The Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) officials met with us and are willing to bring power to the new Casino at a savings of millions of dollars for the tribe. WAPA officials in Phoenix Headquarters are separating the issues of our lawsuit and so are we. They also stated they can assist us with providing our own power for the tribe in the future. We hired a construction firm with a lot of experience and a Project Management Firm to oversee the construction and by all means they know how much power the Casino needs.

Allegation: - Valerie Jose-O'Brien accused Robin Estrada, Tribal Financial Manager, of not recognizing students' Diplomas when they graduate from High School and receive their per capita.

Response: - Wrong! Miss Estrada and the Council recognize all students who graduate and applaud them. What's wrong with this question is some students have tried to get bogus diplomas thru the Internet. Diplomas can be purchased thru the Internet

without taking the mandatory courses. Some tribal members that have home computers were assisting kids in getting illegal diplomas off the Internet, then they were taking a cut from the kid's per capita. Miss Estrada was able to investigate this matter and bring it to the attention of the Council. Only a small handful tried to do this and it has been officially stopped. The Revenue Distribution Plan was written not to interrupt the education of our children and to get them graduated from high school. If they are unable to receive a diploma then they have to wait until they turn 21 old years old to receive per capita. This is all designed to prevent social ills.

Other Matters of Concern:

New Hospital - The construction of our new IHS hospital will finally happen. The Council and Indian Health Services officials are in pre-construction discussions. The first step in this process was to approve the Program Justification Documents (PJD), and part of this document concerns where the hospital is to be built.

The chosen site has been to build on our land at the present location of our Trailer Village Park, as you know. Last week I spoke to officials in the HIS Phoenix Area Office and was told the second phase will be to approve another document called the Program of Requirements (POR), which includes what departments, staffing, clinical and office space will be in the new hospital. This will serve as a guide for the architectural firm in designing our new hospital.

I was told these documents have been signed off by Phoenix Area IHS officials and were sent to Headquarters in Washington D.C. to be reviewed and approved there.

Once approved by the D.C. officials, they will contact the architectural firm to start drafting the design for our new hospital.

The new Ft. Yuma Hospital

has been a point of discussion since the 1980's and now it's finally going to happen. In the near future the Quechan Tribal Council will start the process of lobbying Congress to start construction sooner rather than later, to better meet our Tribe's health care needs. We will also meet with our management team of the trailer park to begin the process of demolition.

Elder Complex - At the Council work session held on June 12, 2008 one of the items presented to the Council by the EDA staff was to approve a firm to design the site for the Elder Complex.

As was reported to the membership in a past issue of the *Quechan News*, the Council is working with the EDA staff to make another dream come true for the tribe. The plans call for a gated community for our elders to live in safety and peace, away from abuse.

As reported previously, inside this gated community will be new apartments for our elders, an Elder Care Home and a Foster Care Home. The Foster Care Home is vitally important to our tribe, because once we build this home for our misplaced kids, the tribe will no longer face losing our kids to the system, as it happens all too often now.

The state courts see our Tribe as not having a home for our misplaced kids so they place them outside our Tribal community, which is not good. That's why the Tribal Council has made this Foster Care Home a priority.

These plans have been on the drawing board for a couple of years and now it's time to make it happen. This is all designed to enhance the new hospital which will be across the street for quick medical care should an elder get ill.

Quechan Tribe vs Western Area Power Administration - In 2002 our Tribal Nation filed a suit against the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) **For More Matters of Concern, See Page 6**

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a United States Department of Energy Agency in The United States District Court.

As you may recall, they were the agency responsible for destroying our tribal cultural resources at sacred sites along the western portion of the All American Canal.

These sites were destroyed by their heavy equipment as they were repairing their power poles, even after the Council and our Culture Committee met with them to make them aware that we had many sacred sites at the location. WAPA officials informed the Council that they would protect our sacred sites and also have an archaeologist on-site to make sure nothing was destroyed, yet they still destroyed some of our sites.

After many years of court proceedings, a United States District Court has held the United States liable for all damages to our sacred sites. The District Court further denied motions by the United States to dismiss the case.

The District Judge told WAPA officials to begin negotiations for a settlement with our Tribal Nation. Our attorneys are in discussions with WAPA officials at this time. It has been said and it is true: "There's no price tag for our sacred sites". No amount of money can undo the damage done to sacred sites that are gone forever. However, the settlement money can be used for the new museum and also for the continued protection and preservation of our cultural resources.

The Council and Cultural Committee are looking at the settlement money to build a state-of-the-art museum for our Tribe, which is much needed for our Nation. Both the Council and the Culture Committee take pleasure that our tribe set a precedent in

taking the United States Government to court and winning.

That's why the United States fought so hard through the Western Area Power Administration to not let this happen, since the resulting precedent will now open up the door for other tribes to do the same, should the United States and WAPA disrespect their land.

This has happened a lot in Indian Country in the past. Now this is a new day, Tribal Councils are educated and pro-active, fighting back and we're happy to be at the forefront of these court battles. Thanks to the Council, the Culture Committee and tribal members that were involved in this battle.

The Wellton-Mohawk Land Transfer - Current update on another major lawsuit our tribe is involved in: the Wellton-Mohawk Land Exchange.

In the year 2000 The Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) and Wellton-Mohawk Irrigation and Drainage District (WMIDD) went to Congress and got Congressional approval to transfer 48,000 acres of Reclamation land to the Irrigation District.

The history of this is that once again the United States gave permission to the BOR to transfer land in the Wellton area to expand the Wellton-Mohawk Irrigation Project without Government-To-Government Consultation with our tribe involving our ancestral lands.

This consultation is the required legislative process for any Federal Government Agency or State Government. They must consult with our tribe before obtaining Congressional authorization to transfer this land, which was not done and the proposed project will destroy some of our sacred sites on the land to be transferred. Again the federal government chose not to follow their own policy.

So once again our Tribal Nation filed a lawsuit, Quechan Indian Tribe vs. Bureau of Reclamation, Wellton-Mohawk Irrigation and Drainage District, and

Arizona Clean Fuels, LLC.

The Tribal Council and our Culture Committee informed BOR officials that our cultural resource sites on this land are deemed eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, but BOR chose to ignore our concerns.

In addition to this land transfer, Wellton-Mohawk officials intended to sell 12,000 acres of the transferred land to Arizona Cleans Fuels for development of an oil refinery. Our sacred sites are also on that portion of the land.

In 2007 after many discussions with BOR they still transferred 30,000 acres, including the acreage for planned for construction of the oil refinery.

Our suit was filed to reverse the land transfer and stop the development of the oil refinery until a complete cultural resource survey was done on all transferred land. The U.S. District Court denied the Tribe's attempt to stop the transfer.

The Tribe was in the process of filing an appeal in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, but before we filed Bureau of Reclamation officials approached us to start settlement discussions knowing we could stall the land transfer for years.

This action by the Quechan Tribe made the Arizona Clean Fuels officials choose not to fight with us and they subsequently decided to build their refinery elsewhere.

In any case, we filed a Notice of Appeal with the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals to let BOR and the Wellton-Mohawk Irrigation District know that we are very serious about this land transfer and we will delay it for twenty years if we have to. That made them come running.

The Tribal Council's argument is that the land was going to be transferred illegally and if the Wellton-Mohawk District needed this land to expand their operation, then why did they sell it for money to the Arizona Clean Fuels?

We were not going to let the

land be transferred until every inch of soil was properly surveyed for our cultural sites.

Arizona Clean Fuels officials realized our Tribe was not going to back off in protecting our ancestral land and the court battle was going to be too long and costly for them, so they chose to go away.

If you read some of the articles in the paper they were very aggressive and weren't pleasant people, but in the end they didn't know who they were messing with and were taught a lesson!

Our attorneys are in settlements negotiations, and because we are in litigation, we cannot disclose any information at this time, but we'll keep the tribal membership updated.

Army Corp of Engineers - This issue involves our land along the border near Algodones, Mexico.

The Department of Homeland Security was created out of the tragedy of 9/11 and is the Federal Agency in charge of securing all borders of the United States.

The border tribes such as the Quechan, the Cocopah and Tohono O-odham are involved in the Homeland Act. Our Tribe's argument has always been to get direct funding from the federal government, instead of them sending money to the states to pass on to the tribes.

We know what has to be done should we get direct funding. Our tribe has always been impacted by the illegal immigration that goes through our land, especially at our Parking Lot enterprise and Sleepy Hollow, both damaging our fences and putting our staff in danger at times.

President Bush put out an order to condemn all land along the borders so lands belonging to state or private owners will have no say in the construction of fences along the border, including Native American Tribes. But he excluded Quechan land.

When the Army Corps of Engineers and the Border Patrol met with the Tribal Council, they informed us they were going to

construct fences on our land. We opposed their plans and said we have sacred sites in the area. We realize homeland security is important but we must be involved in the construction of those fences to protect any sacred sites in the area.

The Council also informed them that President Bush excluded our land and if they come on our land they would be in trespass and subject to arrest.

I received a letter from the Corps indicating they were more than willing to work with us and resolve any issues we may have regarding the fencing and our sacred sites. They agreed to fund our tribal monitors to be on site when they start constructing these fences.

Once again, the Tribal Council, our Preservation Officer Bridget Nash and the Culture Committee have worked to save our sacred sites.

Quechan Public Works Building - The Council is making plans to build a public works building to house all our departments including: Tribal Utilities Department, Water and Sewer Department, the Environment Department, Mosquito Abatement and Pesticide Program, and Tribal Facilities Department.

The area for the new building will be at old Ranch 5. Joel Smith, Tribal Facilities Manager has drafted a construction budget for the new facility with input from Indian Health Services officials. Since the building will be the home for most of our IHS funded programs, I called Don Davis, Phoenix Area Director and asked for additional funding, he agreed and will look for more funding. Our tribe will have to fund our portion which will be only that part for Tribal Facilities. This will be one complete complex for these programs, which the tribe has needed for some time.

Western Energy Corridor - In June 2008 the U.S. Department of Energy notified our
Continued on Page 7

The President's Report to The Quechan People

Continued From Page 6

Tribe that they intended to run a one mile path from east to west through the heartland of our reservation for the future development of their new power lines.

We again informed them that we had many sacred sites that will be destroyed and the Tribal Council will not let this happen.

The latest letter we received from Energy officials stated they have abandoned their proposal and will take another route through the northern part of our reservation. We then informed them that we also have sacred sites there and any construction both on and off the reservation will have to be approved by our

Tribal Nation.

We also notified the Department of Energy we will be totally involved in any plans for the future of this Energy Corridor. We will keep the tribal membership updated on this matter.

Tribal Day Work Program - Last month the Council approved The Day Labor Work Program. This program is being implemented to assist tribal members who do not have regular employment.

Upon being referred through the Social Services Coordinator, these individuals will be employed on a short-term basis (up to five days per month) and receive compensation to meet their basic living needs.

This program should be in operation by Mid-July. This will minimize our social services line item in the Tribe's budget and hopefully will be a start in get-

ting these tribal members into regular employment status.

The Elder Assistance Program - The Elder Plan will provide assistance to our Tribal Elders to meet their living needs. The elder plan is being finalized to bring assistance in food, clothing and utilities, so that the quality of life for our elders should be improved. The Program Coordinator will begin working in July to set up the Elders Program Office and to establish the means by which our elders will receive assistance.

This concludes my report.

As you can see, there are many immediate plans for our Tribe. All these plans are the result of the culmination of the hard work of your Tribal Council, striving for our Tribe, both for the present time and for our future.

Thank You!

Local Teacher Travels to South Africa on Tour



Georgina Hanna

Georgina Hanna, a Social Studies and Economics teacher at the San Pasqual Valley High School has been selected to participate in the National Council on Economic Education's (NCEE) Study Tour on Economic Education in the Republic of South Africa in July and August of 2008.

The Study Tour is an activity of the Cooperative Education Exchange Program (CEEP) conducted by the NCEE with funding from the U.S. Department of Education and carried out in coordination with the U.S. Department of State.

Georgina was one of three candidates nominated by the California Council of Economics Education and the only one selected from Arizona or California.

Mrs. Hanna has been an Economics teacher at San Pasqual High School for the past four years. Her students have been finalists and winners at the state level in numerous Economics competitions including Money-Wise Teen and the Stock Market Game.

Hanna is one of only twelve U.S. educators selected to take part in this program. The participants come from eleven States, including Arizona, Arkansas, Delaware, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Massachusetts,

Mississippi, South Carolina, and Texas.

Mrs. Hanna will leave for Washington, D.C. from the Yuma International Airport on Tuesday, July 22nd.

After a pre-departure program in Washington, D.C., will include meeting with representatives on Capitol Hill as well as an orientation before leaving for South Africa on Friday, July 25th.

The group of twelve U.S. educators will then travel to two provinces in South Africa – Free State and KwaZulu Natal.

The group is scheduled to visit schools, observe teacher training activities, and meet with provincial Department of Education officials, educational administrators, and business leaders.

She tells the *Quechan News* that she will give the community details on their trip around the country of South Africa, visiting schools and talking to educators. She should be returning to the U.S. on Wednesday, August 6th.

Through the Study Tour, participants will learn about the successes and challenges of delivering economic education in South Africa; a country undergoing dramatic transition; inform their South African counterparts on how economic education is delivered in the United States; and bring the experience back home to their colleagues, students, and community through presentations and discussions.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for learning and exchanging ideas, and I look forward to speaking with my counterparts in South Africa and interacting with their students," Hanna said.

After returning from the study tour, Mrs. Hanna has plans to incorporate the experience into her teaching of economics, conduct workshops, and give presentations to local civic groups and other educators.

Dredging to Start on Nature Park Lake

At the Quechan Tribal Council work session on Thursday, June 12, Brian Golding Sr., Director of the Economic Development Administration (EDA) and Allyson Collins, EDA Specialist, made a report to the Council recommending the selection of JSA to complete the design work and begin construction of the Quechan Nature Park.

Although the EDA sent Requests For Qualifications (RFQ) letters to six landscaping and construction contractors in both Yuma and Flagstaff, only two companies replied by the deadline, JSA and PG&E. Using a points system designed into the RFQ process, JSA was ranked as the most qualified contractor. They earned a total of 381 points over PG&E's total of 281.

Mr. Golding's recommendation to contract with JSA for the work was based on their past history in working with the Tribe on similar projects.

"For the most part, their dealings with the Tribe in the past have been great," he says.

"They've had a business permit with the Tribe for many years, and have been a good partner in TERO compliance. JSA has hired a number of Tribal members, and they consistently make an effort to do so."

The next phase of the Quechan Nature Park will now move into full swing, with JSA's design staff partnering with both the staff at EDA and Fred Phillips Consulting, who is the lead partner with the Quechan Tribe on getting the Park built using only the grant monies awarded for that purpose.

While all of that is going on, actual dredging of the north channel on the Colorado River and the lake featured as the centerpiece of the Park will begin as early as next week. The Bureau of Reclamation has agreed to loan a large dredging machine to the Yuma Crossing Heritage Area, along with a crew to dredge an enlargement of the shallow, one acre pond presently at the site, into a deeper, navigable lake perhaps ten times as large.

"It's a pretty cool looking piece of equipment that will be doing the dredging," says Golding. You might want to go out in the mornings next week and watch from the parking area overlooking the site.

The soil removed from both the north channel and the lake area will be used to build up the foot of the hill where the Nature Park will be.

Golding explains: "I want to have the excavator take that material, while he's still got it loaded, and place it roughly where it's needed, so JSA will only have to 'move it around' when the actual work begins, rather than having to go pick it up and shuttle it over to the Park from somewhere else."

Since JSA also has a good history of close cooperation with other contractors on similar projects, the EDA expects to see that happen.

A dramatic change is in store for the riverfront, so if you're in the area next week, take the time to drop by and check it out!

FORT YUMA INDIAN HEALTH CLINIC

No Appointments will be



Last Appointment
Monday - Friday!

Or after
3:20 PM on
Saturdays!

made after
6:20 PM on
Weekdays!



Last Appointment
on Saturdays!

Diabetes Self-Management Classes

Sponsored by the

FORT YUMA INDIAN HEALTH CLINIC

Will be held at the Senior Center
for the next 5 Wednesday afternoons:

July 9, 16, 23, 30 & August 6
From 1:30 PM until 4:00 PM

Topics include:

What is Diabetes?

Preventing Complications

Meal Planning & Nutrition

Physical Activity

Making Healthy Changes

Diabetes Medicines & Insulin

Sick Day Management

Taking Care of Your Feet

Emotional Aspects of Diabetes

Hosted by: Deborah Drumel, MS, RD, CDE
Public Health Educator and Registered Dietitian
Certified Diabetes Educator

For More information, call:

(760) 572-4227

Logjam is Broken in San Pasqual Teachers Contract Negotiations

Don Little, San Pasqual Teachers Association (SPTA) President, has provided the following data concerning the contract currently being negotiated between San Pasqual Valley Unified School District and the SPTA Contract Committee.

He says that right now, it appears that the "logjam" has been broken, and after months of no movement whatsoever on the part of the School District, the hiring of Superintendent Schone- man seems to be the change that brought them back to the table.

Numerous School Board meetings over the past 24 months have featured the SPTA reporting they had received no substantive reply from the attorneys representing the District, and that they saw no hope of completing a new contract during the 2007/08 school year.

When the contract negotiation process began in May of 2006, Mr. Little reports that the SPTA "sunshined" three Articles they were bringing to the table for open negotiation.

Those Articles included Salaries, Work Day Scheduling and the issue of Employee Leave.

The specific points the SPTA made in their opening offer were as follows:

1) They were hoping for a pay raise of 12.84%, to make up for at least three years of no cost-of-living increases from the District.

2) The return of the planning and collaboration time that the elementary school teachers lost in previous negotiations. That time had previously been spent as an hour at the end of the school day, with no students present, for teachers to grade papers and prepare lesson plans for the week.

When the bus schedules were synchronized, placing first thru fifth graders on the same buses with middle and high school aged students, the teachers lost that time, keeping the younger

students in their classrooms for the hour previously spent for planning.

3) An increase in the number of "personal necessity" days.

According to the SPTA, when they brought those items to the table, the District countered by attempting to throw the entire contract open for a re-write, which is in direct conflict with the contract, limiting opening to three articles or less.

The SPTA challenged the District's attempt, but was told it was going to happen and that the District lawyer would be the lead negotiator. This created an atmosphere of distrust and apprehension on both sides.

It has taken two years, a new school board, and a new superintendent, but now a contract has been signed.

"What did we get other than a headache and numerous letters of reprimand from the District?" asks Mr. Little.

"Well, we will be getting a pay raise, but instead of being all at once, it will be broken down into small percentages per year. Of course, since some of the pay is for the years we spent in negotiations, that part will be paid retroactively, later this year."

The pay raise is broken down as follows:

A) For the 2006/07 school year, the teachers will receive a 3% raise on pay scale, with an additional 1% off pay scale.

B) For the 2007-08 year, it will be 2% on pay scale and 2% off pay scale.

The San Pasqual Valley Unified School District has also agreed to the return of planning and collaboration time for the elementary school teachers.

Further, they have promised that the elementary school will utilize the school's cafeteria for serving breakfast, rather than delivering the meal to the class-

rooms, as they have been doing.

There will be an increase for those members that opt out of using District health benefits from \$867.50 to \$3250 or 50% of what is paid for health benefits today.

And the personal necessity days will be increased from 4 days to 7 days.

The pay raise was determined using what the District received as COLA and the state funded inflation factor for those two years which was funded at 16.25%. When the negotiations began, San Pasqual teachers ranked number 11 out of 17 districts in the Imperial Valley or an average of \$13,500 a year less than teachers at Brawley Union High School.

While the starting teachers' salary is very competitive with the rest of the valley, the major short coming has been salaries for the middle and senior teachers. San Pasqual teachers now rank 16 out of 17 with this new contract. Money continues to be a major issue, especially now with the Governor cutting many programs a total of 6.99% last year.

Negotiations are scheduled this fall for the 2008/09 school year, and the SPTA hopes to improve the standing of the school in the valley. While the Board and Mr. Leptich imply that money is tight, the SPTA's position is that it did not play out with the hiring of the new superintendent. The Certificated Management Salary Schedule for San Pasqual shows the Superintendent's salary as \$115,500 plus benefits and transportation costs. The new contract is for \$138,000 with a \$3,000 raise programmed for the next three years. This makes him the 4th highest paid superintendent in the valley. The SPTA has already informed Superintendent Shone- man they expect a healthy raise for the teachers as money may not be as tight as the District claims.

Senior Center Pool Tournament

A pool tournament is planned for Saturday, July 26th at the Quechan Senior Center.

Billed as the "First Annual Seniors Tournament", the games will begin at 9 AM and continue until all scores are settled. A lunch break will take place from noon to 1 PM, so nobody has to worry about playing their final rounds on an empty stomach!

Open to those 55 years or older, the tournament will have separate mens' and womens' divisions, with first, second and third place trophies for each division.

The Grand Champion Trophy will be awarded to the winner of

a game between the first place winners of both divisions.

Planned as a double elimination tournament, these games could last well into the afternoon, depending on the number of "sharks" that sign up to play!

To enter, call the Senior Center at (760) 572-0748 and give them your name. Better yet, drop by in person and speak to their receptionist, Dawn Escalanti, to get your name added to the list!

You may also want to drop in anyway, so you can spend some time on the actual tables used for the tournament. Practice, practice, practice!



The 8 to 11 Year Old Co-Ed GRASSHOPPER BASKETBALL League for Summer 2008

STARTS SOON!
*The Registration Deadline
is Friday, July 11th!*

**SIGN
UP
NOW
AT:**

**QUECHAN
PARKS &
RECREATION**

AIR CONDITIONER TIPS

Regular preventative maintenance is the best way to ensure trouble-free operation and peak performance.

It also keeps your system running at its optimal efficiency levels, which keeps energy usage - and your energy bills - in check. But just as important, preventative system maintenance gives you peace of mind.

Pre-season maintenance can help you avoid a system failure on the hottest or coldest day of the year. It can also help you avoid a frantic search for an air conditioning or heating dealer that can repair or replace your broken system.

This month would be an optimal time to get your service done before the winter months set in. Bear in mind that nothing takes the place of changing air filters on frequent basis as needed.

How often should I change or clean my filters?

Filters should generally be replaced every month when the system is running. Replace filters with the same kind and size as the original filter. If your filter is not disposable, follow the manufacturer instructions for cleaning. If you're using a high-density filter such as an electrostatic filter, check with your local dealer for the model and brand of unit you own. If the external static pressure exceeds the design criteria of your system, it can negatively impact the performance and life of your equipment.

What are the average life expectancies for heating and air conditioning equipment?

The average expected life of an air conditioner is approximately 15 years. The average expected life of a heat pump is approximately 10 to 12 years, since it operates year round. The average expected life of a gas furnace or air handler may be longer. Units in corrosive environments, such as, but not limited to coastal installations, will tend to have shorter lives.

QUECHAN POST 802

ANNOUNCES

The Annual Veteran's Recognition Dinner

**On Saturday, July 26th, 2008
at the Quechan Community Center
From Noon to 4:00 PM**

Admission is FREE!

All Veterans of any foreign conflict are welcome to attend and receive the gratitude of the Quechan Nation in defending our American Freedoms. Everyone is welcome to come out and show their support at this event.

Beef Pit Barbeque Community Pot Luck Menu!

Guest Speakers & Entertainment

With Special Recognition for Korean War Veterans

For Further Information, Contact:

Jerry Brown, Commander, Quechan Post 802

(928) 446-1797

Lady Warriors in Yuma City League Summer Games



Janyse Collins prepares to slam one of her signature lay-ups against the Wildcats in June.

The members of the San Pasqual High Girls' Basketball Team are not content to rest on their laurels and take the summer off. They are determined to keep in practice and hone their skills, to be ready for the coming official basketball season opening in November.

They've joined the City of Yuma's Teen Summer League, playing against other girls their age twice a week, to stay sharp and gain experience against teams they wouldn't otherwise meet.

Even though summer colds and family vacations have put a dent in their line-up some weeks, their record so far of 3 wins to 2 losses has them placed favorably against their competition.

A Thursday night game against the Wildcats in mid-June saw 5 of their teammates out for various reasons, and even though the Lady Warriors had only 7 players on hand against

the Wildcats' 11, they still went on to win the game, 44 to 28. That speaks well of their ability to rise to the occasion and keep moving ahead, playing essentially without breaks while their

aged to develop an ability to be where they need to be at all the right times, keeping the ball moving, able to pass it to where it will do the most good, taking advantage of their opponents' errors and taking control almost at will.

Although the City's Summer League play began June 10th and is half over, the Lady Warriors still have four games yet to play this month, and they would love to see more friends and family at the sidelines to cheer



Apollonia Castañeda, surrounded by Sparks players, maneuvers to keep the ball away from them.

QUECHAN NEWS Photos by William Isbell

The Lady Warriors in the City's Summer League are Ceci Casarez, Appolinia Castañeda, Janyse and Jessica Collins, Kailah Durand, Chana Escalanti, Janequa and Larissa Mills, Virginia Montague, Gina Rivera, Sarina Salas and Aileen Velardé.

Lady Warriors Games in July

Tuesday, July 8

7:45 PM Against the Wildcats Yuma Civic Center Court 1

Thursday July 10

6:30 PM Against Kofa Yuma Civic Center Court 1

Tuesday, July 15

7:45 PM Against Cibola Black Yuma Civic Center Court 2

Thursday July 17

7:45 PM Against Sparks Yuma Civic Center Court 1

opposition was able to rotate players in and out of the game and enjoy a little rest.

Under the direction of Coach Patricia Malvido, they've man-

aged to develop an ability to be where they need to be at all the right times, keeping the ball moving, able to pass it to where it will do the most good, taking advantage of their opponents' errors and taking control almost at will.

RAINBOW POOL

FAMILY NIGHT
Is Held Every Wednesday Night
July 2nd Thru August 20th
From 6PM to 8PM

TEEN SWIM
Is Held Every Thursday Night
July 3rd Thru August 21st
From 6PM to 8PM

The Elder's Swim Club
Now Meets On Thursdays at 10:00 AM
Water Aerobics at the Rainbow Pool!
For more information or to sign up,
call Lisa Aguerro at Injury Prevention:
(760)572-0437



Apply Now For The 2008 School Clothing Assistance Program

Parents and legal guardians of Quechan Tribe students enrolled at any educational facility may apply at the Tribal Administration Office for assistance in providing new school clothes for their children, through the Quechan School Clothing Assistance Program.

Any student may be accepted for a clothing allowance, from those just entering Head Start to high school. Even those enrolled as full-time students at a College or University may apply. You can even receive clothing assistance for a student in Technical School, or for a homeschooled student or students enrolled in a G.E.D. program, though G.E.D. students are eligible for one-time participation only.

Each student must be an enrolled member of the Quechan

Tribe in order to qualify.

Parents or guardians can pick up an application packet at the Reception Desk of the Quechan Tribe Administration Office. Please be careful to follow all of the instructions.

The enrollment deadline for this program is the close of business on Friday, September 12th, 2008, so those who wish to participate still have time to pick up an application and get their children enrolled.

Once your packet is in hand, be sure to enroll all of the eligible students you are responsible for, and get your school's administrator to sign page 4, verifying your child's enrollment.

Each enrolled child will be eligible for a check in the amount of \$150.00 to reimburse the expense of school clothes.

After you've turned in your packet, you can expect the Revenue Distribution Department to take about 7 days to process your application. Checks will not be issued unless all receipts are turned in.

All receipts that are turned in for reimbursement under this program must be dated between June 16, 2008, when it began, and September 30, 2008.

Save ALL receipts to provide proof of your purchases under this program. You have until 5 PM on Tuesday, Sept. 30th to turn in those receipts.

Please remember that hand written receipts are not accepted for reimbursement. Only original cash register, credit card or computer printed point-of-purchase terminal receipts are acceptable for reimbursement.

Louise Tannheimer Honored on Her 90th Birthday

A special, unprecedented milestone was marked with a gathering of friends, family and fellow elders, as Louise Tannheimer returned to Fort Yuma for her 90th birthday celebration at the Quechan Senior Center.

Born shortly before noon on June 20th, 1918 at the Fort Yuma Indian Hospital, Louise had a twin brother, Edmund, Jr. Since their father was known to be a reliable and efficient job printer at the Morning Sun newspaper in Yuma, their births were a featured story in that day's issue, describing the frantic rush to locate an automobile to get their mother to the Doctor on time, and their father's shocked reaction to having both a boy and a girl suddenly added to his little family in less than a hour!

Louise attended the St. Boniface Boarding School in Banning, California for four years, transferring to the Phoenix Indian School, where she graduated in 1937. That summer, she worked as a BIA switchboard operator in Parker, Arizona, and then returned to Ft. Yuma to attend a "post graduate" year at Yuma Union High.

Always busy, she pressed shirts at a downtown Yuma laundry with her sister Irene, spent time as a secretary for the BIA, and even tried to get her father to let her head north to work on the Hoover Dam project!

She had two children with her first husband, George Holmes, and had a ten year career as a Draft Board clerk. Eventually, she and George divorced, and

Louise met the Navy Recruiter of her dreams, Francis Benedict Tannheimer, whom she married at the Lutes Wedding Chapel in 1951. That marriage brought two more children into the world, DeWayne and Karen, and after moving about with Francis (and the Navy), the family finally settled back in Yuma to be near Louise's sister.

During the next decade, Louise worked for her community on the Quechan Tribal Council, helping to establish a number of new programs.

She began the Neighborhood Youth Corps in the mid 1960's, and many of the adults presently heading programs here on the reservation got their start in the Corps with Louise.

Working with Bob Heitkam,

the Project Director for Water Projects, Louise did her part to get running water into the homes here at Fort Yuma. She coordinated volunteers to cook and provide meals to the workers digging the trenches and laying the pipe.

California later hired this industrious woman to be a Job Agent, and she eventually transferred to El Centro, and then San Diego, where she completed her career in the early 1980's.

Louise and her husband spent the next few years traveling, finally settling down in a beautiful valley in the Sierra Mountains. By that time, she had an extended family of children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, whom she doted on and spent vacations and holidays with.

She also spent ten years working at the behest of the Nevada Women's Society, petitioning Congress to include a figure of her Great-Great Aunt, Sarah Winnemucca in the US Capitol's Statuary Hall. Her decade of dedication paid off with the statue being placed in the Statuary Hall in Washington, D.C. in February of 2005.

Louise returned to Fort Yuma in time for Memorial Day this year, and immediately began to seek out long time friends in the Quechan Senior/Elder Organization. She says she is amazed at the progress being made, and all of the programs now in place.

The Senior Center held a very special Birthday Party for her on June 20th this year. Photos from that event are on the back page.

Nancy Montague Celebrates 70 Years!



About 150 of her closest friends and relatives joined Nancy Montague, Quechan elder and Language Instructor as her 7 children, 18 grandchildren and 7 great-children rented the Eagle's Hall in Yuma for a Saturday night shindig on June 14th. Decorated with lights, balloons and custom candle-lighted table lamps, the party featured a DJ spinning oldies, a great buffet dinner, speeches and a wonderful computerized slide show with images of Nancy and friends growing up here at Fort Yuma, from the early 1940's to today. Nancy's daughters Deborah Tourtillo and Leona Marquez also held a free raffle that went on through the night, as everyone shared memories together, with the lights down low.

Nancy is seen at top left alongside her nephew, David O'Brien, showing off her birthday cake in her "Birthday Girl" sash. Just below, her grandson, Marshall Kolb is inspired by the oldies music to step out on the dance-floor with Dolly Juan. Finally, at the right is one of the dozens of specially created centerpieces, with scenes from Nancy's life.



ATTENTION TRIBAL ELDERS

To those who will turn 60 years old in 2008:

The Quechan Senior Projects Committee needs your mailing address if you wish to be on the mailing list for recreational travel.

We encourage you to let us know as soon as possible so you can be included in the fun trips available to elders on and off the reservation!

For those 60 and older who may have moved, we need your current address in order for you to continue to receive correspondence from the Travel Committee.

The mailing address of the center is:

Senior Nutrition Center

P.O. Box 1899

Yuma, Arizona 85366

Phone: (760)572-7048

Fax: (760)572-5867

With Family and Friends . . . Elder Celebrates Nine Decades! at the Quechan Senior Center



Quechan Tribe President Jackson and his wife Ramona (at left) brought flowers to his Aunt's birthday party as a surprise for her. The crowd present also stood out of respect as Barbara Levy sang songs in Kwat'san and spoke of her long life of accomplishment (below).



In the photos above and to the right, Barbara Levy, acting as Mistress of Ceremonies, puts her arm around Louise Tannheimer, the birthday girl, as she shares her stunned reaction at the number of people who came out to honor her longevity. Clockwise to the right, her son DeWayne drove over from San Diego with her twin great-granddaughters, Brittany and Brook Woods. In the final photo, the next eldest Quechan who live on the reservation, Edith White and George Bryant, stand with Louise and her nephew, President Mike Jackson, Sr. for group photos.

Photos by William Isbell

Father's Day Fishing in San Diego: Annual Expedition Sold Out In Record Time



The crew from H&M Landing prepared dozens of fishing poles with hooks and bait, even though everything caught that day wasn't a fish!



Once again, a group of intrepid deep water fishermen set off from Fort Yuma for the annual Father's Day salt water fishing expedition off San Diego. The usual ritual of an early departure saw the bus leaving at 1:30 AM, to be

at Denny's for a sunrise breakfast on the coast before reporting to the H&M docks.

This time the sky was overcast and the water pretty smooth, so everybody had a good time, and no one reported any sea sickness among the Fathers and sons on board.

It seems barracuda were ready to take the bait, and two of the little fighters were wrestled into the boat that weighed within a couple of ounces of each other. After careful weighing and measuring, it was decided that Ivan Moore's fish lost out to James O'Brien, so James gets the featured photo with his catch!

A funny incident (that had to be unhooked and "thrown back") had Charles Montague catching a seabird trying to make off with the bait, only to get reeled in along with the fish!

With H&M's crew setting the bait, assembling the tackle and even cleaning the day's catch, there was plenty of time for all to just get right to the business of fishing, gathering material for fish stories on the ride home.

The half day ended too soon for some, but they all piled back on the bus and enjoyed lunch at Golden Acorn Casino before returning home.



Believe it or not, all these guys are actually having fun! The cool, overcast weather was a nice change from the heat!



Michael Aguerro brought his dad, who enjoyed the trip and swapped fish stories, even though he spent most of his time just watching and encouraging others.



James O'Brien caught the biggest fish on this year's trip - a mean little Barracuda that measured a total of 32 inches and 8 lbs., to win the pot of \$170.00!