



# QUECHAN NEWS

VOLUME 104, ISSUE 19 ♦ WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2010

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To Tribe Members



Look For This Symbol

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

is published by

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## Tribal Council Moving To Correct Clinic Errors

Local media have filled the internet, airwaves and printed copy with lurid reports of sub-standard care at the Fort Yuma Indian health Service (IHS) Clinic since October 4th, after the Quechan Tribal Council first revealed “a breach of trust” by the Clinic’s staff to the Tribal membership at a public meeting held the previous Saturday.

The agenda for that meeting stated that a serious breach of health safety standards by Indian Health Services medical staff has exposed Tribal Members undergoing treatment in their wound care program to blood borne viruses. A press release issued by the Phoenix Area Indian Health Service on October 6 verified the terrible truth by stating the Fort Yuma Clinic had “discovered that patients treated in its outpatient wound care clinic may have been exposed to improperly cleaned instruments.”

It went on to say “This potential exposure occurred from October 2008 through June 2009. The instrument processing procedure was halted when a nurse at the facility discov-



The most basic disregard for established procedures is easily seen in this photo, captured last April during a photo survey of the Clinic for a Report to Congress: The twin sink adjacent to the Clinic’s wound treatment room contains buckets - one for wound care instruments, and right beside it, a bucket marked “rest of clinic dirty utility”. To the left are instruments laid out on a towel in the open air to dry, and further to the left are bagged instruments that should be sterile - yet they were most likely simply washed in the sink, left out to dry, and then bagged before use on the next patient!

QUECHAN NEWS Photo by William Isbell

ered that a final sterilization step was not being used. Corrective actions were taken in June 2009 to ensure that no additional patients were affected.” Unfortunately, the press release did not clarify exactly how a medically trained staff could be performing a procedure for almost nine months before one of the nurses “discovered” they weren’t engag-

ing in the most basic of safeguards in using an autoclave to sterilize cutting tools and other instruments used in the wound debriding process. Instruments which, after simple hand washing, were used to clean and treat patients’ open wounds.

In speaking to local media, Dr. Charles Reidhead, chief medical examiner for the Phoenix region of Indian Health

Services, confirmed that some patients may have been exposed to HIV, Hepatitis B and C and other infections. Results of an internal investigation by the Phoenix IHS investigation found that of the 111 people seen in the wound care clinic, 48 patients may have been exposed to the improperly cleaned instruments. Unfortu-

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# Council Moving On Clinic

Continued from Page 1

nately, even though the potential exposures occurred from October 2008 through June 2009, the IHS did not notify the Tribal Council of the problem until late September.

The IHS blames the delay on an outside company they contracted with to assess the situation and determine which patients may have been endangered. They say the investigation was a lengthy process and they only received the final report on their inability to follow proper procedures almost 15 months after the nurse first told them about the problem.

They have finally been forced to admit that there is a loss of trust in the care provided at the facility.

"We consider this a crisis," says President Mike Jackson, Sr. "We feel the Indian Health Services has been trying to downplay the situation."

In light of the delay, the Quechan Tribal Council has declared a breach of trust against the United States Indian Health Service. The Council is very concerned with the effects this incident has had on the tribal community, but cautions everyone to wait for their test results.

If you feel you may have been exposed, the Council has arranged for the Community Health Representatives to transport any tribal member wanting a blood test for infections to an independent medical laboratory in Yuma. Please call Sosa Nita Diaz or Bernadine Cachora at

CHR at (760) 572-0753 to set up an appointment for your test. Until testing is completed, the Tribe and the community will not know the extent of the harm that may have been caused by the unsafe practices of the Indian Health Service's Fort Yuma Service Unit.

In the meantime, the Tribal Council sent a letter to the Director of Indian Health Services in Washington, D.C., demanding that IHS pay all expenses for those independent tests. They are also demanding a full, independent investigation of the entire IHS facility at Fort Yuma to determine if similar unsafe practices were followed in other departments, including the dental clinic.

"The Tribal Council is outraged that it took IHS over 15 months to notify the Tribe and the community of this potentially serious event," they said in a prepared statement for the press. "This is but another example in a long line of complaints and concerns regarding the substandard medical facilities and staff at the Fort Yuma Service Unit over the last 20 or more years. The Council has called for the termination of any staff, including administrative staff, who are found to be responsible for this most recent occurrence."

President Jackson went on to tell the *Yuma Sun*, "We're also hiring an independent company to make sure the clinic is accountable and safe."

The Council further states:

"Under federal law, the IHS has assumed a trust responsibility to provide safe and competent health care to Native Americans. That trust has been breached time and time again both at Fort Yuma and throughout Indian Country. This is just one more example of the continuing broken promises of the United States Government."

The Tribal Council is taking a number of steps to insure that the IHS is held fully accountable for their negligence.

The Council's public statements have made it clear they are aware of the harm and emotional distress this incident has caused for the Tribal community at Fort Yuma. They won't stop until Fort Yuma gets the new hospital it's been promised for years.

"The Council has instructed our tribal attorneys to bring suit against the United States and the Indian Health Service to make sure that the problems that have plagued the Fort Yuma Unit for years are corrected. The Government's promise of competent and safe health care to our members *must* be honored."

The Tribal Council also scheduled a public meeting for Saturday, October 16 at the Quechan Community Center to give IHS an opportunity to face the Tribal community to explain to them how this happened.

"There's no excuse for what happened," says President Jackson, "but they'll have the opportunity to try and explain it."

## COMMUNITY EXPRESSIONS

On Wednesday September 8th, 2010 I walked outside to see why my dogs were barking at 9:30 PM. Come to find out there was a VERY LARGE rattlesnake by my vehicle. It was coiled up and just staying in one spot. At that time I didn't know what to do. I didn't want my animals to get hurt or killed by the snake. I tried to call fish and game and got voice mails. The only other I could think of was Ramona Ghiotto and her father Henry Ghiotto! I had asked Ramona if she could ask her dad if he could help me out with the snake problem I was having. Ms Ghiotto let me know that her father would be on his way. A few minutes went by and David Moreno from Pesticides came out to see if he could also help out with the snake. At the time the snake stayed coiled up by my vehicle. Then Mr.

Henry Ghiotto showed up and the snake was on the move. The snake raised head and I thought it was going to BITE HIM! Lucky Mr. Ghiotto shot it before it got the chance to harm me, my family or my animals!

I would just like to THANK MR. HENRY GHIOTTO AND DAVID MORENO for being there for me in such a scary and stressful time with that huge rattlesnake! I know it wasn't their job but I'm very grateful that they showed up and got it away from my house. Again THANK YOU!

Submitted by  
Monica Montague  
Quechan Tribal member

Bring your Community Expressions letters to THE QUECHAN NEWS office trailer in front of the Senior Center entry on Quechan Drive, or email them to the email address printed in the box below.



### Quechan Community Health Representatives

1890A San Pasqual School Rd.  
(760) 572-0753

Is providing free appointments and transportation for those Tribal Members who have received notification from the Fort Yuma Service Unit and want to receive an independent blood test in Yuma for HIV and Hepatitis B and C. Please call Sosa Nita Diaz or Bernadine Cachora at CHR to arrange your tests. Thank You.

ETSKA NAV AH PAL THE NEWS CARRIER  
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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 *Kwat'san 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!



# Culture & Heritage

## Indian Day Games Keep Kwat'san Pipa Engaged, in Shape



The tricky and nerve-wracking egg toss competition opened the kids games at this year's Quechan Indian Games. After Miss Quechan Nation, Leila José distributed raw eggs to all the competitors, they began tossing their eggs back and forth between team mates at ever increasing distances. One of the last to make a hard catch resulting in a cracked egg was Gabriel Tellez. Showing fine form in their teams' next to last catch is Luis Carreon, who also poses with his first place team mate, Alec Cachora along with their unbroken egg.

QUECHAN NEWS Photos by William Isbell



The foot race winners for the various age

groups included William Koteen, Israel Florez (in striped shirt) and Gabriel Tellez (first through third for the 10 to 12 group); first place winner Pablo Vargas and second place contestant Mariah Mills for kids 7 to 9; and best friends Maryanna Shepard and Leyla Anderson, for 4 to 6. The all ages open race winners (not shown) were Dushane Mills and Nick Hernandez.

The Quechan Indian Days had some kind of physical activity planned for every day of the three-day weekend, for kids (and adults) of all ages. From egg tossing to foot races to horse shoes and tug-of-war, there was plenty to do for those with a need to burn off energy, or to work up an appetite for fry bread and barbeque!

The kids games were scheduled for the first day of the gathering, and loads of kids gathered around to try to gain a little extra cash for fireworks, face paint or any of the other wonderful goodies for sale at the vendors' booths. Even babies had a shot at fame and fortune, with the Native Baby Contest on Saturday (see page 7 for the winners.)

Phil Emerson, Events Committee Chairman and leader of the Quechan Spirit Runners, also organized a 5K Run for

adults from 25 on up which took place just before sunset on Friday evening. That scenic run began at the Yuma West Wetlands and followed the running path along the bank of the Colorado River and up over the Ocean-To-Ocean Bridge, to finish next to the stage at Evergreen Park.

First through third place winners for ages 25 to 30 in that contest were Toa Comet, Lewis Throssel and Dushane Mills. For adults aged 30 and up, the best runners (all definitely over 30!) were James Espino, Gabriel Tellez and Rod Escalanti.

Even after three full nights of activities (with the pageant on Thursday, chicken scratch and bird dancing on Friday and a barbeque, firelight dances and the late night peon tournament on Saturday) there were still those with the energy to get up early and head over to the



Gilbert Roman (above) and his team mate Josh Bouts beat all comers to take home the \$250 first place cash prize for Horse Shoes.

Quechan Community Center to battle it out with horse shoes!

First place there was the team of Gilbert Roman and Josh Bouts, with the second place cash prize going to Alex and Chris Bouts, and third place to Angelo and Ron Derma.

# Imperial Valley WIND ZERO and Other Projects Updates

Submitted By:

Bridget Nash-Chrabaszcz, Quechan Tribe Historic Preservation Officer

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

An archaeological survey has already been conducted of the area and over one-hundred sites were located within the project area, nine of which are cremations. Adjacent to the eastern edge of the project property is the Yuha Desert.

The Yuha Desert contains thousands of cultural resources including large dance circles, trails, intaglios, and geoglyphs.

The Yuha, together with those sites located within the project area, are part of a larger cultural landscape in which the Quechan interacted with other Tribes both on a daily basis and

for spiritual activities.

Due the locations of the sites very few will be able to be avoided.

Imperial County, without consulting with the Tribes, has proposed collecting the pottery and other easily identified artifacts to store them in the Imperial Valley Desert Museum. They have also proposed a plan to pour concrete on some of the cremations.

Fencing (to keep out vehicles and prevent people from walking across the sites already identified) has also been proposed as a possibility.

Numerous letters from the Tribal Council and Historic Preservation Office, the Native American Heritage Commission and other Tribes within the area have been written to the Imperial County Planning and Development Office expressing

concerns about the project, demanding that the project not be permitted to move forward.

On August 11, 2010, the Imperial County Planning Commission approved the project for review by the Imperial County Board of Supervisors.

If the Board of Supervisors approves the project it will be able to move forward as currently proposed.

At the meeting on September 28th, the Board of Supervisors decided to continue discussion of the project until November 8th, after the Imperial County elections. A large group of people showed up for the meeting on the 28th to discuss their concerns about the project. However, due to the Board of Supervisors' decision, none of them were permitted be heard.

If you are concerned about the project, the Quechan Tribe

encourages you to attend the meeting on the 8th of November to voice your opposition to it. Bridget Nash-Chrabaszcz, Quechan Tribe Historic Preservation Officer says "We are hoping that by having a large turnout the Board of Supervisors will decide not to approve the project."

The cultural landscape of this area is not only being threatened by the Windzero project but those on nearby BLM lands as well.

To the northwest two large-scale wind energy projects are proposed, Ocotillo Renewables and Ocotillo Express. To the north, Imperial Valley Solar, another large-scale solar project, is being planned.

"Within each of these project areas hundreds of cultural resources have been located," says Bridget. "These resources

range from pottery scatters to habitation sites and ceremonial areas, to cremation sites."

While the evaluation process for the Ocotillo Renewables and Ocotillo Express projects have just begun, on October 5th (despite numerous letters written by Tribal Council, the Historic Preservation Officer, Tribal attorneys, the Native American Heritage Commission, and other Tribes voicing concerns over the project) the United States Bureau of Land Management (BLM) approved moving forward with the Imperial Valley Solar project.

If you have any questions, would like more information about the aforementioned projects, or would like to attend the November 8th meeting please feel free to stop by the Historic Preservation Office or call Bridget at (760) 572-2423.



## Johnson O'Malley Program Begins a Leadership Club for Students

The Johnson O'Malley (JOM) Program at the Quechan Education Complex has begun offering a Future Leaders Club for students aged 8 to 12. The Club is designed to foster skills in teamwork, imagination, creativity, community awareness, responsibility and decision making, to reinforce a positive attitude.

The Future Leaders meet every Monday and Wednesday evening from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM at the Johnson O'Malley Building (#3) at the Education Complex. The 8 weeks of lessons on the skills to be developed by Future Leaders

will last until the first week of December.

Pamela Manchatta, head of the Johnson O'Malley Program, says they will offer another 8-week course for future leaders once the current session (which began on October 10th) ends. If your child is interested and missed joining the Club this month, they will open registration for the next go around in late November.

The JOM Program has also begun to offer their popular sewing course for the fall, with classes for students from 8 to 12 on Tuesday evenings and classes for students from 13 to

adult on Thursday evenings. Both classes meet from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM, also at Building 3 at the Quechan Education Complex.

The sewing class teaches the basics needed to create simple projects such as pillow cases, ribbon shirts and how to use and size patterns. All materials are provided.

If you have any questions about either of these courses, or anything else at the Johnson O'Malley Program, please feel free to call their office at (760) 572-0648. You can also reach them at the JOM Program cell number: (928) 920-4830.

## NOVEMBER 13 IS COME PLAY ON OUR LAND DAY FOR 2010

The Third Annual *Come Play On Our Land Day* will take place on November 13th, 2010 from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the San Pasqual football field.

Organized by the Quechan Special Diabetes Project for Indians (SPDI), this annual "athletic" gathering encourages physical activity without the stress of all-out competition.

"We want to encourage family play time," says Lisa Ball, of the SDPI.

Part of the new SDPI grant is a project to restore play in our community, encouraging families to spend time together and have fun. So they will have many of the same games as last

year and some new additions. They will have jumpers for the children as well as some carnival games for prizes this year. And, just as they've been for the past 2 years, the games will be for all ages and fitness levels.

A light breakfast and lunch will be provided to all participants. The summer heat tends to limit outdoor play time here at Fort Yuma. *Come Play On Our Land Day* allows everyone to come out and be a kid again no matter what age they are. Both the Wellness Center staff as well as the Prevention Program will be on hand at all events to ensure everyone has a safe and fun time!

# Parade Honoring Band a Live Event and Broadcast On Television



This year's Indian Day Parade began in the Pivot Point parking lot, where the floats, marching groups and public service vehicles gathered for the judges at 8:00 AM. The inset photo at left shows the two Grand Marshalls for the parade, Charlene Emerson and George Bryant, who is the oldest surviving member of the Yuma Indian Band. The panorama at the top of the page features the floats from Fort Yuma ADAPP, The Paradise and Quechan Casinos (in the center) and Fort Yuma Head Start, all lined up for the judges. At right are John Archuleta and Megan Munro of the KYMA News Team, broadcast from atop their van next to the Main Street Cinemas. The route continued over the Ocean-To-Ocean Bridge to Evergreen Park. All Photos by William Isbell



The Quechan Senior Center took home the trophy of "Overall Sweepstakes Winner" as the best overall entry honoring the famous Yuma Indian Band. Getting in the spirit before the parade, the ladies on board loosened up by twisting to the music of Chubby Checker blasting up from the Yuma Gateway Park. The happy twisters are sisters Marsha, Charlene and Janice Emerson and their friend, Connie Amador. They've still got it! **And while the seniors were twisting**, the Quechan Head Start float from the Quechan Education Complex loaded up with little flag wavers such as Aurora Laurenzana (at left) and Allysa Rosales (on the right).



San Pasqual High has begun a band program for the first time in years, and the band came out with their varsity cheerleaders to march in the Indian Day Parade. Maybe they'll start an all new Quechan Indian Band someday!



Leila Jose didn't let the lack of a convertible top stop her from getting out and waving to her public!



Dancing for the crowd and KYMA's cameras were the Native Royalty and officers from the San Pasqual Valley Unified School District's Strong Hearts Native Society.

# Country Legends Coming To The Q



Two of the 40 greatest women in country music, Tanya Tucker and Crystal Gayle will both appear one week apart on October 28 and November 4 at the Pipa Event Center.

The Quechan Casino Resort has announced the first nationally known artists to appear for their fall concert season: country music artist Tanya Tucker will perform at the Pipa Events Center on Thursday, October 28, followed by Crystal Gayle one week later on November 4.

Tucker made a splash on the national scene as a teenager in 1972 with the top 10 country hit "Delta Dawn". In a career spanning nearly 40 years, Tanya Tucker has had 10 number one country songs including "Lizzie and the Rainman", "Just Another Love" and "If It Don't Come Easy". Over 50 of her singles have made the country top 40.

Tucker was named Female Vocalist of the Year in 1991 by

the Country Music Association. In 2002, Tucker was ranked #20 on Country Music Television's (CMT) 40 Greatest Women of Country Music, while Crystal Gayle ranked was ranked #33.

Gayle's career signature song was 1977's number one smash "Don't it Make My Brown Eyes Blue", for which brought her a Grammy Award. Gayle has had 18 number one country songs including "I'll Get Over You", "Talking in Your Sleep" and "Baby, What About You". She has had 45 singles make the country top 40.

Showtime for both will be 8:00 PM. Tickets run \$35 to \$50 for Tanya Tucker, and \$30 to \$45 for Crystal Gayle. You must be 21 years old or over to attend.

# QTDHE Weatherization Assistance Program Continues

The Quechan Tribally Designated Housing Entity is continuing its Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) through this winter. QTDHE-WAP is a partnership with the Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc. (ITCA, Inc.) that will provide weatherization services to eligible Tribal members within the Ft. Yuma Indian Reservation. Funding for QTDHE-WAP is provided by the Department of Energy (DOE) through funds made available to ITCA, Inc. for weatherization programs.

This program assists households in reducing the amount of money they spend on energy bills by improving their homes' energy efficiency. This objective is achieved through completing energy use audits of homes to identify areas of energy waste and implementing improvements to reduce energy use at no cost to the homeowner.

Weatherization services included in the program include:

- ▶ Energy audits of homes which will guide/confirm energy efficiency needs
- ▶ Utilizing the most cost-effective weatherization services to improve the home's energy efficiency.
- ▶ Weatherization services may include:
  - ▶ Installation of insulation in attics and walls
  - ▶ Sealing ductwork
  - ▶ Tuning/repairing/replacing unsafe heating and cooling systems
  - ▶ Performing health/safety audits on households and educating residents on the findings
  - ▶ Or even a new refrigerator.

### Eligibility for Weatherization (Income only):

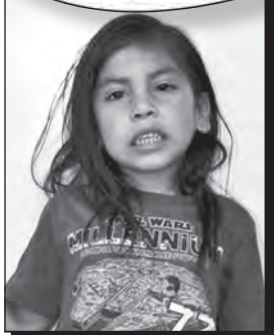
Household Size	H.H Monthly Income	H.H Yearly Income
1	1,805	21,660
2	2,428	29,140
3	3,052	36,620
4	3,675	44,100
5	4,298	51,580
6	4,922	59,060

\*For each additional person add \$623 per month or \$7480 yearly income.

Funding for the program is available immediately for those who are considered low-income households per Federal Poverty Guidelines. Households interested in receiving weatherization services must complete a QTDHE Weatherization Assistance Program Client Application. Applications are ranked by a point value system with priority given to elderly, disabled, low and very low income families and families with excessively high energy bills.

For more information or to request an application packet, please call QTDHE at (760) 572-0243 and ask for Tad Zavodsky.

CONGRATULATIONS!



To  
**Johnny Takala**  
for being a  
San Pasqual Elementary  
**Go-Getter!**

From ~  
**Mom & Dad**

Photo Courtesy Karen Phillips - Yuma Sun

## The Strong Hearts Native Society

Presents The

# MR & MISS NATIVE SAN PASQUAL PAGEANT

Admission is free!

**FRIDAY, NOV. 5**  
**AT THE PARADISE EVENT CENTER**  
**PROGRAM BEGINS AT 6:00 PM**



Come Show Support for Our Young Native Men & Women!



Ila Dunsweiler  
Our Shiyii  
(Grandmother)

For Information Contact  
San Pasqual School  
**(760) 572-0222 Ext. 2231**

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

➔ **Fry Bread Dinner**  
**From 5 to 7 PM**

Proceeds Will Benefit The  
**SAN PASQUAL WARRIORS BOOSTER CLUB**

# Quechan SDPI Plans Runs For Health Through the Winter

The Quechan Special Diabetes Project for Indians (SDPI) has 3 runs coming up to help promote physical fitness during what is often the “laziest” time of the year.

“Every year in November and December our numbers dwindle down at the Wellness Center due to the holidays,” says Lisa Ball, SDPI Director. “So this year we decided to do a series of runs to encourage physical activity in a fun way.”

All three of the upcoming runs will be 5 kilometers (or 3.1 miles). Each will be held at a different area to showcase the beautiful desert scenery here at Fort Yuma. At the last run t-shirts will be awarded to all participants who run the “Triple Crowned” by participating in all three runs.

The first run, on Saturday, October 23rd, will be a Poker Run beginning at the Yuma Gateway Park. Runners receive random playing cards at each of five water stations along the route, and the best 2 poker

hands at the end of the run will receive special prizes.

Next up, for Thanksgiving, will be the Turkey Trot on Saturday November 20th at the Diabetes Walking Park, followed a month later with the Christmas season’s “Jolly Run” on December 18th. That run will be more of a cross country run, beginning at the San Pasqual High School parking lot.

The Turkey Trot and Jolly Run will have prizes for the top male and female runners in their selected age divisions

“We will also provide a healthy breakfast at all three of those runs,” says Lisa.

“The Poker Run starts at 8:00 AM, and with the later sunrise in November and December, both of those runs will be starting at nine.” Each run is expected to take about two hours to be completed, including the time for breakfast.

She also says, “After the new year we plan to have three additional runs in another “Triple Crown” series!”

## BABY DRESSES



Delilah Denae Taylor, aged 5, took first place this year.



4 year old Ciara Jade Escalanti captured second place.



Contestants included 4 month old Noreen Hill (in the cradle board held by mom Ona Hill) and her older sister, 2 year old Malynn. It was a pretty tough decision for the out-of-town judges of the contest, Chantel and Khrysta Ameelyenah. (Khrysta is this year’s reigning Miss Fort Mojave).

## Next Week: Red Ribbon Week

The oldest and largest drug prevention campaign in the country, Red Ribbon Week will kick off next Monday, October 25th at the San Pasqual Valley Schools. The Fort Yuma Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Program (ADAPP) has teamed up with the schools in organizing Red Ribbon Week on the Quechan Reservation.

They hope to get the anti-drug message across through group activities for students every day of the week.

There will be an opening ceremony at the elementary school flagpole on Monday at 8:30 AM, followed by an assembly from 9 to 11 in the high school gym. Middle school students gather in the gym the first hour, followed by a joint assembly of both Bill Manes and the high school at 10:00 AM. ADAPP staff will introduce two guest speakers, who will each speak for about a quarter hour, and then they will take questions for about 15 minutes.

Monday will also see teach-

ers finish judging the art and essay contests, and all the entries will be put on display in the cafeteria that afternoon.

Tuesday is set aside for outside agencies such as the Border Patrol, Flight for Life, the Quechan Police Department, U.S. Customs and other law enforcement and emergency aid providers to come speak to the students. While most of the presentations will take place during P.E., individual teachers are also able to take their classes to the presentations according to their schedules.

Wednesday will see the Drama Club presenting a skit to the Elementary students, and the winners of the art and essay contests will be announced. Student wearing red that day will also be able to participate in classroom challenges.

For the 3rd year in a row, the schools have also invited a group known as iThink Assemblies to come over from San Diego and work with the Associated Student Body (ASB) and

the Strong Hearts Native Society in making presentations on Thursday. The middle school’s iThink assembly will be at 10:45 AM, with Bill Manes and the high school getting together for theirs at noon. After lunch, smaller groups of students will be able to get together for more workshops at all three schools.

On Friday, bus riding students on the late schedule will ride over to the Quechan Community Center to join up with ADAPP and interested parents and community members for a community walk to an all-schools assembly at the San Pasqual football field. The elementary students and high school students arriving before 8:00 AM will walk to the assembly from their classes.

Everyone in the community is invited to join the community walk and to stay and hear the final day’s Red Ribbon Week anti-drug message. Come out and help them fill the stands at the football field, and help your kids say *No!* to drugs!

### Congratulations!



To  
Tawnee Hart  
of Quechan  
Head Start on  
receiving your

Child Development Associate  
Certification!

*From the Whole Family!*

# Celebrating Our Native Heritage

## THE MISS QUECHAN NATION PAGEANT 2010

Tribal royalty gather around Leila José, Miss Quechan Nation for 2010-2011 at the close of the Pageant. From left are Khrysta Ameelyenah, Miss Fort Mojave; Brandi Ameelyenah, Jr. Miss Fort Mojave; Leila José, Miss Quechan Nation; Mariah Moore, Little Miss Colorado River; Arnelda Littleman Ameelyenah, Miss Colorado River; Angel Collier, Little Miss Fort Mojave; Sylvia Hill, Jr. Miss Colorado River and Kailah Durand, Miss San Pasqual High Native Princess.



The outgoing Miss Quechan, Sasha Nerva, wound up her service to the Tribe by presenting gifts to all those who helped her over the year.



All Photos by William Isbell, QUECHAN NEWS



Christine Emerson shared some of her memories of growing up with the famous Yuma Indian Band.

Miss Quechan Nation for 2010-2011 is Leila Jose, a 21 year old who is “proud to be Kwat’san”. A 2007 graduate of Valley Center High in North County, San Diego, she studied geometry, reading and vocabulary, majoring in deaf culture and American Sign Language. Leila plans to continue her education in interpretation for the deaf, and making that her career. After graduation, she returned to live at Fort Yuma and explore ways to serve her people.

Leila is the daughter of Milson José, Sr. and Josephine Kolb. Her grandparents are Delmar José and Nancy Montague, Sr. She has an older sister, Melanie José and two younger brothers, Milson José, Jr. and Joshua Hurtado. She thanks her family for their support and encouragement.



Miss San Pasqual High, Kailah Durand, dances on stage with her friends Teresa Valenzuela and Joanna Herrera.



Leila performed a Kwat’san story on “Why We Dance” in American Sign Language as her talent.



Events Committee Chairman Phil Emerson presented Angeline Levy, who had to drop out of the contest, an award for making the Best Fry Bread during the earlier stages of the Pageant.



The Grand Entry at the start of the Pageant was lead by the Quechan Post 802 Color Guard and the Spirit Runners, followed closely by the Roadrunners singing group (seen above). All of the the visiting royalty and local dancers followed behind as the Roadrunners provided the music.



Once the Pageant ended, Miss Quechan Nation for 2010-2011, Leila José descended the steps of the stage to stand before the singing Roadrunners and accept the congratulations of her public. One of the first in line to give his approbation was Tribal Councilman James Montague, above.



Leila’s first gesture in representing the Quechan Nation was to present George Bryant with this magnificent feathered headdress, in recognition for his time as a member of the Yuma Indian Band.