



Federal Taxes Are Due

NAVAH PAI



On Monday, April 18

THE NEWS CARRIER



QUECHAN NEWS

Volume 105, Issue 7 ♦ Wednesday, April 6, 2011

In This Issue:

Community Expressions
Page 2

Two Generations
Teach at San Pasqual
Page 3

12% Funds To Charity
Page 4

Athletic Recognition
Page 5

Racism in College News
Page 6

Work on Water Drains
Page 7

Elder Edith White
Celebrates 100 Years!
Back Page

Items Of Special Interest To Tribe Members



Look For This Symbol

ETSKA NAVAH PAI THE NEWS CARRIER
QUECHAN NEWS

is published by

The Quechan Indian Tribe

350 Picacho Road

Winterhaven, Ca. 92283

Phone: (760)572-3912

Email: w.isbell@quechantribe.com

Local Athlete Going

"Down Under" in June



If everything goes according to plan, Quechan Tribal member (and San Pasqual basketball and track star) Angelito Alvarez will be travelling half way around the world this summer, to compete in the Down Under International Games Tri-Nations Meet on Australia's famed Gold Coast!

But that plan includes a lot of fund-raising between now and mid-June, since Angelito must cover his own airfare, hotel room, meals, and insurance at the meet. "Athletes are invited for this program based on their ability to contribute to the team's success, not their family's financial status," says International Sports Specialists, Inc. (ISSI), which puts the program together each year. "This is why a major source of funds comes through voluntary contributions from community sponsors and friends."

Angelito was selected to be part of the West Central Conference Team, made up of 35 athletes representing 10 different states that will travel and compete "Down Under" in June. The program has been

called the "Mini Olympics of High School Sports" and comes highly recommended by other athletes and coaches throughout the United States. The group Angelito will be a part of is scheduled to be in Australia from June 26th to July 4th, with the actual competition taking place at Griffith University from July 2nd to the 4th. The Tri-Nations Meet, an international competition with athletes from the United States, Australia, and New Zealand is now in its 11th year. It is the largest high school age inter-

national meet held in Australia each year. Located in Southport, Queensland, the Griffith University's Gold Coast campus features extensive sporting facilities, including an Olympic-standard athletics track, a gym and basketball and tennis courts. It is just north of "Surfers Paradise" on the island continent's east coast.

The son of Leo Alvarez, Sr. and Adina Chaipos Alvarez (Community Liaison for San Pasqual Elementary School), Angelito's grandfather was the late Amick Mark Chaipos of

the Quechan Indian Nation and his grandmother is Pixie Valle of the Mesa Grandé Band of Indians. Now in his junior year at San Pasqual, Angelito is this year's *lipaa Kwanamii* of the Strong Hearts Native Society. A gifted athlete, he placed third in high jump at last year's Arizona State 1A-2A high school Track Finals. That accomplishment, capturing a place in competition at the State level, led to his nomination to compete in the Tri-Nations Down Under Inter-

national meet held in Australia each year. Located in Southport, Queensland, the Griffith University's Gold Coast campus features extensive sporting facilities, including an Olympic-standard athletics track, a gym and basketball and tennis courts. It is just north of "Surfers Paradise" on the island continent's east coast.

the Quechan Indian Nation and his grandmother is Pixie Valle of the Mesa Grandé Band of Indians. Now in his junior year at San Pasqual, Angelito is this year's *lipaa Kwanamii* of the Strong Hearts Native Society. A gifted athlete, he placed third in high jump at last year's Arizona State 1A-2A high school Track Finals. That accomplishment, capturing a place in competition at the State level, led to his nomination to compete in the Tri-Nations Down Under Inter-

Continued on Page 2

Local Athlete Going "Down Under" in June

Continued from Page 1

national Games this year.

"To be able to medal at state last year was great!" Angelito tells the *Quechan News*. "It felt like all the hard work had paid off."

"He's the only one at the school who placed in the top three at State last year," said San Pasqual track & field coach Jason Sanchez. "So that automatically gets him an invitation."

And with that invitation, the really hard work for Angelito begins. To attend the meet this summer, he has to learn all of the important networking skills required to raise the funds to get there. Angelito (and his parents) are faced with the daunting task of gathering thousands of dollars for a round-trip Qantas flight from L.A. to Brisbane, transportation to and from Brisbane and Griffith University, plus his room, meals and incidentals while there.

In order to gather those contributions, the Alvarez family has already connected with friends and family in the Quechan Community to organize fund raising events. In late March, for example, Quechan Housing held a chicken barbecue lunch (that included beans, cole slaw and tortillas for only \$5!). Last weekend, the Ah Keel Dance Group also held a Harvest Dance Celebration in the empty field where the Fort Yuma Trailer Village used to be.



Angelito sprints his way down the Carver Park track. The track team at San Pasqual practices at the City of Yuma facility four days a week after school.

QUECHAN NEWS Photo by William Isbell

The handout posters prepared announcing that event prominently mentioned Angelito's needs. In fact, it wasn't possible to stop in and pick up a quick gallon of milk at the Pipa Market for the past couple of weeks without Chris Emerson or one of the employees reminding you to "come to our Harvest Dance on April second and help Angelito go to Australia!"

As Spirit Runners and bird singers with the Strong Hearts, Angelito and his brother, Leo-Daniel were in Albuquerque over spring break, representing the Quechan Tribe. Though they left on March 24th, they arranged to be back in time to

attend the Harvest Dance and personally thank everyone who came out to show their support.

So, things are off to a pretty good start, but there is much more to do. ISSI and Down Under Sports also provides an incentive for everyone who helps sponsor athletes every year. By becoming a sponsor, you will help turn Angelito's dream of representing the Quechan Tribe at the 2011 Down Under Track and Field Tournament into a reality. And as a way of saying thank you, all sponsors are entered into a drawing to win a trip for 2 to Australia and Hawaii, giving each a chance to share in the opportunity to see a special part of the world.

"I enjoy competing against different athletes in different schools. It's quite an experience to be challenged by different people," says Angelito. "What I look forward to the most in competing in Australia is the opportunity to not only compete against other top athletes, but to be able to experience a whole new country. I've never flown before never traveled outside the U.S., so I look at this like a chance in a lifetime and I don't want it to pass me by!! I'm very excited and thankful for this chance."

If you'd like to help by becoming a sponsor or holding your own fund raiser, contact Adina Alvarez at San Pasqual at (760) 572-0222, Ext. 2191.

COMMUNITY EXPRESSIONS

Hello, *Quechan News*:

I just wanted to let you know I appreciate being sent issues of the *Quechan News*. There is nothing better than reading about special events and what's going on back home. Compliments to the Coordinator for getting it all on a few pages.

Most of all, it's nice to know the Quechan Tribe is still progressing forward into the future, even though the economy isn't at its best. I really liked reading about the "Longest Walks", how the different Tribes united together and are walking to D.C. I think it is such a cool thing that I had to share the news with the other Natives in the yard . . . mostly to brag that the Quechans are in the mix.

Unity in prison is an everyday struggle between the Native Americans; sad to say, but very true. I thought sharing news about the "Longest Walk 3" could ease some of the tension in the air. Proud to say, it has.

Everyone had something positive to say about the walk, or shared a story about a loved one who had fallen

to diabetes. Amazing how a good story can change the whole atmosphere.

Also wanted to share with anyone who cares, the Native American Brotherhood here in the ASPC Florence/Globe Unit will be saying prayers for the walkers as they make their journey across the states.

May the Creator bless, protect and keep the Walkers out of harms way as they march through unknown territory. Uh-Ho!

Also, I have finished my 5 year bid as of March 21st, 2011, and I'm moving to Phoenix to live at a Sober Living Home called The Solution. I would really appreciate it if you continued sending me the Newsletter there.

Thank You,

*Edward Hill, Jr.
Quechan Tribal Member*

You can 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 at the bottom of this page.

COMMUNITY GARDEN

**Planting Day will be next
Saturday - April 16 at 8 AM!**

ETSKA NAV AH PAI THE NEWS CARRIER

QUECHAN NEWS

William Isbell

Newsletter Coordinator, Fort Yuma Quechan Nation

350 Picacho Road Winterhaven, CA 92283

Phone: (760) 572-3912 Fax: (760) 572-3910

Email: w.isbell@quechantribe.com

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

Quechan News is here to cover the special events and everyday lives of Quechan Tribe Members, and the issues that affect you in the world today. This newsletter is here to keep the lines of communication open, to expand opportunities, and uplift the Native Spirit of the *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. I'm looking forward to hearing from you!



Culture & Heritage

Elementary Students Benefit From Generational Experience



Judith Prietta-Osborne has been teaching the *Kwat'san Iiya* her entire life, and at the San Pasqual schools since at least 2006.



Now her granddaughter, Ana Hartt-Villereal has joined her at the elementary school, bringing diabetes education to the students.



The dual-purpose language and diabetes classes take place in the elementary school's library. Here, Mrs. Seibel's and Mrs. Fraser's second grade classes join together and take their places in front of Judith (and her co-worker, Arlie Emerson) to discuss their lessons so far.



Arlie Emerson, a teacher at the Quechan Language Preservation Department with Judith, stepped in for her while she was ill.

Two members of the same family, working for two different Tribal Departments, have teamed up to provide weekly classes on Native Culture, the *kwat'san* language and how sticking to the traditional native diet while keeping active can help students enjoy a long and happy life.

Although the classes reinforce Native Culture, they are designed for the quick-paced MTV generation of today. The 45-minute class is divided into two, short 20-minute sections, with Judith Prietta-Osborne providing the *kwat'san* language half, and Ana Hartt-Villereal from the Special Diabetes Project for Indians giving diabetes prevention instruction.

Judith, a well-respected Tribal elder, is Ana's grandmother. She's been a part of the Tribe's

Quechan Language Preservation Program almost from the start. Until she took leave during a prolonged illness last year, she was the Department's Language Coordinator.

Fully recovered, as soon as she returned to work, she teamed up with the Special Diabetes Project to begin offering the combined class in the school's library.

"With the kids having only twenty minutes to learn their new words and complete a quiz before moving on to the next thing," she says, "they don't have time to get bored and start fidgeting around and lose their concentration during class."

According to school superintendent David Schoneman, this new approach seems to be working. "The San Pasqual Valley Unified School District

has provided opportunities for students to study the Quechan Language and Culture through our teachers Mr. Faron Owl, Lucia Polk, and Jerilyn Swift Arrow. Mr. Owl, through the Strong Hearts Society, has also brought in Tribal Elders to interact with and teach our students. Ms. Judith Prieta has provided much support to the students of the District with her energy, knowledge, and desire to preserve the Quechan Language and Culture."

And now that energy and knowledge is passing down to another generation, as Ana Hartt-Villereal steps in to follow in her *Shiyyii's* footsteps, providing valuable health and diet instruction for the youngest among us. And who knows, perhaps her own children may follow her, too, someday!



Ana hands out a quiz on actions the kids can take to help prevent diabetes (above). Often, one part of the class reinforces the lesson in the other part of the class, with Judith teaching *kwat'san* words for foods, and Ana showing the students how those foods can be part of a healthy diet. At left, Judith encourages some of the boys working on a "word search" puzzle.

QUECHAN NEWS Photos by William Isbell

12% of 2010 Casino Funds go to Local Organizations

The Quechan Tribe has once again distributed funds to local non-profit groups under Arizona's Proposition 202 amendments to the Arizona Indian Gaming Laws, with over \$42,000 going to three local charities.

Under the Prop 202 amendments, each Tribe with an Arizona gaming compact shares a portion of their gaming revenues with the State of Arizona and local governments. The agreement stipulates that 12% of gaming revenues are contributed each year to the Arizona Benefits Fund, which is earmarked for city, town and county government services and for Department of Gaming administrative and regulatory costs.

The agreement allows gaming Tribes to continue to make voluntary donations to local charities, community programs and the state university system. So, this year, through the City of Yuma, the Quechan Tribe donated their 12% share to three groups that work together with the Tribe on a variety of mutually beneficial programs.

A giant check printed with the total amount of the 2010 contribution was turned over to the recipients in the Tribal Council Chamber on March 24th. Present at the ceremony were Quechan Tribe Vice President Keeny Escalanti, Sr. and Tribal Council members James B. Montague and Julianna Comet.

Yuma's City Administrator, Greg Wilkinson accepted the check, which was then passed on to the actual beneficiaries: Amberly's Place, The Crossroads Mission and the Yuma Community Food Bank.

Amberly's Place received the smaller share of the donation, a total of \$12,422.40. The other



The Quechan Tribe presented a share of casino revenues to local representatives of community non-profit organizations in the Tribal Council Chambers on March 24th. In front, accepting the check on behalf of the City of Yuma is City Administrator Greg Wilkinson. Holding the check are Diane Umpress (of Amberly's Place), Barbara Rochester (of the Crossroads Mission), Ronna Stubbs, Jerry Garcia and Victoria Estrada (of the Yuma Community Food Bank). In the rear, presenting the revenue sharing check on behalf of the Quechan Tribe are Tribal Council members James B. Montague and Julianna Comet, flanking Vice President Keeny Escalanti, Sr. in the center.

QUECHAN NEWS Photos by William Isbell

two groups each received an equal donation of \$15,000.

Amberly's Place was named in honor of Amberly Ann Mendoza, a child victim of an unsolved homicide in Yuma. The staff is made up of professionals specially trained in dealing with victims of child physical and sexual abuse, as well as domestic violence, sexual assault and elderly abuse.

They are set up to assist victims and their families with the healing process after experiencing traumatic events. Their victim advocates provide immediate crisis intervention and are available to help victims obtain Orders of Protections, provide court escort, and to explain the criminal justice process. They rely solely on the support of community members to provide for emergency needs of victims including food, diapers and clothing.

Crossroads Mission is a faith-

based organization dedicated to helping individuals who find themselves at a "crossroads" in their lives. Their purpose is to help those individuals take a di-

rection that will bring them to a personal encounter with God, and to help them make changes that will result in a better quality of life. Crossroads Mission

Food Service Training Set For April 21st

The Quechan Casino Resort has partnered with the US Public Health Service to provide free training for food service workers here on the reservation.

Food service workers employed on the Quechan Indian Reservation, including temporary food establishment operators (such as bake sale, fry bread, taco dinner and other charitable operations) or any other interested community members are invited to attend the two-hour course, to be held Thursday, April 21st at the Pipa Event Center.

The first training session will take place from noon to 2:00

PM, with the second opportunity to attend the course to follow from 2:30 PM to 4:30 PM.

Pre-Registration is required. If you work in or around an area where food is prepared for the public, even if only on an occasional basis, and would like to receive this FREE training, please call Regina Carey, Training Manager for both the Q and Paradise Casinos and reserve a spot right away.

You can be placed on the training list by email by contacting her at rcarey@playqcr.com. If you don't have email, or have other questions before at-

offers emergency shelter for the homeless and transitional housing for men, women and families, free meals, drug and alcohol stabilization, treatment and recovery programs and G.E.D. preparation and adult education, along with a thrift store providing free clothes for the homeless and low cost or no cost items and furniture to the needy of the Yuma area.

The Yuma Community Food Bank (YCFB) was founded in 1978 by a group of dedicated volunteers, to feed hungry children within Yuma County. With outstanding community support, YCFB has grown from a 2,000 square foot facility to a 100,000 square foot facility. They have been able to distribute 11.4 million pounds of food through 15 emergency and supplemental food programs, assisting 52 other local non-profit agencies in Yuma, La Paz and Imperial Counties and provides excess produce to every county within the State of Arizona.

tending the class, you can also call Regina at (760) 572-1647.

Information in the course of training will be based on the 2009 FDA Food Code.

The course will be taught by Natasha Wells, Fort Yuma Environmental Health Specialist, and Vincent Slayton-Garcia, District Environmental Health—both with the Phoenix Area IHS Office of Environmental Health & Engineering.

If you are unable to reach Regina you can call Natasha at (760) 572-4242, or drop her an email at Natasha.Wells@ihs.gov to get on the list for this class.

Course of Study Completed; Internship Begins

Amber Cachora-Espino
BSB/M, HRM

As of February 28, 2011 I am pleased to announce I have completed my 12 month Strategic Course in the Legal Environment of Human Resource Management, with a 4.0 GPA from the Regional Accreditation of Higher Learning Commissions of Universities.



My Degree Certificate consists of:

- Strategic Human Resource Management and Emerging Issues
- Human Resource Global and Risk Management.
- Employment Law State/Federal Regulations
- Bona-fide Occupational requirements based on Provisions of Tribal Governments
- Total Compensation & Benefits
- Employee Relations/Employee Development

I have been trained and disciplined by highly accredited Professionals holding National (SPHR) Certifications known as "Senior Professionals in Human Resource Management" to serve justice in all Equal Employment Opportunities and Laws.

This Degree Certificate will allow me to prepare for my (PHR) Certification which is known as a "Professional in Human Resource Management". I am also a member of the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM), the largest organization in the world devoted to human resource management.

In April of 2011 I will start my first Internship in the Yuma county area, and in August of 2011, I will complete my 4 Block Training in Tucson Arizona, following my last 8 classes in the Program to obtain my Masters Degree.

My diligence to succeed beyond my highest expectations came from "My own personal confrontation within my own working environment".

In closing, I would like to thank my husband James, my mother Bernadine, and my cousin Claudette, for giving me the strength to keep on going, and that failure was not an option. And most importantly, to my daughters Sabrina & Paris, you girls are the sunshine of my Life.

Tribal Members Recognized For Athletic Achievements

Three Tribal members have been singled out for their athletic accomplishments by their coaches, Yuma Rotary International and the sports editors at the *Yuma Sun* newspaper.

Six foot two senior Chaz Tecumseh, was awarded a place on the Yuma All-Region Team. He also made honorable mentions in the 1A West All-Region Team.

Tecumseh has transformed from the mellow giant of two seasons ago to a beast in the center of this year's 2010/2011 season. He aggressively pulled down every rebound in sight and put it back up with no mercy. His award from *The Sun* states that Chaz averaged 16 points and 14 rebounds per game, making 45% of his shot attempts from the field and 70% from the free throw line. He also scored 83 points for the first six games of the season. In one game against PDS, he reached a game high of 33 points, pulling down 11 rebounds.

Chaz Tecumseh proved to be a key element of the team with his quick feet, lengthy arm span, and high energy.

Janequa Mills was selected as a member of the *Yuma Sun*/Rotary International All Region Basketball Team. This is an honor, since only a select number of girls playing basketball in the region are selected for nomination. Janequa was selected earlier in the year as All Region for her volleyball skills, also.

A graduating senior at San Pasqual High School, Janequa was the captain of both the girls' basketball and volleyball teams this year.

Redhawk Welch, a 6'1" sophomore at San Pasqual, has been nominated as a player for the 1A West All Region Team.

Welch recorded another successful season with Warriors. Coach Barnes moved Redhawk around to almost every position on the court. He seems to excel no matter what position he is placed in.

Redhawk played to his highest potential, averaging 17.7 points, 11.7 rebounds, 4.8 steals, 2.3 assists, and 1.3 blocks and scored 106 points in the first six games of the season.

Though just two assists shy of

Chaz Tecumseh

Named to the Yuma Sun/Rotary International All Region Basketball Team.



Image Courtesy of Terri Tecumseh



Janequa Mills

Captain of both the Girls' Basketball and Volleyball Teams for 2010/11.

QUECHAN NEWS Photo by William Isbell

Redhawk Welch

A sophomore, Redhawk has already become the Warriors' scoring leader.



QUECHAN NEWS Photo by William Isbell

a triple double against Salome, he still recorded 18 points, 11 rebounds, and 8 assists.

Though only a sophomore, Welch has proved to be one of the backbones of the San Pasqual Valley Warriors.

**The Quechan Election Board would like to inform
all Tribal Members of the upcoming general election.**

**Please contact the Enrollment Department
with any address changes and/or name changes.**

Phone 760-572-0752

Fax 760-572-5264

If you have any questions please contact the Election Board

Phone 760-572-0664

Fax 760-572-2350

Racism "Alive and Well at Cal State Long Beach"

Karris Wilson, a Quechan Tribal member recently profiled in the *Quechan News* for his lecture series scheduled at a number of state educational institutions in the Los Angeles area, sent an email to the *News* in March with the article at right attached. He was first made aware of the article in an email from James Suazo, the head of publicity for the American Indian Student Council at California State University, Long Beach (Cal State Long Beach).

Mr. Suazo writes: "I have attached the article as a JPEG as you cannot conveniently find it online. It hurts me beyond explainable words to know that this has come from our University and our student body. We are currently formulating action and would appreciate anybody's help with whatever happens. We must let them know that ignorance like this will not be tolerated on our campus. The American Indian Student Council will keep you posted with any new developments. In the meantime, please spread this and educate your peers to the racism and ignorance that is being spread on our campus."

An online check for the article at the *Union Weekly* website (www.lbunion.com/) finds that, though they seem to have updated their online issues every couple of weeks in the past, their online archive skipped from February 7, 2011 to March 21st as late as the last week of March, with the March 14th issue containing the offending article "unavailable" for online reading. The *Union Weekly* is a student-run "alternative" newspaper at Cal State Long Beach.

In his comments on the *Union Weekly's* review of the University's spring 2011 Pow Wow, Karris Wilson writes: "It's been

said they seem to be amused about this whole situation and are not opening the emails that pertain to this subject."

The University's official newspaper, *The Daily 49er* ran an article on March 21st titled "Union Weekly apologizes for Pow Wow story". That article, by staff writer Laura Ruiz says that it was "meant as an unflattering view of the event itself" and not "an assault on an entire culture." The original story also prompted a March 17 public statement from F. King Alexander, the President of California State University, Long Beach.

Mr. Alexander's statement said "The opinions in the article have raised concerns by members of the Native American community and beyond, who consider the article 'insensitive,' 'racist,' 'disturbing' and 'inappropriate.' Cal State Long Beach does not support the insensitivity nor the opinions expressed by the student writer. His article, published in the campus' alternative student newspaper, falls squarely under the protections of freedom of speech and freedom of the press but it represents the writer's opinions alone. Protection of his right to express his opinion cannot be considered to be university support of those opinions."

The University President then went on to say: "Cal State Long Beach has hosted the Native American Pow Wow on this campus for more than 35 years. It is a long and revered tradition, one that every year is observed and enjoyed by members of the university as well as the greater Southern California community. This university is one of the nation's most diverse and is recognized for its respect and appreciation for all people and all cultures. The Native American

POW WOW WOW YIPPEE YO YIPPY YAY

NOAH KELLY
CAMPUS EDITOR

Photo CONNOR O'BRIEN
PHOTO EDITOR



UNION WEEKLY • 14 MARCH 2011

If you were on campus this weekend, you probably saw the rippling of your glass of water; the precursor to any coming rumble and quake of the ground. But it wasn't a T-Rex skulking about campus, it was the annual Pow Wow put on by the American Indian Studies Program and American Indian Student Council. The gathering of tent-vendors and fry-bread ironically circled their wagons around the Native American performers, dressed in traditional garb and dancing around a large tree on the Upper Campus lawn.

The all day event featured dancing, contests, and traditional drumming from Native American performers. Many vendors were hocking their wares to anyone walking by but it really seemed like a large, Native American themed flea market. Some of the food vendors just seemed to unceremoniously add the word "Indian" to whatever food they were peddling. Indian tacos? What the are Indian tacos?

Another food staple seems to be this product called fry-bread, which essentially is an overpriced fried dough platter with bargain brand food products splattered on top, like a Mexican pizza from Taco Bell, but s...er. The only experience I have with fry-bread is watching a show about how incredibly unhealthy it is to consume, and watching its rapid consumption on campus grounds.

The pinnacle of this overwhelming affair was watching authentic cultural dancers in the middle of the event and random audience members ambling awkwardly up to the line of dancers and dropping wadded up dollar bills in front of them as some form of donation. When the dance was over, the closest dancers to the cash pile stooped and picked up what I could only assume was barely more than \$30-50 in small bills. The entire scene felt disingenuous and cheap. Donations are great, and necessary, tossing them unceremoniously on the ground is crass and borderline obscene. Even the homeless have hats and cups.

This scanned image of the offending article was provided by Karris Wilson, Quechan Tribal member with contacts on campus at Cal State Long Beach. The Union Weekly provides an interactive copy of their current issue and archived copies on the internet, but those archives currently skip from February 7th to March 21st - omitting this issue, dated March 14, 2011.

Image Courtesy of Karris Wilson

Pow Wow and all of those who participate in it are a proud tradition of Cal State Long Beach. That will not change."

Mr. Wilson responds: "This is not free speech and crosses the line with absolutely no moral ethics within journalism," writes Quechan Tribal member Karris Wilson. "In my opinion this is a HATE CRIME that maliciously marginalizes American Indians. In addition, there are code of conduct policies that all students agree to when they apply and enroll in a public university, and those policies make students subject to expulsion. I am appalled by the state-

ment of University President F. King Alexander."

"In a society where political correctness has become the status quo for all ethnic groups and a level of modernity for all people, there is always an exception. That exception is the American Indian. In this modern society, you'll find American Indians are still mascots, alcoholics, savages, and marginalized to the highest degree in contemporary society. American Indians are still viewed as non-existent, a situation created by cultural myths. The American Indian is the only ethnic group where society permits

these racist scrutinies."

"This is a seditious undertaking that marginalizes American Indians. Free speech does not allow a malicious act of hectoring and metanarratives."

"I am part of a grand civilization of the Fort Yuma Quechan Indian Nation that has existed for centuries. None of that is a meaningful part of the struggle but what is important is erasing the marginalization and mythology that takes a leap into the future where the basic structure is the status quo for all ethnic groups." If you have a comment, you can reach Karris Wilson at karrisw@aol.com.



Tyler Morrow (center) and Mike Kiputh of JPCI Services of Mesa, Arizona prepare to lower their co-worker, James Fitzpatrick, into a manhole on Picacho Road. They made up one crew of several performing long needed maintenance on the water drains here on the reservation.

QUECHAN NEWS Photo by William Isbell

Drain Maintenance Slows Traffic

Drivers should keep an eye out for road crews here on the Fort Yuma reservation, as traffic on the main roads slows for work on a long-deferred maintenance operation.

“Manholes usually have to be checked and cleaned out about once a year,” explained Tyler Morrow, a crew man assigned to Picacho Road. “Especially when you have hard water. Runoff leaks in and goes down the sides of the manhole pipe leading to the drain below, and stuff flakes off and falls in, which can block the flow.”

Using ARRA stimulus grant

funds, the Tribe hired JPCI Services to pull up the asphalt plugs over the manholes, clean off the cast iron manhole covers, and descend into the holes and check their condition.

The crews then clean off the vertical pipes, scraping off any loose flakes of concrete, before shovelling up the loose debris that collects in the bottom of the hole. The process requires a worker and his tools to be lowered into the dark with a portable light, while his partners feed in fresh air from above.

As the man in the hole makes progress filling buckets with the

chips and muck, the men above winch the buckets out, dump them into a trailer, and pass them down below to be filled again.

“Once we’ve got it all cleaned up, we shoot a new coating onto the pipe to re-line it and keep it from flaking off again” says Taylor. The coating binds to the pipe and is much more resistant to salt and water damage.

After a manhole is cleaned and repaired, the crew replaces the cover and applies a new asphalt plug over it, to keep everything level with the new roadway surface put down earlier.

SENIORS HELPING SENIORS



When the Paradise Casino recently presented the Quechan Senior Center with "Care Boxes" of surplus food, the staff set about contacting Tribal Elders to let them know what was available. Some of the seniors at the Center stepped in and volunteered to free the staff from having to take a break every time another elder came by to pick up a box. That freed up the staff for other tasks. Two of those senior volunteers were Melvin Dees and Cedric Shepard, seen here loading a box for Quechan Elder Carol Curran. Good job, guys!

QUECHAN NEWS Photo by William Isbell

Varsity & Venturing Triathlon

Saturday, April 16, 2011

6:15am Registration
at Marcus Pool

First swimmers in the water at 7am.

Youth 14-18: \$10.00 ea

Varsity and Venturing Scouts: \$10.00ea

Adults: \$25.00ea

Swim .25 mile

Bike 9.4 miles

Run 2.9 miles

Bikes will be shuttled by trailer from the switch-out point to Cibola High School.

Anyone who wishes may arrange for family or friends to take possession of their bikes at the switch-out point.

(Appx. Ave E and 16th Street/County 9th)

Participants must have swim wear for the pool, a helmet for the bike ride, and appropriate shoes for the run. The bike portion of the event will be on a gravel road, it is suggested that mountain bikes be used.



If you would like to take part, Contact Brett Bybee at the BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA Grand Canyon Council - Yuma Office (928) 782-1896

HAPPY 100th Birthday Edith White!

April 18th marked an historic milestone for the *Kwat'san Pipa* as the Tribe's eldest elder entered the start of her second century on this Earth!

Bobbie Brooks, owner of Brownie's Café (who went to school with Edith White's husband *years* ago) honored her with a free lunch for her and 12 friends. Everyone gathered on St Patrick's Day to share memories and glad tidings in a private dining room at the café. The room filled with Tribal members as Vice-President Keeny Escalanti came by to bring the Tribal Council's best wishes as well.

Quechan Tribal Elder Barbara Levy asked Edith to go to lunch with her and surprised this special lady with a room full of friends already in place and awaiting her appearance! Ms. Levy also offered a special prayer for her before the gathering began to eat.



Friends and family who helped to celebrate Edith White's first century of life gather around her at the party. In the background are Della Escalanti, great-granddaughter Chera-Lee White holding great-great-granddaughter Audrey Soliz, Daughter-in-law Audrey White and son Charles White, Jr. Sitting alongside Edith at the main table are fellow Quechan Tribe Elders Henrietta Emerson, Barbara Levy and Charlotte Hills, and those with their backs to the camera include (just outside the frame) Christine Emerson, Ila Dunsweiler, Myra Andrews and George Bryant. Arlie Emerson, Vice President Keeny Escalanti and Keith Emerson were also present.

QUECHAN NEWS Photos by William Isbell

5K Easter Run/Walk

The Last Race of
The Diabetes
Wellness Center
Triple Crown Series

Will Be on Saturday
April 16, 2011
At Yuma Gateway Park
Beginning at 8AM

Sharp!

To Register
for this event
or for more
information,
please call:
(760)572-4057

THE QUECHAN SPECIAL DIABETES PROJECT

CHILI COOKOFF AND KICKBALL TOURNAMENT

Friday, April 15 at the Quechan
Community Center and Baseball Field

Cook Off: 4 pm to 8 pm
Kickball Tournament: 6 pm to 9 pm

Individuals and Teams must provide their own ingredients and their own heat source for cooking. Registration for the Cook Off must be submitted by 5:00 PM on Monday, April 11.

Kickball Teams of 7 (+2 Alternates, if possible) are needed. Children over the age of 5 are welcome.

All Teams must sign up for the Tournament by 5:00 PM, Monday, April 11. For full rules and regulations or to sign up for either event, visit:

**The Quechan Special Diabetes Project
or the Diabetes Wellness Center**

Or Call (760) 572-1286