

Have a Happy Thanksgiving!
 ETSKA NAV AH PAI THE NEWS CARRIER





QUECHAN NEWS

Volume 105, Issue 21 ♦ Wednesday, November 23, 2011

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To Tribe Members



Look For This Symbol

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QUECHAN NEWS

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Popular Veto Election Set For December 20

The Quechan Election Board has issued a press release advising all Tribal Members that a Popular Veto Special Election has been scheduled for Tuesday, December 20, 2011.

This election will decide whether Tribal Council Resolution R-317-09, appointing Robin Estrada to the position of Tribal Administrator, should be nullified.

The Quechan Election Board also encourages the entire Tribal membership to update their mailing/physical address before the December special election.

All voters in this Popular Veto Special Election must be enrolled Quechan Tribal Members 18 years of age or older, or who will attain the age of eighteen before December 31, 2011.

Eligible Voter lists for this election have been posted in the following locations:

1. The Quechan Community Center
2. Pipa Market
3. The Quechan Tribal Administration Office

If you are an enrolled



Vice President Ronda Aguerro stands up behind the Council podium to better observe Kermit Olson, Marshall of the Quechan Election Board, as he locks and seals the empty ballot box in preparation for the Popular Veto Special Election, scheduled for Tuesday, December 20. QUECHAN NEWS Photo by William Isbell

Quechan Tribal member and your name does not appear on the Eligible Voter lists, contact the Enrollment Department at (760)572-0752 or the Quechan Election Board at (760)572-0664 as soon as possible.

The Election Board began mailing out absentee ballots to those tribal members who submitted requests for such ballots

on November 14, 2011.

No person(s) can receive or request an absentee ballot on your behalf: you must make a personal request for an absentee ballot yourself. Instructions for casting the absentee ballot will accompany the ballot.

Due to the short timeline set for this election, all absentee ballots must be returned to the

Quechan Election Board on or before 7:00 PM, Tuesday, December 20, 2011, so mark your vote and return it in the provided mailer as soon as possible.

The Quechan Election Board has designated the Quechan Community Center to be the polling place.

Polls will open promptly at
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A Busy Month for Ah Keel Dancers



The Quechan Ah Keel dance group, specializing in the traditional harvest dances passed down from generation to generation, has been quite busy since the end of September. They've not only taken part in the Miss Quechan Native Pageant and Indian Days, they've also been invited to a number of other events, over the entire desert southwest, as Ambassadors of Kwat'san Culture!



The Ah Keel Dance Group led the Quechan contingent of participants in the City of Yuma's Veterans Day Parade on November 11th. They then reported to the Desert Sun Stadium to spend the weekend as a featured act in the Dr. Curall Medicine Show & Old West Extravaganza.



Barbara Levy of the Quechan Language Preservation Department also attended the western show to perform as a native storyteller.

Popular Veto Special Election

Continued from Page 1

7:00 AM and close at 7:00 PM (Arizona time) on election day, December 20th, 2011. The tally of votes will begin at 8:00 PM.

Results will be announced following the tally of votes at a special meeting at the Quechan Community Center.

The current Election Board, recalled to duty in early October

to oversee the upcoming Special Election, were first seated for the June, 2011 General Election.

The Quechan Election Board is made up of a Judge, Dorinda Iron Cloud; a Marshall, Kermit Olson; and two Clerks, Melanie Bard McNeely and Nichole Montague; as well as an Alter-

nate member, Danell O'Neal.

If you have any questions about the upcoming special election or would like to request further information, please call the Quechan Election Board at (760) 572-0664.

Their office hours are from 8:00 - 5:00 PM. They close for lunch from noon to 1:00 PM.

APPLICATIONS FOR THE 2011 WINTER SCHOOL CLOTHING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Will No Longer Be Accepted After: Wednesday, November 30th, 2011 at 5:00PM

**RECEIPT DEADLINE: DECEMBER 22, 2011
SHOPPING DAY: NOVEMBER 20, 2011**

For additional information regarding the W.S.C.A.P. please contact the Revenue Distribution Department at (760) 572-0213 - Extension 220 or 274.

The Quechan Indian Tribe

is seeking interested Tribal Members to serve on the following Boards and Committees:

5 Tribal Members for these two Committees:

**PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE
QUECHAN HEALTH COMMITTEE**

7 Tribal Members for each of these groups:

**QUECHAN CULTURAL COMMITTEE
QUECHAN LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
QUECHAN EVENTS COMMITTEE**

Also, 2 Tribal Members for both the
**QTDHE BOARD of COMMISSIONERS
and QUECHAN EDUCATION BOARD**

And 3 Tribal Members are needed for the
MISS QUECHAN PAGEANT COMMITTEE

**If interested, please submit a
Letter of Interest to RoseAna Williams,
Acting Tribal Council Secretary
at the Tribal Administration Office**

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QUECHAN NEWS
William Isbell

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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. I'm looking forward to hearing from you!



Culture & Heritage

Youth Cultural Festival Thanks University Volunteers



Even though the *Anya Nitz Pak* park has been open for over 9 months now, a few items still needed some final touches, such as applying a weather sealant to the entry kiosk (at left). Students also helped in planting bulrushes along the riverbank (below) at Quechan Bee Wash.



The Strong Hearts native royalty line up across from the Roadrunner Singers, as the Strong Hearts Pipa Singers gather alongside in preparation for the 9th Annual Youth Cultural Festival.



Once the work was completed, the volunteers joined the San Pasqual Strong Hearts Native Royalty and other local dancers, learning a few steps at the annual Quechan Cultural Festival. Photos: Allyson Collins, Quechan EDA

The Ninth Annual Youth Cultural Festival saw 46 college students visit our reservation from November 4th to the 6th, participating in a weekend of culture awareness, work service, camping, and fun.

Thirty-five students from the University of Redlands and nine students from the Cal State University at San Marcos campus gained valuable hands-on experience in riparian restoration and participated in a variety of Quechan cultural experiences.

This year, the students arrived on a Friday afternoon, to set up camp at the Sunrise Point Park. Later that evening, we got rain! Fortunately, Quechan Parks and Recreation opened the Community Center for the students to sleep in that night, but not before they were able

to drop in at the Strong Hearts Miss Native San Pasqual Pageant for an introduction to the Community.

After the pageant visit, the students took part in a sweat lodge ceremony at the Emerson home on Picacho Road, led by Phil Emerson. Saturday morning saw the students participate in the work service projects at the Yuma East Wetlands and a restoration project at the Quechan Bee Wash.

At lunchtime on Saturday, the visiting volunteers met with Strong Hearts Native Society officers Gina Rivera, Brendan José and Jodeci Williams for an informal exchange on college life, where the visiting students shared their experiences of living on campus.

Among the topics: the differ-

ences between private and public universities, personal interests, future career goals, where the visitors come from and narratives of their own educational journeys.

The exchange was conducted as a way to foster interaction with our youth as an invaluable offering of exchange. A more direct outcome of the exchange is a visit being planned by the Strong Hearts youth later this year, to see the University of Redlands in person.

Originally scheduled to occur at the *Anya Nitz Pak* (Sunrise Point) Park, the Youth Cultural Festival was moved to the Quechan Community Center on Saturday evening, due to the nearby Winona Judd concert at the Paradise Casino.

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Youth Cultural Festival Educates Volunteers

Continued from Page 3

The students shared an evening meal of stew, beans, and frybread in the park. They also enjoyed learning how to dance Bird and Pipa under the instruction of the Quechan Roadrunners and Strong Hearts Native Society and this year's Miss Quechan, Angeline Levy.

They also danced and listened to stories from the Quechan Ah-Keel Dance Group. After the festival, the students were able to return to their camp at the Sunrise Point Park.

Miss Quechan was on hand to demonstrate peon games, which the students really enjoyed. One of them even said he wished they played for money!

On Sunday morning the students were fed a hot breakfast by the Elder Village Focus Group and taken on a walking tour of the park, the Elder Village, and the North Channel Slough and Ag Conversion



Student volunteers gather at the Elder Village for a group portrait after completing their work. The satisfied looks on their faces show how much they enjoyed their visit to Fort Yuma, land of the Kwat'san.

Photo Courtesy of Quechan EDA

projects—all before departing the Reservation at 1:00 PM!

In an effort to measure the success and benefits this event has, participants were asked to share their opinions via a Comment Card at the event.

Participants first rated the event on a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being "Excellent" and 1 being "Poor" on categories labeled

"Work Service, Exchange with Youth of the Reservation, Cultural Exchange, Dinner, and Overall Experience."

Allyson Collins of the Quechan Economic Development Administration (EDA) says 28 percent rated their overall experience as "Great" and 57 percent gave the weekend an "Excellent" rating.

Some of the comments from Community members were: "Outside people are very open to different culture"; "Teach more things"; and "Overall excellent and enjoyable, I had a good time."

A sample of comments from the visiting students include: "Appreciate the generosity and hospitality"; "Learned a lot about the Tribe's culture"; and "Had an amazing time" . . . "It was so fun" . . . "I enjoyed it" . . . "It was great" . . . "Thank you!"

The student volunteers also said they loved meeting new people and would like to know more about the songs and the words or meaning to them. Written remarks such as "I loved the Frybread", "Very nice people, music, and dancing", "Very informative, fun, & good food" and even "We could have done more physical work" were sprinkled in among the com-

ment cards.

All in all, the event was deemed a success by the EDA Staff, who were pleased to organize the event.

With next year being the 10th year the Youth Cultural Festival has been held on the reservation, the EDA hopes the event grows even bigger.

The Economic Development Administration wishes to thank the following for their support:

The Quechan Tribal Council, the University of Redlands, Cal State University—San Marcos, Top Flavor Farms, the Quechan Environmental Program, Fred Phillips Consulting, Quechan Fish and Game, Quechan Security, Quechan Parks and Recreation, Quechan Senior Center, Quechan Utility Company, Quechan Facilities and the Maintenance Grounds Crew, and the Elder Village Focus Group.

Free Registration For Yuma Little League

Donna West at Yuma Little League says Tribal members can join their program free of charge and there is no limit on members who can join for free.

"We will hold registrations at the Quechan Parks & Recreation building as many times as needed," she says. "There are registration packets in the Quechan Parks & Rec. office that can be picked up, filled out and returned to the office. We will also be sending flyers out to the schools right after the new year with registration dates."

Each player will receive a full uniform to keep: pants, socks, jersey, hat and belt, as well as

receiving a picture packet, and a participation trophy. They have a chance to make All-Stars and show their talent in other cities.

Yuma Little League and Quechan Parks & Rec. teamed up 3 years ago to bring Little League baseball to Fort Yuma. Yuma Little League will also be adding softball for girls this year. They will also have 3 clinics for baseball and softball, ages 4 thru 18, also free, for anyone who would like to participate. Those clinics, covering both offense and defense, will start in January and end in February. Flyers will be given to the schools beforehand.



BIA Seeking Wildlands Firefighter Trainees

The Fort Yuma Agency of the Bureau of Indian Affairs will be hosting Basic Firefighter Training next month, the week of December 5-11, 2011. A second Basic Firefighter Training will also be held in early 2012, over the week of February 13-17.

The course is designed to train new firefighters in basic wildlands firefighting skills.

Firefighters who successfully complete the course at either training session, and pass the Work Capacity Pack Test will be qualified to join BIA crews to suppress wildland

fires WHILE UNDER CLOSE SUPERVISION.

The trainees will learn fire safety, fire behavior, fire weather, fire suppression, and the use of fire tools and firefighting equipment.

Those who successfully complete the entire training will receive four certificates.

Those certificates are: S-130 Firefighter Training, S-190 Introduction to Wildland Fire Behavior, L-180 Human Factors on the Fireline, and I-100 Introduction to the Incident Command System.

Before trainees can attend

the classes, they will be required to pass the Work Capacity Pack Test. The Pack Test consists of a 3 mile walk within 45 minutes while carrying a 45 pound pack.

Once the trainees receive certification they will work on an on-call rotational status. There will also be opportunities to travel away from home for up to 14 days.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Matt Soulier, the Yuma BIA Training Officer. His office number is (928)782-1202, and his cell number is (928)920-9894.



Milson Jose of Quechan Post 802 carries the colors, followed by the San Pasqual Strong Hearts royalty as the Head Start Veterans Day Parade begins near the Quechan Fish and Game office on November 10th.



The Golding family came out to sing Pipa at the Senior Center's salute to veterans. Gordon Osborne spoke to the seniors, also.



San Pasqual Native Royalty including Ipa Kwanamii Angelito Alvarez and High Miss Native San Pasqual fro 2011/12 Gina Rivera took part in the City of Yuma's Veterans Day Parade. Their truck was followed by the middle school and elementary school's Native Princesses.



Amaya Koteen gives an approving glance at her older peers as the Strong Hearts march with children from the Education Complex.



US Public Health Service members salute retired Marine Staff Sgt. James Eagleman, accompanied by his son Philino Roosevelt and President Escalanti's granddaughter, Kenna, as they lead the annual Head Start Veterans' Day Parade around Indian Hill.



County of Imperial Official Final Results November 8, 2011

SAN PASQUAL Valley Unified School District
Governing Board Members - VFNM3
5 of 5 Precincts Reporting 100.00%

	Vote Count	Percent
NON - BERNADINE SWIFT ARROW	80	23.81%
NON - LISA AGUERRO	48	14.29%
NON - MICHAEL JOHN VIRGIL JACK	81	24.11%
NON - REBECCA L. RAMIREZ	63	18.75%
NON - MONA DECORSE	64	19.05%
Total of Votes In This Election:	336	100.00%

Three seats were open in this election. The votes shown above are the count as given on the Imperial County website as of the date of publication of this issue of the *Quechan News*.

Smokers to Get FREE Nicotine Patches When Calling California Smokers' Helpline

For a limited time, the California Smokers' Helpline is sending free nicotine patches to callers from Imperial County.

The California Smokers' Helpline is a free telephone counseling service funded by the California Department of Public Health to help people who are ready to quit using tobacco.

Eligible tobacco users who call and enroll in the free telephone-based smoking cessation program will receive a free two-week starter kit of patches,

while supplies last.

And, while supplies last, eligible smokers can also receive a free 2-week starter kit of nicotine patches to help them quit.

Free telephone counseling to quit tobacco is available by calling the California Smokers' Helpline at 1-800-NO BUTTS (1-800-662-8887). Smokers who use counseling and the patch together increase their chances of successfully quitting tobacco for good.

Service hours for the Smok-

ers' Helpline are: Monday through Friday from 7:00 AM to 9:00 PM and Saturdays from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

If you call after hours or the lines are busy, you will reach the Helpline's 24-hour voice mail service, and they can call you back at a time and date of your choosing, if you leave them a message.

For more information contact: Lucy Zertuche at 1(760)482-4907 or email lucyzertuche@co.imperial.ca.us

StepOut Walk Raises \$10,000

The Quechan Tribe and the Special Diabetes Project for Indians (SDPI) hosted our 2nd annual Step Out to Stop Diabetes Walk on November 5th.

Once again, the event was held at the Diabetes Walking Park, with this year's 5k route going around over Indian Hill and through the Anya Nitz Pak Park.

"We had over 120 participants and raised over \$10,000 for the American Diabetes Association (ADA)," says Lisa Ball, of the Quechan Special Diabetes Project.

"The money goes to diabetes research, as we come closer to a cure for diabetes every day."

Lisa also says the ADA StepOut Committee and the Quechan SDPI would like to thank the following individuals and tribal departments for all of



Tribal Council members Virgil Smith, Darnella Melancon and Clivia Cyndee Miller (with her daughter, Pamela) prepare to enjoy a heart healthy snack at the StepOut Walk. Photo Courtesy of Lisa Ball, Quechan SDPI

their help in making it such as successful event this year:

The Quechan Tribal Council, especially Council members Virgil Smith, Darnella Melancon and Clivia Cyndee Miller for attending and speaking at the event, as well as the Quechan Police Department,

Quechan Security, TERO, Winterhaven Fire Department, and the Quechan EDA.

The SDPI also appreciates the Miss San Pasqual Native Princesses, Ms. Trudy Lopez, and Philly Emerson and the Spirit Runners and everyone for supporting such a worthy cause.

QUECHAN ENROLLMENT DEADLINE

Quechan Tribal Members are encouraged to enroll their child(ren) for membership with the Quechan Tribe.

The Quechan Enrollment Application deadline for the present quarter is Friday, December 2, 2011 at 5:00 PM. Completed applications must include the following support documents:

- State Certified Birth Certificate (Copy)
- Social Security Card (Copy)
- If either parent is an enrolled member of another tribe, submit an updated Certified Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB) and a letter of non-enrollment for the applicant.

Applications will not be processed until all the support documents have been received. Completed applications are processed quarterly.

The next quarterly meeting for the Enrollment Committee will be mid-December.

Contact the Quechan Enrollment Office at (760) 572-0752 if you have questions regarding the enrollment application process.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Quechan Tribally Designated Housing Entity



1860 W. Sapphire Lane
Winterhaven, California 92283
Phone (760) 572-0243 Fax (760) 572-0245

The QTDHE Board of Commissioners holds its regular monthly meeting at the QTDHE Office the second Monday of every month at 5:30 PM.

The regularly scheduled December BOC Meeting will begin at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, December 12, 2011 and will be held at the QTDHE office location.

The Board welcomes public comments and/or concerns. Those wishing to request to meet with the Board of Commissioners should make their request in written form to Mr. Tad Zavodsky, Acting Executive Director by 5:00 PM, Wednesday, December 7, 2011.

THE CHILDREN OF THE QUECHAN EDUCATION COMPLEX AT HEAD START, QUECHAN CHILD CARE AND PARADISE DAY CARE HAD A SPOOKTACULAR HALLOWEEN DAY THANKS TO THE MANY ENTITIES THAT PARTICIPATED IN THIS YEAR'S TRICK OR TREATING.

A VARIETY OF YUMMY TREATS AND FUN TOYS WERE GIVEN TO THE CHILDREN.

IT IS THE CONTINUOUS PARTICIPATION OF TRIBAL PROGRAMS THAT MAKE THIS DAY A FUN SUCCESS!

QUECHAN POLICE DEPARTMENT	QUECHAN ADAPP
QUECHAN SPECIAL DIABETES PROJECT	QUECHAN HOUSING DEPARTMENT
QUECHAN PARADISE CASINO -T.G.O.	QUECHAN COMMUNITY HEALTH
QUECHAN PARENTING	QUECHAN SENIOR NUTRITION
QUECHAN CHILD CARE	QUECHAN SOCIAL SERVICES
QUECHAN ENROLLMENT DEPT.	QUECHAN PARKS & REC.
J.O.M./I.E.C	QUECHAN LANGUAGE PRESERVATION
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	QUECHAN FISH & GAME
QUECHAN TRIBAL COURT	PARADISE DAY CARE
QUECHAN ELECTION BOARD	QUECHAN TRIBAL COUNCIL

New Native Royalty Chosen

Continued from Page 8

Strong Hearts when she and Adina Alvarez were presented with handmade mugs from the Ute Mountain Tribe of Colorado. Both school staff members have gone out of their way over the past year helping the Strong Hearts in a variety of tasks.

Tribal member Arlie Emerson was also singled out as deserving a mug, but he wasn't able to attend the Pageant so he missed the applause the others received.

Each new member of Native Royalty also received their own handmade Ute vase with geometric design elements originating with the ancient Anasazi, commemorating their having been chosen to serve as role models for their fellow students throughout the remainder of the

school year.

Each of the students on stage really gave it their best effort this year, providing great examples of good sportsmanship in the midst of competition. During the elementary school portion, Amaya Koteen made a point of mentioning that her rival for the crown, Paris Montague, was her best friend, and Amaya really hoped that Paris would win. (When the judges decided otherwise, Paris also seemed thrilled that she was now the runner-up to *her* best friend!) Likewise, when Gabriel Gilbert capture the title of *Kwanamii* for the middle school, he and his rival left the stage with their arms over each others' shoulders!

But the real nail biters of the

evening went to the decisions to select the Native Princesses for the middle school and high school. Each of the students this year put a great deal of thought into their speeches, clothing selections, and choice of dance, and each girl seemed worthy of the crown as they held the stage during their part of the program.

But in the end, there can be only one who wears the crown, and this year for the middle school, that one is Kaylin Thomas, and for the high school, the honor goes to Gina Rivera, who also has her hands full as senior class president *and* president of the Strong Hearts Native Society. The runner-up for the high school this year is Halle Duncan. Be sure to congratulate them when you see them!



GINA RIVERA

The High School Indian Princess for 2011/2012 is also Sr. Class President and the President of the Strong Hearts Native Society.

QUECHAN NEWS Photo by William Isbell

Hello everyone! My name is Gina Marie Rivera and I am the newly crowned Miss Native San Pasqual High School Indian Princess. I am 17 years old and a senior at San Pasqual High School.

I am an enrolled member of the Kwat'san Nation and have lived on the Fort Yuma reservation all of my life.

I am the proud daughter of Rosalinda Whitepigeon and Ricardo Rivera. My paternal grandparents are Eleazar Hurtado and the late Maria Hurtado. My maternal grandparents are Paul and Jeanne Whitepigeon. My maternal great-grandparents are the late Reverend Lester and Mrs. Alameda Whitepi-

geon and the late Louie and Betty Escalanti Robles. I am very occupied at school, having been President of the Strong Hearts Native Society for the last two years as well as President of my Senior Class.

I keep myself occupied by playing sports such as volleyball, basketball, softball, and track. During my free time outside of school, I am usually fundraising for the clubs I am involved in, dancing Pipa with Strong Hearts, or helping out at the Elder Village. On top of all of that I am a high honor roll student.

My goal after high school is to pursue a Masters Degree in Social Work at Arizona Western College and at Northern Arizona University. Right now, my goal as Miss Native

San Pasqual is to represent my friends, family, school, and community by attending local and maybe even distant events. My primary focus within my school is to encourage other young girls to learn the traditional dances and to never be afraid to show their pride.

In closing, I would like to thank the community and tribe for all their support. I would also like to thank Judith Prietta-Osbourne, Arlie Emerson, Bobby Emerson, Brendan Jose, Bobbyonah Bohanon, Dominique Rueda, Jodeci Williams, and my mom for all of their help and encouragement.

I would also like to thank Daniel Murphy for traveling from Barona with his group to sing for me at the pageant. Lastly, I would like to thank my great-grandmother, the late Betty Escalanti Robles, for always being the strong Angel within my heart. Thank you.



KAYLIN THOMAS

The new Middle School Indian Princess is an enrolled member of the Kwat'san Tribe with extensive family connections.

QUECHAN NEWS Photo by William Isbell

My name is Kaylin Thomas and I am 13 years old and I'm in the 8th grade.

My mother is Alicia Thomas. My grandparents are Jackie and Philly Emerson, and my great grandmother is Judy Cachora. I am part of a large family, and I have four brothers and sisters.

My favorite thing about school is being able to learn new things.

My favorite hobbies are to

hang out with friends and go to school.

Something I am really looking forward to as the new Miss Native San Pasqual Middle School Princess is meeting new people, going to new places to see what other reservations have, taking part in their events, meeting other Native Royalty, and learning new native crafts over the next year.

One thing I forgot to mention at the pageant was I would like to thank the ladies at the Senior Nutrition Center for helping me learn how to dance.



AMAYA KOTEEN

This year's Indian Princess for the elementary school is an enrolled member of the Kwat'san Tribe, and of Ute and Apache descent.

QUECHAN NEWS Photo by William Isbell

Ten year old Amaya Koteen was born in Yuma to Bridgette Miguel and Angel Koteen. Her stepmother is Alice Koteen. Amaya is in the 5th grade.

An enrolled member of the Quechan Indian Tribe, she is a descendent of the Northern Ute Indian Tribe of Fort Duchesne, Utah and the San Carlos Apache Tribe from Dulce, New Mexico. "I have two brothers, Angel, 12; and Anthony 11, and a sister, Alexis, 5," she tells the *Quechan News*. "And I will soon have a new baby brother, arriving in January, 2012!"

"My maternal grandparents are Faye Burson and the late Benjamin Miguel. My paternal grandparents are Lolita Koteen Rodriguez and Raymond Acosta."

"My favorite subject in school is Science. I enjoy hanging out with my friends, drawing and sewing. My goal this year is to make my own ribbon dress. I also enjoy attending

concerts and spending time with my family. My long term goal is to go to college and become a fashion designer."

Amaya says that in her ten years, she has already traveled to Columbia, South Carolina; Cortez, Colorado; Roosevelt, Vernal and Ft. Duchesne, Utah; Las Vegas, Nevada; San Diego, Los Angeles and San Francisco, California. "I also lived at Scholfield Barracks, in Wahia-wa, Hawaii, when my father was stationed in the United States Army. I will also be traveling to Fort Duchesne, Utah with my grandmother to participate in the Northern Ute Thanksgiving Pow Wow this month!"

"I am honored to represent my Tribe and the Strong Hearts and to serve as a positive role model. I look forward to traveling to other reservations to learn about their native traditions, and meeting other royalty."

"In closing, I want to thank the judges who voted for me, and everyone who came out to watch the Pageant."

GABRIEL GILBERT

MISS AMAYA KOTEEN

MISS GINA RIVERA

MISS KAYLIN THOMAS

ANGELITO ALVAREZ

The Mr. & Miss Strong Hearts Native Pageant 2011 & 2012



Lucinda Polk (above) was the Tribal Elder selected to serve as Strong Hearts *Shii Yii* (Great Grandmother) this year.

Little Miss CRIT Sophia Sevada (below) performed a dance while the scores were being tallied.



Singers for the new high school Princess were Zion White, Caine Palone, Daniel Murphy, Vincent Tiger, and Joseph Miramontes. Stepping out front to dance with Gina Rivera while she was competing for the crown are fellow Strong Hearts Brendan and Derrick Jose. All Photos by William Isbell, QUECHAN NEWS



Jorani Amador, the Pre-K girls' representative (above), really enjoyed her opportunity to dance with the bigger girls!

Valerie Tahbo of the Colorado River Indian Tribes (below) was the guest Emcee for the night.



Upper echelon members of the Strong Hearts Native Society at the San Pasqual Valley schools gathered before at least 400 members of the community on the evening of November 4th to present their annual autumnal rite of passage in the form of the Mr. and Miss Strong Hearts Native Pageant.

Top native student representatives from each of the three schools in the district stood before their parents, teachers and assembled guests to demonstrate their public speaking ability, knowledge of history and native customs, and demonstrate their talents in traditional song and dance.

The competition was tight this year, as three high school students (Melonie Bell, Halle Duncan and Gina Rivera) were in the running for High School Princess, as well as two girls from the middle school (Ny-Lyn Duncan and Kailen Thomas) and two from the elementary school (Amaya Koteen and Paris Montague) stepping up to represent their schools.

Two boys from the middle school, Joseph Aragon and Gabriel Gilbert were on hand to try out for the title of Middle School Warrior (*Kwanamii*), but after doing such a great job as *Iipa Kwanamii* for the high school last year, no one

stepped forward to challenge Angelito Alvarez, and he was able to keep the title for his senior year at San Pasqual.

This year, the Strong Hearts voted to pass the coveted title of Great Grandmother (*Shii Yii*) on to Miss Lucinda Polk, who received her sash of office from her cousin, Barbara Levy, who held the office last year. Assisting Ms. Levy in dressing Lucinda in her cape and collar was her daughter, Lucia Polk, who teaches second grade at the elementary school.

Later in the evening, Lucia Polk was personally recognized for her services to the (Continued inside on Page 7)