

INDIAN DAYS ARE OCTOBER 14 TO 16
ETSKA NAV AH PAI THE NEWS CARRIER

QUECHAN NEWS

Volume 105, Issue 18 ♦ Wednesday, October 12, 2011

In This Issue:

**Spirit Runner is a
Diabetes Educator**
Page 2

QTDHE Festival
Page 3

Pesticides Regulated
Page 4

Tractor Fire Cleanup
Page 5

Desert Heat Boxer
Page 6

**IHS Contract Health
Services Explained**
Page 7

CHS Flow Chart
Back Page

**Items Of Special Interest
To Tribe Members**



Look For This Symbol

ETSKA NAV AH PAI THE NEWS CARRIER
QUECHAN NEWS

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Paradise Celebrates A Grand Reopening

The entire gaming floor of the Paradise Casino has been essentially rebuilt over the past two months, as the Tribal enterprise enters its 15th year.

The work of updating the gaming floor to allow for easier access, more machines and a better traffic flow for patrons began in late August, as employees of the Casino removed all of the slot machines that once filled a central raised gaming area. The Casino then went to a modified schedule, with workers spending the hours of 10:00 PM until 6:00 PM weekdays completely renovating the Casino's interior.

After the tiered platform that once dominated the main floor was removed, the central portion of the floor was jackhammered down to the dirt and a new arrangement of electrical chases was laid out. Once the concrete forms were in place, Quechan Tribal President Keeny Escalanti, Sr., an experienced electrician, spent three nights with the work crew, personally supervising the installation and integration of new wiring into the casino's origi-



Paradise slot department employees (from left) Jesus Gonzalez, Joseph Hawkins, Andrew Denard and Christopher Duran consult with Assistant Slot Director Justina Bouts as they prepare to complete the installation of slot machines following the new layout. Paradise employees have been busy 24/7 for the past few weeks, rebuilding the slot gaming floor into an entirely new layout for their 15th Anniversary Grand Reopening this Friday at 10:00 AM

QUECHAN NEWS Photo by William Isbell

nal power and data systems.

After a complete inspection of the electrical layout, Yuma Pest arrived at 2:00 in the morning on September 21st, to treat the bare earth for termites before the new concrete foundation for the slots bay was poured. Henry Ghiotto of the Tribe's Pesticide Enforcement Department was on hand to observe the entire operation and insure that all safety precautions were followed. He even

remained on-site throughout the morning, as concrete was pumped in to fill the forms and then quickly shoveled and floated even with the existing floor around it. Casino patrons filed in and out through the entire project, trying their luck on the remaining slots machines on the periphery surrounding the bustling workers.

Just last week, the Slots Department began pulling machines out of storage, where

they had been placed when the project began. Some older machines even received a complete overhaul while the new flooring, carpet and electrical systems were going in. A chain link fence and plastic sheeting once blocked off the work area, to prevent patrons from falling into the hole. With that danger past, customers can now watch as the final few machines are muscled into position, wired in and tested, in anticipation of the Grand Reopening this Friday, October 14th.

Tribal members are invited to a special ceremonial blessing at the west entrance to the Paradise Casino at 10:00AM this Friday. The new Miss Quechan Nation for 2011/12 will also be on hand to cut the ribbon with our Tribal Elders at 10:30AM. Brunch in the Paradise Event Center will follow right after, leaving plenty of time to make it to Indian Days by noon.

And in commemoration of the Paradise Casino's 15-Year Anniversary, all Tribal members who show their Tribal ID at the Treasure Club booth will receive \$10 in free slot play!

Spirit Runner Teaches Benefits of Healthy Living

An enrolled Tribal member who spends much of his own time running at public events with the Quechan Spirit Runners has found another way to spread the message of keeping moving to promote both physical and spiritual health.

Randall Moody, Jr. became a diabetes prevention aide for the Tribe's Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI) at the end of August, and he's already giving lectures on keeping "the balance of life" at the San Pasqual schools.

He was raised on the Quechan reservation, the son of Randall K. Moody, Sr. (a now retired electrician) and Annette Cachora, who works in the Quechan Senior Center Gift Shop.

Soon after leaving high school he had his first opportunity to live in another part of the



Randall Moody, Jr. puts his own philosophy on fitness into his presentations as a Diabetes Prevention Aide for the Quechan SDPI.

QUECHAN NEWS Photo by William Isbell

country.

In a hurry to grow up (like a lot of the young people around here), he had dropped out of San Pasqual High, and was thinking about getting a GED when a cousin asked him for a

ride to Oklahoma City.

"I ended up staying there and finishing high school in Oklahoma," he says, "after I found out I really needed that diploma to get a decent job."

Randall graduated from the American Indian Training Center and after working in Oklahoma City for a while, moved to Denver, where he attended Parks College, getting an Associates of Arts degree in Criminal Justice.

"I was thinking then that I might want to go into law enforcement," he tells the *Quechan News*, "and when I returned home in 2005 I got a job with Quechan Housing as a Security Guard."

Two years later, Randall was hired as a Gaming Agent for the California Tribal Gaming Agency, working at the Para-

dise California Casino. He later moved over to the Quechan Casino Resort in 2009.

During his off-hours, Randall was spending time in our local gym volunteering or playing basketball with local teams. "I had gotten to know most of the staff here by coming in to work out at the Wellness Center," he says. "When I heard they needed a new Prevention Aide, and that the job involves teaching about healthy living and the benefits of exercise, I knew that was a good fit for what I believe. My past community involvement (with the Spirit Runners and coaching basketball) will make it an easy transition for me to interact with the children, some of whom I already know through volunteering."

Some of the duties of his new position include visiting our lo-

cal schools to present weekly classes on useful nutrition ideas and the positive impact of exercise. "We also teach the kids that even if they're diagnosed with diabetes, they could still live a long, productive life."

He says now that much of what he has done in the past has helped prepare him for his new role as an educator of a younger generation. The constant activity has kept him in good health.

"If I am stressing nutrition and being active to members of our community, then I must also be a part of the solution," he says. "Together we can make diabetes a thing of the past, and provide our young ones with opportunities that we may not have received. I hope everyone in the community will take the time to make wiser choices, and to take care of yourselves."

Old Subdivision Roads & Sidewalks Improvement Project: Phase II

As the result of their successful application for a FY2010 Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG), the Quechan Tribally Designated housing Entity (QTDHE) has received the funds they need to replace streets, curbs, sidewalks and driveways in the south part of the Old Subdivision.

The roads and sidewalks to be rebuilt include Amethyst Lane, Diamond Lane, Coral Drive and Turquoise Circle.

Tad Zabodsky, acting director of the QTDHE says an environmental review has been submitted to HUD and the engineering phase should be completed by the end of October.

"By the beginning of December the removal of old curbs, streets and driveways will commence," he says, looking forward to the start of this long awaited improvement.

The project will also involve reinstallation of area homeown-

ers' front yard fences along with setting aside new temporary parking areas during some phases of construction.

Included in the project planning is the replacement old underground water lines that will require temporary water shut-offs at times (with a 24-hour notice). The approximately six-month construction period will also create additional opportunities for employment among community residents.

**The Quechan SDPI is looking for students
12 to 17 years old interested in training for
a 20 mile bike ride in November!**



**For more information, please contact Lisa
at (760) 572-1286
Bikes and gear will be provided.**

ETSKA NAV AH PAI THE NEWS CARRIER
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

QTDHE Celebration Includes A Bit Of Health and Safety Education



Cyprus Comet and Kosmic Greene looked thrilled as the live tarantula at the Yuma Pest booth attempts an escape from his terrarium. (Don't worry: the spider was caught on the table and quickly returned to his cage!) Kids of all ages lined up in the parking lot to take a ride around the new sub on Susy's Party Train. Meanwhile, at the Terminex booth, Michelle Quijada pulls a handful of rubber cockroaches out of their display bowl and contemplates the mischief she could cause with them around the house! Finally, Brenda Rummel and Isabel Lopez of the QTDHE are seen checking off raffle prizes to be given away throughout the evening.

QUECHAN NEWS Photos by William Isbell

The Quechan Tribally Designated Housing Entity (QTDHE) opened up the Ironwood Community Center last Thursday afternoon, to hold a community event combining games, food and fun with a bit of health and safety education.

Pilar Trujillo, the Tenant Relations Officer for the QTDHE invited local agencies such as the Imperial County Sheriff's Office, the Winterhaven Volunteer Fire Department, and the Quechan Tribal Police to bring their most exciting equipment down and demonstrate their gear for the children. The kids really seemed to enjoy climbing up on the back of the fire truck, and they all wanted to hit the siren on the patrol cars, of course!

Even with patrol vehicles and fire trucks on hand, two of

the favorite booths for kids at this year's renters and homebuyers event were those from Terminex and Yuma Pest!

One common problem here in the desert southwest is the presence of termites — the little buggers are everywhere, and they cause a lot of expensive damage. So, even though both pest control companies brought video displays and literature to explain the methods used to keep termites (and other vermin) under control, the kids were more thrilled with the bugs on display. Terminex had soft rubber cockroaches for the kids, and the Yuma Pest guys even had a live tarantula, which was a real crowd pleaser!

Polar Cooling was also on-hand, showing how they check and recharge home air condi-

tioners, and giving a talk on how important it is to change your home A/C filters at least once a month in the summer. The QTDHE also offers free air filters for all Quechan Housing renters up to once a month, helping to hold down expenses for both the Tribe and renters, while preventing costly repairs.

The centerpiece of the party, though, was the barbeque meal out on the lawn under two huge shade pavilions. Everyone lined up to get their own fixin's, and sat down to enjoy a huge, family style meal together.

And since it's hard to keep a kid sitting for too long, a train ride and assorted games were available, as well as a big, bouncy castle. Plenty of stuff to keep the little ones occupied while the adults were visiting!



Gilberto Astorga and Jesus Carvajal spent their time just outside the east entrance of the Ironwood Community Center, cooking up a huge pile of hamburgers and hot dogs to feed the crowd. Hot, hard work, but they both seemed to enjoy their time as volunteers!

Amy Hartt (at right) squeals with delight when she realizes that JoJo the Clown has twisted her balloon into a poodle puppy.



Pesticides Carefully Regulated at Fort Yuma

It's one thing if you want to take matters into your own hands at home, and take care of the little critters that invade your home and scurry off into the corners every time you flick on a light switch at night.

But it's another thing entirely if you want to spray a field and get rid of mites, caterpillars and other destructive insects, or you want to make sure the weeds don't take over before you get in there and harvest the crops.

"No (commercial) pesticides can be applied on the reservation without a permit from my office," says Henry Ghiotto, Pesticide Enforcement Officer for the Quechan Indian Tribe. "I monitor the use and application of all pesticides, to enforce a Tribal ordinance that was originally established in 1975. That ordinance was updated in 1985, and it's being reviewed right now to be revised and upgraded again this year.

Mr. Ghiotto receives and reviews applications for the use of pesticides by area landowners and lease holders, and issues permits for every occasion that warrants the use of a pesticide or herbicide here on the reservation. "Of course, if you're doing it at your own home, on your own property, you don't need a permit," he says.

"Anytime you buy something over the counter, at Lowe's, Home Depot, at Wal-Mart or wherever, to spray at your home to kill ants, roaches or termites, so long as your using it yourself, you don't need a permit," according to the ordinance Mr. Ghiotto enforces. "But if you have an applicator come in to treat your home for termites or something like that, you do need a permit."

He says only three local pest control companies are currently



Henry Ghiotto puts on his protective gear before supervising the application of termite treatment at the Paradise Casino in September.

QUECHAN NEWS Photo by William Isbell

authorized to do business and apply pesticides here on the reservation, and those are Yuma Pest and Termite, Terminex and Truly Nolan.

All three have both a Tribal business license with the Economic Development Administration (EDA) and a business permit registered with his office to apply pesticides here on the reservation. "If some little mom and pop operation shows up and says they want to spray your house, they have to have a Tribal permit, so be sure you ask to see it."

The Quechan Tribe Pesticide Enforcement Department is primarily funded through grants from the InterTribal Council of Arizona (ITCA).

The main mission of the Department is to check that all pesticides and disinfectants applied in commercial settings, whether outdoors or at Tribally owned enterprises such as the Casinos, are used as intended, according to EPA regulations.

"There are cases all over the United States where people have been using the wrong products," according to Mr. Ghiotto. "It'll kill what's there, but it's not supposed to be used around

the house, kitchens, or children, or where food is prepared. It'll definitely do a number — on the bugs and you!"

Just last month, right before the new concrete floor was laid down in the Paradise Casino, Mr. Ghiotto was on hand to observe and monitor the below ground termite treatment.

He spends a good deal of his time in the field observing applications of all types of chemicals used in industrial farming operations, whether applied by air, sprayed from a tractor or injected into the water being used to irrigate a field.

"The state has no jurisdiction on reservation lands," he notes, "so any misapplication or drifting of pesticides into adjacent fields, I have to investigate, even if it drifts from one of our fields over onto state land. Of course, if it drifts from state land onto Tribal land, the state has to investigate those." Mr. Ghiotto says he has a very good working relationship with both Yuma and Imperial Counties, and they often work with him on any problems that crop up.



Every single industrial application of pesticides here on the reservation requires a permit, whether by air, on the ground, or during irrigation.


Photo Courtesy of Henry Ghiotto, Quechan Pesticide Enforcement

He says that right now is usually his busiest time of the year, as farmers begin to prepare the fields for "specialty crops" such as lettuce and broccoli.

"It's non-stop, morning to night," he says. Most modern pesticides are applied right around sundown, since they can breakdown rapidly when exposed to sunlight. Some herbicides must be mixed in with the soil, so they are applied ahead of a tractor that follows along and turns the soil over, incorporating the weed killer into the field, and giving it about 12

hours to work overnight.

"The ag workers must notify me before each application, so they send a Form 1080, "Notice of Intent" into my office either by fax or email, so I am aware of what's going on out there, and what to watch for. If the application is going in somewhere near a house where someone may have certain medical issues, or where someone has made a complaint before, I'll be able go out there to sit and watch them, to be sure while they are spraying they don't get too close to the house."



BATTLE AT PARADISE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22 AT THE PARADISE CASINO OUTDOOR ARENA - 6:30 PM

RING \$65
SIDE

CAGE \$125
SIDE

GENERAL \$20
ADMISSION:

DAY OF \$30
SHOW:

Tickets at the Box Office or @ paradise-casinos.com

Environmental Crew Takes Lead on Tractor Fire Cleanup



Lee Farms lost an expensive new tractor when it suddenly caught fire while moving between fields along First Avenue in Winterhaven. The flames climbed a nearby power pole, nearly reaching a transformer. At right, Caine Palone and Melvin Miguel stand on either side of a Lee Farms employee, as they examine the pole's fire damage and the hydraulic fluid which leaked out of the burning tractor along the edge of the road.

Mona DeCorse was preparing to water her front lawn after feeding her dogs on the evening of September 27th when she heard what seemed to be a gunshot on the opposite side of her house. She walked around to the corner of her lot on First Avenue just east of Winterhaven, and saw a farm tractor going up in flames, with the fire climbing up a nearby power pole.

The driver of the tractor was running east about fifty yards to the rear of the tractor, when he stopped to turn back and watch the conflagration. Mona yelled to ask if he was alright before dashing back into her home to call 9-1-1. The fire was already melting the insulation off the phone line crossing the roadway overhead, so Mona found her cellphone to try her call again, reaching the Winterhaven Volunteer Fire Department. All the while, more loud booms echoed across the neighborhood, as the tractors tires swelled and burst open in the blazing fire.

The quick actions of Mrs. DeCorse prevented the flames

from making it across the road the more power poles (since Winterhaven Fire was there in time to get the fire under control before it reached a transformer overhead), but the tractor itself was a complete loss.

As it burned, gallons and gallons of hydraulic fluid and die-



Straw was spread over the spill, and the contaminated soil scooped up and hauled away for safe disposal according to regulations.

QUECHAN NEWS Photos by William Isbell

sel fuel spilled out of a myriad of rubber hoses, pooling along the shoulder of the road for nearly one hundred yards.

Once the fire was completely out, the fire crew had the wreckage moved to a nearby ditch bank. They then made a call to

the Quechan Tribe's Environmental Office, asking them to come out and inspect the damaged roadway and to formulate a plan for containing and disposing of the spilled environmental contaminants.

Caine Palone of the Tribe's Environmental Office soon arrived with his work crew and a load of fresh, clean straw. The absorbent straw was piled on top of the spill, and the area isolated with traffic cones and barricades, awaiting sunrise.

The Imperial County Sheriff, Quechan Tribal Police and California Highway Patrol had all responded to the emergency, so they each took turns watching the accident site and directing traffic safely through the area until a large flatbed trailer and a backhoe could be brought in to complete the cleanup on the morning of the 28th.

As Mr. Palone and Melvin Miguel, the Tribe's Health & Safety Officer supervised, the crew spread out a thick, seamless plastic fabric over the flatbed trailer. The plastic sheeting

extended beyond the trailer by at least 8 feet on each side.

The law enforcement officers on hand directed traffic when necessary, as the backhoe operator proceeded to scrape up every bit of the contaminated soil to a depth of two feet. The dirty soil was piled on top of the plastic covered flatbed. It took a little over two hours to get all of the soil and the absorbent straw up off of the roadside and onto the trailer for transport.

Once the fluid soaked earth

was on the trailer, the plastic was brought up over the front, back and sides of the load, and the entire package was carefully duct taped shut and then tied down.

The load was then hauled away to an EPA approved disposal site, where it will most likely be completely incinerated, rather than being dumped in a landfill, which was once the practice. The entire cleanup will soon be billed to Lee Farms for reimbursement.

SHERMAN HIGH SCHOOL REUNION CLASSES OF 1970-1979



An Opportunity to meet other alumni, renew old acquaintances and make new friends.

SIHS Alumni Gathering scheduled for Friday, November 18, 2011 and Saturday, November 19, 2011

The SIHS Alumni Gathering will take place on the beautiful Ft. McDowell Yavapai Nation reservation, located near Scottsdale and adjacent to Fountain Hills, Arizona. There will be two (2) different facilities used for Friday and Saturday's event.

Friday, November 18, 2011 6-9 pm

The activities begin with registration sign-in and social time reception at the Radisson Ft. Mc Dowell. Appetizers will be served. \$18.00 per person

Saturday, November 19, 5:30-11:00 pm

The main event will take place at the Ft. McDowell Adventures site, Rosa's Ranch location. Dinner will begin soon after 5:30 p.m. and will conclude with a dance. \$32.00 per person

Prior registration is required for planning and accommodation purposes.

Primary lodging site for the SIHS Alumni Gathering will be the Ft. McDowell Radisson Resort. Phone number: (480) 789-5300. The cut-off date for making reservations is Saturday, October 22.

Other lodging is available in the Fountain Hills area.

For further information and registration contact: Delson Sunn (602)570-8510 or delsonsun@yahoo.com

6th Grade Student Impresses Yuma Boxing Coach

The owner and coach of the Desert Heat Boxing Gym in the Yuma Foothills thinks it is time to openly recognize the work and dedication of one of his youngest boxers.

Quechan Tribal member Joseph Herrera, Jr. first showed up at the Desert Heat gym in October of 2010, when they were still located on 4th Avenue. "Joseph came in with his mother and said he wanted to learn to box," says Coach Ray Ramirez, "and I asked him 'Why do you want to learn to box?' and his answer was, 'I'm being picked on by kids at my school because of my weight, and I can't keep up with them.'"

After answering more questions and assuring the coach he was willing to work hard and give his training 100%, Joseph was allowed to join the gym and "get with the program".

"He stood four-foot-seven and weighed 136 pounds when he started, and I am now proud to say he is lean and mean and only weighs 124 pounds," after a year in boxing.

Joseph, who turned 12 in August, is the son of Rosie Herrera and brother to Joanna Herrera. He is enrolled in the 6th grade at 4th Avenue Jr. High this year.

Mr. Ramirez describes his progress over the past year: "When Joseph started training, I immediately saw something special in him. He worked hard, never complaining and did exactly what was expected of him. Within 4 or 5 months, I felt he was ready to spar with his trainer Alex Ramirez."

"Alex sparred with Joseph every day, and I noticed Joseph would not back away from Alex's punches but continued to come forward. About 6 months into his training, I set up a sparring match for Joseph with a kid



Joe Herrera has his hands wrapped by Coach Roy Ramirez of the Desert Heat Boxing Gym before going into the practice ring and giving sparring partner Ricky Zamudio a few good blows. Q NEWS Photos by William Isbell

from another gym."

"When I told him I'd lined up a sparring match with another 11 year old who had no fights, who weighed the same as Joseph, he was so excited he couldn't sleep that night. When the day of the match arrived, we went to the Yuma Boxing gym, where he met his opponent for the first time."

While putting Joseph's wraps on both hands, Coach Ramirez could tell he was excited and a little nervous. After putting on his headgear, he got into the ring. The bell rang for the first round. Joseph moved in and started throwing left and right jabs and stood his ground. Joseph did not back up once

during the bout. The sparring match lasted only two minutes into the 3 minute round. Joseph won! His coach remembers the effect it had on Joseph. "What I saw was one happy boy. I feel he did something he didn't think he could do, and there was tears of joy coming from his eyes."

After that first sparring match with the other 11 year old, Joseph talked about Rocky Balboa so much, the other boxers at the gym gave him the nickname "Little Rocky".

Joseph continues to have sparring matches with other amateur boxers from different gyms. He has now taken part in six exhibition bouts and his record stands at 5 wins and only



one loss.

The one loss came from sparring match he had with another boy his age from Sanchez's Boxing Gym. That fight was held at the Southgate Mall in early September.

His coach says, "The other kid was taller, and weighed a little less than Joseph but had two (competitive) fights on his record. The sparring session was set up for only two 2-minute rounds. Joseph was coming on stronger in the second round. Had the rounds been 3 minute rounds, I have no doubt Joseph would have won the sparring match." The coach says the fight ended before Joseph had the opportunity to

demonstrate his staying power.

Did it end there? "No. Joseph is requesting a rematch. We hope to setup a rematch in a couple of weeks."

The coach says Joseph felt a lot of pressure during his fight at Southgate Mall, since he had never fought with so many people in attendance. "It was standing room only," says Ramirez. "His family was there, mother, sister, grandmother, aunt and uncle in the audience. Just before the fight, I saw his hands were shaking from nerves, but he went into the ring like a pro."

Coach Ramirez continues: "I would like everyone in the Quechan Nation to know that their 12 year old boxer is making his people proud, and the only thing he has asked in return is some support for his goals. There is so much I can say about "Little Rocky", and I have always been proud of him. As long as he is willing to box, I will always be in his corner, both physically and in spirit."

The coach sees Joseph going into his division of Golden Gloves Boxing in Phoenix in the coming year, and maybe even being ready to participate in the "Show in Indio" for 2012, a large area boxing event usually held every year in May.

Lauren Zimmerman Now in Oil Exploration



Image Courtesy of Bonnie R. DeWeaver

Ms. Lauren Zimmerman has completed the course of study at the Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado, graduating with (*cum laude*) honors.

Lauren earned a Bachelor of Arts degree, majoring in Accounting with a minor in Business Administration, made possible through assistance from the Quechan Tribe Higher Edu-

cation Scholarship Program.

Lauren's mother is Bonnie DeWeaver, while her father is Thomas Eastburn. Her maternal grandmother was Emily Dick and her maternal great-grandparents are William Helip and Maureen Homer.

Immediately upon graduation Lauren was hired by Peak Energy Resources in Durango,

where she was spent her first year as their receptionist.

Lauren then moved into an assistant Analyst position and was recently promoted to Land and Regulatory Analyst.

Her main responsibilities include interaction with all regulatory agencies and managing environmental assessments for oil exploration projects.

Understanding the IHS Contract Health Service Program

Courtesy of Larissa Ponce, CHS Supervisor of the Fort Yuma Service Unit

The "IHS Director's Blog" posted on the internet provides a wealth of information addressing many topics. In his blog, Dr. Roubideaux (Director of the Indian Health Service) recently posted three entries about the Contract Health Service (CHS) Program.

If you ever wondered how the CHS program works, or want to learn more about CHS, Dr Roubideaux's recent blog postings are reproduced below.

If you want to read more, you can find her blog at: <http://www.ihs.gov/PublicAffairs/DirCorner/index.cfm?module=blog>.

This article will help in your understanding of the Contract Health Service Program (CHS).

When IHS is unable to provide certain types of healthcare services directly in our hospitals and clinics, we may refer patients to receive services in the private sector. These referrals are paid for by the CHS program appropriations to IHS.

However, the IHS budget for CHS does not have enough funding to pay for all referrals that our healthcare providers make and our patients need.

We are working actively with Congress to help them understand the enormous need for additional CHS funding to pay for needed referrals and to request increases in our appropriations for this purpose.

The CHS budget is currently \$779 million. While that sounds like a lot, the additional need for CHS referrals beyond what the budget pays for comes to \$861 million.

Last year, IHS received a \$144 million increase in CHS

funding, which has helped pay for more referrals, but there still is a great need. IHS only received a small increase this year.

We know that patients are upset that we cannot pay for all referrals, but we do try to pay for the most urgent referrals possible through our medical priority system. I will now explain the eligibility rules for CHS, what IHS does to determine if they can pay for a referral, and the medical priority system.

Eligibility for treatment through the Indian Health Service was established through legislation and IHS regulations.

In general, American Indians and Alaska Natives who are members or descendants of federally-recognized Tribes are eligible for IHS direct services, which are services provided at our clinics and hospitals.

However, the eligibility for the Contract Health Service Program (referrals to the private sector) is different.

Years ago, Tribes wanted the limited budget of the Contract Health Services Program to benefit the patients who lived nearest to the clinical or hospital first. Therefore, Contract Health Services Program eligibility is based on IHS eligibility plus residence in the area served by the clinic or hospital designated as eligible for CHS. (This is referred to as the Contract Health Services Delivery Area, or CHSDA).

That is why referrals are generally not approved for Tribal members who don't live on the reservation or Tribal lands associated with the hospital or clinic.

Patients are often upset that they lose their CHS eligibility if they move away from the reser-

vation or Tribal lands and reside outside of the CHSDA.

This eligibility rule was put in place to make sure that the limited CHS funds benefit those who live closest to the clinic or hospital. Some say that we should make the CHS eligibility the same as IHS eligibility, which would mean more patients would be eligible.

However, that might not mean more patients would have their referrals approved for payment, because we still would only have the same amount of funding in the CHS budget while we would be covering those additional patients.

It could also mean that individuals could travel to the Fort Yuma Clinic from another state, get their CHS referrals paid for, and then travel back to the other state. Such a situation would potentially leave no funding for patients living in the Tribal community served by the Clinic which provided the treatment.

Without additional funding, changing eligibility for CHS is a challenge. We will next cover how CHS referrals get approved for payment.

Patients often wonder why there may be times their doctor refers them to a specialist or sends them a referral for a specific surgical procedure, but it is not authorized for payment by the Contract Health Program.

IHS has regulations and policies which govern how to determine whether to pay for a referral or service for our patients in the private sector.

If we had unlimited funding, we could pay for all referrals.

However, since our CHS budget is limited, we must follow our regulations and the law

**FORT YUMA
INDIAN HEALTH CLINIC**

OCTOBER 2011

**SEASONAL INFLUENZA
VACCINE CLINICS (Flu Shots):**

**At The Public Health Nursing Office
(In Trailers Behind the Main Clinic)**

**On Thursdays This Month
(October 13, 20 and 27)
From 1:00 pm – 4:30 pm**

**– Winterhaven residents –
If You Need Transportation Call
The Quechan CHR program at
(760) 572-0753
(You Must Call 2 Days Ahead)**

You can also make a Nurse Visit Appointment in the Clinic by calling the appointment desk at: (760) 572-4147 or 572-4149 to get your vaccine

**If you have any questions, please call:
Claudia Lorentz, RN, PHN at (760) 572-4225
or Janice Emerson at (760) 572-4226
Fort Yuma Service Unit – Indian Health Service**

to determine which referrals can be authorized for payment.

In the simplest terms, the regulations tell us how to make sure the limited funding goes to those who need it most.

As previously stated, CHS eligibility is based on residence near the facility.

But there are other considerations also, when funding is not available for all referrals. These include timely notification of emergency room visits, prior approval and authorization for payment for referrals, and the need to identify if patients are eligible for other healthcare coverage (such as private insurance, Medicare or Medicaid).

By law, those covered under the programs mentioned above are paid first (before IHS), and while funding is available to pay for our referrals based on medical priorities.

The Fort Yuma Indian Health Service has provided a color diagram to help you understand the steps that occur as IHS determine when they can pay for a referral or outside healthcare services. That diagram is printed on the back page of this issue, so you can keep it and refer to it in the future.

Clearly it is a complicated process, and IHS will continue to work on improving their business practices in this area.

Braves Cross Training for Fitness at San Pasqual



Dru Denard runs "the ladders" as part of this morning's course.



This year, the Quechan Special Diabetes Project is trying a new approach in fitness at the San Pasqual Elementary School. Their Braves Running Club has become the Braves Cross Fit Club. They've added a dose of variety to their runs, with exercise stations paced through out the course, which change from week-to-week. One week they might run through ladders on the ground, trying to stay between the rungs, and the next week run a slalom through agility poles. And this year, it's an all-volunteer club, rather than a mandatory work-out. Every morning, Sandy Palone, Lewis Throssel and Rosie Herrera of the Wellness Center give every student who wants to participate in good, vigorous exercise to start their day. Monthly incentives are given out to help keep the kids coming back!

