

ETSKA NAV AH PAI THE NEWS CARRIER

QUECHAN NEWS

Volume 105, Issue 9 ♦ Wednesday, May 11, 2011

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To Tribe Members



Look For This Symbol

ETSKA NAV AH PAI THE NEWS CARRIER
QUECHAN NEWS

is published by

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Tribal Elders Open **Anya Nitz Pak Park**

Stacy Durand smiles with pride as fellow elders George Bryant, Edith White and Jackie Duro cut away the park's red, white and black opening ribbon. (That's Donald Menta from the Quechan Senior Center, reaching around Mr. Bryant's shoulders.) As it falls to the ground, it marks the opening of the new *Kwat'san Anya Nitz Pak* (Sunrise) Park - the newest addition to Yuma's Wetlands Parks.

QUECHAN NEWS Photo by William Isbell

A good part of the Quechan Tribe gathered together on the morning of Wednesday, May 4th to join with the Quechan Tribal Council, the staff of the Quechan Economic Development Administration (EDA) and invited partners and local dignitaries as the newest addition to the great Yuma Wetlands Park System, The Quechan *Anya Nitz Pak* (Sunrise Point) Park was dedicated.

The day began as all such occasions do, with a sunrise ceremony by Christine Emerson and the Ah Keel Dancers, facing the four directions to invoke the Creator's blessings. Once the blessings were completed, those who attended were able

to join with the Quechan Special Diabetes Project for Indians (SDPI) in a morning walk, which included a tour of the newly planted Community Garden near the center of the Park.

At 10:00AM, Native Royalty joined the Color Guard from Quechan Post 802 to lead a procession of traditional singers onto the park's plaza, signaling the official start of the dedication ceremonies. EDA Director Brian Golding, Sr. stepped up to act as emcee and make a few introductory comments, before Mrs. Trudy Lopez gave the opening invocation.

Mr. Golding then introduced the assembled San Pasqual Schools Indian Princesses, Brit-

tany Miguel, Chynna Cachora and Teresa Valenzuela and the Strong Hearts *Iipah Kwamani*, Angelito Alvarez and *Pipah Kwamani*, Draco Geronimo.

(Leila José, Miss Quechan Nation for 2010/2011, was representing the Tribe out of town.)

He then introduced the President of the Quechan Tribe, Mike Jackson, Sr., as well as the other Tribal Council members attending the opening: Juliana Comet, James B. Montague, and Cryselle Montague-Urbe, each of whom acknowledged the invited guests and spoke of their satisfaction that the Park is, at last, a reality.

Acknowledged as part of the Sunrise Point Park Man-

agement Team were Allyson Collins, EDA Specialist, and Chase Choate, Quechan Environmental Program Director. Both have been with the project from the beginning, when Fred Phillips Consulting, LLC was contracted to produce the design and layout of the Park.

Also taking a bow and saying a few words were Charles Flynn, Executive Director of the Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area, and David Blanchard of Fred Phillips Consulting. Additional official comments from Jennifer McCloskey, Area Director of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, and Renee Bahl, Director of Arizona State Parks

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Maritza Barley and Mandell Sanchez, Jr. take a moment to accept the applause of their classmates upon being elected Prom Royalty, Princess and Prince of the Junior Class. Both are members of the ASB, the FFA and the Strong Hearts Native Society and both have been on the honor roll the entire year. Mandell plays football, and basketball and is on the track team. Maritza is also on the track team and is a cheerleader. Congratulations to both of them! QUECHAN NEWS Photo by William Isbell



Nancy Montague, Jr. helps her daughter Paisley Palone check out the booty they've collected during the Annual Quechan Parks & Rec. Easter Egg Hunt at the Diabetes Walking Park on April 16. QUECHAN NEWS Photo by William Isbell



New Driveway for Education Complex

Since the construction of the Quechan Education Complex (Ed Complex) in 2005, Tribal Members often wondered why the driveway was never paved.

"Not anymore!" says Mike Abraham, EDA Planner.

"This project was a long time in coming, and as of April 25, 2011, the Ed Complex opened to a newly paved commercial driveway."

Back in 2005, the Tribe sought an encroachment permit from Imperial County to pave the driveway, but the county was unwilling to issue the permit. They expressed concerns about traffic volume and insisted the Quechan Tribe submit a traffic study and consider several major roadway improvements - all at the Tribe's expense. Without

the encroachment permit, the driveway remained unpaved.

Community meetings held in 2010 to receive input on the Tribe's 20-Year Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) had the subject of the unpaved driveway at the Ed Complex often coming up as a safety concern. So, it made sense to include it on the Tribe's LRTP Project Priority List. When the LRTP, and its Project Priority List, was approved by the Tribal Council in May of 2010, the EDA began working with Imperial County for the permit needed to put in the new driveway connection to Picacho Road.

"Armed with the LRTP and with the assistance of new staff in the County's Executive Office and Public Works Department,

the EDA received their elusive encroachment permit in January of 2011. "At that point, I knew it would only be a couple of months before a new driveway would be built at the Ed Complex," says Mr. Abraham.

The paving contractor for the project, Morgan Development, Inc., of Yuma, assured the EDA that the job could be completed in two days. After consulting with staff at the Ed Complex, EDA chose April 21st and 22nd for the work to be done. Those dates reduced the problems by half, taking advantage of the Ed Complex being closed for the Tribe's observance of Good Friday.

So, the next time you're in the area, take a look at the new driveway at 638 Picacho Road!

The 2011 General Election for the Offices of President, Vice President and all 5 Seats on the Quechan Tribal Council is scheduled for:

Monday, May 23, 2011

**The Designated Polling Place is The Quechan Community Center
At 604 Picacho Road, Winterhaven, CA - Valid ID Required!**

The Polls Open at 7:00 AM and Close Promptly at 7:00 PM

If you have any questions please contact the Election Board

Phone 760-572-0664

Fax 760-572-2350

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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

Volunteers Maintain Kwat'san Elder Village Over The Years



Volunteers who have taken part in building the Elder Village over the years include (beginning in the front row at left), Isaac Collins (kneeling in front), Brian Golding, Sr., Janice Emerson and Chase Choate. Standing behind them in the second row are Vernon José, Janyse Collins-Solorio, Valverine Barley, Jessica Collins-Solorio, Allyson Collins and Brendan José; in the back row are Willis Hawkins, Michael Salinas, Kenrick Escalanti, Tribal Council member Jordan Joaquin and Connor Vaneski. The center photo shows EDA Director Brian Golding, Sr. and Vernon José up on ladders, weaving together willow poles while building the roof for the Elder Village ramada in 2009. Kenrick Escalanti and Chase Choate "supervise" in the background. At right are some of the youth volunteers during a break: in back, from left to right are Brandon Frank, Jessica Collins-Solorio, Janyse Collins-Solorio, Kailah Durand, Mandel Sanchez, Jr. and Redhawk Welch. Sitting in front of them are Isaac Collins and Gina Rivera.

Photos Courtesy of Allyson Collins, EDA



A special clay used to construct the walls of the *va mutt* was located in the Yuma East Wetlands. Volunteers such as Valverine Barley loaded up wheelbarrows full of that clay to bring back to the Elder Village.

Over the summer of 2008, the Quechan EDA was given the task of developing the Elder Village at the new Sunrise Point Park, *Anya Nitz Pak*. Although it would not be receiving Arizona State Parks funding, the Elder Village has always been a part of the *Anya Nitz Pak* Park's planning.

The vision was to create a place for Quechan elders to gather and reminisce about their past and for youth to learn about the survival of their ancestors.

Facilitators for the project, Allyson Collins and Brian Golding, Sr. from the EDA, and Chase Choate from the Quechan Environmental Program, have led the group effort to bring together elders and youth to work for a common cause. During

construction, the Elders have taken the opportunity to teach the youth the Quechan ways of survival and livelihood through stories from their childhoods about how they once lived.

The Elder Village Focus Group was formed to oversee this group effort, and it has held countless meetings since August of 2008, with countless workdays since 2009. There, they discussed ideas of how the village should look and the purposes it would serve. Over 75 volunteers all together have helped throughout the many phases of the project. The only funding for development of the village was that donated by the Quechan Tribal Council to feed the volunteers and to support the Phase 1 Celebration held

during Indian Days 2009.

Phase I of the village was completed by September 2009. That portion of the Elder Village project included clearing the area of brush and transients living at the site, building a *va mutt* (mud house) and a *va matakyaaly* (ramada), as well as a natural ramp with a handrail to the Colorado River's beach.

Between the summer of 2010 and spring of 2011, volunteer hours went into keeping up with weeding and pruning around the village, re-constructing a portion of one of the *va mutt* walls (and repairing numerous vandalisms to the *va mutt*), and replacing arrowweed in the roof of the *va mutt*.

Phase II was complete with the construction of the Village's

newest *va* (home), a brush hut.

By early May of 2011, Phase II was completed in time for the Sunrise Point Grand Opening. Phase III will be the last phase and plans are to build an underground *va* (house). All three dwellings are representative of Quechan homes from the late 1800s and early 1900s, to give visitors a feel for what our ancestors, and even some of our elders today, lived in before the San Diego and H.U.D. homes became our dwellings.

With work still to be done on Phase III, volunteers are always welcome. It's a great opportunity for youth, adults, elders, and entire families to be involved in building upon this great cultural resource for the Tribe and its continuing generations.

WOMEN'S EXPO AT QUECHAN CASINO RESORT

For the first time ever, Yuma Regional Medical Center (YRMC) and the Yuma chapter of the American Business Women's Association (ABWA) will bring their annual Women's Expo to the Quechan Casino Resort. The Expo will fill the Pipa Event Center this coming Saturday, May 16, from 9 AM until 2 PM.

Designed to be a day of pampering and enrichment, the Women's Expo will feature exciting options for women of all ages. "Demo Divas" in the Fritz Brown board room across from the Pipa Ticket Booth will give ladies the opportunity to explore

fun activities through hands-on learning. These free sessions include card making, cooking demonstrations and how to use an e-Reader. Space is limited!

"There will also be an extensive line-up of vendors in the main hall for women to indulge in shopping and services," explains Rebecca Larson, Community Relations Specialist at YRMC. "There are sure to be treasures, deals and excitement around every corner!"

And most women love fashion shows, so the Expo will feature a series of mini fashion shows throughout the day. Boot Barn, Old Navy, Elev-

en:11 fashions and Cheekie's Boutique (among others) will present their most attractive items in the best possible light. Fashions for women of all ages, shapes and sizes will grace the runway, showcasing business, casual and evening looks. Beauty consultants from Mary Kay, Corona Optique and Avanti Skin Center will be on hand, providing makeovers.

But before stopping in for a makeover, be sure to stop and relax at the AWC Massage Therapy Program Rejuvenation Retreat. They will offer free chair and hand massages plus an aromatherapy station for

those in attendance!

The YRMC Royal Treatment Area will teach you how to treat your body royally by taking better care of your health. YRMC will offer information on each of the four Healthy Yuma 2011 goals, blood pressure checks, weight and body fat checks, "Tea for the Soul", exercise demonstrations, as well as general health information and services.

The YRMC Infused Water Bar will be a refreshing treat, with free cups given away to the first 1,500 women.

Women will also have the opportunity to address health

concerns during the "Doc Talk" round table discussions in a small intimate group setting. Women can ask questions and get answers on topics directly from YRMC experts on such subjects as Hormone Replacement Therapy, Diabetes, healthy diets and women's wellness check-ups. Each one-hour "Doc Talk" will take place in a more private atmosphere, in the board rooms outside of the Pipa Event Center.

The cost for the entire event is only \$2.00 per person. Call YRMC Community Relations at (928) 336-7005 to receive a 2 for 1 coupon!

ATTENTION PARENTS/GUARDIANS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS

The next meeting of the Johnson/O'Malley Parent Advisory Committee is scheduled for 6:00 PM on Tuesday, May 17, 2001.

Rides are available to and from these meetings.

If you have any questions, feel free to call: (760) 572-0648

NOTICE

EFFECTIVE THIS DATE,
ALL REQUESTS FOR SOCIAL SERVICE
ASSISTANCE, RENT AND/OR
UTILITIES WILL BE PLACED ON
HOLD UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

SIGNED:

Ramona Giotto
Ramona Giotto
Community Liason/Social Service Coordinator

Dated: May 2, 2011

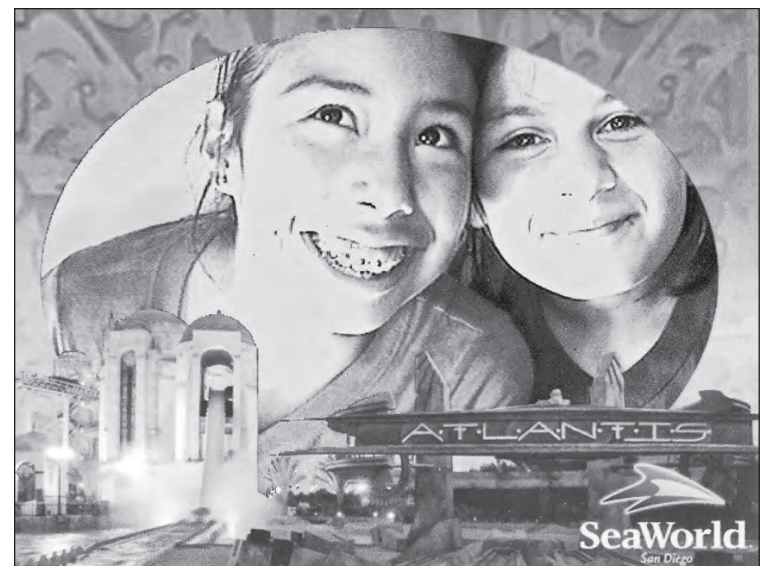
San Pasqual 5th Graders go to Sea World!

The San Pasqual Elementary 5th grade class took their annual field trip on April 28th. More than 60 students, parents and community chaperones, and School District staff went on the trip to Sea World, which included rides, exhibits, and activities. A big thank you to all the adults for watching over the students and maintaining a safe, fun filled environment while at Sea World! Although everyone was pretty tired when they got back home, it was evident they all had a great time!

It is particularly gratifying the way the entire community came together to make this trip a success.

A big thanks goes to all the parents for their assistance in putting together the field trip. And a special thanks to Ms. Ghiotto and family for preparing an amazing 300 dozen tacos during the fund raising! The students themselves also raised money to help pay for the trip.

The Quechan Tribal Council,



Tribal members Jayna Owens and Jessica Roosevelt smile from a souvenir photo they brought back from the Atlantis ride park at San Diego's Sea World.
Image Provided by San Pasqual Elementary School

in their ongoing support of student activities, provided funds to ensure the success of this field trip. The School District says "thank you for your generosity, it is much appreciated". It is also important to recognize the Imperial Irrigation District Board of Directors, HMC Architects, and Nielson Construction for

their donations toward the field trip's transportation cost.

The Board of Trustees of the San Pasqual Valley Unified School District also deserves recognition for their support.

Our students won't soon forget this year's remarkable trip. Thanks to *everyone* for all your hard work and dedication!



Chynna Cachora received the best scores from the judges, taking the title of Native Princess.

Both candidates for the office of San Pasqual Middle School Native Princess stand with the current High School Princess (Brittany Miguel) and Elementary Princess (Theresa Valenzuela) as the boys who stepped in to perform traditional *Kwat'san* songs prepare to sing. Those boys are (from the left): Chris Mc Neely, Christian Lopez, Draco Geronimo (the Middle School *Pipa Kwanamii*), Mandel Sanchez, Jr. Brendan José and the Strong Hearts High School *lipaa Kwanamii*, Angelito Alvarez.

QUECHAN NEWS Photos by William Isbell

Madonna Casteñeda is now the runner-up for Miss Native San Pasqual Middle School.

When school officials and members of the Strong Hearts Pageant Committee learned in April that the Middle School Princess chosen last fall would be unable to continue in the performance of her duties, they were faced with a tough decision. Only one student had tried out for Native Princess of the San Pasqual Middle School in November, so there was no “runner-up” to step in and complete the term, which would expire in November during the next school year.

Mr. Owl, adult advisor of the Strong Hearts Native Society asked if any 8th grade girls ready to graduate into high school this year would be willing to go through the rigors of a Middle School “Mini-Pageant” on short notice, to select another Princess and a runner-up to finish out the year. Two young ladies accepted the challenge: Chynna Cachora and Madonna Casteñeda.

An enrolled member of the Quechan Tribal, Chynna Cachora is the daughter of Sharon Cachora and Donald Menta.

Donald Menta served as an Imperial County Deputy for years, and upon his retirement he joined the Quechan Senior Center staff as their Maintenance Supervisor.

Asked about her mom’s job, Chynna laughs and says, “Since I have seven older brothers and sisters who have all moved out, my mom has always had plenty of work at home!” Her Tribal heritage is Chiricaua Apache, with her family originating in Mescalero, New Mexico.

Madonna Casteñeda, also an enrolled Quechan tribal member, is the daughter of Dawn Clements, a Calworks Outreach Worker at the Quechan ADAPP Program, and her father is Joe Casteñeda. “Everybody kept telling me to try out for Princess,” she tells the *Quechan News*, “so I did. It was fun, but I was a little scared to be up there on stage and talking!”

Both girls are eighth grade students at San Pasqual Middle School, soon to be promoted to high school. Chynna had her cousins, Derrick and Brendan José sing for her talent demon-

stration, while an adult singer, Matillas “Mata” Howard did the same for Madonna.

Even though it was an abbreviated program, Mr. Owl and the Strong Hearts kept to the familiar outline they’ve been following for years, with three local ladies from the Tribe stepping in to judge the contestants. Those judges were Ila Dunsweiler and Judith Prietta, both of whom have served as *Shiyii* (Grandmother) for the Strong Hearts, and Jennifer Johnson.

After introducing themselves, describing the patterns and cultural significance of their dresses and performing traditional dances to demonstrate their ability to represent both their school and the Tribe, the judges turned over their scores to a separate tabulator, who added up the points to declare Madonna the runner-up and Chynna Cachora the new San Pasqual Middle School Miss Native Princess.

One of Chynna’s first out-of-town trips as Princess will be to the Pinetop Pow Wow in June. “I’m really looking forward to that!” she says.



Jennifer Johnson, appointment desk clerk at the Fort Yuma Indian Health Service Clinic volunteered to serve as a Judge at the mid-year Pageant, along with Ila Dunsweiler and Judith Prietta-Osborne, two of the instructors at the Quechan Language Preservation Program.



Since Ila Dunsweiler served as *Shiyii* for the Strong Hearts Native Society last year, she was given the honor of crowning Chynna Cachora the Middle School Native Princess for the remainder of the school year.



James Espino came in first at the run, followed by Peter Escalanti and Mike Abraham.

EASTER RUN ENDS TRIPLE CROWN SERIES

Three local runners captured gift cards as a reward for completing all three races in the Spring "Triple Crown" fun run series, sponsored by the Quechan Special Diabetes Project for Indians (SDPI).

James Espino came in first at the 5K Easter Run on April 16th, followed closely by Peter Escalanti, Mike Abraham, Rod Escalanti (one of our Spirit Runners) and Anthony Polk.

Both Peter Escalanti and

Mike Abraham (a Planner at the Quechan Economic Development Administration) had finished the New Year's Run and the Valentine's Day "Love Run", so they each received a gift card. Allyson Collins, who is also an EDA Planner, finished all three races, so she picked up the last gift card handed out.

Sandy Palone at the Wellness Center says another series of runs is planned for the fall, with more prizes to come!



Sisters Diamond and Eden Rivera lead the pack as the runners head south to the Yuma West Wetlands Park turnaround, at the start of the Quechan SDPI 5K Easter Run.
QUECHAN NEWS Photos by William Isbell

Effective July 1st, 2011:

Assembly Bill 354 (passed September 30, 2010) becomes Law: "2011 Pertussis (Whooping Cough) Immunization Requirements for Students within the State of California". San Pasqual students in the 7th thru 12th grades will be required to receive the TDAP (Tetanus toxoid, reduced diphtheria toxoid and acellular pertussis) vaccine. Students will need proof of the TDAP booster shot before entering school.

If a student has already received a dose of Tdap on or after the 7th birthday, the student will meet the school immunization requirement.

If you have questions, call:

**Claudia Lorentz, PHN or Janice Emerson
at (760) 572-4225/4226
or (800) 862-4911 ext: 4225/4226**



YER OUT!

Caught in a pickle between Caine Palone and Israel Reyez, Seth Collins is tagged out after rounding third base heading for home at last month's Special Diabetes Project Kickball Tournament. The games began in the field behind the Quechan Community Center at 6:00 PM on April 15th, and went into the late evening, as players from first grade to adult battled it out for over 3 hours.

QUECHAN NEWS Photo by William Isbell

Boxing Now At Wellness Center

Local boxing coaches from the Yuma Boxing Club are now offering instruction at the Special Diabetes Wellness Center for Tribal members over the age of 8.

The classes, led by Hector Montoya, Billy Orta and Gary Diaz, take place every Monday through Thursday from 5:30 PM until 8:00 PM.

Every movement in boxing, if done properly and systematically, helps build stronger and more defined arms, legs and abs. And boxing burns calories! Because of the high intensity, full body workout, you can burn massive amounts of calories and tone your entire body, without

needing to use a bunch of fancy equipment.

Pent up anger is one of the most damaging things we can carry around inside us. If you've had a stressful day, boxing is a great way to get it out, giving you a safe way to relieve the aggression you're feeling. Whether it starts in a relationship, job tensions or for other reasons, hard physical exertion is the best way to release your anger.

Plus, its stress relieving benefits can be adapted to suit any physical restrictions a person may face. Just be sure to talk with your doctor before getting into a new fitness routine, to ensure you won't be injured

or make a current condition or injury worse.

Boxing classes are a good way to push yourself to the limit, in a motivating and safe environment. Different levels will let you work out on a level you are comfortable with. You will learn self-defense skills that can turn out to be very valuable in 'unwanted' real life situations. But most importantly, you will get an energy boost that will enable you to keep on top of your game in your day-to-day life!

If you are a boy or girl over the age of 8 and you'd like to get into boxing at the Wellness Center, call or stop in to sign up! The number is (760) 572-4057.

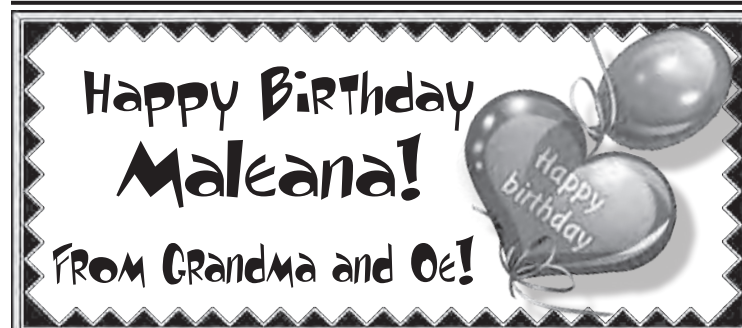
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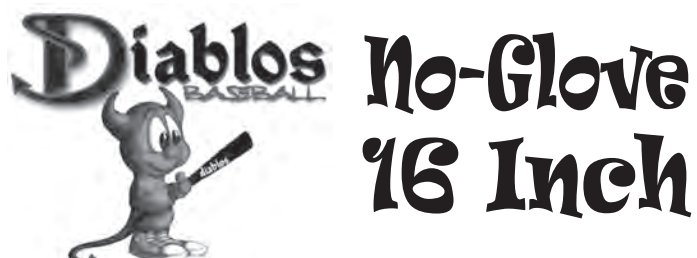
ROAD
WORK
AHEAD

ROAD REPORT

Granite Construction Company, contractor for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, will be on the Reservation to chip seal Quechan Drive on Thursday, May 19, 2011. Work on Quechan Drive will be conducted between the hours of dusk to dawn. Traffic will be restricted periodically to one lane in each direction in the affected zones and speed will be reduced. Be Careful!



SPRING CLASSIC



Softball Tournament

Saturday & Sunday
May 21 & 22, 2011

A great opportunity to get your team ready for Yuma's
16" tournament over Memorial Day Weekend!

***T-shirts for Champions!
Three Game Guarantee!***

All games will be played at the
Quechan Recreation Field, Winterhaven, CA

Tournament entry fee is \$175

Please make your check payable to:
Yuma Diablos Baseball

*All net proceeds from this event will benefit
Yuma Diablo's Travel Baseball Club*

To Sign Up, Contact:

Ron Arviso
(928) 210-1892

Jose Celaya
(928) 920-2417

Faron Owl
(928) 210-0114

Jimmy Rivera
(928) 210-1227



We are asking parents who would like their child to participate with the Flower Girls during
our Memorial Day Service to please contact: Deborah Tourtillott at (760) 572-0544
Traditional Regalia is optional.

Paradise is Site of Quechan Senior Center Games in May

The staff and volunteers at the Quechan Senior Center are busily preparing for their biggest event of their Annual "Elder Month" each May: The Quechan Senior Games! The games take place on Thursday, May 19th, with an awards banquet for the winners to follow on Friday morning, May 20th.

For nearly a decade now, this overnight extravaganza of fun, fellowship and competition has brought senior Tribal members from all over the southwestern United States to converge on Fort Yuma. And this year, the Quechan Senior Games move into an entirely new venue for the majority of their games: The Paradise Event Center.

While the basketball and chicken throw competitions will take place at the basketball courts of the Quechan Community Center (as they al-

ways have), most of the games will take place at the Paradise, which will also host the awards banquet and entertainment for all of the seniors on Friday.

Even with a lower attendance brought on by a sagging economy, over a dozen tribes from all over Arizona and southern California responded to the challenge last year. Altogether, at least 300 elders made their way to the Quechan reservation for the athletic competition.

The Senior Games consist of both regular competition and adaptive games, modified for those who are in need of assistance or slowed down by the affects of aging). There are three age brackets for each game: 55 to 60; 61 to 67, and a bracket for those aged 68 and over.

Most games, including the timed, one-handed newspaper crunch, stackers, bean bag toss,

and the Oompa Loompa Ball are all scheduled to take place at the Paradise Event Center. (The loose and wiggly 6-foot diameter Oompa Loompa Ball is a challenge to move all the way around the room without dropping it!) The afternoon game of chair volleyball also takes place at the Paradise.

Both the adaptive and regular basketball and chicken toss competitions will be held in the Paradise Event Center Parking Lot, allowing shorter lines and faster moving games for both.

If you want to sign up (or volunteer to help) at the Senior Games this year, contact Gail Johns, the Senior Center Recreation Coordinator at (760) 572-0748, Extension 4108.

You can also pick up an information packet and registration forms at the Quechan Senior Center during the week.



Quechan EDA Director Brian Golding, Sr. (at the podium) was the Master of Ceremonies for the event, introducing the Tribal Council members in attendance, invited partners and guests. A large crowd was seated in the shade of the large three-part ramada which borders the park's lake at the central plaza. QUECHAN NEWS Photos by William Isbell

A Riverfront Park for the Kwat'san Pipa!



The Post 802 Color Guard led the way as the opening procession of singers, dancers and Native Royalty entered the Plaza (above). Once the speeches were completed and ribbon was cut, everyone moved down the hill to a sumptuous lunch prepared by the Q Resort kitchen staff (right).



SUNRISE POINT
ANYA NITZ PAK



The opening ceremony for the park included the Roadrunner Singers, Quechan Spirit Runners and the Strong Hearts Native Royalty and Traditional Singers. Quechan Head Start students also sang 3 songs.

Continued From Page 1

were as expected, respectful, kind and a little "dry".

What really livened up the morning were the comments from youthful Elder Village Focus Group members Connor Veneski, Gina Rivera and Brendan José. Gina (this year's Strong Hearts President) really got the crowd laughing with her descriptions of the "fun"

they all had, working on the Elder Village over the summer, "telling almost any lie, and offering almost any incentive" to convince their fellow students to come down to the park and join them in the 110° heat! (Pizza and a dip in the river usually did the trick!)

At last, Tribal Elders George Bryant, Edith White, Jackie Duro and Stacy Durand were asked to move to the center of

the main plaza's great ramada to cut away the great ribbon, opening the way for Tribal members, dignitaries, media and the public to at last stream into the *Anya Nitz Pak* Park and look over the facilities.

A nice reception and lunch (catered by the kitchen staff of the Quechan Casino Resort) followed, south of the plaza.

Once the formal reception was over, many of those

in attendance toured the park. They could meet with guides at the plaza center, to walk about both the Park and the Elder Village, and examine the North Channel Projects including the slough and agricultural conversion area along the river's edge, east of the Park.

Arts and crafts demonstrations also followed the reception, and traditional singers attracted dancing Tribal members to the Park's Elder Village until late in the evening.

The EDA wants to thank the Tribal Council, Elder Village Focus Group, Paradise Casinos, the Strong Hearts, Quechan Parks and Recreation,

Quechan Security, the Quechan Police Department, Head Start, the Quechan Senior Center, and Facilities and Maintenance for all they've done to help!

The Tribal Grounds Crew will now be responsible for keeping *Anya Nitz Pak* looking nice year round. President Jackson says "They worked very hard prepping the park for the grand opening, but were somehow left out of the grand opening program and speeches. The staff consists of Roy Durand, David Taylor, Ed Hill, John Shepard, Ernie Stevens and Supervisor Mickey Jackson, Jr. Thank you, grounds crew for an outstanding job!"