

May is Elder Month
Honor Your Elders!

THE NEWS CARRIER

QUECHAN NEWS

Volume 106, Issue 9 ♦ Wednesday, May 9, 2012

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Look For This Symbol

THE NEWS CARRIER
QUECHAN NEWS

is published by

The Quechan Indian Tribe

350 Picacho Road

Winterhaven, Ca. 92283

Phone: (760)572-3912

Email: w.isbell@quechantribe.com

Tribe to Save Millions On Bonds Repayment



The Quechan Tribal Council has successfully completed the sale of new tax-exempt revenue bonds, with more favorable terms for the Tribe. The new bond issues lower the interest payments which financed construction of the Quechan Casino & Resort. QUECHAN NEWS Photo by William Isbell

The Quechan Tribal Council has notified the *Quechan News* that the Tribe successfully completed the sale of \$29,685,00 in tax-exempt revenue bonds on March 29, 2012.

These bonds were purchased by a select number of large, institutional investment companies. The bond offering was structured with a 13-year term which is comprised of five years of interest only payments followed by eight years of principal and interest payments to fully repay the bonds by maturity.

The new bond transaction will serve to provide a number of important benefits for the Tribe:

- ♦ It reduced the interest rate on approximately \$26 million of debt from 15% to 9.75% (which amounts to a 35% reduction in costs to the Tribe);
- ♦ Saved in excess of \$1.6 million per year in principal and interest payments over the next three years;
- ♦ Paid off the Morongo loan in full.
- ♦ It has also eliminated the required principal balloon payment on the Morongo loan (which was originally scheduled for 2015) in the amount of \$12.9 million.

In addition to refinancing the debt, the new bonds will be used to fund a required debt service reserve account as well as to pay related debt professional fees associated with issuing the bonds.

As a result of this transaction, the Tribe will achieve cumulative principal and interest savings of more than \$15,800,00 over the next five years.

COME JOIN US FOR SOMETHING NEW! Cooking for Toddlers & Preschoolers: Insights from a Professional Chef



**This Wednesday
Evening, May 9
From 5 PM to 7 PM
at the Head Start
Multipurpose Room
In The Quechan
Education Complex
(628 Picacho Road)**

For more information, contact Annette Derma, Health & Disabilities Manager at:
(760) 572-0263 or via email at derma9@aol.com

This Workshop is made possible through funding from
The Imperial County Children and Families First Commission



FLOWER GIRLS



*Are needed for
this year's
Memorial Day
Remembrance.
Want to take part?*

Call Deborah Tourtillott @ (760) 572-0544

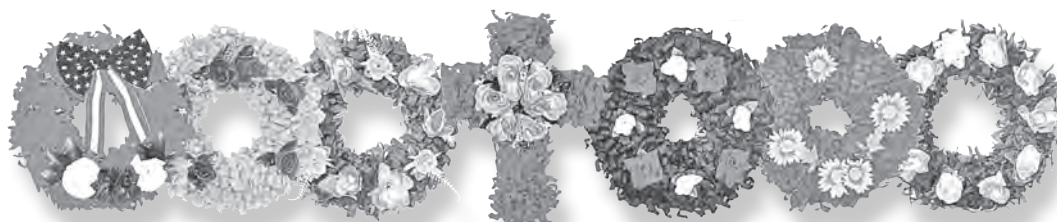


**The Quechan
Utilities
Sanitation Crew
is now on
summer hours,
6 AM – 2:30 PM**

Trash routes will continue to be picked up on the same day so
please have your containers out the night before, if possible.

Also all septic pumps must be paid in full at Utilities at the
time of the work order - no payment will be accepted at the
time of pumping. All septic tank pumping requests must be
placed by 2:30 PM or the emergency rate will be charged.

COME PICK A HAND CRAFTED MEMORIAL WREATH MADE BY OUR VERY OWN ELDERS!



**SOLD AT THE QUECHAN SENIOR CENTER GIFT SHOP
AT 472 QUECHAN ROAD, WINTERHAVEN CA.
ON SALE UNTIL MEMORIAL DAY, FRIDAY, MAY 25TH, 2012
PRICES VARY DEPENDING ON STYLES AND SIZES GIFT SHOP OPENED 8-5
IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE CALL 760-572-0748**

Happy Mother's Day

And May the Great Spirit
Be With You *ALWAYS*, Mrs. Prettybird!



*Love Always;
Your Son,
"Tubby"*

QUECHAN NEWS

William Isbell

Newsletter Coordinator, Fort Yuma Quechan Nation
350 Picacho Road Winterhaven, CA 92283
Newsletter Office Phone: (760) 572-3912
Email: w.isbell@quechantribe.com

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

Quechan News is here to cover the special events and everyday lives of Quechan Tribe Members,
and the issues that affect you in the world today. This newsletter is here to keep the lines of communication open,
to expand opportunities, and uplift the Native Spirit of the Kwat'san Pipá. Your ideas and input are welcome!

Just call the Quechan News office Monday through Friday at (760) 572-3912,
or email your stories and story ideas to w.isbell@quechantribe.com. I'm looking forward to hearing from you!



Culture & Heritage

Head Start Marches With Elders To Open Senior Month



Quechan elders, led by Milson José and Norman Osborne from Post 802, were joined by Head Start students (at left, above), marching from the Pipa Market to the Senior Center. Once there, a blessing was given in front of the building, and Mr. Jose posted the colors inside. After milk and cookies, the children sang two songs. The seniors then enjoyed traditional dances to the music provided by Willard, Lyman and Shawn Golding (at right, above). Lunch was served at the end of the festivities. QUECHAN NEWS Photos by William Isbell

Older Americans Month got off to a colorful, rousing start as nearly 90 Head Start students from 6 classrooms joined with Quechan Spirit Runners Phil Emerson, Richard Smith and Rod Escalanti, to follow the Post 802 color guard in leading a short parade from the Pipa Market to the Quechan Senior Center.

The students joined in a celebration which honors our elders' lives and contributions to the community. Their presence in the event represents the *kwat'san's* continuing cycle of life. They all came holding balloons and wearing T-shirts of different colors, to help their teachers keep track of who was responsible for who! Once at the Senior Center, their teachers helped the kids tie the balloons to the front fence, to serve as a

reminder that they'd been there to help honor their elders.

Before they entered the building, the parade paused as a delegation of seniors and staff came out front to welcome them, and they all stopped to bow their heads as Christine Emerson spoke a blessing over the day.

Once inside, the elders had a table set up offering milk and cookies to each of the little ones, to show their appreciation for the smallest ones among us.

The kids further reciprocated by singing two songs, "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star" and "If You're Happy and You Know It" before they hopped on their buses and returned to the Education Complex. All of the adults laughed and applauded the performance, of course!

But the whole event was set-



up to listen to the official Proclamation of Older Americans Month, as it has been done every year since at least 2007. This year, the Proclamation was read by Quechan Tribal President Keeny Escalanti, Sr.

The Golding family also sang two honor songs out of respect

for the elders, encouraging everyone who to get up and dance.

The final part, and it wouldn't be a *kwat'san* event without a meal being served, was an excellent lunch of roast beef, small potatoes and a fresh green salad, followed by a warm apple crisp for dessert.



The Official Proclamation declaring May as "Older Americans Month" was read by Tribal President Keeny Escalanti, Sr. (above).

"Close, But No Cigar": Tribal Member Auditions to be "The Voice"

Although she's always enjoyed singing, and often had people compliment her on her voice, Quechan Tribal member Nancy Montague, Jr. never really gave much thought to making a career in entertainment.

Yes, she'd been in a few bands when she was younger, and served as the Vice President while singing with the Haskell Indian College Music Club in Kansas. One rock band she put together at Haskell even "jammed at the school auditorium" a couple of times, but, band politics and educational pressures being what they are the group folded when the others dropped out of school.

So Nancy never really expected anything to come from the fact that she can sing.

But her little sister, Densil, had accompanied her to open mike nights at some clubs while at Haskell, and she never forgot how poised and in control Nancy seemed to be. Her older sister had a command of the material, and an ability to "belt it out" when called for, that left an impression.

"She gave me chills, watching her on stage," says Densil.

But at the time, Nancy only thought of her younger sister



Nancy Montague, Jr. poses with the Artist Audition Pass which allowed her to make a bid for fame and fortune at the L.A. Convention Center, along with thousands of other singers. QUECHAN NEWS Photo by William Isbell

as "just a member of my little entourage, hanging with me at open mike nights just to get into the clubs." Positive comments from Densil were seen as her younger sister just "blowing smoke to butter me up."

Even though some of the club owners asked her to come back and sing as an entertainer, Nancy always told them, "Man, I've got to go to school!"

But when another sister, Leona, called her in 1997 to tell her there were good jobs waiting at the Paradise Casino, Nancy returned to Fort Yuma to put in almost 4 years in the Marketing Department. All the while, in the back of her head was the

dream to "put together my own band with my Tribal members." Though life has a way of derailling our dreams as we plug along to keep paying the bills, she managed to put together *Fat Cat* with Julio Sestiaga and David Waters.

The dream was derailed on the night of their first (and only) gig, when they learned the news of the death of Kurt Cobain. "We were playing downtown at Jimmie D's, first gig, and Kurt Cobain dies, and a lot of stuff came out I don't even want to talk about, but that was it — our one and only gig!"

So, she went on with her life as a "responsible adult," stay-

ing home and having three kids, River, Paris and Paisley, who, she says, all sing, too.

Then one day, out of the blue, her little sister Densil called from her far away home in Minnesota, to tell Nancy she'd been accepted to audition for the next season of *The Voice* on NBC.

Nancy was understandably perplexed, since she was only barely aware of the program (not having a TV), and hadn't even known they were looking for new talent. But her sister explained that she watched the show all the time, and was exploring their website when she found a page titled "How To Audition for *The Voice*". Convinced Nancy could make it, Densil registered her sister, selected Los Angeles as the nearest city holding open auditions. Rochelle Owl then linked to the website, downloading the Artist's Audition Pass Nancy needed to get her foot in the door.

When Densil first told her she'd be auditioning for a chance at national TV exposure, Nancy's reaction was "I thought she was 'April fooling' me, 'cause she'd already tried to get me into *American Idol* and *Idol* had an age limit, so I didn't get into *that*." And with *The Voice* audition almost two months away, she even told her mom, "I'm not going to fall for that!"

But when they went online to check things out for themselves, it all turned out to be true!

Still, there was the little problem of getting to Los Angeles. "And out of the blue, my brother's ex, Josephine Cole, the angel, called me from Rincon and offered me a ride!" Nancy exclaims. "A month had passed, and Densil had called me back already and told me I *had* to get to LA, and that she'd pay for the

gas," so with her ex-sister-in-law (who is "still a part of the family") wanting to come get her, and put her up overnight to allow her to get to the audition, all of her doubts and second-guessing disappeared.

Nancy says the entire process was the definition of the word "cattle call", often used to describe a large open casting offer. She says they arrived at the L.A. Convention Center at the appointed day and time, and were amazed to see "thousands of people" all lined up around the parking lot and streaming into the building.

Since it took so long to come to accept the reality of the situation, Nancy admits she was barely prepared to take part. She'd even forgotten her I.D., and had to call Josephine back to have her bring it to her at the front of the line, hours later!

Once inside, all the singers were placed in groups of ten, and they had to enter a small room, sing an opening and one chorus (*à capella*), and hand off to the next person in line. Four judges sat behind a table, ready to pass instant judgement on less than one minute's worth of work. "Sorry to say, none of you made it," was the verdict, "though, pointing right at me," says Nancy, "*you* were close, but no cigar!"

She says that her choice of what to sing, "Hotel California", was arrived at just before she entered the room. "I know that was the wrong choice, 'cause I needed something really strong, and it starts out slow." But the entire experience has reawakened all kinds of possibilities in her mind. "I'd really like to hear from Julio and Dave again. Maybe we can put the band back together!"

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 2nd quarter of 2012 is Friday, June 1, 2012, 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.

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



Suns Take The Title in The Final!



The Suns, the 2012 Grasshopper Spring Basketball Champions gather for a group photo after winning the final game of the playoffs on April 26. From left are Coach Deshane Taylor and players Keija Koteen, Stone Braveheart, Deshane Taylor, Jr., Paris Montague, Marianna Shepard, Michael Phillips and Andrew Amador. The Suns went undefeated all season!

QUECHAN NEWS Photos by William Isbell

Third through fifth grade Tribal members (and other local students) were able to take part in the usual spring Grasshopper Basketball League at the Quechan Parks and Recreation gym (at the Community Center) over the past two months. The kids wrapped up their spring

season with a hard-fought finals series, playing the last game on Thursday night, April 26th.

Five teams signed up for the competition this year: The Timberwolves, the Native Swoops, the Suns, the Sixers and the Lakers.

The playoffs began at 6:00 PM on Monday, April 23rd, with the Native Swoops going at it against the Timberwolves. The 'Wolves advanced to go up against the Suns when they beat the Native Swoops 27-18.

The 2nd night of the Grasshopper playoffs saw the Sixers and Lakers also going at it, to determine who would move on the final game on Thursday. The Suns and 'Wolves played at 6:00 PM, the Sixers and Lakers following them at seven.

The outcome on the 24th was that the Sixers advanced after taking out the Lakers 19-11, and the Timberwolves fell to the Suns with a score of 19-13.

Although the Suns had been

undefeated throughout the regular season, and had now advanced against the Timberwolves in their first playoff game, things didn't look good for the Suns, since it was obvious some of the Sixers held height advantage over the Suns.

Perhaps with the title as a motivating factor, the Sixers, under the direction of Coaches Tanya Dixon and Kirk Nerva, could rally and defeat the previously untouchable Suns, led by Coach Deshane Taylor.

Well, it turns out that Mr. Taylor had welded together a very cohesive team. Even though the Sixers had nine players to the Suns seven, and one of their most essential players, Paris Montague, found herself knocked over and nearly squashed three times in various collisions on the court, the Suns still managed to hold on to their miraculous, undefeated record for the year, capturing the Grasshopper title, 22 to 11!



Though Sixers like Demarcus Mills and Asia Nerva had a height advantage over opposing players like Paris Montague, the Suns were unstoppable.



**Quechan Higher Education
2012 Fall Semester
Grant Application Deadline:**

JUNE 01, 2012

Phone:
(760) 572-5268

Applications can be picked up at the
Higher Education Office located at:

**628 Picacho Road
Winterhaven, CA 92283**

Application
Requirements are
Listed On The
Grant
Application

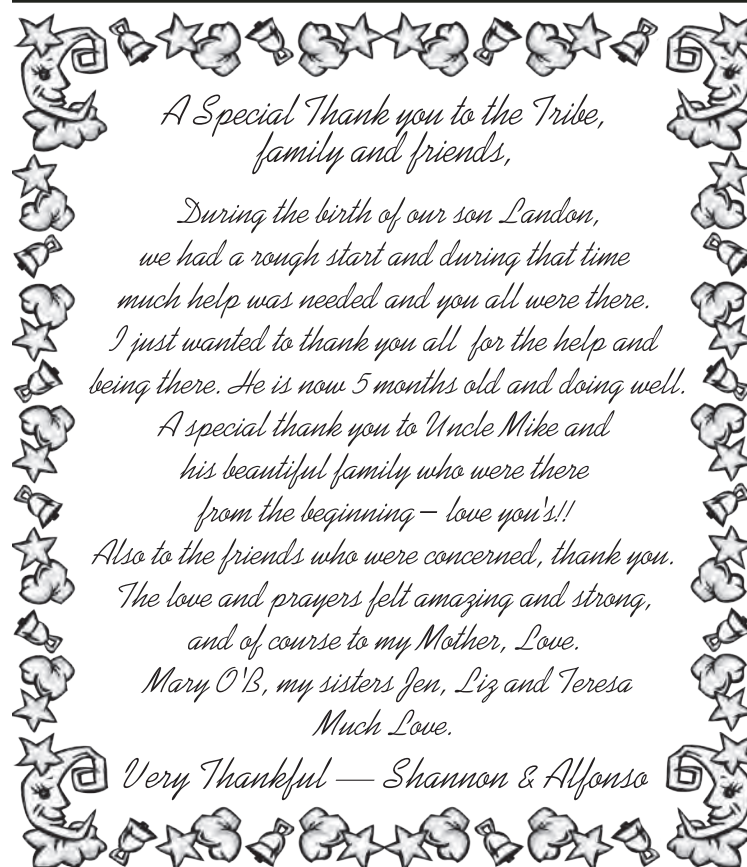
PUBLIC NOTICE

Quechan Tribally Designated Housing Entity

**The Board of Commissioners will hold
its regularly scheduled monthly meeting
on Monday, May 14, 2012.**

**The meeting will be held at the QTDHE
office location beginning at 5:30 PM.**

The Board welcomes public comments and/or concerns. Tribal members who would like to meet with the Board of Commissioners should submit a written request to the Board by 5:00 PM, Wednesday, May 9, 2012, addressed to Mr. Augustin Tumbaga, QTDHE Executive Director.



ICSO Receives In-Car Cameras Via California Casino Distribution Funds



New cameras in each patrol vehicle can begin record action as much as 30 seconds before a Deputy hits the record button. The system is fully integrated with the on-board computer. Q NEWS Photos by William Isbell

The Imperial County Sheriff has equipped all patrol vehicles in Winterhaven with state-of-the-art video cameras, thanks to contributions the Quechan Casino ♠ Resort makes to a special state distribution fund.

The new Motorola MVX1000 cameras can be activated manually from inside the vehicle, or by using a remote microphone Deputies wear on their belts. The cameras also automatically

begin recording any time the light bar is switched on.

When a Deputy returns from patrol, a secure wifi connection at the station automatically downloads all the new video recorded on shift, where it is stored on a server for later transfer to DVDs for use in evidence.

"Our original grant request was for \$45,000, but we found this better, more up-to-date technology, and the Sheriff's



office paid the difference," says Lt. Scott Sheppard, of the Winterhaven substation.

The final tab, which includes cameras to monitor activity in the back seats of all their vehicles, along with an interview room video recording system at the substation, came to around \$65,000.

"We are certainly thankful for the generosity of the Quechan Casino fund," says Sheppard.



Native Cry
Outreach Alliance

We are hoping to raise the initial funding to pay for our 501c3 IRS status and the Non Profit Corporation notification in our local newspaper. We would like to humbly thank everyone for helping to make our vision come true.

Armando and Rayna Madero -
Native Cry Outreach Alliance Inc.

/www.NativeCry.org/www.facebook.com/nativecry



About Native Cry Outreach Alliance

Native Cry will provide services for Native American youth ages 10-20 in the area of suicide prevention and depression. Services to be provided are: Mental Health Assessment for suicide and depression, Mental and physical health awareness with counseling and education. NCOA will also provide skill building for positive coping mechanisms.

Our mission is to help troubled children, teens and young adults to make better choices when dealing with depression brought on by traumatic events such as abuse, disease and death. NCOA will also help build a network of peer counselors by holding seminars and workshops relating to suicide prevention and depression that teach detection and healthy coping mechanisms.

NCOA Co-Founder and President Rayna Madero will help design and deploy different events and activities pertaining to Indigenous youth and young adults. "I have lost many more friends and family to violence and alcohol/drug abuse," she says. "And I saw a need for passing on positive coping skills after losing both a close friend to treatable health issues and a niece to suicide within two years of each other."

Located in Yuma, Arizona, NCOA will initially serve the Quechan and Cocopah Indian reservations. We will also serve members of other tribes and form alliances to promote exchange programs. Office hours will be Monday through Thursday for supported programs and half-day Fridays for staff and planning.

We will serve Native American individuals between the ages of 10-20 who are in need of guidance and counseling due to thoughts of suicide or depression. NCOA will staff trained counselors, mentors and teachers who will help clients understand their emotions and teach positive coping skills.

Native Cry plans to have its 501(c)3 and be fully operational by September 10th, 2012 (World Suicide Prevention Day). Our offices will be located in two buildings, rented from the Quechan Indian Tribe, at the south end of Maiden Lane in downtown Yuma. There will be two offices for private counseling, a large activity room and a community garden area. NCOA will be hiring positions and looking for persons to contract as we obtain grant funding.

NCOA plans to receive most of our funding through federal and state grants, while some funding may come from generous donors, local businesses and tribal organizations. Native Cry is a small organization, and everyone will carry more than one job title. NCOA is a family established non-profit that will teach and support positive family values, and each member and volunteer will be taught beneficial reinforcement skills while adhering to a family environment.

COME OUT AND PARTICIPATE IN THE QUECHAN DIABETES PROGRAM'S

Kids and Adults Dodgeball Tournament

FRIDAY, MAY 18 AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER!

THE GAMES BEGIN AT 5:30 PM SHARP!

**Kids Age Group From 7 to 12 years
Adults Age Group From 13 Years Old and Up
For More Information or to Sign Up a Team**

CALL: 760-572-4057



Registration
CLOSES
Wednesday
May 16th!

Six Year Old Takes Second At Her First Jiu-Jitsu Competition!



Naveed Reyes stands on the 2nd place podium, wearing the medal she received in the Mesa, Arizona competition.

Family Photo

Naveed Reyes, daughter of Quechan Tribal member Dana Chino and Jesus Reyes, Jr. has placed second in the 45 to 51 pound beginner's weight class on Saturday, April 21st at the 4th Annual Arizona Kid's Cup All Kids Jiu-Jitsu Tournament at Westwood High School in Mesa, Arizona. The competition was sanctioned by the Arizona Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Federation.

This was the first time the Sunrise Elementary School first grade student had entered a Jiu-Jitsu competition, since she only begun her study of the martial arts discipline in January of 2012.

The six year old studies under Instructor Mike Garcia at the Yuma Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Acasemy at 280 W. Catalina Avenue. "My mom signed me up for it," says Naveed, "and my grandma took me to the first class and I liked it."

Grandma Shirley Chino explains, "We signed her up for it, to give her something to keep her active. Her father is very athletic, and he likes to keep her active, too."

And Naveed herself also apparently enjoys the activity, since she says she's looking forward to another competition scheduled for this summer!

Tribal Member, Fire Cadet Organizes Relay for Life Activities

Chief Steve Taylor of the Winterhaven Fire Protection District is extremely proud of one of his youngest volunteers, Fire Cadet America Nerva, a Quechan Tribal member.

"We've been calling her 'Captain' America here at the station," says Chief Taylor, "because she has the heart of a champion and has dedicated the last month or more to ensuring this year's Relay for Life event will be the best one yet!"

Relay for Life is an annual American Cancer Society event, where teams from all over the area gather at Desert Sun Stadium in Yuma, to continuously walk the perimeter track, relay style, collecting funds for cancer research based on the miles covered by each team.

This year's Relay took place over the evening of Saturday, April 28th and into the morning



Fire Cadet America Nerva

of Sunday, the 29th.

"This was a special event for America because last year she was involved in an off-road vehicle accident and hurt both her hand and a foot, to the point that her Doctor said she may have permanent damage," according to the Winterhaven Fire Chief.

But America didn't let the injury stop her. She worked on

getting her foot flexible and strong again, and soon she was walking—so she could walk with her fellow firefighters in this year's Relay for Life!

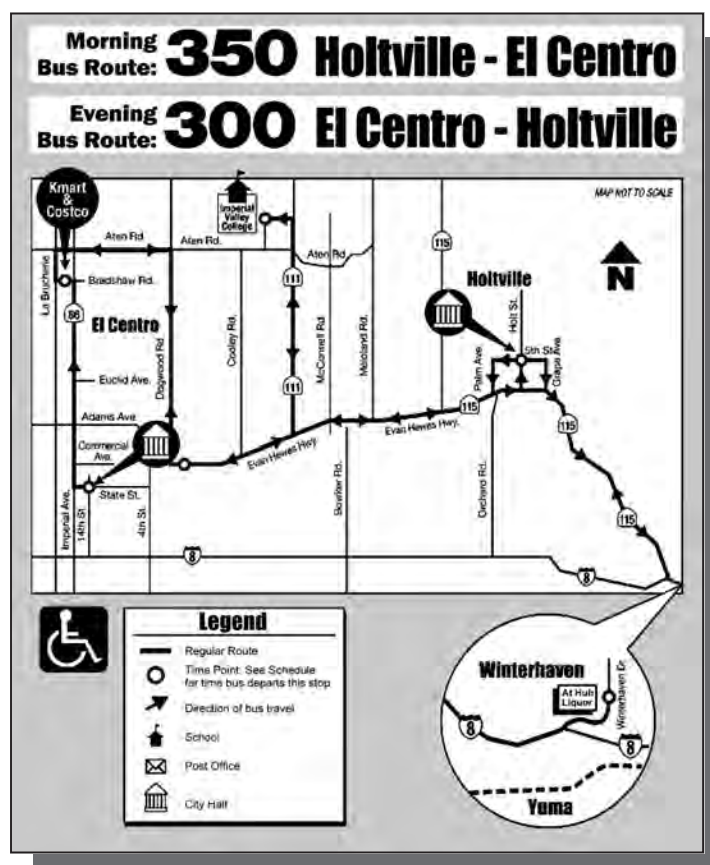
The daughter of Quechan Tribal Police Officer Kirk Nerva and his wife, America, the 13 year old has been a Fire Cadet at WFPD for over a year now.

America is a hard worker who treasures the time she spends with both friends and family. She enjoys working out at the gym, as well as running—for exercise, and to increase the stamina she'll need to stay in the field of firefighting.

One of her dreams is to become a Firefighter/EMT, just like her godfather, Chief Taylor.

Her dedication to that dream is apparent with the 2011 Community Achievement Award she received from the Winterhaven Fire Protection District.

Weekly Trip To/From El Centro Available From Imperial Valley Transit





The HEAT Takes All in the Go Hard or Go Home Men's Basketball Tournament!



The San Diego Heat is led by Coach Patty Medina (at left). "Little Mario" Muro stands in front with their first place trophy. The players (starting in the front row) are Ritchie Williams, Keoni Watson and "Big Mario" Muro. In the second row are Silas Shackleford, Vernon Halton and Anthony Javey, while at the top in back are Byron Anderson and Lawrence Pinnick. In the Tourney's final game, the Heat trounced the Arizona Assassins 85 - 72.

Local Basketball fans received a special treat over the final weekend of April, as Deshane Taylor and Felix A. Montague brought in talent from as far away as Phoenix and San Diego to battle it out in their Winner Take All Basketball Tournament. The entire contest was organized, publicized and successfully brought about almost entirely through the efforts of the two Quechan Tribal members. Fans were able to enjoy the four opening games of the double elimination tournament on the evening of Friday, April 27. On Saturday, everyone returned to the San Pasqual High School gym for a fourteen hour slugfest as 7 teams assembled from all over the desert southwest wore themselves out in a battle for T-shirts a small trophy and \$1500 in cash. Second and third also received trophies and T-shirts.



QUECHAN NEWS Photos by William Isbell

The photos above give some idea of the level of the competition enjoyed by everyone who came out to watch the Tournament. These images show just how high the players were clearing the floor in their attempts to overcome their opponents and win that \$1500 cash prize!

SAN PASQUAL CONSTRUCTION CONTINUES EVERY DAY

New construction continues to move forward at all 3 school sites, with construction crews now focusing on "site work", the final phase of San Pasqual's update. During site work, final landscape grading, sidewalks, curbs, gutters and parking will be completed.

Construction will be complete shortly after school is out. San Pasqual will have 4 new school buildings, two at the elementary and one each at the middle and high schools. The new buildings will contain 20 classrooms, including science labs for both middle and high school students.

The staff will be very busy over the summer, "deep cleaning" everything while school is out as well as moving equipment into the new classrooms. Grounds staff will be performing finishing touches on the landscape to ensure everything is ready for school in August.

The new buildings are designed to be very energy efficient: The "Building Envelope" is the area that separates an air-conditioned space from unconditioned space or the outdoors, such as on the roof. San Pasqual schools' building envelope is designed to exceed California Energy Commission Standards

by 15% to 20%. Other energy efficient features include air conditioning units that were the highest efficiency available at the time of construction, all windows are dual-glaze low E (Emissivity) rated, all light fixtures are energy efficient with occupancy controllers, the roofs are fully insulated to an average of R 32 and the masonry walls are grouted solid. The new buildings are as energy efficient as the budget allowed.

The District is researching funding sources and reviewing plans for the next phase of construction, but there is no expected start date at this time.



Team C Construction employees Tomas Romero, Jacinto Piña and José Saravia (in the foreground) from El Cajon work on pouring and smoothing new curbs for an all new driveway going in north of the elementary school office.

QUECHAN NEWS Photo by William Isbell