

EARLY INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION JULY 3RD: 6PM TO 9PM NAV AH PAI IN THE PARADISE FIREWORKS BEGIN AT 9:30PM THE NEWS CARRIER CASINO PARKING LOT!

# QUECHAN NEWS

Volume 106, Issue 12 ♦ Wednesday, June 27, 2012

## In This Issue:

802 Auxiliary Reports  
Page 2

More Than Frybread  
Page 3

Honors in Memory of  
Wildlands Firefighter  
Page 4

Housing Program  
Page 5

New BP Deputy Chief  
Page 6

Getting Your Fiber?  
Page 7

Splash Day Also  
Water Safety Day  
Back Page

Items Of Special Interest  
To Tribe Members



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

# New Classrooms Ready For This Fall



**Miss Wallace's fourth grade class** will be moving into this new classroom at San Pasqual Elementary when the 2012/2013 school year begins in mid-August. The Elementary school has ten new classrooms in two buildings, while the high school and middle school both have 4 new classrooms, with a new science lab in the center of each of their new classroom buildings.

QUECHAN NEWS Photo by William Isbell

Three San Pasqual Valley School Board members received a guided tour of the brand new buildings at the San Pasqual schools on June 18th.

Tribal members Bernadine Swift Arrow, School Board President, and Board Vice President Monica Montague were accompanied by fellow Board member Mona DeCorse as San Pasqual School Superintendent Dr. Dave Bealer, HMC

Architects owner Brent Goodwin, Nielson Construction Superintendent Richard Medina, and California State Inspector Doug Hartline took them through the new facilities.

The architect called attention to the many state-of-the-features in each of the 20 new classrooms. San Pasqual Elementary has two new buildings with 5 classrooms in each, while the middle school and

high school each have a new building with a pair of classrooms on each end, with a new science lab in the center of each of those new buildings.

Each classroom is equipped with transom skylights along the tallest end of each room, which supplement electrical lighting controlled by automatic motion detectors. When anyone enters one of the new rooms, the motion detectors

turn the lights on and turns them off when the rooms are empty. Every new classroom has a video projector and screen, as well as room for seven laptop computer stations. Each of the new buildings is also served by a wireless WiFi intranet server, allowing students to download and complete assignments, then upload them to the school's servers when they are completed. The elementary classrooms include an entire wall with white boards surrounded by walls made of painted, textured cork, to hang dozens of completed projects.

Each new classroom also has a dedicated locking storage room, with storage shelves, tall locking cabinets, a window and a desktop/shelf with electrical outlets and internet connections for the teacher's computer workstation.

Each science lab has 8 workstations equipped with their own electrical supply, sink and chemical resistant countertop. The science teachers also have a sink and workstation inside their own office/storerooms.

# Post 802 Auxiliary Provides Annual Report

While the male members of Quechan American Legion Post 802 are quite visible at public events year-round, their Women's Auxiliary is just as busy behind the scenes, actively engaged in providing monetary donations, services, goods and moral support to various entities in the community.

The 2011/2012 fiscal year at Post 802 began with the Auxiliary co-hosting the American Legion District 30 meeting at the Legion Hall on Arnold Road. Sixty-seven legionnaires from Imperial County, both men and women, came together here on the Quechan Nation to share their ideas for Legion projects, as well as their hopes and plans for the coming fiscal year.

Soon after, the fast approaching time of year when the fall turns into winter proved to be as busy as in past seasons.

The Auxiliary took part in the annual Quechan Halloween festivities, helping out the Parks and Recreation Department. They also had their own game booth at the Halloween Carnival. Anyone wanting to take part in the game could enjoy the fun free of charge, winning prizes purchased and provided by the Auxiliary and its members. Women's Auxiliary Chaplain Dolores Lopez says they gave out 203 prizes to both young and old that evening!

With Christmas approaching soon after, the members of the Auxiliary busied themselves preparing for the holiday.

With the support of Paradise Casino, the Post 802 Auxiliary provided food boxes and Christmas gifts to 32 families in our local elementary school.

They provided 111 children from pre-kindergarten through high school with gifts, as well as making a donation of toys to a pre-school class in Yuma's Crane School District.

Those toys were used to set up a new educational and developmental playroom. Needless to say, the eighty children in the program were delighted to receive the new equipment!

As spring approached, the Auxiliary assisted a third grade class at San Pasqual Elementary and a fourth grade class at Yuma's Palmcroft Elementary in organizing a project to help hospitalized veterans.

The Auxiliary provided supplies for the students to create Valentine cards thanking our veterans for their service to our country. Seventy-four cards were sent to the La Jolla Veterans Hospital for distribution to their patients. Everyone came away with a heightened awareness of how important it is to remember those who have helped to preserve our country's freedom in the Armed Forces.

Dolores states that May was an exciting, emotional month for the group. "We donated ten gift certificates that were awarded to elementary students to recognize their accomplishments during the school year."

This year the Post 802 Auxil-



**The Post 802 Women's Auxiliary** presented scholarships to San Pasqual High School students this year. 802 Auxiliary Chaplain Dolores Lopez, Vice President Arnelia Ortiz and Secretary Vicky Daniels are seen above with American Legion scholarship recipients Kellie Wong, Dominique Rueda and Gina Rivera. Photo Courtesy of the Post 802 Auxiliary

ary awarded three scholarships to high school students going on to institutions of higher learning. Members of the Auxiliary were also present at the San Pasqual School District

scholarships ceremony held on Wednesday evening, May 25.

Finally, the Auxiliary made their own contributions while taking part in the local Memorial Day ceremony sponsored

by the Post 802 Men's Legion.

The Auxiliary purchased twenty flower arrangements which were used to decorate the memorials of community veterans. Flowers were placed by young flower girls organized and coordinated by Deborah Tourtillott, Auxiliary President.

Other members made pins to pass out to community members attending the Memorial Day Service. All wanted people to wear them to show their support for our military.

The Auxiliary has now gone dark for the summer months. Their first meeting this fall will be at 6:00 PM on Wednesday, September 19. All meetings are held at the Legion Hall on 1496 Arnold Road. The Auxiliary welcomes all community members wanting to join the group. For further information contact President Deborah Tourtillott.

## A Big Thank You!



On May 12th, Native Cry.org had a food booth at the "For The People II" event, at the Quechan Tribe Stomping Grounds in Winterhaven, California.

Armando and Rayna Madero want to say a big Thank You! to the BIA Fire Fighters for being such huge supporters of our cause and for all your help and your gifts of water, gatorade and chips!

ETSKA NAV AH PAI THE NEWS CARRIER  
**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](mailto:w.isbell@quechantribe.com). I'm looking forward to hearing from you!

## New Employees at Fort Yuma ADAPP: Introducing Shari Mattias



**Shari Mattias, one of the new team members at ADAPP,** worked for the Quechan Tribe over the past few years in a variety of positions before becoming a Prevention Recovery Specialist. Q NEWS Photo by William Isbell

Three “new” team members joined the staff at the Fort Yuma Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention Program early this year; Jessica Paddock, Claudia Reyes and Shari Mattias.

All three have had time to settle into their positions over the past few months, and are now ready to introduce themselves to the community at large. Quechan Tribal member Shari Mattias is up first for this issue.

Always known for her humor when acting as the Tribe’s front desk receptionist, Shari says “Now that you have seen my picture, are you thinking ‘Hey, I know that chick, she use to work at the tribal office. I thought she got fired!’” Well, she didn’t disappear from the front desk through termination, she left to take a *new* job!

That new job is just one more move in a long sequence of moves leading to her finally ending up where she’s long wanted to be, helping others

deal with personal struggles she has no trouble identifying with.

She is not afraid to “speak the truth”, and that begins with her age: “Let me tell you something about myself,” she begins. “I was born in San Francisco, California way back in 1962; my parents are Chuck and Eunice O’Brien.”

Shari started school in San Francisco, though she soon moved to the Quechan reservation to attend the San Pasqual schools through 5th grade. “I then moved to Oregon to live with my mom’s parents, where I lived throughout sixth grade.”

A short period back at the reservation was followed by her family moving to Reno, Nevada, where she lived through the 11th grade. Shari completed high school in Sells, Arizona after the family moved there, which is where she also got married and had her kids, Charlie, Marcus, and Brandi.

“My marriage did not work out so I moved to Tucson and

worked at Rent-A-Center,” she continues, “and I was able to transfer to Yuma when my dad got very sick.”

Shari left Rent-A-Center to become the Business Enterprise manager for the Quechan Tribe. She also worked at housing before taking the position of front desk receptionist at the Tribal Office in 2004.

While serving as the Tribe’s receptionist, she was able to begin attending Kaplan University where she hopes to complete her Associate’s Degree in Human Services this coming December.

“The 7 years I spent at the front desk helped me learn everyone’s names and family connections, and where they all work,” she says, “But now that I’m a Prevention and Recovery Specialist at ADAPP, I want to keep working in this field and helping the Quechan people.”

If you’d like to speak to Shari, or anyone else at Quechan ADAPP, call 1 (888) 572-2191.

## Diablos Qualify for World Series Games



The Yuma City League “Diablos” baseball team, led by Head Coach (and Quechan Tribal member) Faron Owl, has qualified to play in the upcoming United States Amateur Baseball Federation World Series in July. The series is to begin with “pool play games” in San Diego from July 28th – 31st, with the elimination round running from August 1st through the 3rd. The World Series Championship Games will take place on Saturday, August 4th. The Diablos have won 18 of their 24 games so far in the City League, and only have a few weeks left to both work on their stats and to raise the funds they’ll need to get to San Diego and compete in the USABF World Series. If you’d like to help out in their fund raising efforts, give Mr. Owl a call at (928)210-0114. And keep an eye out for the various public fund raisers the Diablos will be having, both in town and on the res!

QUECHAN NEWS Photo by William Isbell

### Quechan Tribal Administration Office Visitor Procedures

## EFFECTIVE JUNE 18, 2012:

All visitors to the Quechan Tribal Administration Office will be required to check in with the reception desk. Identification will be required and exchanged for a visitors’ badge from the security desk.

Employees are required to follow the above procedures and must wear employee identification badges.

Employees who do not have an identification badge, please contact

**Human Resources at  
(760) 572-0213, Ext. 280**

# Tribal Member Honored for Service as Wildlands Firefighter

QUECHAN NEWS Photos by William Isbell



**Sharon Knutson-Felix of the 100 Club** came from Phoenix to offer her support to the Polk/Villa family in a gathering at the Quechan Tribal Council Chamber on June 13. Arizona Governor Jan Brewer sent Mr. Bill Astor (of the San Carlos Apache Tribe) to convey her personal condolences, and to present Anthony's mother with an Arizona state flag which she'd flown over the Arizona Capitol building for the family. Agent D.K. Fruit of the U.S. Border Patrol's Honor Guard Pipes and Drums, was at Thursday's memorial, playing a medley of Gaelic mourning tunes.



**Both the City of Yuma and the Yuma Proving Ground** brought their largest ladder trucks out, to display a giant U.S. flag in front of the Quechan Community Center in Anthony's memory. Irene Herder, Superintendent of the Fort Yuma BIA Agency, said she was surprised to learn that Anthony was only 30 years old — with all his experience and maturity, and willingness to provide leadership in all situations, she was sure he was at *least* 38 years old. And BLM and BIA Firefighters from all over the area trooped in for the meeting in the Council Chamber.



**The Quechan Community Center was absolutely filled** as visiting officials from the state of Arizona, the Interior Department, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, local, state and federal law enforcement agencies and co-workers from dozens of wildlands firefighting crews came to Fort Yuma to join with family and Tribal members in remembering Anthony Polk.

# Summer Plans Shaping Up at Quechan Parks & Recreation

With summer heat building, local kids are looking for any opportunity to enjoy activities in either air conditioned comfort, or those that involve lots of water! Quechan Parks and Recreation is doing everything they can to provide plenty of both!

First, there are all the things happening at the Rainbow Pool, which is open for just plain ol' swimming 7 days a week during the summer, from 1 PM to 5 PM. In the evenings, Phillie Emerson has special times set aside for special groups.

The evening water aerobics group meets at the Rainbow Pool every Monday and Wednesday for an hour, starting at 6:30 PM. The two hour Family Night Swim is every Tuesday beginning at 6:00 PM. And teens can gather for their own two hour Teen Night Swim every Thursday night at 6:00 PM.

Meanwhile, in the Commu-

nity Center gym, the Co-ed Volleyball League meets on Tuesdays and Thursday from 6 PM to 8 PM, also.

Parks and Rec is accepting the last few applications for the High School and Middle School Co-ed Basketball League *right now*, for games which begin in July. The Basketball games will be held from 6 PM to 8 PM in the evening at the gym.

If you are interested, get over there and sign up today, before registration closes!

This summer, something new has been added in the afternoon: Ultimate Frisbee League!

Beginning in July, two Leagues will be set up for after lunch games in the gym. The Boys and Girls Grasshopper Ultimate Frisbee League is open to kids going into 3rd, 4th and 5th grades this fall, and the Boys and Girls Middle School Ultimate Frisbee league is open



**While basketball is always popular,** the Parks and Rec staff is offering a number of additional options this year, such as a "Frisbee League"! Q NEWS Photo by William Isbell

to students entering 6th, 7th and 8th grades. All games will be played (with adult supervision, of course!) in the air conditioned comfort of the Community Center gym. For information on

the dates and times, you'll want to contact Parks and Rec, since they were still working out the schedule as this issue went to press. The Parks and Rec office phone number is (760) 572-1242.

Parks and Rec's Summer Sports Camp is nearly full now. The final day to turn in your application and parental permission slip for the Camp is this Friday, June 29.

The boys and girls sports camp begins with football the week of July 16th. The second week of the Camp will focus on the finer points of Basketball from July 23rd to the 27th.

The final week, July 30th to August 3rd, will cover everything you want to know about the game of volleyball! All camps run Monday through Friday, from 8:00 AM - 12:30 PM.

All participants will receive a Quechan Summer Sports Camp

T-shirt to keep. Students may participate in all sports over all three weeks, or just participate in the one or two weeks of the sport they really want to learn.

But there's more! Little kids also have their own day in the gym, with Movie Day every Wednesday at 2:00 PM!

Moms and dads (and older siblings) are welcome to come on down and join in watching DVD movies projected on a big screen, as everyone enjoys popcorn and juice with a family friendly film! Parks and Rec featured the animated hits *Kung Fu Panda 2* and *Cars 2* the past couple of weeks, so don't miss this chance to use someone else's air conditioning while being entertained during the hottest part of the day!

And remember: if you're looking for a chance to volunteer, they are always happy to see you at Parks and Rec!



## 2013 HIP: Housing Improvement Program

Applications are available at the Quechan Tribe Designated Housing Entity (QTDHE) office for tribal members interested in the Bureau of Indian Affairs' Housing Improvement Program (HIP) for FY2013.

The program is designed for very-low income homeowners, and provides assistance for the rehabilitation and repair of existing homes.

The BIA's Housing Improvement Program is a home repair, renovation and replacement grant program administered by the BIA and federally-recognized Indian

Tribes to benefit American Indian families and individuals who have no immediate resource for standard housing.

To be eligible for HIP assistance, you must be an enrolled Native American; live in an approved service area; have an income that does not exceed 125% of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Poverty Guidelines; have present housing that is substandard; have no other resource for housing assistance.

Interested individuals should contact QTDHE for an Application Package containing the

application, guidelines, and a list of the supporting documentation required to qualify for eligibility.

Applications may be picked up at the QTDHE until September 21, and the deadline to submit is September 28, 2012.

If you would like an application for the HIP program mailed or hand delivered to your home address, please contact Tad Zavodsky at QTDHE at (760) 572-0243.

QTDHE will assist application in completing applications and obtaining necessary documents for submission.

## FORT YUMA INDIAN HEALTH CLINIC

### FINAL DAY FOR JUNE, 2012 VACCINE CLINICS

**Will Be Wednesday, June 27th  
At The Public Health Nursing Office  
(In the Trailers Behind the Main Clinic)  
From 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm**

**Winterhaven residents: If You Need Transportation  
Call (760) 572-0753 (You Must Call 2 Days Ahead)**

**Vaccines available for children: Dtap, Polio, Hib,  
Hep A&B, PCV, MMR, Varicella, Rotavirus, Flu,  
HPV and the Meningococcal Virus  
Vaccines available to adults: Tdap, PCV,  
Hepatitis A&B, Zoster and the Flu**

**If you have any questions, please call:  
PHN Dept: (760) 572-4225 or 4226**

# New Deputy Chief for Border Patrol



**Deputy Chief Eric Odden** (at right) spent the better part of a day with Quechan Fish and Game Officers Travis Owl and Gordon Osborne, learning about the particular challenges faced in securing the border where the reservation meets the frontier of Mexico. USBP Photo

Carlos Dominguez, Tribal Liaison with the U.S. Border Patrol informs the *Quechan News* that the Yuma Sector Border Patrol has been assigned a new Deputy Chief, Eric M. Odden.

In his previous position as the Acting Director for State, Local and Tribal Liaison (SLT) within U.S. Customs and Border Protection's (CBP) Office of the Commissioner, Mr. Odden conducted site-visits at the Quechan reservation and met with Quechan Law Enforcement representatives dur-

ing those visits. Committed to tribal border security, Deputy Chief Odden says those past visits have already given him an understanding of the strong partnership the Yuma Sector has with the Quechan Nation.

Agent Eric M. Odden entered duty with the U.S. Border Patrol in June 1987. His first duty assignment as a Border Patrol Agent was at the Douglas Station in the Tucson Sector.

In August 1988, Odden was transferred to the Tucson Station, where he was promoted

to Supervisory Border Patrol Agent in August of 1996.

He went to Casa Grande Station in November 2003 as a Field Operations Supervisor and, in December 2005, he was selected as the Patrol Agent in Charge of the Tucson Sector's Douglas Station. While in Douglas, Odden was responsible for planning, organizing, coordinating, and directing enforcement efforts designed to secure our Nation's borders.

Throughout his 25 year career, Deputy Chief Odden has held a variety of collateral duties, including canine handler and coordinator, and he was Commander of the Honor Guard, and Peer Support and Chaplaincy Programs for the Tucson Sector. In 2010, he also served as an Associate Chief in the Operations Division in Washington D.C., where he led the Planning and Coordination Section. Odden was selected as the Acting Director for State, Local and Tribal Liaison for the Customs and Border Protection's Office of the Commissioner in May 2011.

**Mr. and Mrs Henry Shanklin would like to say Congratulations to Steven Vazquez for graduating from San Pasqual High School on May 25th, 2012**



Steven won many Awards throughout the entire school year. He was on the Honor Roll during the first semester, and also received an Exceptional Improvement rating for Language Arts.

In the second semester, he received the Honor Roll Citizenship Award, as well as the President's Education Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement.

At the end of his senior year, Steven was the recipient of the Ann Hanks Memorial Scholarship. He also received the San Pasqual S & C Scholarship Award for 2012.

*We Love You! God Bless You!*

## Summer Athletics Programs From



## Special Olympics Arizona

*SOAZ currently offers Bowling every Saturday at Inca Lanes for children 8 and older from 11 AM to 12:15 PM and from 12:30 PM to 2:30 PM for adults. Cost is \$4 for 2 games plus shoe rental.*

*Family members are welcomed to Bowl for this rate as well!*

*Starting July 7th, SOAZ will have Bocce Ball at Carver Park from 9 AM to 10 PM and swimming at Abe Marcus pool from 10 AM to 11:20 AM.*

*All Events will take place every Saturday for 8 weeks this Summer!*

*Individuals who take part in these events will be eligible to travel to Phoenix in September for the Arizona Special Olympics State Fall Games.*

*Special Olympics Arizona Sports are open to children and adults with cognitive and physical disabilities, 8 years and older. All participants must have a current medical release on file and a signed parental consent form.*

*SOAZ also has an Under 8 Can't Wait Program for 6 and 7 year olds and a Young Athletes Program for children from 2 ½ to 5 years old.*

*All Special Olympics Arizona programs are free of charge and family involvement is encouraged!*

For More Information, Contact: **Lisa Ball**  
River Area Director | Special Olympics Arizona  
Lisa@SpecialOlympicsArizona.org  
3250 A East 40th Street | Yuma, AZ 85365  
Cell: 928.210.8862 | Office: 928.341.4117

## Have You Had Your Fiber Today?

From Deborah Drumel RD, CDE, Fort Yuma Indian Health Service

**Dietary Fiber, also known as “roughage” or “bulk”, includes all parts of plant foods. Fiber is found only found in plant foods such as fruits, vegetables, grains and legumes.**

### Why is fiber important? Because fiber:

- ◇ Helps keep us “regular” and prevents constipation
- ◇ Helps decrease cholesterol and fat in your blood
- ◇ Helps promote weight loss because high-fiber foods make you feel fuller and it keeps you fuller longer than low fiber foods
- ◇ Helps control or regulate blood glucose levels in people with diabetes
- ◇ Might help protect against certain diseases, such as:
  - ◆ Diabetes
  - ◆ Heart disease
  - ◆ Cancer

### High-fiber foods can help in the treatment of:

- ◆ Constipation
- ◆ Hemorrhoids
- ◆ Diverticulitis
- ◆ Irritable bowel syndrome

### How much fiber do you need each day?

Everyone needs a certain total of grams of fiber each day. To figure a child’s daily fiber requirement simply add “5” to their age in years for children from 3 to 18 years old . So, for children 7 years old, they need at least  $7+5 = 12$  grams (g) of fiber/day.

For adults, their needs vary by age and gender:

- ◆ Men, up to 50 years old = 38 g/day
- ◆ Men, 51 years old and older = 30 g/day
- ◆ Women, up to 50 years old = 25 g/day
- ◆ Women, 50 years old and older = 21 g/day

### What else should I know about fiber?

Increase the amount of fiber in the diet slowly, so you do not develop a crampy, bloated stomach. And make sure to drink plenty of liquids (water is best) as you increase your fiber intake. Many different forms of fiber exist, so you should eat a variety of high-fiber foods.

### How To Increase Your Fiber Intake

- ◆ Choose whole wheat or whole grain bread and rolls, and whole wheat pasta and whole wheat tortillas.
- ◆ Substitute whole grain flour for half of the white flour when baking. Try adding crushed bran cereal or unprocessed wheat bran to muffins, cakes and cookies.
- ◆ Snack on fiber-rich fruits like berries, apples, pears and peaches, and dried fruit including raisins, prunes, apricots and cranberries.
- ◆ Beans offer more fiber than most plant foods, so eat them a few times a week. You could add kidney beans to soup, black beans to a salad.
- ◆ A tablespoon of ground flaxseed stirred into soup, casseroles or smoothies will boost the fiber content by 3 grams.
- ◆ Instead of a doughnut for breakfast, have a bran muffin, whole wheat toast or a bowl of oatmeal with fruit.
- ◆ Grab a handful of nuts for snacking or sprinkle them on salads.
- ◆ Select high-fiber breakfast cereals and read the Nutrition Facts food labels to find cereals that have at least 5 g dietary fiber/serving
- ◆ When shopping, keep in mind what these product labels mean: “High fiber” products contain 5 or more grams per serving, a “good source of fiber” has 2.5 to 4.9 grams per servings and “more or added fiber” has at least 2.5 grams per serving. Check the nutritional labels.

## Water Safety Day

*Continued from Page 6*



**There were healthy snacks** available from the Rainbow Pool snack bar, too. Kitchen staff from the Quechan Tribe Casinos were on hand to make sure everyone was fed and hydrated! Q NEWS: William Isbell

instructions over underwater headphones! Two team members stood at the edge of the pool, relaying information over waterproof cables, while the scuba divers were able to talk back to them and pass on descriptions of everything they saw down below! Cool!

Meanwhile, there were information booths set up inside the Community Center, with the CHP, Yuma Fire Department, the Q and Paradise Casinos all handing out things like sunglasses, sunscreen and other summer safety trinkets, to reinforce their message.

Local partners El Dorado Broadcasters even sent over radio personality “Misty” (from STAR 100.9 and KTTI Country)

to take up a position right outside the pool, broadcasting live from 9 ‘til noon, inviting people from all over the Yuma area to come out and join the fun!

The extra attention from local media made this the *biggest* Quechan Splash Day ever!

There were lots of new faces here as everyone played on the water slides, took part in the great giveaways and shared in the raffle prizes and the hot dogs, burgers and sodas that are always such a big part of Quechan Splash Day!

But the big bonus this time was that everyone involved was also able to learn a little about water safety at the same time, without feeling like they were getting a lecture.

## NOTICE

**EFFECTIVE MAY 7, 2012,  
ALL TRIBAL SOCIAL  
SERVICE ASSISTANCE  
WILL BE CLOSED  
UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.**

*Ramona Ghio*  
Ramona Ghio  
Tribal Social Service Liaison

*May 7, 2012*  
Date

# Splash Day Promotes Water Safety Message

QUECHAN NEWS Photos by William Isbell



The Rainbow Pool/Community Center parking lot was filled with emergency vehicles and family cars alike, as the annual Quechan Splash Day was taken over by the Quechan Tribe Casinos and their first responder partners, to promote the message of water safety at this year's heavily promoted event.



City of Yuma Firemen Alvin Ludtke and Robert Rillamas communicate with their underwater rescue swimmers.



Allyssa Rosales tried to beat the time on cup stacking to win a prize at the STAR 100.9 tent!

This year, the traditional "Splash Day" summer kick-off at the Rainbow Pool received a big boost in publicity, as the Quechan Casino ♠ Resort and the Paradise Casino sponsored a "Water Safety Day" event in the Community Center parking lot at the same time.

Heavily promoted by the Casinos' co-hosts, El Dorado Broadcasters (home of Star 100.9FM, KTTI 95.1FM and KBLU AM560), Water Safety Day brought in local first responders like the City of Yuma Fire Department and non-profits such as the Yuma Community Food Bank. Everyone involved made certain to pass along the message, "Hear the Silence, Save a Life".

Drowning is not accompanied by the waving, splashing, and yelling that you see on TV

and in the movies. In real life, a drowning is almost always eerily quiet. The first thing a drowning victim wants is *air*: they want to *breathe* more than they want to call out. They will often *not even wave for help*, since they are doing *everything possible* just to stay upright and get their mouths above the water surface, to *just get some air* before sinking down again.

Drowning people struggling on the surface often cannot even perform voluntary movements such as waving for help, moving toward a rescuer, or reaching out for a flotation device. Unless rescued by a trained lifeguard, these drowning people can only struggle on the surface for 20 to 60 seconds before they sink below the surface and don't come back up.

Of course, one of the most

important things the safety people stressed was the need to *always* have an automatic locking gate and a fence *all the way around* your pool, to keep little ones from getting in without your knowledge. And kids should always have *full time* adult supervision anytime they are around water! Those who attended this year's Quechan Splash Day learned all those facts, and more.

Parents and children were able to see the City of Yuma Water Rescue Team in action, as they entered the pool in their wetsuits and "searched" the bottom of the pool, with kids swimming right alongside and on the surface, observing their every move.

The Water Rescue Team even has the ability to hear (Continued inside on Page 7)



The Yuma Water Rescue Team suited up and demonstrated their abilities right in the pool with kids swimming along side!



Even the kiddie pool was filled to the brim as people from all over came to enjoy the water!



Information booths covering a variety of safety topics were set up inside the Community Center. Booths from the California Highway Patrol, Yuma Fire Department, the Quechan Casinos, Yuma Safety Kids, and the Yuma Community Food Bank allowed people to get out of the heat and learn new things.



El Dorado Broadcasting of Yuma not only promoted the Water Safety Day for two weeks before the event, their on-air star "Misty" also brought out the STAR 100.9 van to broadcast live during the day.