



QUECHAN NEWS

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To Tribe Members



Look For This Symbol

ETSKA NAV AH PAI THE NEWS CARRIER
QUECHAN NEWS

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Suit Filed To Stop Ocotillo Express

Members of the media from as far away as Bishop, California gathered at the steps of the Imperial County Courthouse last Tuesday, to hear officials from the Quechan and Viejas Indian Tribes announce their continued opposition to Pattern Energy's proposed "Ocotillo Express" wind power project in Ocotillo Valley, below the Jacumba Mountains in south western Imperial County.

Pattern Energy seeks to place 112 giant wind turbines on three sides of the desert community of Ocotillo, California. Many Tribal members from Yuma to San Diego have appeared at hearings over the past year, to testify to the tremendous cultural connection all area Tribes hold to the area in question. Despite pressure from residents who live in the area, the Imperial County Supervisors approved the project on April 25. Then on Friday, May 11, Secretary of the Interior, Ken Salazar signed his department's Record of Decision (ROD) approving the project.

Until the ROD was issued, the area where the turbines



Quechan Tribe President Keeny Escalanti, Sr. reads a prepared statement at the opening of a press conference near the west entrance of the Imperial County Courthouse on May 15th. The Quechan Tribal Council, members of the Viejas tribal government, environmentalists and residents of Ocotillo and Imperial County all had the same message, condemning the May 11th federal "fast track" decision to approve construction of Pattern Energy's Ocotillo Express Wind Power Project. QUECHAN NEWS Photo by William Isbell

will be built was classified by the BLM as a limited use area, due to the presence of cultural resources as well as sensitive plant and animal species.

Motorized vehicles could only travel on designated roads and it was forbidden to move rocks around. With the stroke of a pen, the area can now be bulldozed to dig foundations 25 to 35 feet deep and 70 to 80 feet in diameter to accom-

modate 112 wind turbines over 440 feet tall, as well as 42 miles of new roads.

At last Tuesday's press conference, Quechan Tribe President Keeny Escalanti, Sr. read a statement outlining the Tribe's opposition to projects, such as this one, that unnecessarily lead to the destruction of our cultural heritage. President Escalanti was joined by Viejas Tribal Councilman Greybuck

Espinoza and Viejas Vice President of Community and Public Relations in making clear that many Tribes in the area are, and will continue to be, opposed to this "green energy" project.

Backed by the Quechan Tribal Council and Ah Mut Pipa Foundation President Preston Arrowweed, President Escalanti revealed that a suit had been filed in the United

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Annual Senior Games: Serious Competition!



The Annual Quechan Senior games always features some competitions that are easier on older joints. On the left, that's Francis Kitso from Salt River being "spotted" by Carrie Talaswaima at the bean bag toss. The games filled the Quechan Community Center (second photo), the Community Center athletic field, and the Paradise Event Center (where the volleyball tournament was held) with a full day of exciting games. In the third photo, Deshane Taylor observes the basketball tossing technique of Val Francisco of Gila River's District 5, as others wait in line for their shot at the hoop. While back at the Paradise, Diane Moccassin tries out the paper crunch game. QUECHAN NEWS Photos by William Isbell

The 10th Annual Quechan Senior Games were held on May 17 and 18, as over 300 Tribal elders from tribes all over Arizona descended on Fort Yuma to prove their athletic abilities, rekindle old friendships and of course, win medals for themselves and their Tribes. The games filled both the Quechan Gym and the Paradise Event Center.

Tribes such as Gila River, the

Tohono O'odham, Salt River, CRIT, and Cocopah were all represented at the games. Elders competed in individual games such as the Chicken Throw, Basketball Throw, Paper Crunch, Stackers, and an Obstacle Course. Team trophies were up for grabs in Aerobic Dance Competition, Chair Volley Ball and the "Oompa Loompa" Ball.

This was serious, fun competi-

tion, with the antics some of the participants leading to good natured laughter at times!

Adaptive versions of many of the same games were included, though modified for those elders with limited range of motion.

These games are for seniors who refuse to throw in the towel and grow old. They are young at heart and maintain active lives. Year after year, they

look forward to participating in the Quechan Senior Games.

Friday's presentation of medals and trophies was a gala event with the American Legion Post 802 presenting the colors. The Strong Hearts Society singers and the respected Golding family's Roadrunner Singers provided traditional songs.

It was not long before participants were bird dancing! It was

a great event. Those who won the coveted awards returned home with a sense of pride not only for themselves, but for their Tribes as well.

Special thanks go out to the staffs of the Quechan Parks and Recreation, the Quechan Community Health Representatives and our Injury Prevention Program for their help and cooperation with our senior games.

NOTICE

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

Rémona Ghiotto
Rémona Ghiotto
Tribal Social Service Liaison

May 7, 2012
Date

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.

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QUECHAN NEWS
William Isbell

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

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

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



Culture & Heritage

Kwatsan Radio Promotes Culture at “For The People II”



Traditional dancing and singing were the focus of the event, with Tribal members like Monique Mahone-Alvarez (at left) coming out to take part. One of the first groups to sing an honor song to open the festivities was the Golding family (Charlie, Brian Sr., Vincent, Lyman, Roland, Willard, and Daniel), who were joined by guest singers (Kwatsan Radio's Kenrick Escalanti, Christian Lopez, and two singers from Salt River). Miss Quechan, Brittany Miguel, also offered a few words before joining in. QUECHAN NEWS Photos by William Isbell



Local ladies gather to dance to the gourd music and songs of Quechan elder Vernon Smith (above), who was joined by Vincent Tiger, Dan Murphy, and Larry Hammond, Jr.

Rayna Madero (at right) came out to sell freshly grilled burgers and hot dogs to keep hungry people fed! All of the money she made from the sales will go into her newly organized 501(c)(3) foundation, Native Cry, opening at the end of June.

The express purpose of the foundation will be suicide prevention.



Kwatsan Radio teamed up with the Ah Mut Pipa Foundation to sponsor their second *For The People* gathering since 2010 at the Evergreen Park “stomping grounds” on May 12.

“At the first event we hosted around 100-150 Quechan Locals throughout the night,” said Kwatsan Radio CEO Kenrick Escalanti, when speaking to the Quechan News a couple of days before. He said they expected even more to show up for this year’s event!

Escalanti and his staff had good reason to expect an even bigger turnout for “FTP II”, as they called it. Kwatsan Radio, an internet based news, music and information source for natives wanting to learn everything they can about the real issues on Tribal members minds, has grown

into a popular source for Facebook contacts and other forms of entertainment since they began streaming content at the beginning of July, 2010.

They’ve sponsored a few cultural and informational events since then, including the first *For The People* cultural event, and a couple of candidate’s forums prior to Tribal elections.

This month’s event helped to encourage the preservation and enjoyment of traditional singing and dancing. Since it lasted from 6:00 PM until midnight, delicious meals and handmade craft items were available at the vendors booths near the dancing ramada, to give everyone a chance to eat and visit during lulls in the activities. The entire event was held under a beautiful, warm and starlit night sky.



Leona Marquez offered all sorts of native jewelry items at her booth!

Kwatsan Radio’s next event will be a community screening of the film “More Than Frybread” sometime soon. See the ad on page 3 to learn more, and check out www.kwatsanradio.org for the time, date and location.

Suit Filed

Continued from Page 1

States District Court of Southern California the previous day, alleging that proceeding with the project would interfere with the Tribe's spiritual connection with Coyote Mountain as well as detrimentally impact the ability of the Quechan people to spiritually interact and appreciate the many sacred locations within the project area.

The suit asks for immediate declaratory and injunctive re-

lief through an order vacating the Ocotillo ROD just signed by Interior Secretary Salazar, as well as vacating such approvals or authorizations already granted allowing Pattern Energy a right-of-way to construct the wind turbines and power transmission lines through the area. The suit further requests reinstatement of Class L (Limited Use) classification to the area, which protects sensitive,

natural, scenic, ecological, and cultural resource values.

Before the Ocotillo Express wind energy project began, the area had been designated Class L by Congressional mandate in 1980, under the California Desert Conservation Area Plan.

"First, let me assure everyone that the Quechan Tribal Council is not opposed to renewable energy," said President Escalanti at the press conference.

"We believe that the fundamental values underlying renewable energy, such as developing a harmonious relationship

with the earth, are in agreement with our own traditional values. The Quechan People regard the Ocotillo Valley has a sacred landscape. In fact, the area is so rich in cultural resources that archaeologists refer to one site as the 'Mega-site'."

"Unfortunately, the BLM has not fully listened to our concerns regarding this project. A project that impacts so many of our cultural resources deserves to be studied more thoroughly. Instead, BLM chose to "fast-track" this project for the benefit of Pattern Energy.

"The BLM forced a fast application process upon us, they have refused to handle this application in an appropriate manner, and the BLM has not given us the opportunity to meet with Secretary Salazar."

"Pattern Energy is also at fault. Pattern has claimed to be a "good corporate citizen". And yet, they have lied to my staff and they haven't even met with our Tribal Council."

Speaking to the non-Indians present, he asked: "How would you feel if Pattern proposed

Continued on Page 5

Quechan Blue Route 5 To Begin June 1st

As reported in previously in the *Quechan News*, the Quechan Tribe received a Tribal Transportation Program grant earlier this year, and has since partnered with the Yuma County Intergovernmental Public Transportation Authority (YCIPTA) to deliver transit services to the reservation via Yuma County Area Transit (YCAT).

Now, after years of planning, public transit will be available to tribal members. A new Reservation Loop will soon go into service, connecting both the Fort Yuma Reservation and the Quechan Casino Resort to Yuma's YCAT fixed route transit system.

On April 23rd, the YCIPTA Board of Directors voted to accept the Quechan Tribe's petition for membership in the Transportation Authority. With the Board's acceptance, the Quechan Tribal Council passed a formal resolution on May 3rd, which also authorized the Tribe's membership in YCIPTA.

A public hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, May 29, 2012 to consider adding new Blue Route, Number 5. The purpose of the meeting is to take care of the last few formalities to final-

Quechan Shuttle Monday - Friday Route Schedule as Posted by YCAT in Early May:

Quechan Route #5 - Ft. Yuma Indian Reservation/Winterhaven, CA																	
Counter Clockwise Loop Route from Paradise Casino to Quechan Casino Resort to Paradise Casino																	
Ft. Yuma														Yuma, AZ		Ft. Yuma	
Leave Paradise Casino	Pipa Market	Old Subdivision	Quechan Community Center	San Pasqual School/One Stop	New Subdivision	Arnold Road and Baseline Road	Baseline Road and Ross Road	Ross Road and Picacho Road (S24)	Picacho Road and Arnold Road	McCoy Trailer Park	Winterhaven at Hub Liquor	Quechan Casino Resort	Winterhaven at Hub Liquor	1st Street and 2nd Avenue	1st Street and Gila Street	Indian Hill	Paradise Casino
7:15 AM	7:16 AM	7:16 AM	7:21 AM	7:23 AM	7:26 AM	7:28 AM	7:31 AM	7:33 AM	7:36 AM	7:39 AM	7:41 AM	7:50 AM	7:59 AM	8:02 AM	8:03 AM	8:05 AM	8:08 AM
8:15 AM	8:16 AM	8:16 AM	8:21 AM	8:23 AM	8:26 AM	8:28 AM	8:31 AM	8:33 AM	8:36 AM	8:39 AM	8:41 AM	8:50 AM	8:59 AM	9:02 AM	9:03 AM	9:05 AM	9:08 AM
9:15 AM	9:16 AM	9:16 AM	9:21 AM	9:23 AM	9:26 AM	9:28 AM	9:31 AM	9:33 AM	9:36 AM	9:39 AM	9:41 AM	9:50 AM	9:59 AM	10:02 AM	10:03 AM	10:05 AM	10:08 AM
10:15 AM	10:16 AM	10:16 AM	10:21 AM	10:23 AM	10:26 AM	10:28 AM	10:31 AM	10:33 AM	10:36 AM	10:39 AM	10:41 AM	10:50 AM	10:59 AM	11:02 AM	11:03 AM	11:05 AM	11:08 AM
11:15 AM	11:16 AM	11:16 AM	11:21 AM	11:23 AM	11:26 AM	11:28 AM	11:31 AM	11:33 AM	11:36 AM	11:39 AM	11:41 AM	11:50 AM	11:59 AM	12:02 PM	12:03 PM	12:05 PM	12:08 PM
12:15 PM	12:16 PM	12:16 PM	12:21 PM	12:23 PM	12:26 PM	12:28 PM	12:31 PM	12:33 PM	12:36 PM	12:39 PM	12:41 PM	12:50 PM	12:59 PM	1:02 PM	1:03 PM	1:05 PM	1:08 PM
1:15 PM	1:16 PM	1:16 PM	1:21 PM	1:23 PM	1:26 PM	1:28 PM	1:31 PM	1:33 PM	1:36 PM	1:39 PM	1:41 PM	1:50 PM	1:59 PM	2:02 PM	2:03 PM	2:05 PM	2:08 PM
2:15 PM	2:16 PM	2:16 PM	2:21 PM	2:23 PM	2:26 PM	2:28 PM	2:31 PM	2:33 PM	2:36 PM	2:39 PM	2:41 PM	2:50 PM	2:59 PM	3:02 PM	3:03 PM	3:05 PM	3:08 PM
3:15 PM	3:16 PM	3:16 PM	3:21 PM	3:23 PM	3:26 PM	3:28 PM	3:31 PM	3:33 PM	3:36 PM	3:39 PM	3:41 PM	3:50 PM	3:59 PM	4:02 PM	4:03 PM	4:05 PM	4:08 PM
4:15 PM	4:16 PM	4:16 PM	4:21 PM	4:23 PM	4:26 PM	4:28 PM	4:31 PM	4:33 PM	4:36 PM	4:39 PM	4:41 PM	4:50 PM	4:59 PM	5:02 PM	5:03 PM	5:05 PM	5:08 PM
5:15 PM	5:16 PM	5:16 PM	5:21 PM	5:23 PM	5:26 PM	5:28 PM	5:31 PM	5:33 PM	5:36 PM	5:39 PM	5:41 PM	5:50 PM	5:59 PM	6:02 PM	6:03 PM	6:05 PM	6:08 PM
6:15 PM	6:16 PM	6:16 PM	6:21 PM	6:23 PM	6:26 PM	6:28 PM	6:31 PM	6:33 PM	6:36 PM	6:39 PM	6:41 PM	6:50 PM	6:59 PM	7:02 PM	7:03 PM	7:05 PM	7:08 PM

ize the partnership.

Tribal members with an interest in using the new shuttle are encouraged to attend. The meeting will start at 1:30 PM at the Yuma County Department of Development Services, Aldrich Hall, at 2351 26th Street in Yuma. You can get to the meeting by using YCAT Red 1, Green 4, Purple 6 and Yellow 95 Routes or by making a reservation with the Greater Yuma Area Dial-A-Ride at 1(928)539-7076.

Once all the formalities have been taken care of, the new Blue Route 5 is anticipated to start just a little over a week from now, on Friday, June 1.

Bus fares are \$2.00 for One

Way; or \$1.00 Discount One Way. (The discount rate is for students with student identification aged 5-18, Seniors 65 years and older, persons with disabilities and Medicare Card holders.)

Day Passes are also available, at \$5.00 for a Basic Pass and \$2.50 for a Discount Pass. More fare options and bus schedules are available at www.ycipta.org, as well as at the Tribal Office, Quechan Social Services, the EDA office at the Community Center, the Housing Office, Pipa Market, Hub Liquor and the Quechan Senior Center.

With the new route on the Rez, QPD and YCAT ask that motorists be aware of the bus making stops on the roadways

along the route—particularly along S24 and within both subdivisions. If you should find yourself behind the bus, please be patient while it makes the stops. A typical stop should take no more than 30 seconds to one minute, depending on the number of riders and the equipment or condition of the riders.

Bus stops are located at intervals along each route and are identified by YCAT signs. The schedule shows 11 of the 37 bus stop times. Therefore, if you are at a bus stop which is not on the schedule, you will need to approximate the time it will stop there. For instance, if you are waiting at Arnold and Baseline Road, use the New Subdivision

bus stop time to approximate the bus' arrival at your stop. If in doubt, please call (928)783-2235. Do not try and wave the bus down if you are not at a designated bus stop!

Trip planning is encouraged. There is a tool on the YCAT website that will help you plan your trips. If you are unsure of any part of your trip, including your return trip, just ask the bus operator. The bus will make every effort to be on time, but occasionally the bus encounters delays. This may influence the schedule, and it is possible a bus could run a little late.

The Tribe and YCAT ask for your cooperation in the first weeks of operation of the bus.

Suit Filed

Continued from Page 4

a wind project on top of your family grave site, or on top of Arlington Cemetery? Would anyone endorse such a project? I doubt it! This is *our* history, written into the land, by *our* ancestors. And we will use all avenues open to us to preserve and protect this heritage.”

He also revealed that the Quechan Tribe recently collaborated with other area Tribal Governments to utilize a team of specially-trained forensic dogs in an attempt to locate unrecorded cremation sites in the proposed project area. In that one short and hasty survey, the search team found *six additional sites*. That means there are now *twelve* known cremation sites in the project area.

Continuing on that subject, he told the media the Quechan

Tribe has recently requested consultation with the BLM on protecting these sites, yet the BLM has failed to respond to those requests.

“We have every intention of protecting those sites,” he pointed out. “And the BLM and Pattern Energy will have much to atone for if any of those resting places ever gets disturbed in this process.”

When the El Centro news conference ended, the President and Tribal Council then drove to La Jolla, California. There, in front of Pattern Energy’s corporate headquarters, they presented the same information to San Diego media representatives.

This is far from over, and the Quechan Tribe vows to continue the fight, both in court, and in the court of public opinion.

Burros a Danger Along SR24

The Quechan Fish and Game Department says there has been an increase in incidents and close calls involving wild burros traveling along California State Route 24, between Bard and the turnoff to Senator Wash, incidents that could easily end in tragedy.

Burros living in the scrub along the banks of the Colorado River at the east edge of the reservation around the Laguna Dam and Riverfront Trailer Parks have gotten used to receiving handouts from both drivers traveling along the road, and from some of the residents living at the parks. As a result, the burros have lost their normal fear of both humans and traffic. Someday soon, someone is going to be zipping along the road and find a burro standing



Constant traffic along California S24 adds to the danger, especially when people pull over in areas with limited sightlines to pet and feed the feral animals, a violation of federal game laws. Q NEWS Photo: William Isbell

on the highway, and there is going to be an accident.

“These are some pretty dense, compact little animals,” says Quechan Fish and Game Officer Travis Owl. “If you hit one, you’re going to feel it.

They are solidly built, weigh 3 or 4 hundred pounds, and they *will* stop a car if you hit one.”

So, please: keep an eye out for them, and don’t get caught harrassing or feeding them. It’s a violation of the game laws!

Assassins Take “The Heat” in Basketball Tourney

Quechan Parks and Recreation put out a call in early April for men’s basketball teams to come out and try to win a \$1500 cash prize, in their winner-take-all Quechan Summer Slam Basketball Tournament.

Teams from as far away as San Diego and Tucson responded to the call, and nine teams gathered for a full-bore double elimination shootout beginning on the evening of Friday, May 11th. Of the four local teams, the Quechan Redstorm managed to fight their way all the way to the very end of the tournament, staying in the top “winners” bracket from their first game to the next-to-the last of 16 scheduled games.

Redstorm, led by Deshane Taylor, showed what they were made of from the very start, trouncing a team of Marines



The Arizona Assassins took on all comers to remain undefeated through out the entire two-day tournament. They fought the San Diego Heat to a standstill twice, to take a cash prize of \$1500! The Arizona Assassins are (left to right, from the front): Gabe and G.G. Sandoval; John Peña, Talib Uqdah, Justin Patané, Phil Harlow and Ron Katich; and in the back row are brothers Dave and Eric Cuen and Mark Price the 2nd. That’s Mark scoring against the San Diego Heat defense on the left. QUECHAN NEWS Photos by William Isbell

from the Miramar Naval Air Station 53 to 51! Local team H.O.B. later forfeited their first game on Saturday, which shortened the competition by an hour.

In the meantime, Redstorm battled it out against the Arizona Assassins, who’d lost to the San Diego Heat in last month’s “Go Hard or Go Home” Tournament,

a Tournament which was setup by the leader of Redstorm.

This time, the Assassins managed an unbroken string of victories, knocking Redstorm into

the lower bracket where they also took on the Heat. The Heat had just stomped the Marines in their third try at the cash, sending them back to Marimar with nothing to show for their efforts.

But, the Heat dominated the Redstorm in a hard fought game that ended 53 to 34.

The Heat then went into the final game to try once again to deny the Assassins their traveling money.

This time, though, the Assassins brought two new players to replace a couple who’d fallen out of the lineup since the end of April. Twin brothers Dave and Eric Cuen gave the Assassins just the edge they needed to remain undefeated throughout the entire five games they had to play to clinch the series, taking the Heat down with a final score of 66 to 59!

Two New QPD Officers Graduate from AWC Law Enforcement Academy

Two new reserve officers have been added to the active duty roll at the Quechan Tribal Police Department, after graduating from the Arizona Western College Law Enforcement Training Academy last week.

Family, friends and fellow officers gathered at the Schoening Center on the AWC campus on Friday evening, to watch as the two new reservists received their diplomas and their official certifications as Arizona law enforcement professionals.

Although he was born in Tucson, Arizona, 22 year old Donald Medart, Jr. has lived on the Fort Yuma Indian Reservation his entire life. A proud member of the Quechan Nation, Donald graduated from San Pasqual High School in 2008.

"I chose the Quechan Police Department because I want to serve my own community first," he says. "I have dedicated many years to my community, first in helping out in F.F.A. while at San Pasqual and volunteering at the Winterhaven Fire



Donald Medart

A Quechan Tribal member, Donald grew up on the reservation, graduating from San Pasqual High in 2008.

QUECHAN NEWS Photo by William Isbell

Department." While serving at the Fire Department, Donald noticed that it makes a difference when fellow tribal members see a familiar face when they are in need.

"I had the privilege of working with Mr. Jarrell Brown at the Fire Department and he became my mentor," Donald recalls. "He was always teaching me new things and never made me feel like I was just a 'kid'".

When Mr. Brown moved to Q.P.D., he started allowing Donald to participate in ride alongs with him. "When I was 16 he showed me how people on the reservation would calm down and feel more comfortable when they saw that he was someone they could relate to. I also want to be a familiar face

says that the training at the law enforcement training academy was tough at times but over all he found it a great experience.

"My favorite parts of the academy were the firearms and driving classes. Physically it was punishing and I admit that there were times when I felt exhausted, but once I overcame the initial "shock" of shaping up everything worked out fine."

He says he was familiar with some of the procedures though his previous ride along experience, and he felt he didn't run into too many academic problems there, either.

"I would like to thank my wife Ariel Marquez, my son Elan and my daughter Annalyse for supporting me through the academy, always being there

helping those in need and becoming a positive role model for the people in my community."

for me, adjusting their schedules around mine and being the best family that anyone could ask for. I would also like to thank my mother Pamela Manchatta for helping me get into the academy and always giving me the best advice when I needed it. I would like to thank Jarrell Brown for sparking my interest in law enforcement. I also need to thank the QPD for all of the support and help, and for the way all of their Officers answered any and all of my questions, giving me their opinions on things so I could learn to "think like a cop".

Joshua Cordova

The brother of QPD Officer Francisco Cordova, Joshua graduated from Cibola High in 2008.

QPD Photo by Marco Veloz



Joshua says his experience at the academy was a little more difficult from his point-of-view, since he had a full

Our second new QPD Officer, Joshua Cordova was born and raised here in Yuma, Arizona, graduating from Cibola High School, also in 2008.

time job and had to find the time to study for the mandatory tests every Thursday.

There were some things about the schooling, though, that he really looked forward to, despite the punishing schedule.

"The most exciting part of the Academy was the driving course," he says. "I got to do stuff in a vehicle that I had never done before!"

Now that he has completed the course and is ready to begin his career as a Reserve Officer for the Quechan Police Department, there are some people he'd also like to acknowledge.

"I would like to thank the QPD for their sponsorship and support. I look forward to starting my training as a QPD officer. I would also like to thank my brother, Francisco J. Cordova, and my wife Kimberly Cordova, for all the help and support they provided me with during the academy."

Quechan Casinos Team Up For Water Safety Splash Day

"Hear the Silence, Save a Life" is a new water safety campaign organized by the Quechan Casino Resort and Paradise Casino, aimed at making a difference through lowering the number of child related drowning incidents in both Yuma and the Imperial Valley.

According to Assistant Marketing Director, Veronica Menta, "Drowning is a near silent event and the key to our program "Hear the Silence, Save a Life" is noise. When children are playing in a pool, they can be loud – laughing and splashing – but when you notice si-

lence, this should be an immediate trigger that something is wrong."

Veronica notes that nothing can replace the watchful supervision of children in a pool, but considering the fact that most drowning deaths occur in five minutes or less, this program adds another tool in the prevention of drowning.

Miss Menta added that "drowning is the leading cause of death for children under the age of five in Arizona, Florida and California. It is often referred to as the "silent killer" because often victims will not

cry out for help and there is very little splashing".

The Quechan Casino Resort and Paradise Casino have teamed up with El Dorado Broadcasters (home of Star 100.9FM, KTTI 95.1FM and KBLU AM560) to proudly sponsor this year's *Water Safety Splash Day* event on Saturday, June 9, 2012 at the Quechan Community Center and Rainbow Pool.

Community members are encouraged to bring the kids and enjoy this fun, educational pool party which will include great food and prizes for all that attend, free of charge!

There will be many local companies present offering innovative, fun products and services to help you and the children you love have fun and stay safe during our long, hot summer months!

So, come out, enjoy a fun day at the Rainbow Pool and learn new ways to save a life!

Save the date!

Water Safety Splash Day will take place on Saturday, June 9, 2012 from 10 AM to 2 PM. at the Quechan Community Center and Rainbow Pool at 604 Picacho Road in Winterhaven. Admission is FREE!

6th Grader Is Rotary Student of the Month!



Sky Alvarez

Quechan Tribal member Sky Alvarez has been named the Rotary International Student of the Month at the Gadsden Elementary School, in Gadsden, Arizona.

The daughter of Randall Moody and the late Sonia Marie Hernandez, Sky currently lives with Mr. Moody and her stepmother, Raquel Dominguez.

“Sky is among the top five students in 6th grade,” says her teacher, Miguel Chavez. “It is my pleasure to have had Sky in my classroom this year. She is well behaved, always listens, and more importantly, she is always academically ready for any new task.”

Mr. Ureña, Gadsden Elementary School Principal, was the person who selected her for the honor. “As the principal of Gadsden Elementary School, it is an honor to recognize a student such as Sky,” he writes.

“I selected Sky because of her leadership skills, her dedication to school and her continuous commitment to doing what is always right. She is a role model who is caring, mature and an overall outstanding citizen. She has received medals during our AIMs assemblies for her achievements in reading,

math and writing.” He also says he is sure Sky will accomplish all of her goals because of her hard work and the dedication she shows to her education.

The Media Specialist Josie Labristre at Gadsden Elementary also tells the *Quechan News* that she has found Sky to be kind, considerate, witty and wise beyond her years.

“I have had the pleasure of knowing this delightful young lady for the past two years, she says. “She has a calm, quiet way about her that has a profound effect on those who are fortunate enough to meet her. As the school’s librarian, I have seen Sky interact with her classmates as well as her teachers. She is an enthusiastic participant in the lessons being presented and encourages others to do the same. She is a very proud member of the Quechan tribe and strives to increase her knowledge of her heritage.”

An avid reader who enjoys discussing literature, Sky is also a member of the after school *Patriots Club*. She proved to be a very hard worker during their fund raising activities this year.

As the Rotary student “of the month” for the sixth grade at Gadsden Elementary, Sky Alvarez will actually represent the school’s sixth grade for the *entire* school year. She was presented with a framed certificate at a luncheon held at the César Chavez Cultural Center in San Luis, Arizona on May 17th.

Students and their families were invited to the luncheon, which was sponsored by Arizona Public Service. Live music for the assembly was provided by the Gadsden Elementary and High School Districts.

Election Board Alternate Sworn In



Priscilla Prettybird was sworn in as the alternate member of the Quechan Election Board at the Thursday, May 17th regular board meeting of the Quechan Tribal Council. Administering the oath (with her back to the camera) was Quechan Tribal Court Judge Claudette White.

Miss Prettybird replaced Dannelle O’Neil, who resigned from the Election Board on February 24th. The first item on the Board’s agenda will be to act on a Tribal member’s accepted petition, seeking the recall of President Keeny Escalanti, Sr.

BEACH CITIES MARATHONS COMPLETED!

Tribal members Mark Escalanti and Marco Guzman completed the final race in the year long Beach Cities Challenge on May 5th, 2012.

The two were joined by Mark’s brother in law (and first time marathoner) Aaron Fifer in their successful effort to conquer the Orange County Marathon and collect their final race medal, along with the much coveted California Beach Cities Challenge “Surf Board” medal, awarded only to those who complete all 3 marathons along the Pacific Coast in one year.

“Marco and I are proud to have taken on the challenge and getting to run in the different half marathons,” says Mark. “Aaron has been hearing about all the different runs that I have been on over the past year and I got him to train and try out for his first half marathon at Orange County. He had a great time and really liked the feeling of motivation you get from all the runners and spectators who take part in such a big event!”

“Our journey to Orange County got off to a rough start starting with a flat tire, then a



Quechan tribal members Mark Escalanti and Marco Guzman show off the medals they received upon successful completion of their third and final half-marathon in the Beach Cities Challenge. Loaned Photos

rough night of sleep, probably due to nerves. In the morning we found out that we were among about 18,000 runners who’d signed up to compete!”

“This run was really nice, great views of the coast and cliffs along with the nice running trails. When we ran through the neighborhoods, the supporters out there were great and the signs were motivating.”

Both Mark and Marco would like to thank everyone who

supported them over the past year, and continue to support their families, friends and community. They also say thank you to Charles Montague and Keeny Escalanti, Jr. at the Paradise Casino and the Quechan Casino Resort.

“The Casinos always give us great support and we like to wear their logos on our shirts, to let everyone along the coast know who we are and where we come from!” Mark says.

QUECHAN MEMBER HOPES TO MAKE A LIVING IN ART



Teresa Brown is seen here at work on a new project, a portrait of John Lennon and Yoko Ono. The Beatles are a favorite subject for her art. Teresa hopes to have some of her work on sale at the Paradise Casino's Fourth of July festivities. QUECHAN NEWS Photo by William Isbell

Teresa Brown's family has always thought of her as a very shy person, who sort of fades into the background and only offers her opinion when spoken to directly. She seemed to be the kind of girl who would just flow through life, never making waves, and leaving only the slightest of impressions on those who had known her. Kind, yes, but not real demonstrative.

But her family was in for a surprise when they found a portfolio of drawings she'd been working on for months.

"We were surprised by what we discovered," says her Aunt Mary Brown. "This young lady can draw!"

She draws so well, in fact, she walked away with two Third Place Ribbons the very first time she displayed some of her work at the Yuma County Fair!

"The family encouraged her to enter her artwork, but she never did. Part of her shyness," says Mary. "This year, she got her paperwork in early and entered her artwork. She entered a portrait of her aunt and uncle

and of course, the Beatles."

"She's a huge fan of the Beatles, as young as she is!" explains Aunt Mary. "She has many drawings of the Beatles."

Since family had hoped she might come home with an "honorable mention", they were surprised and overjoyed when she came home with two third place ribbons! "Regardless that it was third place, we were so proud of her that she decided to finally share and expose her hidden talent," recalls her proud family booster. "She hopes one day to showcase all of her work to the public."

That's right. With the success of her first public exposure, Teresa has realized that other people, not just those in her family, find value in her work. So Teresa plans to set up a table at this year's July Third party at the Paradise Casino, and test the waters by offering some of her art for sale.

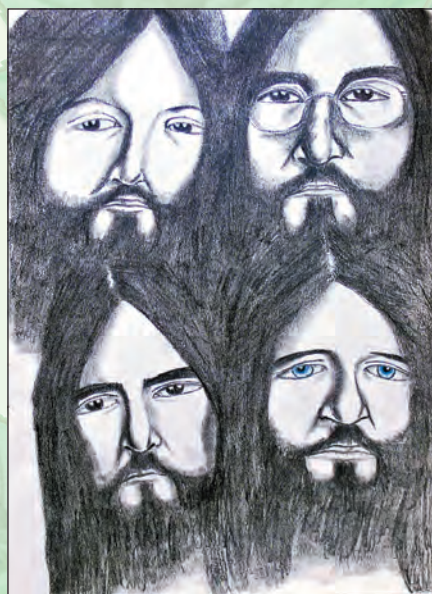
"Teresa had always thought of it as just a hobby, something she dabbled with in her spare time," Aunt Mary con-

tinues. "Until the family noticed the drawings she kept in a portfolio."

Mary Brown often speaks for Teresa when they are together in public, or meeting new people. Teresa is very shy, and her much more gregarious aunt is ready to sing her praises and explain her talent.

"What is unique about her drawings is that she uses charcoal for most of her artwork, though sometimes she uses pencils. She does not trace nor copy her work, but it's all done from memory. She is able to take a mental picture of the object and then begins her drawing," summing up what she finds most distinct, Aunt Mary says, "She has a certain unique style when it comes to faces."

"One of the first artworks she drew that I got to see was a face portrait of her grandmother Shirley Kelly, whom she loves dearly," her aunt recalls. "That impressed me so much, because it was in her own style, but you could still see exactly who it is!"



Here are just a few of Teresa's most recent works. At left is a pencil portrait of *The Beatles*, one of her favorite bands, and a favorite subject for her art. Next to the fab four is a pencil portrait of two of her neices, *Patrice and Leena*. The portrait also features one her signature motifs, the addition of full color vegetation alongside or behind the main subject, which is presented in stark black and white tones. In this example, the bright yellow flowers are painted in acrylics. Next to the neices is a framed portrait entitled, *Uncle Jerrell and Auntie Mary*, one of two works which earned Teresa a ribbon at the 2012 Yuma County Fair. Finally, there is the portrait of her *Grandma*, Shirley Kelly, which also features full color flowers and leaves, this time rendered in colored pencil. The portrait of *Grandma*, really impressed Theresa's aunt, Mary Brown!