

QUECHAN NEWS

In This Issue:

Parks & Rec. Schedule
Page 2

Pow Wow Packs 'em In
Page 3

Election Board Resigns,
Council Statement
Page 4

Lunch 'N' Learn
Page 5

Pow Wow Dance
Cotests Results
Page 6

Marathon Runner
Page 7

Pow Wow Celebration
Back Page

Items Of Special Interest To Tribe Members



Look For This Symbol

QUECHAN NEWS

is published by

The Quechan Indian Tribe

350 Picacho Road

Winterhaven, Ca. 92283

Phone: (760)572-3912

Email: w.isbell@quechantribe.com

Brittany Miguel Is New Miss Quechan

Last October's Indian Days Pageant ended with the Coronation of Miss Angeline Levy as the "royal" representative of the Quechan Indian Tribe, when she was awarded the title of Miss Quechan Nation.

Since then, Angeline has decided to resign the position, and has relinquished the crown for personal reasons.

With Angeline's resignation, Miss Brittany Miguel was asked to step in and take over the awesome responsibility of representing her people as Miss Quechan.

She accepted the challenge, and was summoned to Indian Hill on Monday, February 27th, to accept her investiture.

Held in the Tribal Council Chamber at noon, the ceremony attracted a good sized crowd, filling the Council Chamber with witnesses. Tribal Elder Lucinda Polk, who also serves as *Shii Yii* for the Strong Hearts Native Society, was present, along with the current Miss Native San Pasqual, Gina Rivera. Together, they shared the honor of placing the crown and sash



Vincent Tiger joins Quechan elder Vernon Smith in singing a traditional song for the new Miss Quechan Nation of 2012, Brittany Miguel (center). Brittany was crowned on February 27th. QUECHAN NEWS Photos by William Isbell

on the new Miss Quechan.

The ceremony began with a few words from Tribal President Keeny Escalanti, Sr., who introduced the Strong Hearts' *Shii Yii*, and asked her to provide a traditional blessing for the new Tribal Princess' regalia before proceeding with the coronation. Miss Polk spoke her blessing in both English and *Kwat'san*, and then, joined by the elementary and middle school Princesses, she and Gina Rivera presented Brittany with her crown and

sash of office.

Upon accepting the crown, Brittany said "I'd like to thank all of you for coming here today. It's a great honor to be able to represent the *Kwat'san* people, and I promise to uphold a positive image for the younger generation, especially for these three young ladies behind me. Thank you."

Speaking soon after, President Escalanti told her "I know you'll do your best to represent the Tribe in a positive manner, and hopefully the young ladies

behind you will be able to follow along behind you in this long established tradition of ours. I welcome you as Miss Quechan."

Elder Vernon Smith, accompanied by Vincent Tiger, then gave her honor with three traditional songs. Mr. Smith also offered his own words of encouragement, as well as reminding all of the assembled Native Royalty of their responsibilities as public representatives of the *Kwat'san Pipa*.

Continued on Page 2

New Miss Quechan

Continued from Page 1



Lucinda Polk (back to camera) and Miss San Pasqual High, Gina Rivera performed in the coronation. QUECHAN NEWS Photos by William Isbell

The Strong Hearts singers also stepped forward to honor her with songs, and a large number of the ladies present also joined her in the celebratory dances.

Britanny grew up on the Quechan reservation, and is a recent graduate of San Pasqual High, where she served as the Native Princess of the Strong Heart Society for the 2010/2011 school year.

Enrolled as a Quechan Tribal member, she also carries Toho-

no O'dham blood. Her mother is Patricia Miguel, and her grandparents are the late Addison Miguel, Jr. and Ernestine Garcia.

She comes from a very traditional family, with many relatives fluent in both the *Kwat'san* language and traditional songs. She enjoys listening to the elders and learning *Kwat'san* history, as well as dancing to the Pipa songs. One of her life's goals, she says, is to continue with her education.



Once she was in office, Britanny performed a number of traditional dances, joined by the Native Princesses from the local schools.

Ericka Casteñeda **PINNACLE**
Customer Claims Representative for: CLAIMS MANAGEMENT, INC.

Will Be On Site at the Quechan Tribe Administration Office:

Friday, March 16
From 1:00 PM until 4:00 PM

To provide enrollment assistance and answer your health insurance questions in person.



Parks & Rec. Releases Registration Schedule

Willis Hawkins at Quechan Parks and Recreation has provided the *Quechan News* with the registration schedule and starting dates for many of the athletic competitions to be held at the Community Center over the coming year.

Since registration has ended for both Co-Ed Grasshopper Basketball and the Co-Ed Jr. High Flag Football Leagues, and the games for both of those competitions kicked off on February 6th, those two are the only sports not listed on the schedules below.

Mr. Hawkins says all of the dates below should be regarded as tentative for now, however, as things could change depending on the number of people who sign up, as well as other variables.

Some of the adult tournaments, such as the Men's Basketball Open (currently scheduled to begin in May) and the Adult Co-Ed Volleyball League (which should start April 3rd) require a fee for entry. For full information on those fees, and to receive the very latest information on the current schedules, be sure to contact the Quechan Parks and Recreation office as the dates (and sports) you are interested in draw closer.

REGISTRATION DATES	STARTING DATES	SPORTS ACTIVITIES
Jan. 30 - Feb. 24, 2012	Mar. 3, 2012	Adult Horseshoe League
Feb. 1 - Mar. 3, 2012	Mar. 3, 2012	Co-ed Pee Wee Basketball (K - 2nd grade)
Feb. 13 - Mar. 13, 2012	Mar. 19, 2012	Men's Basketball League
Aug. 1, 2011 - Mar. 26, 2012	Mar. 26, 2012	*Yuma Little League (Ages 4 - 16 boys & Girls)
Feb. 20 - Mar. 23, 2012	Apr. 3, 2012	Adult Co-ed Volleyball League
Feb. 6 - Apr. 6, 2012	Apr. 13 - 14, 2012	Spring Jam Co-ed Jr. High Basketball Tournament
Feb. 20 - Apr. 13, 2012	Apr. 20 - 21, 2012	Spring Shootout Co-ed High School Basketball Tournament
Mar. 5 - May 4, 2012	May. 11 - 12, 2012	Men's Open Basketball Tournament
Apr. 2 - May 25, 2012	May. 28, 2012	Co-ed Jr. High Basketball League (6th, 7th & 8th grade)
Apr. 2 - May 25, 2012	May. 28, 2012	Co-ed High School Basketball League (9th - 12th grade)
May 14 - Jun. 19, 2012	Jun. 25, 2012	Co-ed Grasshopper Ultimate Frisbee League (3rd, 4th & 5th grade)
May 14 - Jun. 19, 2012	Jun. 25, 2012	Co-ed Jr. High Ultimate Frisbee League (6th, 7th & 8th grade)
May 14 - Jul. 6, 2012	Jul. 13 - 14, 2012	8-10 Year old Co-ed Basketball tournament
Jul. 2 - Aug. 3, 2012	Aug. 6, 2012	Men's Basketball League
Jul. 2 - Aug. 31, 2012	Sept. 7 - 8, 2012	Women's Basketball Tournament
Aug. 6 - Sept. 11, 2012	Sept. 17, 2012	Co-ed Grasshopper Flag Football League (3rd, 4th & 5th grade)
Aug. 6 - Sept. 11, 2012	Sept. 17, 2012	Co-ed Jr. High Volleyball League (6th, 7th & 8th grade)
Aug. 6 - Oct. 5, 2012	Oct. 12 - 13, 2012	Over the NDN Hill 45+ Basketball Tournament
Sept. 3 - Oct. 5, 2012	Oct. 15, 2012	Adult Co-ed Softball League
Sept. 17 - Oct. 16, 2012	Oct. 22, 2012	Co-ed Grasshopper Soccer (3rd, 4th & 5th grade)
Sept. 17 - Oct. 16, 2012	Oct. 22, 2012	Co-ed Jr. High Soccer (6th, 7th & 8th grade)

For the latest information, call
QUECHAN PARKS & RECREATION: (760) 572-1242

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. I'm looking forward to hearing from you!



Culture & Heritage

Pow Wow Brings Out The Winter Visitors!



Ashkii-chee Kadenehii of the Dineh Tribe whoops loudly as he competes in the Teen Boys Traditional Dance on Saturday, March 3.

QUECHAN NEWS Photo by William Isbell

Despite the local media's push to publicize another event in Yuma over the opening weekend in March, the Strong Hearts Native Society Pow Wow at the San Pasqual Valley High School was able to bring in a rather large crowd of both local guests and winter visitors.

And even with the current economic climate, there were also a good number of perennial vendors who also came to offer their arts and crafts, pottery, jewelry and other hard-to-get items to the buying public . . . not to mention all of the food booths selling everything from Indian fry bread to ice cream, burgers and drinks! (You've got to stay hydrated, if you're going to dance all day!)

The whole show got started on a chilly, windy Friday evening, with the traditional ribbon dress and gourd singing contests for the local talent. A

special contest this year, sponsored by Quechan elder Lucinda Polk and her family, gave local singers the chance to demonstrate their knowledge and abilities in singing both *Pipa* and *Ii Sha*. With *Pipa* songs very popular right now, six men stepped up to try for three cash prizes (ranging from \$100 to \$300) in that category, while only two men, Floyd Townsend, Jr. and Larry Hammond sang *Ii Sha*.

Although *Ii Sha* songs have somewhat "faded into the background" in recent years, the Polk family hopes that interest in those songs can be reawakened and their preservation encouraged through similar contests in the future. Let's hope more people feel the same way!

Lucinda Polk (who is this year's *Ii Sha* for the Strong Hearts Native Society) was herself the center of attention just before the Saturday dance con-

tests got underway, when she was honored by the assembled drum groups and given an honor song. Ms. Polk was joined by dozens of her family members as she walked around the perimeter of the Pow Wow arena as the drums played on.

Once the entourage returned to the starting point at the announcers booth, Ms. Polk was assisted by many of her younger family members, as she handed out Pendleton blankets and other gifts to many of the Pow Wow's honored staff, special guests, and Native Royalty in attendance.

Soon after, the dance contests began, with the Quechan Tribe providing a Bird Dance demonstration during the Saturday dinner break. Additional special dance contests were sponsored by the high school and elementary Native Princesses, Gina Rivera and Amaya Koteen.

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.

Tribal Council Statement on Election Petitions

March 2, 2012

To The Quechan Tribal Membership:

On February 10, 2012, the Tribal Council received a valid Petition requesting a Special Meeting of the Council pursuant to Article II, Section 2 of the By Laws of the Quechan Tribe.

In response to the Petition the Tribal Council scheduled a Special Meeting for February 15, 2012, beginning at 6:00 PM.

At the meeting, the petitioner requested that the Tribal Council reopen and reconsider its prior decision to accept the Petition for Recall of President Escalanti, Sr. and to void the

Recall Election called by the Council for March 7, 2012.

After due consideration of the arguments for and against such action, a Council motion was made to declare the Recall Petition invalid for failure to comply with the requirements of the Quechan Constitution and to vacate the Recall Election scheduled for March 7, 2012. The motion was seconded and the Council voted 3 for and 0 against the motion, with two recusals.

The petition contained the following discrepancies:

- Wrong petition form according to R-70-08;
- Clear and specific charges

not stated in accordance to R-70-08;

- Citing Election Ordinance QT-3-74, Section II-A-5, (conviction of misdemeanor within the last year);

- Charges were not listed on each signature page in accordance with R-70-08;

- Referencing QT-2-75 in petition which was rescinded in accordance with R-70-08;

- The statement of charges had the effect of placing President Escalanti on immediate suspension pending the outcome of the recall election, which is in violation of QT-1-78 Section 2-A, (request for suspension of a Tribal Council

officer or member shall be made by Council Members only);

- Quechan Constitution Article VI, Section 3 does not allow a petition to request the suspension of a Councilmember pending a Recall Election;

The tribal membership retains the right to file a new recall petition under Article VI of the Quechan Constitution. If a new Petition is filed, the Tribal Council will determine whether the new petition meets the Constitutional requirements and, if so, will schedule an election as provided for in the Quechan Constitution.

The Tribal Council's action taken at the February 15 meet-

ing demonstrates the Council's commitment to the rule of law and to upholding the Quechan Constitution.

The Tribal Council will continue to protect the civil rights of all Quechan members, including the right to equal protection under the law.

The conduct of the February 15 public meeting reflects this Council's support of the principle of direct democracy open to all Quechan members, which is a fundamental principle of Quechan constitutional law.

Sincerely,

Quechan Tribal Council

Quechan Election Board Releases Statement, Resigns

For the second time in the last few months, former Quechan Tribal Council member Cryselle Uribe has circulated a petition calling for the recall of the current Quechan Tribe President, Keeny Escalanti, Sr. Many of those familiar feel the November petition was properly rejected, as the current Council had been in office less than five months at that time. The Quechan Tribal Constitution (Art. VI — Sec. 3) requires six months to pass after an election before any recall efforts may be attempted.

The second petition, turned in at the end of January, was also rejected by the Quechan Tribal Council, due to the wrong forms being used by the petitioner.

After learning that the Council had rejected the second petition, the entire Election Board resigned as a group on Friday, February 24th. Here is the statement they released, explaining their actions:

To: The General Membership

of the Quechan Indian Tribe:

This letter is intended to clarify the position of the Election Board with regard to the recent events related to the "Recall Election" that was set for March 07, 2012.

The Tribal Council met on February 15, 2012 and reconsidered their previous action and decision of January 31, 2012, whereby they had formally accepted a recall petition filed by an enrolled Quechan Tribal member that was requesting that the Quechan Tribal President, Mr. Keeny Escalanti be recalled, along with other additional requests.

The original decision the Tribal Council made on January 31, 2012 was to accept the petition and set the matter for recall. This was the purpose of the continuation of the Election Board's duties and charge. On February 15, 2012, the Quechan Tribal Council met at a special meeting to "reconsider" their

previous decision. The end result was a majority vote of the Quechan Tribal Council Members deciding to reject the "Recall Petition" that had previously been accepted by them. The reasons related to the Quechan Tribal Council reconsidering have not been formally shared with the Election Board, and to remain truly impartial the Election Board takes no position as to the reasons for reconsideration. The decision to reconsider is a function of the Quechan Tribal Council, not the Election Board.

Because the Election Board had not been formally advised in writing of the Quechan Tribal Council's decision to reject the "Recall Petition", we continued with our regular duties, which was to hold the "Recall Election" on March 07, 2012. As the appointed Election Board, it was our responsibility to continue with the "Recall Election" based on the fact that we were

never formally advised of the Quechan Tribal Council's final decision.

The Election Board received a letter from the Quechan Tribal Council Vice President on February 22, 2012, formally advising the Election Board that they (Council) had *reconsidered their decision and therefore please cease all election activities and to complete all necessary closeout procedures and documentation as required. Finally, we as appointed members of the board were to return to our regular employment on Monday, February 27, 2012.*

In an effort to provide information to the general membership as well as be a responsible and accountable Election Board, the Election Board has formally requested a meeting with the Quechan Tribal Council because questions and concerns existed regarding the duties of the Election Board, but we were not granted the meet-

ing.

Several concerns exist for the Election Board, primarily dealing with the collateral consequences that were created by the Quechan Tribal Council's decision to reconsider the "recall Petition" that we were originally provided on February 15, 2012. The collateral consequence that was created for the Election Board is this: without a "Recall Petition" for the Election Board to convene on and set for election, we have no further charge. As a responsible Election Board, it is imperative that we proceed with the full sanction of the Quechan Tribal Council in order for any of our actions to be valid and binding. We need to be a recognized body, with specific authorities and responsibilities. However, as of 5:00 PM, February 24, 2012, the Quechan Election Board will be formally released by the Quechan Tribal Council,

Continued on next page

Election Board Releases Statement

Continued from Page 6

decision made on February 22, 2012.

Without the formal recognition of the Quechan Tribal Council as appointees to the Quechan Election Board, we would simply be moving forward without any legal authority by our governmental body. We do not intend to waste any tribal resources on an election that will presumably not be recognized by the Quechan Tribal Council.

In closing, it is our hope as an Election Board that the information contained in this letter helps shed some light on

recent events. The particulars of the Quechan Tribal Council's decisions must be sought directly from them, as the discussion and rationale for their "reconsideration" has not been formally shared with the Election Board, nor was a meeting granted to us. We had hoped to provide additional information to the General Membership before we lacked legal recognition or were released, but again, to date, we have not been granted a meeting.

It is our intent to be transparent, accountable and responsible as we recognize the impor-

tance of our charges and roles as appointed members of the Quechan Election Board, and therefore offer this letter to the Quechan General Membership.

Respectfully,

Dorinda Iron Cloud

Judge

Kermit Olson

Marshal

Melanie C. Bard-McNeely

Clerk I

Nichole Montague

Clerk II

Danelle O'Neal

Alternate

Lunch and Learn at the Q Wednesday, March 21st

The Pipa Event Center will be hosting a FREE seminar on Wednesday, March 21st from 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM for those suffering from arthritis and/or joint pain.

The seminar, which could be the first in a series of "Lunch N' Learn at the Quechan Casino" events, will be limited to only the first 50 participants.

Al Dauber, Director of Sales & Catering at the Quechan Casino Resort tells the *Quechan News* that the group sponsoring this event, STRYKER® Orthopaedics, has put together a sit-down menu with a choice of either a Grilled Chicken Sandwich or Chicken Caesar Wrap with iced tea or coffee for everyone who attends.

Local orthopaedic surgeon, Dr. Rodney Henderson, MD, will be discussing arthritis of the hip and knee and surgical and non-surgical treatment options for joint pain.

Performing over 3,000 surgeries during the last twelve years, Dr. Henderson is a Board Certified Orthopedic Surgeon with special interest in sports medicine, joint replacement,



Orthopaedic surgeon Dr. Rodney Henderson, M.D. will be hosting a free joint pain luncheon at the Pipa Event Center next Wednesday beginning at 11:30 AM.

and arthroscopy.

So, come and enjoy a complimentary lunch, with the chance to win a raffle prize, and the opportunity to learn more about managing your arthritis pain at this FREE seminar on Wednesday, March 21st from 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM at the Pipa Event Center, Room B.

Space is limited, so reservations are required. Please call and make your reservations at: 1-888-STRYKER (787-9537) or go to www.aboutstryker.com/seminars.

Come on in and check out THE QUECHAN SENIOR CENTER GIFT SHOP!

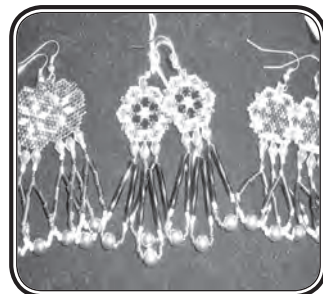


And see authentic
QUECHAN bead work
and traditional regalia.
All for a GREAT price!!
Open from 8 AM to 5 PM
MONDAY thru FRIDAY



Located at the Quechan Senior Center, 472 Quechan Road
in Winterhaven, CA, just north of the Paradise Casino.

Look for our sign, you can't miss it!



And for you local natives ...
If you don't feel like sewing
for an upcoming event, we
have traditional dresses
and ribbon shirts of all sizes!



Have any questions?
Feel free to call!

1(760)572-0748

Quechan News Issue 4: Cancelled Due to Illness

To all the readers of the *Quechan News*: You haven't MISSED an Issue of the *Etska Nava Ah Pai*; Issue 4 didn't get lost in the mail, you weren't left off the mailing list, and I didn't forget to drop off the usual number of copies at your office. The pall of smoke which descended over the Quechan Reservation in early February interfered with my recovery from an already existing lung infection, keeping me out on sick leave for most of the month of February, as my Doctors experimented with a variety of treatments to get me back to full strength.

I have now recovered, and I am now back on schedule with this Issue. Thanks to everyone who expressed their concern!

William Isbell - Quechan Newsletter Coordinator

STRONG HEARTS POW WOW WINNERS

Here are the dance contest winners from the 32nd Annual Strong Hearts Spring Pow Wow from March 2nd to the 4th.

SPOTLIGHT SPECIAL DANCES

- Men**
1st: Victor Bob
- Boys Fancy Dance**
1st: Rae Steven Scott
2nd: Kenneth Shirley
3rd: Mason Bichitty

- GOLDEN AGE**
- Men**
1st: Lewis Cozad
2nd: Norman Largo
3rd: Allemroy Pay-Quin
4th: Ronnie Ahboah

- Women**
1st: Sharon Brokeshoulder
2nd: Virgie Tsosie
3rd: Mabel Cozad
4th: Priscilla Schrock

- MEN’S SOUTHERN STRAIGHT**
1st: Lewis Perkins
2nd: Leonard Kochiny
3rd: Jeremy Bear
4th: Chris Cable

- MEN’S NORTHERN/ SOUTHERN FANCY**
1st: Spike Draper
2nd: Amos Yazzie
3rd: Cory LeClaire
4th: Herbert Gray

- MEN’S GRASS DANCE**
1st: Clifton Goodwill
2nd: Randy Brokeshoulder
3rd: Darrel Bolton
4th: Myron Singer

- MEN’S NORTHERN TRADITIONAL**
1st: M.J. Bill Bear
2nd: Kenny Donaghey
3rd: Nathan Largo
4th: Bruce LeClaire

- WOMEN’S FANCY DRESS**
1st: Carol Melting Tallow
2nd: Maureen Perkins
3rd: Igniwm White
4th: Cheyennena Bedonie

- WOMEN’S CLOTH DRESS**
1st: Leah MCGurk-Brown
2nd: J'shen Tsosie
3rd: Maurissa Two Two
4th: Semia Lonetree

- WOMEN’S BUCKSKIN DRESS**
1st: Danita Goodwill
2nd: Dori Polk
3rd: Raetawa Legne Yazzie
4th: Jacinta Tsosie

- WOMEN’S JINGLE DRESS**
1st: Whitney White Eyes
2nd: Bria Gray
3rd: Shandin Yellow Horse

- TEEN GIRLS’ BUCKSKIN/CLOTH**
1st: Leilani Bull Bear
2nd: Audrey Brokeshoulder
3rd: Kendi Eagle Star
4th: Simone Lopez

- TEEN GIRLS’ FANCY SHAWL/JINGLE**
1st: Tia Gray
2nd: LeAnn Jones
3rd: Rae Lynn Bichitty
4th: Sunshine Arcoren

- TEEN BOYS’ TRAD./STRAIGHT**
1st: Brand White Eyes
2nd: Raymond Scott, Jr.
3rd: Ashkii-chee Kadenehii

- TEEN BOYS’ FANCY/GRASS**
1st: Darwin Charley
2nd: Shugo Yellowhorse
3rd: Michael Jiminez

- JUNIOR GIRLS’ BUCKSKIN/CLOTH**
1st: Kita Burson
2nd: Andrea Walks Out
3rd: Marie Eagle Star

- JUNIOR GIRLS’ FANCY SHAWL/JINGLE**
1st: Jazz Arcoren
2nd: Charlize Arcovern
3rd: Bray Lynn James
4th: Dorice Burson

- JUNIOR BOYS’ TRAD./STRAIGHT**
1st: Keileh Many Goats
2nd: Julian Polk
3rd: Myles Bull Bear
4th: Asencio Garcia

- JUNIOR BOYS’ FANCY/GRASS**
1st: James Eagle Star
2nd: Cetan Young Bear
3rd: Mason Bichitty
4th: DaShon Scott

Women’s Bird Dance Winners

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| GOLDEN AGE | ADULT WOMEN |
| 1 ALVA EMERSON | 1 ROSANNA HILLS |
| 2 GAIL JOHNS | 2 LEILA JOSÉ |
| 3 YOLANDA HART STEVENS | 3 JOLITA AMEELYENAH |
| 4 EILEEN VALENZUELA | 4 ANGEL TOWNSEND |
-
- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| JUNIOR GIRLS | TEEN GIRLS |
| 1 CYNTHIA EMERSON | 1 DELEANE BENSON |
| 2 KEIJA KOTEEN | 2 EDEN RIVERA |
| 3 ALORA DUGAN | 3 CHYNA CACHORA |
| 4 JOANNA HERRERA | 4 NANI REINA |
| 5 SONIA LOPEZ | 5 NEVEAH MONTAGUE |

Traditional Songs Contest Winners

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| PIPA SINGERS | II SHA SINGERS |
| 1 DAN MURPHY | 1 FLOYD TOWNSEND, JR. |
| 2 JONAS BOBTAILBEAR | 2 LARRY HAMMOND |
| 3 DERRICK JOSÉ | |

CELEBRATING THE MARINE AVIATION CENTENNIAL AND 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE YUMA AIRSHOW



JOIN US FOR THE
OFFICIAL YUMA AIRSHOW
AFTER PARTY FEATURING THE
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE THUNDERBIRDS.

SATURDAY, MARCH 17 • 7PM – 9PM

Must be at least 21 years old to attend

POOLSIDE AT QUECHAN CASINO RESORT • FREE ADMISSION
Meet the pilots of the United States Air Force Thunderbirds



NATIVE HIV/AIDS DAY IS THIS FRIDAY

The Quechan Community Health Representatives (CHR) are teaming up with the Quechan Alcohol and Drug Abuse Awareness Program (ADAPP) to present this year's National Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day Event.

This year's event will be held at the Quechan Diabetes Walking Park, and will feature a dedication walk, guest speakers, native singers and local native royalty. It kicks off with a Dedication Walk at 9:00 AM on Friday, March 16. The whole event should last until 2:00 PM. That means you can drop by over your lunch hour, pick up a few free handouts and educational items, and return to work.

Resource tables will be set up around the gazebos at the Walking Park entrance, and HIV/AIDS testing will be available on-site — though you'll have to

wait for results, of course!

Kerry Comet, in charge of the event at CHR, says a free healthy lunch will be served starting at noon, and everyone who comes down will be able to sign up for door prizes and other special items!

She continues: "Our keynote speaker will be Christopher Scott from the Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians. He will tell his story of living with HIV—not only physically, but spiritually and emotionally, too."

Lunch time entertainment will be provided by up and coming local songstress Billie Escobar, as well as the Roadrunner Singers. After lunch, Miss Native Arizona, Jaymee Li Moore will be appearing along with our new Miss Quechan. And don't be surprised if you hear a few words from the Quechan Tribal Council!

Tribal Member Completes Marathon, Offers Thanks for Support

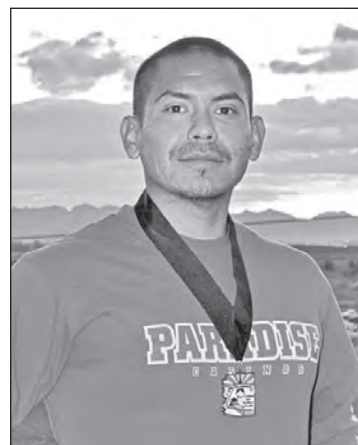
A number of Quechan Tribal members took part in the Caballeros de Yuma's Territorial Marathon on Saturday, January 28th, and Peter Escalanti IV was determined to finish the entire 26 miles, 1155 feet of the road course.

The full marathon began at the Cocopah Casino at County 16th Street and Highway 95. Runners followed Highway 95 south to a point 3/4ths of a mile south of County 21st Street (almost at the city limits of San Luis, Arizona!) and then headed all the way back to the Casino.

Those running the Half Marathon turned around 1/4 mile past Avenue H, to complete a distance of 13 miles, 528 feet.

Peter says "I am a proud Quechan Tribal member, and I currently work on the Quechan Maintenance Crew."

"I am also a member of the



Peter Escalanti IV, wearing the medal he received for finishing the 26 mile, 385 yard road race.

QUECHAN NEWS Photo by William Isbell

Fort Yuma BIA Wildland Fire Fighter Crew."

"I would like to thank the Quechan Tribe, the Quechan Casino Resort and the Paradise Casino for sponsoring me in the Yuma Territorial Marathon, which was my first full marathon. I completed the 26.2

miles with an official time of 5 Hours, 1minute, 20 seconds."

Peter's time gave him a position of 20th overall in the race, and the 18th place among men for completing the full marathon. The race officials also showed Peter as placing 15th in his division . . . Not bad for his first full marathon!

Continuing with his thanks, Peter tells the *Quechan News*, "I would like to thank my family and friends for their support. Special thanks to Indira Paige, Izzy, Robert and Larr Bear for coming out and cheering me on 'til the finish. Your love and support means a lot to me!"

Also completing the Half Marathon were Quechan Tribal members Rosie Herrera (from SDPI) with a time of 2:41:21. or 17th in her division, and James Espino at 1:45:21, taking fifth place in his division!

CULTURAL CENTER REOPENS



Members of the Preservation of the Quechan Way group have reopened the Quechan Cultural Center at the Q. The Center has moved to a larger room, right next to the hotel's elevator tower, where the Business Center used to be. Yvonne Choate and Pearl Joaquin have done a lot of work, moving everything in and creating new displays explaining Kwat'san culture and history to the Q's guests. They hope to have a full Grand Opening of the Cultural Center in late April or early May of this year.

QUECHAN NEWS Photo by William Isbell



Jessica Amador poses with a dozen roses she won in the Valentine's Day Raffle from "Flowers by Yvonne". Cathie Soliz of the Quechan Property and Supply Department pulled the winning ticket on February 10th. Quechan tribal member Yvonne Reyes will also be offering chances at an Easter lily bouquet and an Easter Gift Basket over the next month. Give "Flowers by Yvonne" a call at 1(619)368-9665 for more information or to purchase your raffle tickets!

Photo Courtesy of Flowers by Yvonne

As soon as the Grand Entry was completed on Saturday, everyone remained standing and removed their hats, to show respect for the traditional victory song and await the posting of the flags at the announcer's booth. Both Quechan Post 802 and the color guard from the Yuma Marine Corps Air Station took part in the Grand Entry each morning.



STRONG HEARTS POW WOW IN PHOTOS

All Images by William Isbell,
QUECHAN NEWS



Leila José demonstrates the proper form for bird dancing to little Deena Morrow, passing on her knowledge to a new generation.



Miss Indian Nations 2012, Shanoa Pinham (center) dances with Gina Rivera (Miss San Pasqual High Native Princess) and Brittany Miguel (Miss Quechan Nation) at Friday night's locals only Song Contest.



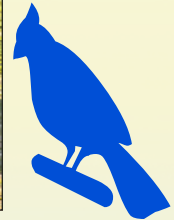
Middle school Warrior Gabriel Gilbert assisted Post 802 Commander Francisco Estrada, carrying in the flags at Saturday's grand entry.



It's amazing the amount of work that goes into some outfits! This is Guest Elder Norman Lopez, a member of the Ute Mountain Tribe from Towaok, Colorado, waiting for his turn to impress the judges in the Golden Age competition.



Local elementary students Paris Montague, Amaya Koteen, Sayene Golding and Keija Koteen joined Leila José in Saturday's bird dancing.



Lucinda Polk was joined by dozens of family members for her honor song and walk around the arena.



As always, the Pow Wow is a great place to catch up with old friends—no matter how “old” they are! Here, two tiny tots contestants enjoy each other's company as they circle the arena just before Sunday's Intertribal Dance began.