

# QUECHAN NEWS

Volume 106, Issue 2 ♦ Wednesday, January 25, 2012

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Look For This Symbol

ETSKA NAV AH PAI  THE NEWS CARRIER  
**QUECHAN NEWS**

is published by

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## Tribal Member Heads Quechan Utilities Co.



The staff at Quechan Utilities gather with their new Operations Manager, Rose Ana Williams. Standing in the rear (left to right) are Jaime Lara, Jeremy Douglas, Tarryn Villicana and Ms. Williams. In the front are Michael Duran, Alex Bouts and Eduardo Venegas. This small group of Tribal employees is responsible for the Tribe's residential water supply, septic systems and trash pickups. Photo by William Isbell

Quechan Tribal member (and longtime Tribal employee) Rose Ana Williams took over the position of Utility Operations Manager at the end of 2011. She is now responsible for the smooth operation of a very busy department, which provides domestic water for our homes, maintains and oversees the septic systems on the reservation, and makes the weekly

trash pickups at our homes and businesses.

Ms. Williams began working for the Tribe at the Quechan and Pipa Markets in 1998, and soon applied for the position of Utilities Assistant at the Quechan Utility Company. Shortly after, she was promoted to the Utilities Specialist. In that position, she was able to obtain a grant through the EPA for a new Util-

ities Building and additional infrastructure for the department. That grant also created the position of Quechan Utility Operations Manager.

Rose Ana explains how she then came to fill that position, these many years later: "I left for school in pursuit of California State Certification in Water Systems Technology inclusive of Water Distribution, Water

Treatment, Water Mathematics and Water Lab Analysis. While at school, I realized that Civil Engineering was the route I wanted to take, so I chose to go after the degree rather than just Certification."

Taking a break from her studies, Rose Ana returned to the Tribe as our Grants & Contracts Coordinator, staying there for 4 and a half years. "The Utility Operations Manager position opened twice while I was at Grants. Last December, it opened for the third time and I applied, went through the interview process and was selected."

With a certificate from the EPA in Utility Management, she is very familiar with EPA compliance and reporting procedures. She also holds a certificate in Small Water Systems Emergency Response, which she used to develop the Utility Company Emergency Response Plan, still in existence.

"I start my second year of college next month and plan on having my degree in Civil Engineering by 2013," she says.

Her first task as Utility Op-  
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# Tribal Member Heads Utilities

*Continued from Page 1*

erations Manager will be to get the staff the training and equipment needed to maintain their Operator and Commercial Drivers Licenses (CDLs).

“There are many guidelines and documentation procedures we must follow to maintain compliance with EPA drinking water standards, as well as CHP rules and regulations on our vehicles. Another goal is to generate consistent revenue to move the department into a self-sufficient enterprise.”

Current rates and lack of payment enforcement do not support the cost incurred to maintain the systems. Monthly rates for water, sewer and trash on the reservation only equal 15% of the average cost for the same services in Yuma.

The Utilities staff includes Tarryn Villicana, Utilities Coordinator, who runs the billing and collection system and schedules work orders for the water and sanitation team.

Jeremy Douglas, Water Op-

erator Lead and Alex Bouts, Water Operator, run the Tribe's water and waste water systems. They take periodic samples of the Tribe's four water systems: Quechan, Sleepy Hollow, Laguna Dam, and Riverfront.

Eduardo Venegas and Jaime Lara are the sanitation Drivers; they run the trash route and septic tank systems. Michael Duran maintains the utility company vehicles. “We also plan on advertising for another Water Operator/Sanitation Driver once the 2012 budget is passed,” says Ms. Williams.

Over the next few months, the water operators will be busy flushing hydrants, exercising valves and performing preventative maintenance to improve our water quality. There may be times when the water may be off for short intervals or pressure decreased. Rose Ana says they will do their best to keep everyone informed about when those times will be. One thing you can do in your home is to drain

your water heater by emptying the water out of the bottom of the tank, this may reduce odor in your water. If you need assistance in doing so, please call the Utility Office at (760) 572-0667.

For septic concerns: try plunging your toilet to see if it will go down before calling. Keep in mind that some septic tanks have an outlet that sits high; this does not mean that your tank is full. If you see wet spots in your yard call them before the problem gets worse!

And please place your trash container on the side of the road the morning of your scheduled pick up. Ensure there is plenty of space for the driver to pick up the container. The Utility company does not work holidays, so your trash pick up will be on the following business day.

Ms. Williams also promises that the Utility Company will be getting more involved in providing public awareness and preventative maintenance through community events.



## Needs Crafts & Food Vendors

THIS CELEBRATION OF THE HISTORY OF YUMA WILL TAKE PLACE

February 11, 2012 • 10am-3pm

ON  
*Madison Ave.*  
IN THE HISTORIC NORTH END

With historical re-enactors dressed in authentic period costume, Yuma Crossing Day and Redondo Days will feature hands-on demonstrations of piñata making, tamale cooking and adobe brick making. Entertainment will feature mariachi bands and folklorico dancers, along with games authentic to the period. If you would like to take part as a downtown Arts & Crafts or Native Foods vendor, contact: The Yuma County Historical Society at 928-782-1841 or ahsyuma@azhs.gov.



# SIGN UP NOW

## For The Spring Athletic Season!



**Calling ALL Boys and Girls!**

Registration is **NOW OPEN** For The  
**3rd, 4th and 5th Grade**

### GRASSHOPPER BASKETBALL LEAGUE!

And For 6th, 7th and 8th Grade

### JUNIOR HIGH CO-ED FLAG FOOTBALL!



**Registration Deadline for Basketball and Football Leagues:**  
**Friday, February 3rd, 2012**



*And Remember!*

Participation in the 2012 Yuma Little League Baseball is **FREE** to Quechan Tribal Members! (Boys AND Girls ages 4 to 18!)

**Registration Deadline for Yuma Little League Baseball is Monday, March 26th, 2012**

*And we need VOLUNTEERS to help with ALL these activities - No Experience Needed! Come and Support your Community Activities!*

**Register or Volunteer Now at**  
**QUECHAN PARKS & RECREATION**  
**(572) 572-1242**

ETSKA NAV AH PAI



THE NEWS CARRIER

## QUECHAN NEWS

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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](mailto:w.isbell@quechantribe.com). I'm looking forward to hearing from you!



# Culture & Heritage

## Human Rights Walk Makes A Stop At Quechan Nation



The group arrived at the Quechan Nation on Saturday evening, January 14. They were hosted by Phil Emerson, who put them up in the Community Center gym, where they used the showers at the Rainbow Pool. That's Keenan LaBarge of the Ojibwe Tribe shooting some hoops during their time off, with Mercier McGinnis and Dine Tribal member Luna Galvan relaxing on the Community Center stage. Support vehicles for the group include a 32 foot Pace Arrow motorhome owned by a dependable volunteer, Bubba Puls. Photos by: William Isbell, QUECHAN NEWS

A group of walkers from the American Indian Movement (AIM) stopped in at the Quechan Nation in mid-January, committed to walk from California to Washington D.C. to reach out to people and remind everyone they meet, of every race, of our spiritual connection through human rights.

Known as the "Leonard Peltier Walk for Human Rights", the group began planning their walk last summer, gathering at Alcatraz Island in San Francisco Bay to begin their cross country travels on December 18th. On their southward trip to Fort Yuma, they visited Victorville, Modesto, Chowchilla, San Bernardino, Riverside, Temecula, Ocotillo and Brawley, among other locations.

They arrived on Saturday evening, January 14, and stayed at the Quechan Community

Center over four nights. While here, they held a traditional peoples gathering at the home of Preston Arrowweed, ate many meals and took part in a sweat lodge at the Emerson family's land, and showed a film, *Warrior – The Story of Leonard Peltier* at the Community Center on the evening of January 17th. They also showed slides of their first month on the road, answering questions about their objectives and the history of the American Indian Movement.

Phil Emerson, manager of the Rainbow Pool at Quechan Parks and Recreation, stepped in as host of the group for the Quechan people.

The well organized group has a website and a social media webmaster, at least four support vehicles (including a large RV with a toilet and shower), and a group spokesperson, Dorothy

Ninham of the Oneida Tribe's Turtle Clan.

"Even though Leonard Peltier is in prison, he has always practiced compassion and humility in all he does," says Dorothy, when asked about their message. "He has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize several times and even sponsored a child in Guatemala for almost 13 years out of his prison commissary account. Leonard donates his artwork to raise money to support our elders and our homeless, and to educational funds and shelters for battered women and children."

They had hoped to have more Tribes help sponsor them in their walk, but she says, "Whenever Leonard Peltier's name is mentioned, they say 'It's too political, we don't want to get involved.' Those kinds of people don't understand that

what Leonard always stood for is the basic human rights we (Native peoples) have always stood for."

Warming to her subject, she continues, "You know Leonard and the whole American Indian Movement set the whole scene for everything we have today: the Casinos we now enjoy, the development we do on the reservations. Back in the time that we were fighting, and I was involved in AIM from the very beginning, the government had a plan to have *all* tribes terminated by 1985. We were going to be finished, there would be *no more* reservations, there would be *no more* Indians!"

"They would talk like the government is giving us a handout—there's no handout in this! This has always been our land, and we've always been the caretakers of this land. How

do you just come in and steal someone's land? This land was never, ever paid for. How do you just come in and kick someone off of their land? This was ours, and it took care of us. And if they were asking for a price, I'll tell you, we paid that price, with our blood. I always say, our blood is *deep* in this soil, from east to west and from north to south!" Having been with AIM since the 1970s, Dorothy raised her children to be proud of being Native, of knowing who they are, and to stand up for what they believe in.

She says everyone in authority needs to realize they only have the right to lead when they recognize the rights of those they hope to lead.

"If you say you believe in something, then you've got to stand up for it, and that's what we're trying to do."

# Native Now Leads Powerful Water Rights Advocacy Group

For the first time in the 66-year history of the Colorado River Water Users Association (CRWUA), a Native American will take the reins of an organization that advocates for all the users of the Colorado River.

CRWUA is the largest, most powerful organization related to Colorado River matters. The organization represents a variety of groups. Each of these groups has its own water interests, ranging from water management organizations, Indian tribes, governmental entities, power companies, and environmental groups.

Together they form the CRWUA, which has a single interest of working together for the future of the Colorado River. CRWUA is made up of the seven basin states and the Ten Tribes Partnership.

The Quechan Tribal delegation at the annual meeting was led by Tribal Council Member Felix Montague accompanied by Environmental Director Chase Choate and tribal water attorney, Mason Morriset.

The annual meeting of the Ten Tribes Partnership consist-



**George Arthur of the Navajo Nation** was elected President of the CRWUA at their annual meeting in mid-December of 2011. A Quechan delegation, part of the Ten Tribes partnership, attended the Las Vegas meeting and took part in electing Mr. Arthur. Courtesy of the Ten Tribes Partnership

ing of the ten tribes located on the Colorado River was also held at the same time.

“Most notable for the Water Users Association meeting was the confirmation of Navajo leader George Arthur as President of CRWUA for 2012,” say Morriset. “This is the first time that a Native American has been elected to lead the organization.”

Mr. Morriset also tells the *Quechan News* that, with Mr. Arthur now the President of the CRWUA, the Ten Tribes Partnership will serve as their coordinating body for the remainder of 2012.



At the December 14 Ten Tribes Partnership business meeting, final action on a proposed resolution to the CRWUA was taken.

This resolution requests that the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) include the tribes as consultants on the Steering Committee for the Colorado River Supply and Demand Study that is currently being conducted.

The Colorado River provides water for 35 million users and supplies a majority of the power for the southwest States. It would be to the benefit of the BOR to include the Tribes as consultants from the start, since

American Indian tribes have the highest priority for receiving water from the river, above all other agreements with any state or even Mexico. Looking to the future, the tribes intend to protect their water rights from non-Indian users, who “want to take as much water as possible from us,” said Gary Hansen, water resource director for the Colorado River Indian Tribes in an interview for America.gov.

The Quechan delegation and members of the Ten Tribes Partnership met with the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) officials on the afternoon of December 14, concerning the BOR Supply and Demand Study.

As you may recall, this study is attempting to identify the amount of water (demand) that will be needed from the Colorado River system for the future.

Tribal officials expressed concern that current drafts of the Study are not adequate to protect tribal rights and that the tribes have not been included in the steering committee to form the scope and details of the study.

In response to tribal comments, Bureau of Reclamation officials agreed to meet with the Ten Tribes Partnership (presumably at their next meeting, on February 8 in Parker, Arizona) to discuss this.

The Quechan delegation proposed that while group meetings with all the tribes would be very helpful, each tribe is a sovereign government with specific rights and each tribe must have a direct government-to-government consultation with the Bureau of Reclamation.

“An example is the Quechan Tribe’s recent victory in the Imperial Valley Solar case, where a federal court issued an injunction stopping government action because of their failure to directly

consult with the Quechan Tribe on a government-to-government basis,” according to the Tribe’s Attorney, Mason Morriset.

George Arthur is a member of the Navajo Nation, and has served as Chairman of the Ten Tribes Partnership for six years. The Ten Tribes Partnership has participated in CRWUA since 1996.

“It’s everyone’s responsibility to use the water and care for the resource to ensure future generations are not faced with the challenges we have today. As the President of CRWUA it will be my duty to safeguard the interests of all who use the Colorado River,” stated Arthur.

“The Colorado River is faced with a myriad of complexities and I will look to my CRWUA colleagues for support and guidance. Additionally, I look forward to working with the CRWUA states and members to raise awareness about tribal issues in and related to the basin,” added the new President.

The new Vice President of CRWUA is David Moodeer of the Central Arizona Project. Darryl Vigil, of the Jicarilla Apache Tribe, will serve as Secretary/Treasurer of CRWUA. Mitch Bishop of the Southern Nevada Water Authority will serve as Assistant Secretary.

John Zebre, CRWUA’s outgoing President stated, “It’s been a long time coming and I’m happy to see this day that marks the accession of the Ten Tribes Partnership to the leadership of CRWUA. Fifteen years ago, the CRWUA Board of Trustees took the position that tribes were a stakeholder and belonged on the Board. The CRWUA Board of Trustees will support George Arthur and the Ten Tribes Partnership in every way to succeed in this effort.”



## OUR VISITING WALKERS



Find more information about the walk and join the Leonard Peltier Rights community on facebook.

### ONEIDA TRIBE

Dorothy Ninham  
Geronimo Powless  
Cheryl Powless  
Nolu Powless  
Georgia Powless

### OJIBWE - LAC DU FLAMBEAU

Michelle Powless  
Keenan LaBarge  
Charlie Carufel (Sioux)

### MENOMINEE TRIBE

Bonnie McKiernan  
(Macca McKiernan - Australia)

### LOWER SIOUX TRIBE

Mark Blue  
(Kerry Blue - Minneapolis, MN)

### DINÉ TRIBE

Frank Galvan  
Luna Galvan

### SUPPORT DRIVER

Bubba Puls, Atlanta, GA

### ADDITIONAL VOLUNTEERS

Mercier McGinnis  
(Upland, CA)

Ninfa and Genesis Villareal  
(Montclair, CA)

Ryan Garcia  
(Oakland, CA)

# New BP Command Group Visits With Council

The Andradé port of entry at the international border where the Quechan Nation meets Mexico is America's 11th busiest port of entry for pedestrian crossings.

With so many people crossing in and out of the United States right here, only a mile south of the Quechan Casino Resort, the Tribe's chief source of income, a close relationship has developed between the Quechan Tribe's law enforcement community and the United States Border Patrol agents charged with securing that border.

At the beginning of 2102, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) assigned David Sarrasin to serve as the new port director for the Andrade port of entry. Just a few days after he assumed responsibility for the staff and operations at the border crossing, he accompanied most of the upper echelon of the Yuma Sector Border Patrol to meet with the Quechan Tribal Council, and renew their commitment to working with the Tribe on overlapping jurisdictional matters.

Appearing with Mr. Sarrasin in the Tribal Council Chambers were Yuma Station Patrol Agent in Charge (PAIC) Stephen K. Johnson, Assistant Chief Patrol Agent (ACPA) Timothy Henry, and the Yuma BP Sector Tribal Liaison, Carlos Dominguez.

Gordon Osborne, head of Quechan Fish and Game (and the Tribe's longest serving law enforcement officer), accompanied by Quechan Tribal Police Sgt. James Jackson, introduced the group to the Council.

Mr. Sarrasin served in a number of key positions throughout his career. He began his career in 1995 with the former Immigration and Naturalization Service as an



**Yuma sector Border Patrol officers stood with Quechan Tribe officers for a group portrait outside of the Tribal Council chamber just prior to their official introduction to the Council on January 12. Seen here are QPD Sergeant James Jackson, BP Patrol Agent in Charge Stephen K. Johnson, BP Tribal Liaison Carlos Dominguez, Quechan Fish and Game Captain Gordon Osborne, Yuma Sector Assistant Chief Patrol Agent Timothy Henry and the new Andrade Port of Entry Director, David Sarrasin.** QUECHAN NEWS Photo by William Isbell

immigration inspector at the Calexico port of entry, and was later promoted to supervisory inspector in 2003.

In 2004 he was assigned to the San Luis port of entry in Arizona, where he had oversight of the port's canine program.

In less than a year, he earned the title of chief Customs and Border Protection Officer, becoming a second-line supervisor in 2005. He also worked on the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative, a national program, during a temporary deployment to CBP headquarters in Washington, D.C. There, he served as a technical consultant during the implementation of a new computer software system to aid CBP officers with performing more rapid inspections—an important asset here, especially during the winter months, when so many visitors are crossing into and out of Mexico on foot, next to the Tribe's Andradé parking lot,

“David has taken on several challenges throughout his career and has risen through the ranks, so I am confident he will provide outstanding leadership

in this critical position,” said Chris Maston, Director of Field Operations for San Diego and Imperial Counties at a December press conference, announcing his appointment.

Leading the field officers for the Border Patrol at the Council meeting was PAIC of the Yuma Station, Stephen K. Johnson, a 27-year veteran of the U.S. Border Patrol. He began his Border Patrol career in 1984 in Brownfield, California. He transferred to Yuma, Arizona in 1994, where he was first promoted to Supervisory Border Patrol Agent. In 1998, PAIC Johnson was promoted to Field Opera-

tions Supervisor and reassigned to the Border Patrol station in Harlingen, Texas.

Johnson returned to the Yuma Station as a Field Operations Supervisor, later becoming the Patrol Agent In Charge for the Wellton Station, in 2003.

Among other accomplishments, PAIC Johnson holds a Bachelor's Degree in Police Science from Northern Arizona University. He completed the Northwestern Police Staff and Command Course and the George Washington University Executive Leadership Course.

He was also awarded the Customs and Border Protection

Leadership Award in 2007.

The third man in the group was ACPA Timothy Henry, who has been with the United States Border Patrol for 26 years.

A graduate of the U.S. Border Patrol Academy in Glynco, Georgia, ACPA Henry was first assigned to the Calexico Border Patrol Station in 1985.

Although he has performed the usual duties of patrolling the border, ACPA Henry has also been assigned to the El Centro Sector Prosecutions Department, the Employer Sanctions Department and the Calexico Station Intelligence Unit. He has worked closely with other Law Enforcement Agencies and served on numerous specialty units to combat and apprehend the smugglers of both humans and narcotics. He has held the temporary position as the Special Operations Supervisor at the Calexico Station and also as the El Centro Sector's Department Head/Fleet Manager for the El Centro Sector Garage.

He was promoted to his current position of Assistant Patrol Agent in Charge of the Calexico Station in August of 2007. One of his important programs is overseeing the Sector's Tribal Affairs program, which is coordinated by Field Operation Supervisor Carlos Dominguez.

***OOPS! A Happy Belated Birthday goes out to Vice President Ronda Aguerro!***



***From your Monsters  
(Ethan and Nareese),  
Your Mother, your brothers and sisters,  
and your nieces and nephews!  
YOU'RE THE BEST!!!!!!  
KEEP IT UP!!!!!!***

# Quechan Tribe Receives \$232,000 Federal Grant For Public Transit on the Reservation

The Federal Transportation Authority's (FTA) Tribal Transit Program (TTP) official notified the Quechan Indian Tribe in December that it will receive \$232,007 in federal funds to implement transit solutions for its members and the community.

The funding is the product of diligent transit planning by the Quechan Indian Tribe.

Beginning in 2008, the Tribe participated in and became the focus of a study by the Southern California Association of Governments, known as the Winterhaven/Quechan Reservation Rural Connector.

The study yielded a menu of transit and mobility concepts

to address the needs of tribal members in general and our specific transportation dependent populations.

Based on that study, the Quechan Economic Development Administration (EDA) sought a \$25,000 Tribal Transit Program Planning Grant in August 2008 (which was received in the spring of 2009) to develop accurate service planning and cost estimates for proposed transit and mobility strategies.

The Tribe contracted with a consultant, the IBI Group, to produce the Quechan Service Strategies Report in 2010, outlining detailed service and cost planning. That report, complet-

ed in July of 2011, provided the basis for the 2011 FTA grant funding opportunity in September 2011. On December 2, 2011, the Tribe received e-mail notification that its project was selected for Fiscal Year 2012 FTA TTP funding.

EDA Specialist, Allyson Collins, states that "EDA is very excited about the awarding of this grant. We are working hard to plan implementation of three service strategies."

The strategies include a local Reservation shuttle service to circulate throughout the Reservation, offering a connection to YCAT's newly extended Red Route—which is already in

service.

The second strategy, a Casino Resort shuttle, may complement the Reservation shuttle, with plans to contract for this bus service serving Tribal member employees at the casino, as well as customers living in or visiting the local area.

The third strategy is for a Regional Connector which would enhance existing transit service by increasing weekly bus trips between the Fort Yuma Indian Reservation, Winterhaven and El Centro by at least one day a week, and perhaps more.

EDA is working with local transit authorities in Yuma and El Centro to make these strate-

gies come to fruition, anticipating the first shuttle service to begin no later than April 2012.

In the meantime, EDA will hold a public meeting to gauge the Tribal membership's input on proposed routes for the Reservation and Casino shuttles. **That meeting will be held this week, on Wednesday, January 25, 2012 at 5:30 PM at the Quechan Community Center.** The EDA encourages the Tribal membership to attend and provide your comments.

If you have questions please contact Allyson Collins at the EDA Office, Suite 4, Quechan Community Center, or call her at (760) 572-5270.



## Red Route Bus Schedule Changes

In the last issue of the *Quechan News*, YCAT was eager to announce their new Extended Red Route to both the Reservation and Winterhaven. However, in doing so, it left no room for error. As things sometimes go when new services roll out, adjustments must be made. Due to the routes not being able to accommodate both stops on one route within the allotted time, YCAT split the routes with the following stops on weekdays:

<b>RESERVATION: @ QUECHAN &amp; AGNES (Near Paradise Casino Drive)</b>	<b>WINTERHAVEN (In Front of Hub Liquor)</b>
<b>7:43 AM</b>	<b>6:28 AM</b>
<b>8:43 AM</b>	<b>9:43 AM</b>
<b>10:43 AM</b>	<b>1:43 PM</b>
<b>12:43 PM</b>	<b>5:43 PM</b>
<b>2:43 PM</b>	<b>7:30 PM</b>
<b>3:43 PM</b>	
<b>4:43 PM</b>	
	<b>Saturday: Bus Runs From 9:43 AM until 4:43 PM</b>



## Still Time for Septic System Evaluations

The *Quechan News* published an article entitled "Is Your Septic System Failing?" in the July 6, 2011 issue. Since then, the Tribe's Economic Development Administration (EDA) has received many calls from Tribal Members regarding the Tribe's Failed Septic System Project.

Mike Abraham, a Planner with the Quechan EDA reports the project anticipates the replacement of 15 to 25 failed septic systems, along with the installation of various clean-outs on the sewer line along Arnold Road.

Each call from a Tribal Member generated a professional septic system evaluation, performed by the Tribe's Utility Company and the Indian Health Service (IHS).

Some evaluations have resulted in minor repairs, while others have confirmed a septic system's failure.

When a professional evaluation determines that a septic system has failed, the Tribal member completes an application process and is placed on a list for replacement.

"At this time, we have received only a few applications from Tribal Members to have their septic systems replaced, and we have funding for more," according to Mr. Abraham.

Please remember that a failed septic system can pose a significant health risk to your family, your community and the environment. If you are a Tribal member and you suspect your septic sys-

tem may be failing, you are encouraged to contact the Quechan Utility Company at (760) 572-0667 and request a septic system evaluation right away.

Here are some common signs that your septic system may be failing:

- Surfacing sewage or wet spots in the yard;
- Plumbing or septic tank backups;
- Slow draining fixtures;
- Gurgling sounds in the plumbing system;
- Sewage odors in the house or yard.

If you have a persistent or recurring problem with any of the above problems at your house, now is the time get your system evaluated, while the funds are still available!

# TRIBAL MEMBER MAKES ALL TOURNEY BASKETBALL TEAM

Tatianna Damon became a part of the Lady Warrior Basketball Team last year, as a sophomore. Though she played for only part of the season, Coach Patricia Malvido says she showed signs of potential right away, through her ability to quickly improve her skills.

“There were times last year when Tatianna would make mistakes during a game or at practice and become frustrated,” Coach Malvido recalls. “She would get mad at herself and dwell on those mistakes, which sometimes affected her game. It stems from her competitive nature, her own high expectations, and not accepting that mistakes are going to happen. Players need to know we can plan all we want, but our opponents have other ideas for those plans!”

But by remembering all she’d learned last year, Tatianna has been able to continue working on improving her game this season. She’s gained more confidence in herself, and her more positive outlook has improved her overall performance.

“She’s playing more confidently,” explains Ms. Malvido,

“and now she’s an important factor for our opponents to deal with.”

That is why she stood out at the San Carlos Tournament over the school’s Christmas break, where she made the All Tourney team, consisting of the top players at the tournament.

Coach Malvido proudly recites a few stats: “So far ‘Tati’ is averaging 10 points and 14 rebounds a game. She pulled down 18 rebounds against Yuma Catholic, and her season high is 22 rebounds against the Navajos of Rough Rock. With those numbers and the success she is seeing in her game, she is having more fun this year. Tatianna is still learning the game but with the strides she is making it’ll be exciting to see what else she is capable of!”

The Warriors were invited to the 2-day San Carlos, Arizona Tournament along with 7 other teams, with competition consisting of 1A to the larger 3A schools.

San Pasqual had built up a strong rivalry against Yuma Catholic, before they were split into different leagues. In view



Tatianna Damon has averaged 10 points and 14 rebounds a game this season. Her abilities earned her a position on the All Tourney Team at the San Carlos Tournament this year. Photo by William Isbell

of that rivalry, Tatianna’s 18 rebounds against the cross-town powerhouse is not only a great statistic, it’s hard to get that many rebounds in a game.

“And then to get 22 in another game is pretty special – that takes some work,” the Coach explains. “The school record is 25 in a game so she’s already getting pretty close to it.”

On the matter of records, the Coach also sums up the team’s

overall experience at San Carlos: “We went 2-4 at the tournament in some close games, but the team is better for it because of the competition we had against bigger schools!”

Tatianna continues to stand out in her love for a challenge, and her Coaches say she is always looking to improve. Sometimes the challenges are quite difficult, yet she is not afraid to face them and meet them head on. The 5-foot-9 Tribal member is a great example for her teammates and her fellow students in general.

She is the daughter of Kathy Webb and Andy Damon, and tells the Quechan News that she’s also related to the Escalantes. She was born in Maricopa, Arizona, but was raised right here in Fort Yuma. Her long family line gives her a mixture of Pueblo, Taos, Mojave and Quechan Indian blood.

The 17 year old Junior says her future goals include enlistment in the United State Marine Corps, were she hopes to use her G.I. Bill benefits to earn a four year degree in the culinary arts.

She is very athletically in-

clined “I enjoy playing basketball and volleyball, and I also go out for track and field,” she says. “My experience at the San Carlos was both cold and challenging, but I learned a lot from the other teams that were there. They all showed dedication in competition. I am proud of my whole team, and myself in what we had to show them there!”

Tatianna also wanted to be sure her fellow team mate, Ceara (#55) is mentioned, as well as her best friend (Arisa Arrow) and her love for family and all of her friends. She says the entire San Pasqual Girls Basketball Team has the goal of making it to the playoffs this year, and with her on the team, they stand a pretty good chance!

“When you have that type of mentality and carry that with you everywhere, it is easier to get through things which come your way in life,” says Ms. Malvido. “Coach Sal Pineda and I feel very grateful and privileged to be working with a student-athlete like Tatianna Damon!” The Lady Warriors will also go up against Yuma Catholic again on February 25th.

## HAPPY 44TH BIRTHDAY



THEN ...

## ALFREDO ACOSTA!

WE LOVE YOU  
AND WE'RE VERY HAPPY TO  
BE IN YOUR LIFE TO CELEBRATE  
THIS BIRTHDAY!



AND NOW!

Love Always ~ Your Wife and Daughter:  
Crystal Acosta & Maleana Begay



## Sign Up Now For The ... 67th Annual Yuma Jaycees Silver Spur Rodeo Parade

Contact Yuma Jaycees for Entry Information:  
(928)344-5451

Parade Line up begins at 5:30 AM on Saturday, February 11  
at 15th Street and 3rd Avenue. Parade Begins at 8:30 AM.

This Year's Theme:  
“Celebrating 100 Years  
of Arizona!”





# Quechan ADAPP Announces Their First Annual Bird Festival

## Saturday ~ February 11, 2012 from 1 PM to 6 PM at the Quechan Community Center



Photo by William Isbell

The Quechan Alcohol and Drug Awareness Prevention Program is excited to announce they will be hosting their first annual Bird Gathering on February 11, 2012 between 1:00 PM – 6:00 PM at the Quechan Community Center.

Quechan Bird songs form part of an ancient tradition representing a strong regard for animals, with one series of songs dedicated to the behavior of birds. These are the famous Kwat'san “Bird Songs”. These songs are passed down from generation to generation and used in many traditional ceremonies. The songs are viewed as social songs belonging to both men and women. For most, the songs are meant to connect with the movements and expressions of the animal world.

This year’s event will offer community members an opportunity to share in the tradition of “Bird Song & Dance” and is intended to connect with a sense of health, wellness, and recovery. They want participants to enjoy the day in a festive environment that will support positive change and happiness.

There will be traditional food, fun, and drinks for everyone. A lunch will be served at 3:00 PM, until all tickets are exhausted.

We invite everyone to join us at ADAPP’s first Bird Gathering and we hope to make it a larger event each and every year.



### THE LUNCH HOUR WALKING CLUB

Is open to everyone! Walk for 30 minutes at your own pace and take 30 minutes for lunch every Monday thru Thursday!

**SO PACK YOUR LUNCH**  
**COME OUT & JOIN US FROM**  
**NOON TO 1:00PM AT THE**  
**DIABETES WALKING PARK**

Questions? Call Rosie Herrera at the Wellness Center:  
(760) 572-4057 or (760) 572-1286

**IN CASE OF A BRUSH  
FIRE**

**CALL 1.800.309.7081**

**WITH LOCATION & COORDINATES IF POSSIBLE**

This Message for residents of Fort Yuma is from the Fort Yuma Agency's Fire Management Program. The 800 number connects directly to the Arizona Interagency Fire Dispatch.

**FT. YUMA AGENCY**  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS