



QUECHAN NEWS

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In This Issue:

Council Member Resigns
Page 2

Quechan Language
Page 3

QCR Dealers At The
World Series of Poker
Page 4

Strings Conductor
At Age Thirteen
Page 5

New COPS Grant
Page 6

ADAPP Mock Trial
Page 7

Fourth of July Party
Back Page

Items Of Special Interest
To Tribe Members



Look For This Symbol

ETSKA NAV AH PAI THE NEWS CARRIER
QUECHAN NEWS

is published by

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Voters Reject Recall: Escalanti Stays



Signs proclaiming the right to choose who will lead the Quechan people began appearing on power poles and trees as early as January. Now that the recall election is over, will the petitioners accept the will of the people, and allow President Escalanti to finish his term in office?

Digital Montage by William Isbell, Q NEWS

After months of petitions demanding the recall of Quechan Tribal President Keeny Escalanti, Sr., the Tribal members circulating those petitions finally managed to produce an acceptable, legal petition that passed the scrutiny of the Tribal Council. The Quechan Election Board then scheduled an election for Tuesday, June 26th.

The results, after so much noise and fury, were somewhat underwhelming. For months, petitioners had blanketed the area from the community center to Indian Hill with posters demanding the right to have their demands for "honest leadership" put before the people.

After six months of constant campaigning, the 121 peti-

tioners (who are all presumed to have voted in favor of the recall) were only able to convince an additional 127 qualified adult electors to vote for President Escalanti's ouster.

The recall collected only 248 votes from those wishing to overturn the will of the people in last year's general election. At the same time, there were

316 votes from Tribal members wanting to leave the current administration in place. Those totals don't bode well for the petitioners' next recall, now scheduled for Tuesday, July 31.

Valid petitions with more than 100 signatures have been accepted asking for the recall of all Council members other than James and Felix Montague.

The circulator of all these petitions, Cryselle Montague-Urbe, tells local media that the results so far leave her "encouraged and motivated to move forward". Although the Tribe has spent much time and money considering her petitions over the past six months, and has just finished an expensive failed recall election, the Ex-Council Member says she has already begun circulating another petition asking for the President's recall.

She says she is not pleased with the current administration's interpretation of the Tribal Constitution and ordinances.

In her statements to local media, Cryselle Montague-Urbe

Continued on Page 2

Jordan Joaquin Sworn In; Replaces Resigning Felix J. Montague

In a surprising development, only a week after President Keeny Escalanti, Sr. successfully overcame a recall effort, Tribal Council member Felix J. Montague resigned his seat on the Council, “effective immediately”.

Mr. Montague delivered his letter of resignation to the President and Tribal Council on the morning of the regular monthly Tribal Council meeting on July 3rd. Citing his “current physical and medical hardships” as the reason for his resignation, Mr. Montague also stated that his resignation would be effective immediately, “so that the process and transition of filling [his] chair would not be delayed.”

Mr. Montague also made it clear he’d enjoyed an excellent



Jordan Joaquin was sworn in on July 6th, accepting the Tribal Council's offer to fill the suddenly vacant seat. Q NEWS Photo by William Isbell

working relationship with the Council, and offered a blessing on their continued efforts.

Following the regular Council meeting on the afternoon of July 3rd, the Council im-

mediately began an executive session to consider the replacement. Article VI Section 5 of the Tribal Constitution states that “in the event of a vacancy, from any cause whatever, it shall be the duty of the Council to immediately assemble and select from the eligible list of candidates from the previous election a person or persons to fill such vacancy.” Using the official election results from last year’s General Election, the Council first contacted the eligible candidate who had received the highest number of votes not sufficient to receive a place on the current Council, Mr. Michael Jack.

However, Mr. Jack told the Council that he is much too involved in his current posi-

tion as the Acting Director of Quechan Social Services to consider leaving that job at the present time to take a seat on the Tribal Council. Michael Jack had received 239 votes in the General Election. With only 2 votes less, Jordan Joaquin was the next qualified candidate to consider. After speaking to the Council, Mr. Joaquin accepted the challenge of stepping in to fill the vacancy.

Mr. Joaquin had previously served on the Tribal Council from January of 2009 until the current Council was sworn in

on June 3rd of 2011.

Prior to giving his consent to accept the offer to return, Mr. Joaquin took the time to discuss the responsibilities of returning to the Tribal Council with his family. It was determined that the earliest date he could be sworn in to return as a member of the Council would be a Special Council Meeting set for Friday, July 6th at 1:30 PM.

Quechan Tribal Court Judge Claudette White reported to the Tribal Council Chamber at that time, to administer the Oath of Office to Mr. Joaquin.

Voters Reject Recall

Continued from front page

has alleged a lack of transparency in Tribal financial matters, even as the Tribal Council moves to payoff as many loans as possible. Since Mr. Escalanti has become President, the Tribal Council has managed to payoff three loans taken out to finance projects such as the Quechan Casino Resort. Each time a loan was finalized, the pay-off details were announced at a public Council meeting.

While the *Quechan News* is


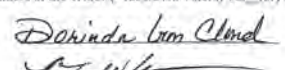



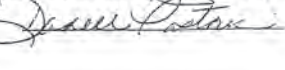
open to all Tribal members for discussion of issues and informing the Tribal membership of events and concerns, Ms. Montague-Urbe has made no effort to present her arguments to the the Newsletter on the proper interpretation of the Constitution, nor has she provided any details on the alleged of “lack of financial transparency” on the part of the current administration.

So, for now it seems, only those approached to sign addi-

tional petitions will hear all of her arguments in favor of overturning last year’s election.

But with a total of only 564 votes cast, the June 26 recall didn’t even equal the votes necessary to meet the requirements of Article VII, Section 4 of the Constitution, calling for a majority of adult members of the Tribe to overturn the will of the people. Will the July 31st recall result in a similar low turnout?

Only time will tell.

 QUECHAN INDIAN TRIBE Fort Yuma Indian Reservation ELECTION BOARD P.O. Box 758 Winterhaven, CA 92283 Phone (760) 572-0664 OFFICIAL ABSTRACT RECALL ELECTION JUNE 26 2012	
Number of Ballots PRINTED:	1500
Number of Ballots UNUSED:	929
* Total Number of Printed Ballots USED:	571
	TOTAL 1500
<small>*Note: This total includes All Walk In Ballots issued, All Absentee Ballots Requested and Sent, All Spoiled Ballots and All Rejected Ballots-Full.</small>	
Number of Walk in Ballots:	481
Number of Absentee Ballots Requested:	90
Number of Absentee Ballots Received:	82
Absentee Ballots Not Received:	7
Sample Ballots:	0
Number of Spoiled Ballots:	0
Number of Rejected Ballots:	0
NUMBER OF YES VOTES 248 A vote of yes means you want to AGREE with the 121 petitioners to REMOVE Keeny Escalanti, Sr., as the Quechan Tribal Council President.	
NUMBER OF NO VOTES 316 A vote of no means you DO NOT AGREE with the 121 petitioners and you wish to have Keeny Escalanti, Sr., REMAIN as the Quechan Tribal Council President.	
Did the number of voters meet the requirement of Article VII Section 4 of the Constitution calling for a majority of the adult members of the Tribe? (>1250/2498 Voters) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> (or) No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Dorinda Iron Cloud, JUDGE	
Kermit Olson, MARSHAL	
Nichole Montague, CLERK II	
Priscilla Pretty Bird, ALTERNATE I	
Danell Pastores, ALTERNATE II	

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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. I'm looking forward to hearing from you!



Culture & Heritage

Quechan Language Keeps Students Learning All Summer



Quechan Language instructors include Della Escalanti, passing on traditional crafts in the form of doll sized traditional beaded capes, a summer project for her students Joanna Herrera and Jayna and Breeanna Owens. In the center, Arlie Emerson is seen passing on Quechan Language skills to students enrolled in the Johnson O'Malley Program at the Education Complex. At right, Norena Escalanti learns the Kwat'san names for various animals from the Language Program Director, Barbara Levy.

QUECHAN NEWS Photos by William Isbell

Although the public schools close down every summer, the Quechan Language Program provides a year-round educational experience for those wanting to learn the "*kwat'san iiya*".

Program Director Barbara Levy says they have short courses for all age groups, all summer long. Even if your family takes time off to get away from the heat, there still may be time for you to enroll in one of the shorter, summer sessions, to brush up on your *kwat'san* language skills, or to learn a few new words and concepts.

"Language learning here at our office starts at 11:00 AM, every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday over the summer," she says. "Time enough to get plenty of rest and have a good

breakfast before coming to class."

Both Barbara and Della Escalanti work right at the office, and in an adjoining classroom, to pass on Quechan Language skills to students from 4 to 12.

Students receive a folder in which to keep their lesson sheets together, and the students are expected to bring their lesson sheets to class each day, just like a text book. "And we also welcome the parents to come and learn with their children," she says.

Students learn more than just words. They also learn how to count in Quechan, and the older kids even learn a little math to go with the numbers.

While coloring books and stuffed animals are used to pass

on the names of animals and common household items to the younger kids, the more advanced students also learn traditional crafts, such as beadwork and how to create traditional clothing. Three of the girls in the first session were able to make traditional beaded capes for their dolls. That experience will enable them to go on and make their own capes for Indian Days this fall, if they wish.

The first session ended with the month of June, and the ladies are involved in their second summer session right now. They will have a final, short session that ends in August, about the time school starts.

Older students are able to be involved in the Quechan Language Program when they

attend classes at the Johnson O'Malley (J.O.M.) summer program at the Quechan Education Center.

Arlie Emerson and his teaching assistant, Gary Gilbert provide lessons for each group at J.O.M., with practical applications and traditional songs included. Arlie is also known to pass on a great deal of his experience in making diamond dresses and ribbon shirts for traditional gatherings. Gary, with his computer experience, is able to create Power Point presentations for the classroom.

Meanwhile, Judith Prieta-Osborne is available for Quechan Language lessons to those enrolled in the summer programs at the Quechan Alcohol and Drug Abuse Preven-

tion Program (ADAPP). "Judith has quite a bit of experience in Counseling," says Barbara, "so she fits in really well there."

Judith will be helping out at ADAPP all summer long, providing a mix of her traditional outlook with her natural ability to communicate with those living in the modern world.

And finally, Ila Dunsweiler is also there, to help out with all of the various programs the Quechan Language Department is involved in. Ila teaches all ages, and is known to help out at J.O.M. when needed, as well as at ADAPP's gatherings.

Of course, once school begins in mid-August, the entire Quechan Language staff will go back to providing lessons at the San Pasqual schools, too!

QCR Experience Leads Dealer to World Series of Poker

Two poker dealers working at the Quechan Casino Resort have managed to use the experience they've gained working for the Quechan Tribe to make it all the way to the 2012 World Series of Poker (WSOP) at the Rio All-Suite Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas.

Ramiro Marquez, Jr. and Daniel "Bart" Sanson decided to quit talking about how good they are and head for the dealers' auditions at the WSOP.

Though it was a grueling try-out, they both "made the cut", proving to the world they have what it takes to go one-on-one with the best poker players and dealers in America.

One of them, Quechan Tribal member Ramiro Marquez, Jr. told the *Quechan News* what it's like to be involved in one of the world's premiere gaming events.

"Like many of my other employees at the Quechan Casino Resort we value our skills and consider ourselves exceptional dealers," says Ramiro, just stating the facts.

"My co-worker, Daniel San-



Raimiro "Divine Wind" Marquez, Jr. gives a "thumbs up" as he takes a break while dealing for the World Series of Poker in Las Vegas. Ramiro has been working in the poker room for the Quechan Tribe for close to six years now.

Photo Courtesy of Ramiro Whatchamadingit

son, had tossed around the idea that we should "take the plunge" and deal the World Series Of Poker a few years ago. As time went by, the idea would come up again and again. Together, we would boast about how well we would do there because of the work ethics and professionalism we'd obtained while working for the Tribe."

This year, the two finally

built up the nerve and made it to Las Vegas to audition for the World Series of Poker. Brothers Effrian and Luis Avolos went along on the journey with Ramiro and Daniel, to see if the training they'd received *had* made them the "world class" dealers they'd hoped they were.

"Even though we had minimal time for preparation, we managed to learn several new

games and procedures by using every available moment we could get to squeeze in more practice." It all paid off, when both Ramiro and Daniel made the cut to take part in the seven week tournament, which began with a Casino Employees No-Limit Hold'em Tournament, involving 21 hours of crazy, grueling poker over the night of May 27th and 28th. Since then, there have been more than three dozen additional events, including a No-Limit Hold'em Shootout involving nearly 600 players in one game!

"The WSOP takes 7 weeks, every year!" Ramiro exclaims. "Thousands of people come to compete for the Title of World Champion of Poker in many different events. With the highest limit games, and huge buy-ins for the tournaments, this whole thing is truly amazing!"

The seven week tournament ends with a one-two combination punch: The three-day National Championship has elimination rounds on July 6th and 7th, with the survivors returning to resume on the afternoon of Wednesday, July 11, for a marathon session that doesn't end until a winner has been determined.

A full seven-day(!) Texas Hold 'Em Tournament also begins on July 7th. That game resumes with 5 levels of play on Tuesday, July 10, continuing on until Monday, July 16th, to get down to 9 players. The Final Table will return to resume play over three days(!) in October!

As big as it is, you'd think poker is all Ramiro has time for . . . and maybe it is, right now. But he also loves music.

He elaborates: "When I'm not dealing cards, I'm involved in several musical projects that promote positivity and con-

sciousness." He says he shares the same musical goals with Charles Escalanti, who goes by the stage name of *Mic Titan*. Together, they form "*Divine Titan*". Ramiro also plays in the group "*Kamikaze Democracy*" with band mates Albert Golding, Kyle Cachora and David Souci. You can hear the music of both groups on the internet at Kwatsan Radio.org.

Getting back to business, Ramiro notes that "Even though I have made a career out of dealing Poker, in my life, my family comes first."

Ramiro says he stuck to it and progressed in his skills as a dealer in order to provide for his family and further his goals.

"I have been working for my tribe for close to six years in the poker room," he explains. "The skills I have learned in dealing were taught to me by my mother, Leona José Marquez, as well as her supervisors, Patty Taylor and Francis Navarro."

"With the help of good friends, co-workers, and the support of the Poker Room, we have made a great impression on both players and dealers here in Las Vegas."

He says even the pros have noticed how good the dealers are, representing the Quechan Tribe. "Daniel and I have both been commended by legends Jan Fisher and Linda Johnson."

"We are all doing great, we're making names for ourselves by working hard and showing great attitudes, no matter how late the games last. Being a part of the World Series of Poker has given us the experience and motivation to further ourselves in this career," Ramiro states.

Still, he says, they both look forward to getting home to their families after such a long stay in Las Vegas!



A Recall Election



**To Consider The Recall of Vice President Ronda Aguerro
And Tribal Council Members**

Virgil Smith, Clivia Cindy Miller and Darnella Melançon



**Is Scheduled to take place on:
Tuesday, July 31, 2012
at the Quechan Community Center
from 7:00 AM until 7:00 PM**

As Posted by The Quechan Election Board - Monday, July 2nd, 2012

Tribal Member Conducts “Strings del Rio” Concert at 13

Thirteen year old Zion White has had a long history of involvement in music, despite his young age.

While his mother was attending law school in Tempe, Arizona, Zion first got involved in organized musical education through a city Parks and Rec program. He had been playing keyboards on his own before then, but he really seemed to enjoy the structured learning.

“When we returned home in 2006, he started playing piano at the Cactus Keys Piano Studio in Yuma,” his mother, Quechan Tribal Court Judge Claudette White explains. “Shortly thereafter he asked to take guitar classes with the Yuma Parks and Rec Department and enjoyed it so much after the program ended he started taking private lessons.”

About a year later, mother and son were browsing the Guitar Center in Phoenix and Zion noticed an ad posted by a drum instructor. The instructor said he had developed some specialized teaching methods and had recently been featured in *Modern Drum* magazine.

Judge White continues: “After calling the number and speaking to the teacher, we were quite impressed, so we set up lessons with him in Scottsdale on the weekends.”

The first time he sat with Zion and had him play a few short patterns, he stated, “I want 2 per cent of all his contracts and recognition for finding him!”

Judge White replied, “No I found him, that’s why I brought him to you!”

Zion trained for almost two years with the man, Stephen Flinn, until Flinn moved to Los Angeles. In the interim, Zion’s health took a turn for the worse, as he developed severe chronic



Zion White conducts the Level IV Orchestra at the June 22nd *Strings del Rio* Summer Festival Concert at Cibola High. Zion is the son of Quechan Tribal Court Judge Claudette White. QUECHAN NEWS photo by William Isbell

asthma. Despite the breathing problems, Zion switched schools from San Pasqual to Centennial during the 2010-2011 school year to play the trumpet in Centennial’s strong band Program.

“He had done really well despite missing a good part of the school year due to asthma,” his mom says. “He started his last school year in the position of 1st Chair, 1st trumpet which is a big deal in the music world. At the end of his 6th grade school year they ended up promoting him to 7th grade.” Throughout his 6th grade year, he continuously asked his mother to find someone to teach him how to play the violin, because he loved the sound. She wanted to buy him a violin to celebrate his promotion, so they went to DeBell’s Music in Yuma for a “violin fitting” that same day.

“They tried to fit him for a violin, but anticipating that his arms would grow longer in a few years, they suggested we rent one and save to buy him a nice quality violin later.”

DeBell’s also gave her the name of Ms. Kathy Younker, a local violin instructor.

Judge White continues: “I called her on a Sunday and she asked if Zion was signed up to attend the *Strings Del Rio* Camp starting at Cibola the following day. I told her I had not heard about it but if there were openings I would get him there the next morning!”

Strings Del Rio was a one week program featuring a concert recital at the end, for parents to see their children’s progress. His mom chuckles, “It was pretty exciting to see him go from plucking strings to making music!”

By day two instructor Janet Jones had the students playing sections of Mozart’s *Ode to Joy*. Due to his progress, Mrs. Jones encouraged Zion to continue, informing them both about a strings program the Yuma Orchestra Association had developed with Arizona Western College. The program is designed to take students from entry level through mastery if they want to go that far. “With permission of the instructor to sign an over ride (due to his age), they told us Zion could be enrolled.”

He participated in both the Fall and Spring semesters, miss-

ing a little over a month in the spring semester while undergoing treatment to get his asthma more under control. When he returned, they welcomed him right back even though there were only two weeks remaining in the program.

But Zion spent all of his spare time practicing and was able to perform in the final AWC Spring Orchestra Concert, despite missing a good chunk of the spring semester.

This summer, he had the opportunity to enroll once again in the *Strings Del Rio* Camp which began on June 18th.

Zion’s audition for the camp

this year earned him a place in Orchestra IV: 1st violin, 2nd chair. “That’s just a step away from the big leagues, Orchestra V,” says his proud mom.

Even better, his natural talent for musical expression meant he was the only student to be asked to conduct a portion of this year’s Summer Festival Concert. When the Orchestra IV finished their usual selections at the June 22nd concert, his instructor asked Zion to move to the front of the stage to lead his fellow ensemble members in two additional tunes: “Old Joe Clark” and “Cripple Creek”.

The concert marked the end of the summer camp season, but Zion will return to the strings program in the Fall of 2012, enrolling once again through AWC. He says, “If I have to pick one instrument that I like best, I would say, Violin!” He also says that he wants to keep on learning, and that he’d rather not just pick one instrument. “why should I pick just one if I can actually play them all?” And he often tells his family, “I’m gonna play like that someday!” when watching classical performances on youtube.

At the rate he’s going, he may be doing just that, sooner than they realize!

Happy Birthday!

Phyllis Valenzuela

from your Daughter,
Son-in-Law
and Grandkids!



C.O.P.S. PROGRAM FUNDS NEW OFFICERS, EQUIPMENT FOR Q.P.D.

With the purchase of two brand-new 2012 Chevy Tahoes using federal grant money, the Quechan Tribal Police Department has been able to replace all seven of their patrol vehicles over the past 3 years, without spending a nickel of Tribal funds. The Tribal Security Department has also benefited, receiving the servicable surplus patrol vehicles from the QPD for their guards to use in the performance of their duties.

Earlier this year, when the Tribe received the funds for the vehicles, the Tribal Council also passed another Resolution accepting an additional grant from the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services in the Department of Justice. The grant pays for the salaries, training and benefits for two new full-time Tribal Police Officers.

One of those “new” Officers is Vincent “Todd” Durand, who had remained on the QPD reserve force as a member of the Quechan Tribal Council from 2004 through 2011.

Officer Durand tells the *Quechan News* he is pleased to be back on active duty with the



Officer Vincent “Todd” Durand has rejoined the Quechan Tribal Police as a full time Officer, thanks to a federal grant program which pays his salary. At right, Officer Durand stands with Officer Marco Veloz in front of the two newest vehicles the Tribe has received through an associated “Community Oriented Policing Services” grant from the US Department of Justice.



QUECHAN NEWS Photos by William Isbell

Quechan Police after a seven year break from police work.

Durand was born and raised here on the Ft. Yuma Reservation, and he still lives right here.

“My public safety career started in 1982 upon completion of a 4-year active duty contract with the U.S. Army,” he says. “I returned home to worked as a wild land firefighter with the Ft. Yuma BIA Fire crew from 1987 to 1990, while also working in Tribal Security during the various tribal celebrations we have each year.”

Given the opportunity to attend the Central Arizona Police Academy in 1994, Officer Durand trained as a reserve deputy with the Yuma County Sheriff’s Department after his graduation. He later took a job with the CRIT Police Department in Parker, Arizona, where he was able to pursue a long time dream of becoming a motor officer.

Continuing the story, he says, “I was then called upon to return home to Ft. Yuma to help with the development of the

Quechan Police Department, starting in July of 1997.”

When the Department “became void of a Chief of Police” as he puts it, “I was approached as a patrolman with the opportunity to step in and continue with the ongoing structural development of QPD.” Those were hard times as some of the senior officers will tell you, he notes, “But we forged forward.”

Moving on to the next chapter of his life, he says “I left QPD to run for public office in 2004, winning a seat on the

Tribal Council. That was the beginning of a 6 ½ year stint as a public official with the Tribe.”

When his term ended in 2010, he says he gave much thought and consideration to his future, and decided to reapply at the QPD. Once accepted, he was given the opportunity to return to full-time active duty status.

“I am now an 18-year veteran of the Police function and discipline. My goal is to complete 20 years of service in this discipline before making another career change.”

DUMP THE PUMP DAY A SUCCESS! AND OTHER BUS NEWS...

YCAT’s June 21st “Dump the Pump Day” saw more Quechans taking advantage of the day’s free transit rides. The effort encouraged people to ride public transit more and save money by driving less. The ridership report for the Blue Route states that 210 people rode the Quechan Shuttle that day—nearly one-third of June’s 664 riders. “To see so many people try it out—from

seniors to youth, to Q employees, to entire families—showed that they may find the service valuable, and hopefully, they’ll be more likely to ride the bus,” says EDA’s Allyson Collins.

YCIPTA reports that overall ridership on “Dump the Pump Day” increased 10% for all YCAT buses, a measure that deemed the effort a success.

More good news: ridership

on YCAT’s Red Route continues to increase since its inception in January 2012. The Red Route makes stops at Paradise Casino and Indian Hill before it loops through Yuma.

The latest report shows a 438% increase of average weekly riders. From February through March, the weekly average number of riders was 8; by the end of June that number jumped

to 35—a significant increase in ridership for the Red Route.

One negative issue that came up regarded a “Rider Alert” flyer issued by YCAT to inform Quechan Tribal Members that they do not ride the bus free. It was reported that some Tribal members took offense to the wording, considering it disrespectful. YCAT issued the alert due to a couple of incidents

where Quechan Tribal members living on the Cocopah Reservation disputed the fare policy with the bus driver, asserting that they can ride for free. A new alert deals strictly with fare disputes and instructs persons wishing to ride the bus to pay the fare, then address their dispute with YCIPTA. If you have any questions, please contact Allyson Collins at (760) 572-5270.

Mock Trial in Real Court for ADAPP Summer Program

Each summer, the Quechan Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Program (ADAPP) accepts a few local students into their program to learn about making better choices regarding their future decisions and behavior.

This summer, to show the students what happens when bad decisions end up bring a person into contact with the authorities, Rick Diaz and the staff asked the Quechan Tribal Court for their help. "We are always looking for new experiences children can have that will provoke thought and new insight," according to Mr. Diaz.

In response, the Tribal Court staff arranged to play out a mock trial scenario involving an individual stealing another person's lunch, showing the legal consequences of such actions.

ADAPP staff members Clau-

dia Reyes, Jessica Paddock and Dawn Clements reported to the Tribal Court with about a dozen and a half students, to witness the proceedings on June 19.

They were shown the Court facilities, met the Court staff and Quechan Security guards who were posted at the court that day and went into the Court Room to hear from Judge White about the Quechan Tribal Court. General information about the Court's jurisdiction was explained, as well as the types of cases the Court considers. Those range from a civil cases, to dependency, criminal cases, to probate and divorce.

As mock trial got underway, Judge White and Tribal Court Clerk Barrie Tibbitts playing their own parts, while the Baliffs were played by Juan Martinez and actual Quechan

Security staff, Security Director Jerome Two Hearts and Guard Benjamin Martinez.

The plaintiff, whose lunch was stolen, was played by Mary Amador. Her lawyer was played by Jaylen Brown. The defendant was played by Mireya Dominguez. Jessica Roosevelt played the part of the defendant's lawyer.

Witnesses for the mock trial were Destinee Diaz, Eric Meeden, Zion White, and Gilman Amador, while students Armandre Hicks, Matthew Thomas, Delphina Velarde, Lavelle Gilmore, Jarintei Moreno, Krystal Barley, Saylor Cordova, Anastasia Montaldo and Daizia Rodriguez all played jurors.

Though was a scripted trial, with everyone reading from a script, they were also allowed to ad-lib from time to time. Judge White was asked by Se-

curity Director Two Hearts if his new Guard, Benjamin Martinez could participate in the "trial" while still in training. So she decided to give him a real life opportunity to react to a court disturbance created by Zion White.

After testifying as a character named Harry Hart, Zion was excused from the stand. He then became belligerent and continued to talk over the judge, trying to give personal opinion even after he was excused. Judge White told him to leave the stand once more and he continued, getting louder. She finally had to hit her gavel instructing, "That's enough Mr. Hart, remove yourself from the stand!"

Quechan Security and Bailiff Juan Martinez then approached Zion to remove him from the stand. The "disturbance" was created to provide training to

the security guards as well as to allow the students to see what sometimes occurs in Court.

Judge White explained that there are different standards of proving things in court depending on the type of issue. When it was over, Jury Foreman Armandre Hicks came back to deliver the jury's verdict of "guilty". But when all the jurors were polled, two jurors did not agree and instead believed that the defendant was innocent because there wasn't enough proof, so the case ended in a mistrial.

While many of the students had not been looking forward to visiting court because they were scared or thought it might be boring, afterwards they said they had a lot of fun and felt the mock trial had been one of the best activities they had participated in all summer.

Home Renovation For Elder Completed

Tribal elder Deborah Delgado is living in a new home!! Well, almost new.

The elder's *Mutual Help* home (originally built in 1972) at 1805 Arnold Road has been renovated to virtually new condition. During the renovation, more insulation was incorporated into the walls and attic, and Low-E windows and low-flow water fixtures were installed. All of which contribute to a more energy-efficient home.


While they were there, the workers also added extra room to the home by walling in the carport area. That new modification puts the utility room indoors instead of the outside, as

it was in the original floor plan.

Ms. Delgado's home is the final renovation funded by the 2009 ICDBG Stimulus Grant, as allocated under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2008.

Several other homes were completely or partially rehabilitated through the QTDHE Construction Department utilizing "in-house" workers along with local subcontractors.

QTDHE intends to continue this rehabilitation program through the use of other grant sources along with the Indian Housing Block Grant which provides the basic funding of the Quechan housing program.



NATIVE AMERICAN RECOGNITION DAY PRESENTED BY GILA RIVER CASINOS



The D-backs invite you to be part of our 2012 Native American Recognition Day. Discounted tickets are available with a portion of each ticket sold using this offer benefiting Native American Programs. The first 20,000 fans through the gates will receive a D-backs Baseball Cap courtesy of Gila River Casinos.

Festivities during the day include live entertainment, pre-game ceremonies honoring Native American leaders for their commitment to the community, a Native American youth baseball parade as well as Native American educational displays to enhance the fan experience. Native American Tribal Royalty greet fans as they enter the ballpark.

For additional information or to book your seats today, please visit dbacks.com/NARD, or contact the D-backs Group Sales Department at 602-462-4600 or groups@dbacks.com.

An online purchase option is available through a link at www.itcaonline.com.

For more information on the 2012 D-backs & NABI Inter-tribal Youth Baseball and Softball Tournament, go to dbacks.com/intertribal

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Quechan News Photos

By William Isbell

STOMPING GROUNDS

QUECHAN TRIBE

SATURDAY, JUNE 30TH

CELEBRATES

INDEPENDENCE DAY



The fireworks booths at the Stomping Grounds were busy all day and into the night during the Quechan Tribe's Fourth of July Weekend Celebration. This was the scene on June 30th.

The spirit of competition shines in the eyes of Jacob Laurenzana as he makes a bet with Ruben Antone during Saturday's kids games at the Stomping Grounds.



The Fourth of July is a great time for a BIG family barbecue, so the Quechan Tribe invited the entire community out for a free barbecue dinner at the park on Saturday!



Looking a little nervous during a quiz competition are Trisha Emerson, Leon Thomas, Ruben Antone, James Laurenzana and Adam Thundercloud. In the center, Beeonndra Bohanan watches with Sergio Barton as her brother Jaylen signs for a prize he'd won. At right, Jacob, Leon and Ruben all begin to look even more nervous as they realize that it isn't going to be very easy to swallow a mouth full of dry crackers during the 4 to 6 year olds cracker eating competition!



Foot races are always a popular competition during events at the stomping grounds. At the Saturday 4 to 6 year old's race, winner Leon Thomas looks back for Jacob Laurenzana and Adam Thundercloud as Trisha Castillo and Ruben Antone cross the finish line in second and third place. Later, the teens race was a photo finish as Andrew Limones and Keanu Cachora crossed the line just ahead of Alec Cachora and Erica Baldenegro, followed by Marissa Laurenzana.