

ETSKA NAV AH PAI THE NEWS CARRIER

QUECHAN NEWS

Volume 107, Issue 2 ♦ Wednesday, February 6, 2013

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QUECHAN NEWS

is published by

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**Have A Story To Tell?
Send It In Via Email!**

New Ocotillo Hearing Set For February 15



While Pattern Energy continues to expand the number of wind turbines in the Ocotillo Valley, the Quechan Nation and other Tribes in the area continue to fight the Ocotillo Express project in court. The latest step in the fight is a hearing by the California Native American Heritage Commission set for Friday, February 15th, 2013 at the State of California Building in downtown San Diego. QUECHAN NEWS Photo by William Isbell

The California Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) has completed a staff report on behalf of the Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians and the Quechan Indian Nation, exploring the possibility of declaring the Ocotillo Valley Pattern Energy project site a 'sanctified cemetery', in light of the human remains discovered both prior to, and during early stages of the project's construction.

They have also announced a public hearing to be held at the State of California Building in downtown San Diego on February 15th, to take public comments in support of the

proposal. The meeting will get underway at 9:00AM next Friday, and it should last at least until 4:30PM.

The NAHC report makes it clear that Imperial County *never contacted the NAHC to enquire about the sacred sites that had been identified in the project area*, even though the NAHC had informed the county as early as December of 2010 that there were sacred sites in the 'area of potential effect'.

"Furthermore," the report reads, "there were several telephone conversations with the project archaeologist about when and who submitted sites

to the NAHC and what they represented." The NAHC also cites the *Handbook of the North American Indians*, by Clyde M. Woods (from 1982) on the sacred sites submitted by Kumeyaay elders to the NAHC Sacred Lands Inventory, which were discussed with Tierra Environmental of San Diego, the project archaeologist in the employ of Pattern Energy. Now that the Imperial County Coroner has admitted that additional human remains have been identified on the project site (on September 5, 2012), and forensic dog surveys have made at least 62 additional "positive alerts for

human remains" (in May and July of 2012), the NAHC feels that the area's archaeological resources need to be looked at "within their cultural context, not in isolation."

The NAHC has found that "the BLM and the County of Imperial have allowed a private party, Pattern Energy LP, to cause severe or irreparable damage to a Native American sanctified cemetery, as well as ceremonial sites in the Ocotillo Valley." If you would like to make your voice heard on this important matter, you can find directions to the February 15th hearing on page 2 of this issue.

To Get To The State of California Building

1350 Front Street, Downtown San Diego



Take Interstate 8 east until you see the exits for 1-15. At that point, keep to the right and follow signs for I-8 West/Beaches.

Go about 2.5 miles and take exit 4A to merge onto CA-163 heading South toward Downtown.

On 163-S go 3.3 miles and take Exit 1A to merge onto Ash Street.

You will then head East about 0.6 mile on Ash Street and turn left onto Front Street. 1350 Front Street is about 190 feet South from the Corner of Ash and Front Streets on the Right, at Arrow on Map.

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SUNDAY, MARCH 10, 2013

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 Saturday, Grand Entry ... 1:00PM
 Saturday, Grand Entry ... 7:00PM
 Sunday, Grand Entry ... 12:00PM

ADMISSION

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 \$4 Juniors (11-17)
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\$10 WEEKEND PASS

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ETSKA NAV AH PAI THE NEWS CARRIER

QUECHAN NEWS

William Isbell

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

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

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

Quechan Members in Territorial Marathon

Ten Quechan Tribal members braved the elements on a cold and drizzly Saturday morning, to stick with their plans to take part in the fourth annual Yuma Territorial Marathon from the Cocopah Casino south to the outskirts of San Luis, Arizona.

Running in the rain were James Espino, Jon Koteen, Lewis Throssel, Lori Vest, Indira and Robert Paige, Rosie and Joseph Herrera, Peter Escalanti IV and Anthony Gilbert. Jon Koteen completed his 1st full marathon, while Lori, Joseph,

Robert and Anthony finished their 1st half-marathon.

“We all did an awesome job and had a great time in the rain,” says Peter Escalanti. “I’m very proud to run with such amazing, motivational people. We would like to thank our families and supporters: The Quechan Nation, Paradise Casino, The Quechan Casino Resort and *A Mothers Cry*. I would like to give a special thanks to Indira, Robert, Anthony, Israel and Larr Bear. We all had a great time and on to train for the next one!”



Gathered for a group photo just before the marathon began are Tribal members Robert Paige, Joseph Herrera, Rosie Herrera, Pete Escalanti IV, Indira Paige and Anthony Gilbert. QUECHAN NEWS Photos by William Isbell



As the Quechan Tribal members reached the Half Marathon turnaround point, they had their photos snapped for the Quechan News. Here they are in the order they crossed the line west of Avenue H: James Espino, Anthony Gilbert, Lewis Throssel, Robert Paige, Rosie Herrera, and, bringing up the rear (enjoying the walk), were Peter Escalanti IV and Indira Page.

CONGRATULATIONS



Keep Up The Good Work, Mike!

From your very proud parents,

Julio & Carlotta Sestiaga

The Golden Shovel is a prestigious award presented to the worker of the year from the University of Arizona Facilities Management Grounds Department for over 30 years.

In December of 2012, the U of A's Golden Shovel went to Quechan Tribal member Mike Sestiaga.

Said Mike when receiving the award, “I am very humbled and proud to have won it considering the company I was in, all the ups and downs, trials and tribulations I’ve ever been through. I think it shows that you can accomplish what you set out to do as long as you work hard, have faith and and never give up!”

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Quechan Utility Company is now marking residential and commercial water lines and meter boxes. All markings include either a large stake at main lines or marking whiskers.

Please do not remove these as they are critical in identifying lines or shut off locations especially during emergencies.

If you do not wish to have your meter marked or if your meter may need replacement, please contact the Utility Company Office at (760) 572-0667. Thank you

EP EXPO BRINGS 3 NIGHTS OF NON-STOP ENTERTAINMENT TO THE Q!



Over two dozen Elvis Tribute Artists (ETAs) entertained the crowd over three nights, as they all competed against one another for a \$2500 cash prize and the chance to return next year as a showcase artist. Elvis' "Kissin' Cousins" co-star even came to share stories of Hollywood and her time working with The King. Jay Dupuis, one of the 2013 showcase artists sang dozens of Elvis hits on Thursday and Friday, and presented scarves (and kisses) to swooning members of the audience at the edge of the stage, in his faithful recreations of what it was like to see Elvis live. Jacob Roman, the ETA on the left, took home the Grand Prize, as seen on the right. (3) QUECHAN NEWS Photos by William Isbell, Final Image by Gabe Massey of The Q

Over the past few years, the increasing popularity of Yuma's annual Elvis Expo has outgrown the space available at their previous venue. Their search for a better location brought them to the Pipa Event Center at the Quechan Casino ♠ Resort this year, where the Expo celebrated three full nights of faithful remembrance of *The King*.

Over two dozen Elvis Tribute Artists from all over the nation descended upon the Q to go head-to-head before crowds of screaming, adoring fans, in pursuit of a \$2500 Grand Prize. There were so many artists in competition that Presley Pro-

ductions (the organizers) broke them into two groups to make it a little easier to keep track of the players! Over three nights, January 17th to the 19th, the tribute artists went on stage and sang their hearts out, backed up live by the EAS Band, the Official Tribute Band of Graceland.

Each evening opened with live shows by nationally known Elvis showcase artists Jay Dupuis and Dwight Icenhower. Thursday was Jay's night, on Friday both shared the stage in a one-hour musical retelling of The King's storied career, with each of them performing about a half dozen songs as the other

changed costumes to recreate the next phase of Elvis' life. Jay was on to his next gig on Saturday, when it was Dwight's time to shine on his own.

Special guests like Presley

family friend Jimmy Velvet and "Kissin' Cousins" co-star Cynthia Pepper only added to the excitement.

When it was all over, young Jacob Roman took the \$2500

top spot, which also means he can return as one of next year's showcase artists. Second place (and \$1000) went to Rob Ely, with Cody Campbell taking third and \$600 in prize money.



Vendors did a brisk business selling all kinds of Elvis memorabilia, from photos to rings to videos and even Elvis' own stationary. Even the artists stopped by to check out things they might want for their own collections!





*Wishing my husband a
Happy 45th Wedding Anniversary!
With lots of love!*

*Julio and Carlotta Sestiaga
January 16, 1968-2013*



AN IMPORTANT
COMMUNITY
REMINDER FOR:

*P*RESIDENTS *D*AY

Trash pick up for the
President's Day Holiday
On Monday, February 18th
will be on Tuesday,
February 19, 2013



Culture & Heritage

Hawaiians Seek Quechan Advice In Fighting Wind Energy Project



Hawaiian natives and environmentalists are fighting Pattern Energy's plans to build a huge wind energy project on the west end of the garden island of Molokai. The Quechan Tribe's efforts against Pattern Energy, led a local group, *I Aloha Molokai*, to arrange for representatives from the Quechan Tribe to come and speak at their 2013 Alternative Energy Festival in January of this year. Here, Hawaiians and Quechan Tribal members gather for a group photo on the last night of the festival.

Photo Courtesy of I Aloha Molokai

Hawaiian Natives and residents of the island of Molokai are facing off against Pattern Energy's plans to convert the western end of the island into another Big Wind boondoggle.

And just like Pattern's plans for the Ocotillo Valley, the energy produced would be transmitted through an undersea cable system from the wind farms to the densely populated island of Oahu, helping to feed the expanding tourism industry.

While the state's other islands have pursued development, Molokai is the last truly Hawaiian island in people, culture and lifestyle. After polls showed that over 95% of the population do not want wind turbines on the island, *I Aloha Molokai* organized an Alternative Energy Festival in 2012 to

encourage discussions on other ways the state could meet their future energy needs, to make each island energy independent and preserve Native Hawaiian cultural sites, historic values, and Molokai's scenic views.

While researching similar efforts against Pattern Energy over the past year, the organizers found repeated references to protests against Pattern's Ocotillo Express wind project. One member, Joann Tool, thought they ought to join forces with the Tribes fighting Pattern in California. Once she made her case to other members of the group, they asked her to see if she could contact the Quechan Tribe and arrange a cultural exchange at the 2013 Alternative Energy Festival on Molokai.

"It is puzzling to me why Pat-

tern seems to be targeting Native peoples whose lands have sacred and historic relevance," she tells the *Quechan News*.

"I cannot understand why these corporate folks don't have the same respect for burial grounds of others as they do for their own," she continues. "I thought that maybe if people other than those who are affected by our mutual stories saw some news about it we could get better press coverage and maybe by some chance both fights could gather more support and strength. I also love the idea of cultural exchanges. I thought that maybe a relationship could develop between your delegation and the Hawaiians for [mutual] purposes into the future."

Her efforts were successful, and four members of

the Quechan Tribe (and one Apache) journeyed to Molokai in early January, to share the story of the Tribe's struggle against Pattern and the BLM, while also sharing some of our history and cultural values.

Tribal Councilman Virgil Smith joined his father, Tribal Elder Vernon Smith as well as Lucinda and Lucia Polk (who was accompanied by her friend, Allen Paquin of the Jicarilla Apache Tribe) on the long flight to Honolulu, to board another flight for the short hop to Molokai. (All expenses for the trip were paid by Pipa a'koots and no tribal funds were used.) There, they stayed at the home of Kekama Helm. Mr. Helm's home is on homestead land that was passed to him by his grandparents. Those who have a Hawaiian blood quantum of at least 50 per cent are permitted to lease their homesteads for only \$1 a year, and the leases can be passed down through the generations. "There is a long waiting list!" says Joann.

Though the Festival began on Friday afternoon (with a big Hawaiian welcome for the Quechan delegation by The Molokai Drums, short speeches and introductions, followed by a dinner), the actual event took place on Saturday, January 12, with four panel discussions as the main focus of the day. The Quechan Tribe had the number

2 spot, after a presentation by state and county officials describing the Big Wind project.

"Their contribution was a tremendous addition to the Festival," says Ms. Tool. "Both the speech by Vernon and their panel discussion was very well received by the audience." They were particularly impressed by the message of the need for unity and the emphasis on the value of tribal status. "The Quechan panel lead smoothly into another new panel that we had this year on Energy and Independence, which was given by the Native Hawaiians."

"It was a pleasure to have Quechan Tribe members in attendance," writes Catherine Cluett, Editor-in-Chief of *The Molokai Dispatch*. "Their input was a highlight of the festival."

"These tribe members are currently fighting against the same Big Wind developer as the project proposed for Molokai. [Pattern] is proposing to destroy sacred cultural areas and the ancestral homeland of many tribe members," according to David Lichtenstein of *The Molokai News*. Impressed with our dedication to the cause, he continues, saying: "Already several years into the skirmish, the Quechan Tribe is refusing 'community benefits' and is now suing the Big Wind developer."

**Additional Color Photos
Can Be Found on Page 6**

THE 2013 MOLOKAI ALTERNATIVE ENERGY FESTIVAL



Kanohowailuku Helm plays the guitar with Allen Paquin on flute, on his brother Kekama's back porch.



One of the Festival photographers got this shot of a double rainbow at their venue just before it opened on Saturday— a good omen! Superimposed over her photo is a map of the Hawaiian Islands, with Molokai highlighted in red.

7 Photos Courtesy of Janeel and Asza Hew, I Aloha Molokai
Lucia and Lucinda Dance in Park by Catherine Cluett/The Molokai Dispatch



Local middle school students perform a traditional dance on stage at the Saturday morning opening of the Festival.



Vernon Smith sings Quechan songs at the home of Keka-ma Helm, as Lucia Polk and her mother Lucinda dance.



The Festival opened with traditional Hawaiian dances. Many of the dancers were local children keeping their traditions alive.



Lucia and Lucinda Polk also danced for the Festival go-ers on Saturday afternoon in the park where it was held.



Vernon Smith presented “Kanoho” Helm with one of his handmade gourd rattles on Sunday night. Overwhelmed at his generosity, the I Aloha Molokai President hugged Mr. Smith and thanked him profusely.



The Quechan Delegation took part in a panel discussion on Saturday afternoon. Jicarilla Apache Tribal member Allen Paquin (at left) joined Lucia Polk, Quechan Tribal Councilman Virgil Smith, Lucinda Polk and Tribal Administrator Vernon Smith at the head table for their presentation. Sitting with them are Kanohowailuku Helm and his brother Kekama. The audi-ence participants were interested in learning how regular people can fight large government and corporate bureaucracies.

Learn Film Making With Dan Golding This Month!



Beginning this weekend, Daniel Golding, Producer/Director for Hokan Media Productions, will present two sets of filmmaking workshops. Aspiring young filmmakers ages 13-24 will have the opportunity to learn the technical and artistic components of filmmaking, as well as become familiar with filming equipment and software.

There will be two opportunities to attend each workshop with our favorite Quechan filmmaker: Students may attend each of the two workshops either at the Yuma Main Library, or right here on the reservation!

The Art of Filmmaking

Saturday, February 2nd • 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Main Library, 2951 S 21st Drive Yuma, AZ

Saturday, February 9th • 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Quechan Community Center, 604 Picacho Road Winterhaven, CA

Film Editing

Saturday, February 16th • 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Main Library, 2951 S 21st Drive Yuma, AZ

Saturday, February 23rd • 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Quechan Community Center, 604 Picacho Road Winterhaven, CA

There is no charge to attend; however, space is limited and registration is required. For more information, call Bryan Summers, Teen Services Manager, at (928) 373-6487.

Upcoming programs include film screenings and critiques, and a film festival featuring student films April 20th. Equipment and software are available at the Main Library to those interested in creating a short film. All are encouraged to submit their work for the film festival.

This project is supported with funds granted by the Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records Agency under the Library Services and Technology Act, which is administered by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Quechan Tribal member Daniel Golding will be teaching a pair of workshops this month, both at the Yuma Main Library and here on the reservation, to give youths aged 13 to 24 a chance to experience the creative opportunities of filmmaking.

The films his students create will be featured at the first annual Greenlight Film Festival, a collaborative project of the Yuma Film Commission, Hokan Media Productions, Kwatsan Radio and AWC.

Mr. Golding, the Producer/Director of Hokan Media Productions, will present his filmmaking workshops at both the Yuma Main Library and here on the reservation at the Quechan Community Center. Aspiring filmmakers will have the opportunity to learn the technical and artistic components of filmmaking, as well as becoming familiar with both filming equipment and the software used.

The April 20th Greenlight Film Festival is the brainchild of teen services librarian Bryan Summers and his supervisor, Kate Griffin. While the workshops that are a part of the festival are mainly for teens, fami-



Daniel Golding checks a young filmmaker's script at a previous workshop. He will provide his experience and expertise for up to 15 students here on the reservation.

lies and younger children can submit films, too. "We'll try to have some really fun short films," says Summers, who says he is already looking forward to a "Hobbit" adaptation using Legos, planned by a 5th grade student he knows.

To build adult interest, the festival opened with a historical presentation by Mark Flint and Yvonne Taylor of the Yuma Film Commission on January 17th.

On the final Saturday in January, Daniel Golding presented his documentary "Songs of the Colorado," which tells of the music, stories, language and history of the Yuman-language tribes along the Colorado River. Both programs were presented



Mr. Golding's films have been featured on PBS Television and enjoy both brisk DVD sales and favorable reviews at film festivals all over the western United States.

Photos Courtesy of Hokan Media Productions

at the Yuma Main Library at 2951 S. 21st Drive, just a few blocks south of the Yuma Catholic High School, behind the new Wal Mart on Avenue B.

The February workshops will help students go from ideas to shooting, editing and presentation. Mr. Golding's classes here at the Quechan Community Center will make it easy for Tribal members to get involved. When speaking to local media about teaching the art of filmmaking to young Native Americans, he said "It's really kind of a neat moment to watch them see themselves" on the screen.

Mr. Golding says today's tech-savvy kids quickly learn the ins and outs of cameras and editing software. He also feels one of the most important things they can learn in his workshops is the reward of following something through from inception to completion.

"I think that's something that can be applied to anything in their life," he explains.

All events connected to the film festival are free, and you don't have to attend the workshops to submit a movie for consideration, though space is limited and registration is required. Equipment and software are available at the Yuma Main Library to those interested in creating a short film. Any genre of film, including documentary and drama, will be considered and films should be kept to about five minutes or less.

All films are due April 1 and will be judged by a panel. The finalists will be shown on April 20th at the Yuma Art Center, 254 South Main Street in Yuma.

All ages are welcome at the Greenlight Film Festival. For more information, call Bryan Summers at (928) 373-6487.

Minimize Your Risk of Flu

This year, the flu season arrived four to five weeks earlier than usual, reaching what some officials called “epidemic” proportions in 44 states by the first full week of January. In fact, the flu season started and peaked earlier this year than normal. And with 700 confirmed cases of influenza by January 9, Boston declared a public health emergency that same day.

When he announced the emergency to the press, Boston Mayor Thomas Menino pointed out that “The best thing you can do to protect yourself and your family is to get the flu shot.”

Diana Gomez, Director of the Yuma County Public Health Services, and Claudia Lorentz, the Public Health Nurse here at the Indian Health Service Clinic both agree with the Mayor of Boston.

The unofficial start of the flu season each year is October 1st, and by January 9th, Yuma County had received 22 cases of lab confirmed influenza. And while the early January indications were not alarming locally,

the Yuma County Health Department and the IHS are both prepared for a busy season.

Both health services encourage members of the community to get vaccinated and follow the necessary precautions to prevent the flu.

Influenza, commonly referred to as the “flu,” is unpredictable and can continue to infect individuals well into the spring. Fortunately, there are some simple steps to reduce your chances of getting it — vaccination coupled with some easy “health habits” are the best way to avoid the impact of influenza.

It’s especially important for individuals at high risk of developing serious complications, like pneumonia, to seek immunizations. These elevated risk demographics include:

- People who have certain medical conditions including asthma, diabetes, and chronic lung disease.
- Pregnant women.
- People 65 years and older
- People who live with or

care for others who are at high risk of developing serious complications — including household contacts and caregivers of people with certain medical conditions including asthma, diabetes, and chronic lung disease.

As we head into the peak of the influenza season there are precautions you can take to keep you and your loved ones safe:

- Get the vaccine.
- Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
- Wash your hands often with soap and warm water.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or sleeve when you sneeze or cough.
- If you are sick, stay home from school or work until 24 hours after you no longer have a fever, without the aid of fever reducing medicines.
- Stay informed.

More information can be found on the following websites:

www.azdhs.gov/flu
www.flu.gov

Wedding Bells

Friends and relatives gathered together to celebrate the marriage of Frank Perez and Connie Amador on December 31st, 2012. The couple met at the Paradise Casino, and the wedding party gathered there for a reception following the civil ceremony. The happy couple now reside in Yuma.



Frank Perez slips the ring onto Connie Amador's finger, sealing their marriage vows. The couple first met at the Paradise Casino.



Connie's son, Peter Laurenzana (at left) and her granddaughter Isabella Montijo (at right) gave her away in marriage to Frank Perez at the December 31st civil ceremony held in the Quechan Tribal Court.

Quechan Parks & Recreation

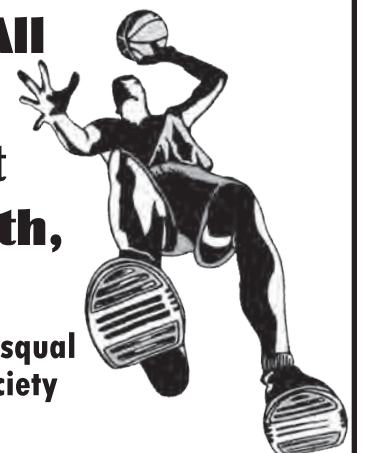
Will Be Holding A

\$1000 ALL INDIAN

**Winner Take All
Basketball
Tournament**

**March 8th & 9th,
2013**

During the Annual San Pasqual
Strong Hearts Native Society
Pow Wow Weekend!



At The Quechan Community Center!

Entry Fee is \$250.00 per Team - Deadline for
Entry is Friday, March 1st at 5:00 PM!

**For More Information, Contact
Quechan Parks & Rec: (760)572-1242**



**AT THE DIABETES
WELLNESS CENTER!**

**Every Thursday
Evening at 6 PM!**

**Open to ALL Tribal Members,
and Tribal/Casino and
San Pasqual School District
Employees!**

For More Information, please call:

760-572-4057



New Veterans Administration Clinic in Yuma

The Veterans Administration has officially opened their new Community Based Outpatient Clinic in Yuma, on the corner of Fourth Avenue and Catalina Drive near the Big Curve.

The new clinic is easily accessible to Tribal members, with the YCAT Red Route bus stopping on the corner near Applebee's at four minutes before the hour from 7:56AM until 5:56PM in the evening every weekday. If you take the Blue Route to the downtown transit center, you can catch the Red bus a half hour after you're dropped off, and catch it back to the rez a half hour after you return to downtown.

The new 15,000 square foot Yuma Community Clinic provides much more space to deliver Primary Care Services to more eligible Veterans living in the area. The old VA Yuma Clinic, in a building shared with the Department of the Interior on Gila Ridge Road, was under 4,000 square feet.

The previous clinic only had a staff of 25. At the new clinic's grand opening on January 10, they were providing primary care, mental health services,



The Yuma VA Outpatient Clinic is located on the east side of the big curve, in the Albertson's shopping center beside Applebee's. The January 10th ribbon cutting at the clinic was a standing room only event as vets crowded in to get a look at the new facility. QUECHAN NEWS Photos by William Isbell

home based primary care, enrollment and eligibility services and "Telemedicine", in addition to a full-time Pharmacist. Once the entire staff of 40 are "on board", the Yuma VA Clinic will also offer audiology services, physical therapy, optometry, and some specialty care.

One "specialty care" member already on-staff is Deborah Drumel, who had served as the IHS Clinic Dietician here at Fort Yuma up until September of last year. She is available to assist Native Veterans in participation with individual consultations, weight management classes, and diabetes nutrition

classes. Deborah says patients may refer themselves for any of the services she offers.

The Telemedicine System is an online care service which allows veterans to visit both their primary doctors and the VA's multidisciplinary health care teams online.

Patients and clinicians communicate using closed circuit video links, secure text and/or telephone. Through the system, doctors can review a patients' health records, discuss symptoms, provide advice, make diagnoses and prescribe medications. Each session is automatically recorded, allowing

veterans to share the information with additional health care providers, to provide continuity of care. The Telemedicine System allows vets to consult one-on-one with Doctors located anywhere in the VA system, saving the patient time and the expense (and potential stress) of out of town Doctor visits.

They also have an on-site specimen collection laboratory at the new Clinic, to assist in the diagnosis and management of acute and chronic diseases. Routine and urgent care procedures for Veterans such as dermatologic procedures, gynecological exams, skin tests,

dressing changes and immunizations are all available.

The clinic will soon have a Rural Health Care Coordinator to manage programs like home telehealth and home based primary care. These programs help Veterans better manage their chronic health conditions and reduce the need for emergency department visits.

The phone number for the new Yuma Community Based Outpatient Clinic is 1(928)317-9973. For further information contact the Southern Arizona VA Health Care System Human Resources Office (SAVAHCS) at 1(520)792-1450 ext. 1893.



The new 15,000 square foot facility has 12 examination rooms and the latest interconnected technology for modern record keeping. This is the new radiology department, which provides x-ray services on-site.

**SAN PASQUAL'S
2013 HEALTH AND SAFETY FAIR
JOIN US THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28TH
FROM 5:00 - 7:00PM
AT THE SCHOOL
CAFETERIA!**

**Fun for Kids!
Displays, Resources
and A Free Meal!**



**For more information, please contact
Rigel Garibay: rgaribay@spvusd.org**

Powerline Shifted, Hill Ready for New Water Tank

QUECHAN NEWS Photos by William Isbell



A construction crew from Irby Construction of Jackson, Mississippi was here over the second week of January, drilling holes, installing new power poles and moving the powerlines on Indian Hill. The project was preparing the area to the southeast of the Quechan Police Department for the installation of a second 780,000 gallon water tank later this spring. At left (above) the crew drills a 7 foot deep hole just inside the fence at the IHS main office, then pulls the auger (at right) to shake off the dirt before starting a second pass on the hole.



Lorey Cachora and other members of the Quechan Cultural Committee monitored the entire process throughout the week.



A worker placed wire guides on the insulators just before each lift.



Here is the new powerline after installation: the route now takes a northward jog across the roadway by the Police Station. The original path (black arrow) crossed directly through the planned water tower's space.



The crew carefully aligned each pole once the drilling machine operator lifted them into place. A large pole with a hook is used to grasp the pole and bring the crossarms into alignment with the route the wire will follow, and the hole is then backfilled and tamped down solid.



Susan Montague and Steve Villacana “made it legal” by having a civil ceremony and signing a Marriage Certificate at the Quechan Tribal Court on Tuesday, January 15, 2013. They had gotten married at the Fort Yuma Indian Mission 30 years to the day earlier, but had never signed and filed the paperwork to go with the vows they had taken! Standing by as witnesses to the event were Susan’s mother, Joanne Montague, and her uncle, Thomas Montague. Tribal Court Judge Claudette White officiated.

Quechan News Photo by William Isbell

IRS Announces Annual Inflation Adjustments for 2013

The Internal Revenue Service has announced annual inflation adjustments for tax year 2013, including the tax rate schedules, and other tax changes from the recently passed American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012.

The items of greatest interest to most taxpayers include the following changes:

- Beginning in tax year 2013 (generally for tax returns filed in 2014), a new tax rate of 39.6 percent has been added for individuals whose income exceeds \$400,000 (\$450,000 for married taxpayers filing a joint return). The other marginal rates — 10, 15, 25, 28, 33 and 35 percent — remain the same as in prior years.

- The standard deduction rises \$150 to \$6,100 (or \$12,200 for married couples filing jointly), up from \$5,950 (or \$11,900 for married couples filing jointly) for tax year 2012.

- The American Taxpayer

Relief Act of 2012 added a limitation for itemized deductions claimed on the 2013 returns of individuals with incomes of \$250,000 or more (\$300,000 for married couples filing jointly).

- The personal exemption rises \$100, to \$3,900, up from the 2012 exemption of \$3,800. However beginning in 2013, the exemption is subject to a phase-out that begins with adjusted gross incomes of \$150,000 (\$300,000 for married couples filing jointly). It phases out completely at \$211,250 (or \$422,500 for married couples filing jointly).

- The Alternative Minimum Tax exemption amount for tax year 2013 is \$51,900 for singles, or \$80,800, for married couples filing jointly, as set by the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012, which indexes future amounts for inflation. The 2012 exemption amount was \$50,600 (\$78,750 for married

couples filing jointly).

- The maximum Earned Income Credit amount is \$6,044 for taxpayers filing jointly who have 3 or more qualifying children, up from a total of \$5,891 for tax year 2012.

- Estates of decedents who die during 2013 have a basic exclusion amount of \$5,250,000, up from a total of \$5,120,000 for estates of decedents who died in 2012.

- For tax year 2013, the monthly limitation regarding the aggregate fringe benefit exclusion amount for transit passes and transportation in a commuter highway vehicle is \$245, up from \$240 for tax year 2012 (the legislation provided a retroactive increase from the \$125 limit that had been in place).

Details on these adjustments and others are contained in Revenue Procedure 2013-15. For further information, go to www.irs.gov/Forms-&-Pubs

AN EXPRESSION -OF THANKS-



*I took his hand when I heard him call,
I turned my back and left it all . . .
A friendship shared, a laugh a kiss.
These things, yes, I will miss.*

*Good friends, good times, a loved one’s touch
My life’s been full, I’ve savored much.
Lift up your hearts and peace to thee
God wanted me now; He set me free!*

Thanks to Mrs. Grossenberg: your thoughts of kindness in stopping by our house to take Peter to lunch when I was away with Pete at the hospital — you’re an Angel! And to Sarah Jeffers for being there for Peter in his loss, we will always be grateful.

The DeCorse family; Yvonne, George, JoAnn, Roger Don and Chuck and all the cousins gave us so much support and prayers in our time of need. Nothing will erase those memories of Kindness and Love. We will nurture them forever.

And Mr. Escalanti, our President: as a Leader you showed great respect to one of your people. You honored our wishes and sought the proper rights for Peter DeCorse, Jr. You are a man of your word.

Thank you to Lyman Golding, you dedicated spiritual songs to your good friend and native cousin. And thanks to the dancers who prepared Peter’s journey and made it a safe one: that was beautiful.

And to Peter, his son; his stepsons Israel, Richard and Isaac Valencia; and to his brothers Stevie and Anthony, Ray Troy and Nicolas Adams, to Andrew Rivera and cousins Robie, Jason, Richard and Roger, Jr, who carried him to the place where his journey begins and who said your goodbye: Words cannot describe how much that meant to me.

And to all the community friends who came with food, the teachers and students of San Pasqual High and the District Office who sent cards of condolences and so many flowers, we’d also like to say “Thank You” to each and every one of you for your love, support, thoughts and prayers.

And to the most important person, my brother Frank J. Garcia who was there for Pete in his final days; Brothers To The End.

We love you, Frank.

From the family of Peter N. DeCorse, Jr.

Sally Jo & Peter DeCorse III

You can bring your Community Expressions letters to the QUECHANNEWS office trailer just north of the Senior Center entry on Quechan Drive, or email them to the email address printed in the box at the bottom of page 2.

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