



QUECHAN NEWS

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New Year's revelers danced with happiness as balloons rained down on them at the stroke of midnight during the Q's Rockin' New Year's Eve Party last week. Quechan Tribal members may hold on to the joyous New Year's feeling a little longer in 2013, with the Council's completion of a year-long project to secure better terms for the Tribe's 2007 GO Bonds financing.

QUECHAN NEWS Photo by William Isbell

One of the final Resolutions passed for 2012 by the Quechan Tribal Council marked their successful completion of one more goal they had set as part of the Tribe's long-term financial management plan. That Resolution completed a covenant amendment to the 2007 Series Governmental Projects (GO) Bonds taken out to finance a number of important projects, chief among them the site preparation and construction of the Quechan Casino♦Resort.

The amendment went into effect on December 28, 2012. It provides greater protection

of the Tribe's net available assets, generates more than two million dollars in additional income through guaranteed investments over the next ten years, and provides relief from a liquidity covenant which restricted a significant portion of the Tribe's available cash reserves through 2024.

"It was necessary for Tribal Council to address this time-sensitive financial matter with a sense of urgency," stated President Keeny Escalanti, Sr.

"The benefits to the Tribe are tremendous – we couldn't afford to wait and miss this op-

portunity."

Vice President Ronda Aguirro offered further details, stating, "Because of our reductions in government spending and increases in casino EBITDA (profits) over the past couple of years, we have strengthened the Tribe's financial position considerably."

Looking to the future, the Vice President stated, "We have accomplished a lot in a relatively short period of time, but there is still one more major financial transaction to complete. The GO Bonds were issued in 2007 before the eco-

nomic recession so the Tribe was able to secure a very attractive interest rate for these tax-exempt bonds of 6 5/8%."

In exchange for receiving this low interest rate, the agreement with the GO bond holders (known as bond indenture) required that the Tribe secure future GO bond principal and interest payments with an increasing percentage of Tribal cash reserves. But now, as the Tribe looks more toward the future, having greater flexibility is essential in the event that access to cash reserves is

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Election Board Turns Contest Over to Community

Less than 24 hours after the polls closed in the December 3rd Tribal Council general election, the Quechan Election Board had their official abstract of the results completed and posted at the Tribal Administration Office on Indian Hill.

The Election Board confirmed in writing that they had completed their official results at 3:00 PM on Tuesday, December 4, and posted a copy of the Official Abstract for the public not long after. In addition to the 15 certified candidates listed on the ballot, they had tallied a total of 86 votes for 32 write-in candidates.

The top vote getter was incumbent Virgil S. Smith, who received a total of 272 votes out of the 548 recorded ballots. Emilio Escalanti, a previous Council member, came in second with 246 votes. Michael J. V. Jack was only 4 votes behind in his first election to the Tribal Council, with a total of 242, followed by incumbent Clivia Cyndee Miller, who received 221. The final spot went to Julianna M. Comet, returning to a seat on the Council after a 2 year absence with 217 votes.

However, the "Official Results" were put on hold within a week, after the Election Board posted a second notice at the Tribal Administration Office announcing a Community Meeting to settle "Two election contests . . . filed by members of the Quechan Indian Tribe."

That Election Board Notice

QUECHAN INDIAN TRIBE
Fort Yuma Indian Reservation

ELECTION BOARD
P.O. Box 758
Winterhaven, CA 92283
Phone (760) 572-0664

OFFICIAL ABSTRACT
TRIBAL COUNCIL ELECTION
December 03, 2012

Number of Ballots PRINTED:	1500
Number of Ballots UNUSED:	942
Total number of printed Ballots USED:	558
Sample Ballots USED:	0
*Total Number of Ballots ORDERED:	1500

*Note: This total includes All Walk-in Ballots issued. All Absentee Ballots Requested and Sent. All Spoiled Ballots and All Rejected Ballots Full & Partial.

Number of Walk in Ballots:	473
Number of Absentee Ballots Requested:	75
Number of Absentee Ballots Received:	46
Absentee Ballots Not Received:	29

Number of Spoiled Ballots:	3
Number of Rejected Ballots:	7

Election Results:

OFFICE OF TRIBAL COUNCIL:	
WAYNE W. CHAIPOS JR.	132
JULIANA M. COMET	217
EMILIO ESCALANTI	246
KENRICK ESCALANTI	157
CODY L. HART	19
MICHAEL J.V. JACK	242
MILTON JEFFERSON SR.	118
MERRIL D. KELLY	147
CLIVIA CYNDEE MILLER	221
MELISSA K. MILLS	79
JAMES MONTAGUE	173
LUCINDA ESCALANTI POLK	104
SHAWN N. PORTER	65
PRISCILLA J. PRETTYBIRD	68
VIRGIL S. SMITH	272

did not identify either the Tribal members filing the contests nor the nature of their challenges to the results.

The Board quoted "Article V.E" (sic) of the Quechan Election Ordinance" stating "an open meeting of the Quechan Community must be held to resolve these conflicts before any Certificates of Election can be issued for the candidates to serve on the Tribal Council."

Article V, Section E of the Quechan Election Ordinance

outlines the "Alternative Contest Procedure" to be followed whenever a Tribal member contests the election results "based on allegations of misconduct on the part of the Election Board or any member thereof."

In the case of such allegations, the Board is to convene an Open Meeting which requires the attendance of at least 10% of those who voted in the election. At that meeting, the members of the voting public hold a vote to elect a special Chairman

Write in Candidate:

Chryselle L. Montague Uribe	6
Robert A. Jones	1
James Jackson	2
Pamela D. Manchatta	5
Mark W. White II	1
Marianna Bobtail Bear	5
Peter R. Escalanti IV	3
Christobie M. Emerson	11
Marsha A. Hill	19
Joseph E. Menta	2
Jordan D. Joaquin	3
Victor M. Apaute Jr.	1
Amber D. Cachora	1
Bernadine Cachora	1
Marshall V. Benedict Jr.	1
Roderick Hartt	1
George J. DeCorse	3
Dwayne P. Waters	1
Tanya J. Cooper	1
Adina Chaipos Alvarez	1
Monica F. Montague	2
Anthony Montague	1
Jane Rose	1
Manfred Scott	1
Lou Jean Vega	2
Darnella Mellacan	2
Vernon S. Smith	1
Edith White	1
Dwight D. Taylor	1
Felix Montague	1
Stella C. Short	1
Myra Hills Andrews	1
Phylis Jones	1
Roseana M. Williams	1

We the Election Board do hereby confirm that the results of the Election are submitted and true to the best of our ability on this date of Dec 04, 2012 At the time of 3:00 AM/PM

DORINDA IRON CLOUD, JUDGE: Carinda Iron Cloud
DONALD MEDART JR., MARSHAL: Donald Medart Jr.
NICHOLE MONTAGUE, CLERK I: Nichole Montague
STARLA M. CACHORA, CLERK II: Starla M. Cachora
YVONNE MILLS-SUMMERS, ALTERNATE I: Yvonne Mills-Summers

to run the meeting.

With a number of Election Board members having resigned soon after the Official Results were posted, and no signatures on the part of the remaining members of the Board attached to the notice of the public meet-

ing, it was not known until the December 28th meeting who had contested the Election, nor which Board members had been accused of misconduct.

However, once the Tribal members began filing in to the

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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

Gingerbread House Building Is A Quechan Christmas Tradition



Brayden Talaswaima begins the first steps of piecing together the walls of his gingerbread house (above, left) while Garrison White poses proudly with his finished project. The entire Quechan Community Center (at right, above) was filled with parents, aunts, uncles and grandparents helping their little ones learn the art of culinary construction. The work even spilled over into the bleachers! At the far right, Nathaniel Golding is seen putting the finishing touches on his house, while below him, his little sister Itzell gets a little help from their dad, Dan Golding, as he shows her how to use a little frosting to glue the outer walls to the styrofoam foundation. At the bottom of the page on the right, Keely Escalanti carefully considers the placement of decorative candies, while mom Lisa Amador introduces her newest family addition, Luna Emerson to her first experience at building gingerbread houses surrounded by the greater Tribal community.

A full week of special Christmas events began on Wednesday, December 12th when the Quechan Parks and Recreation Department threw open the doors of the Community Center to welcome hundreds of community members inside for their Annual Gingerbread House Building Event!

Even though they had dozens of tables lined up east-to-west across the center of the main floor, the staff also had to pull out the bleachers for extra seating as an overflow crowd of families gathered to take part in this increasingly popular past-

time. This year, the Parks and Rec staff spent the first part of the week preparing 250 "kits", each containing 2 peaked gable end graham cracker walls and four additional whole crackers for shorter side walls and roofs.

Volunteers helped them bag white frosting, which the crafters would squirt from a cut corner of their zip-lock bags to glue the walls down on styrofoam foundations, and then "paint" on filligrees, swirls and other decorations for windows and doors.

All sorts of small, colorful candies were available from

the front table near the stage in the Community Center, which the volunteers passed out along with the kits, or delivered to participants table on request as the projects took shape.

No one, it seems, is immune to the call to be creative. While you can expect to see small children excited to get a chance to play with sweet, sticky confections, there seems to be no age limit on this event! Grandma Peggy Meeden was there to help her granddaughter Nicole, while School Superintendent Dr. David Bealer sat nearby, building a house of his own!

QUECHAN NEWS Photos by William Isbell



Community Meeting Decides Election Outcome

Continued from Page 2



Once the December 28 public meeting upheld the election results, the newly elected Quechan Tribal Council was sworn in on Monday, January 7th, as called for in the Constitution. The Tribal Council, from left to right are: Michael J.V. Jack, Julianna M. Comet, Nice President Ronda Aguerro, President Keeny Escalanti, Sr., Virgil Smith, Clivia Cindee Miller and Emilio Escalanti. Quechan Tribal Court Judge Claudette White is seen in front, back to the camera, administering their oaths.

QUECHAN NEWS Photo by William Isbell

Community Center at 6:00 PM on the 28th, everyone saw Christobal Emerson, Priscilla Prettybird and Mona Engler sitting front and center at their own table, and the identities of the contestants was revealed.

By 6:30 PM, Election Board Marshal Don Medart declared that at least 10% of the Tribal members who had voted in the Election had signed in, satisfying the Election Ordinance requirement for the meeting to proceed. The public quickly nominated and elected Mr. Brian Golding as their Chairman, who called the meeting to order at 6:50 PM.

In his December 31st report to the Tribal Council on the results of meeting, Mr. Golding said Christobal Emerson was the first to present his contest's allegations and proofs of evidence. Mr. Emerson had several questions for the Election Board, which they answered. Several questions and comments were also received from the Tribal members in attendance.

After discussion, Mr. Golding

asked for a show of hands to determine whether the Tribal membership in attendance desired to vote on the question of whether Christobal's contest presented evidence sufficient to find that the Election Board engaged in misconduct during the election held on December 3, 2012. A majority present raised their hands in favor of bringing this matter to a vote. Calling for the vote, the Chairman counted 34 "Yes" votes and 50 "No" votes. The vote showed Christobal Emerson was unable to make the case that the Election Board engaged in misconduct during the election.

At that point, Priscilla Prettybird (assisted by Mona Engler) presented the allegations and proofs of evidence contained in her contest. Priscilla and Mona also read an addendum to the contest dated December 27, 2012. After discussion, the majority present did not wish to pursue discussion of the addendum, as it was not filed before the contest deadline.

Both the Election Board and

the Tribal membership asked and answered questions and shared comments with Priscilla and Mona. Eventually, a majority of the Tribal membership indicated by a show of hands that they wished to vote on the evidence presented in the second contest filed against the December 3rd election results.

On this contest, Mr. Golding counted 38 "Yes" votes to 48 "No" votes, so the majority found that Ms. Prettybird also did not show that the Quechan Election Board had engaged in misconduct during the election.

Mr. Golding then asked the Tribal members present if they were prepared to vote on the issue of upholding the results of the December 3rd election. A majority indicated by a show of hands their readiness to vote. Mr. Golding then counted 57 "Yes" votes and 34 "No" votes.

With that vote, the public meeting upheld the election results. The meeting adjourned at 9:02 PM. The new Council was sworn in on January 7th, 2013.

New Financial Agreement Signed

Continued from Page 1

needed.

Tribal Council Member Cynnee Miller offered this explanation: "Before we negotiated this amendment, the agreement with the GO bond holders required the Tribe to set aside \$7.4 Million in cash reserves through 2014. Then, the amount nearly doubles after 2014 to \$14.7 Million. Finally, another increase in reserves was mandated in 2017 to bring it to \$21.1 Million."

Had the Tribe been unsuccessful in its bid to renegotiate this covenant amendment, these scheduled restrictions on cash reserves would have made it incredibly difficult for the Tribe to continue to provide essential services to membership and still satisfy its financial obligations.

With the assistance of casino management and a financial advisory team, the Tribal Council issued a special Request for Proposal (RFP) that was sent to eleven separate multi-national banks to solicit bids for a Guaranteed Investment Contract or "GIC." Through an exhaustive review and screening process, Natixis Funding Corporation, a New York corporation guaranteed by a multi-national investment bank, was selected as the highest bidder.

Natixis offered the best interest rate at 1.96% which represented a premium of 16 basis points above the 10-year US Treasury rate. (It is common practice in the financial industry to use basis points to denote a rate change in a financial instrument, or the difference between two interest rates, including the yields of fixed-income securities. A basis point is equal to one hundredth of a percentage

point, so that means the Nataxis offered the Tribe an interest rate 1.6% higher than the U.S. Treasury currently receives on the 10-Year bonds they issue.)

In turn, a one-time deposit of \$10.5M in GO bond cash reserves has been set aside to secure future GO bond principal and interest payments for reinvestment under the Tribe's Guaranteed Investment Contract, which eliminates the requirement to set aside the additional reserves of \$14.7 Million in 2014 and \$21.1 Million in 2017—Millions which would have been tied up under the previous agreement that will now be available for the Tribe's own future plans and growth.

The Tribe will receive a guaranteed rate of return on these reserves and will reinvest the interest income to increase the rate of growth of the investment. As a result, it is projected that the increased value of the fund will enable the Tribe to pay off the bonds three years early and save over \$2 Million in cash.

"We are now in a position to refinance the remaining 2008 Series Gaming Enterprise Revenue Bonds in mid-2013," stated Council Member Miller.

"These bonds total \$97.5M and carry an interest rate of 15% which is very high. We have already received inquiries from several different investment banks that are interested in this transaction, which is good news since we have not yet formally announced our refinancing plans to the investment community."

Yes - 2013 could be a *much* better year, indeed!

YCCT Makes Blue Route Changes, Adds El Centro Route

The Yuma County Intergovernmental Public Transportation Authority (YCIPTA) is making some changes to bus routes in the area, to help those routes run closer to their published schedules.

One route that has had trouble staying on schedule is the Quechan Blue Route Number 5. John Andoh, Transit Director for YCAT says the condition of Arnold Road and the railway crossing into Winterhaven on First Avenue often cause delays.

To improve the efficiency of the Blue Route, YCIPTA will implement a couple of changes to the route beginning next Monday, January 14.

"The first is to discontinue regular scheduled service north of Indian Rock Road," says Mr. Andoh, in explaining the changes to keep the Blue Route on schedule.

"Of course, YCAT will still have service available for anyone north of Indian Rock who wants it. Those wanting to catch the Blue Route at the bus stop near the Pipa Market.

Turquoise Route 10 - Interstate 8/El Centro/Yuma - Monday and Wednesday							
Westbound to El Centro				El Centro			
Fort Yuma	Yuma	Winterhaven	Fort Yuma	Imperial Avenue @ El Centro Regional Medical Center	State Street @ 14th Street Transfer Terminal (EB)	Departure Times for YCAT Routes 5 and 1/2 (Downtown)	Time Change to Pacific Standard Time
Arrival Times for YCAT Routes 5 and 1/2 (Downtown)		Winterhaven Drive @ Railroad Avenue (Hub Liquor) Quechan Casino		9:33 AM	9:28 AM	9:30 AM	9:30 AM
1/2/4/9/5 (Downtown)	Paradise Casino	(3rd/Gila Sts)		9:24 AM	9:19 AM	9:21 AM	9:21 AM
9:03 AM/9:29 AM	9:16 AM	9:20 AM	9:24 PM	9:33 AM	9:28 AM	9:30 AM	9:30 AM
3:03 PM/2:29 PM	3:08 PM	3:10 PM	3:14 PM	3:23 PM	3:13 PM	3:16 PM	3:20 PM*

*Also connects with YVT Routes 3/4.

Turquoise Route 10 - Interstate 8/El Centro/Yuma - Monday and Wednesday							
Eastbound to Yuma				El Centro			
El Centro	Fort Yuma	Winterhaven	Yuma	Fort Yuma	Quechan Casino	Winterhaven Drive @ 2nd Avenue (Advance Cash)	State Street @ 14th Street Transfer Terminal (EB)
Arrival Times for YCAT Routes 5 and 1/2 (Downtown)	State Street @ 14th Street Transfer Terminal (EB)	4th Street @ Aurora Drive	Quechan Casino - Report**	Winterhaven Drive @ 2nd Avenue (Advance Cash)	Paradise Casino	Departure Times for YCAT Routes 5 and 1/2 (Downtown)	Time Change to Mountain Standard Time
1/2/4/9/5 (Downtown)	9:30 AM	9:35 AM	11:26 AM	11:38 AM	11:43 AM	12:03 PM/12:30 PM	1/2/4/9/5
9:20 AM	9:35 AM	11:24 AM	11:36 AM	11:41 AM	12:03 PM/12:30 PM	12:03 PM/12:30 PM	12:03 PM/12:30 PM
3:10 PM*	3:20 PM	3:25 PM	5:15 PM	5:24 PM	5:28 PM	6:03 PM/5:30 PM	5:15 PM/5:30 PM

*Also connects with YVT Routes 3/4.

AM times are shown in lightface type. PM times are in boldface type. Schedules are subject to change without notice. Times are approximate and may vary depending on traffic conditions, weather and other conditions.

Times in El Centro are based on Pacific Standard Time (PST/one hour prior). Times in Yuma and Fort Yuma Indian Reservation are based on Mountain Standard Time (MST) November-March only.

Not all YCAT bus stops are shown. This route will stop at all YCAT bus stops along the route.

No Route 10 transit service on Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Sunday or New Years Day. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Presidents Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving Day & Christmas Day.

*This timepoint is the closest point to Algodones, Baja California. It is a 1.5 mile walk from the bus stop to the border crossing.

Meanwhile, with the recent authorization of Memorandum of Understanding between the Quechan Tribe, YCIPTA, and the Imperial County Transportation Commission, YCAT has added a new Turquoise Route 10 between Yuma and El Centro!

The new route will operate three times a week on a regular schedule, rather than once a week, on call, as it was when El Centro service was provided by Imperial Valley Transit. Route 10 began regular service just this Monday, January 7th.

Turquoise Route 10 will stop at the Paradise Casino every Monday and Wednesday morning at 9:15 AM, head over to the Downtown Yuma Transfer Center at the old Hotel Del Sol to pick up riders in Yuma, and then continue on to stop in Winterhaven (in front of Hub Liquor) at 9:24 AM and then makes another stop at the Q at 9:33 before heading west on I-8 directly to El Centro. It will stop at the El Centro Regional Medical Center and the El Centro bus transfer center

next to the City Hall at 14th and State Streets. Turquoise Route 10 then continues east to make one more stop at 4th Street and Aurora Drive, about a half mile north of the Imperial Valley Mall, before returning to Yuma.

Route 10 then returns to El Centro just after 3:00 PM (Pacific Time) for riders heading to Yuma in the afternoon.

The Saturday morning schedule is much the same, only the first stop at the Paradise Casino takes place at 11:05AM during the winter months.

Happy Holidays from ADAPP!

Mission: ADAPP is dedicated to improving the quality of life for both the youth and adult Native Americans within the Quechan Tribe.

Philosophy: ADAPP is dedicated to providing highly structured community based services to address substance use and related issues.

At ADAPP we want to provide hope, healing, empowerment, and connection to other social services that will help with the recovery process. We strive to do this through prevention education, clinical care, social development, community involvement, and most important by believing that recovery is possible.

Thank you to all those who have made ADAPP such a wonderful program. We hope to continue to assist those in need and create a high quality treatment program that will benefit the Quechan Community in general.

Flowers by Yvonne
Christmas Floral Arrangement
Raffle Winner!

Congratulations To
Tony Emerson

For Being The Lucky
Ticket Holder For
The December Raffle Prize:
A Special Christmas Floral
Arrangement Inside A Giant
Red Tree Ornament!

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QUECHAN CHRISTMAS GIFTS



Ruben Antone rushed to be first in line to meet Santa and get his gift, a Ford F-650 pickup!

Mom Renee Montaldo smiles as her baby, Adrian greets a couple of Santa's helpers, San Pasqual Native Princesses Toni Emerson and Brina Ironcloud. Tribal members brought their kids from newborn to age 12, to get in line at the Paradise Event Center for free gifts, a visit with Santa, and hot dogs and drinks on Wednesday, December 19.

Malena Laurenzana also seems happy to pose with Santa holding her Dora the Explorer doll.

BIG STARS COMING TO THE Q THIS YEAR!



The Temptations arrive on Friday, February 15, 2013 to play the Pipa Event Center, to be followed two weeks later by Vicki Lawrence and her "Two Woman Show". Vicki plays both herself and the character "Mama", who she first brought into America's livingrooms on a weekly basis while a member of the long running *Carol Burnett Show*. A couple of weeks later, Celebrity Chef Robert Irvine will host an onstage 60 minute seminar for some members of the audience prior to his one-hour live show at the Pipa!

All Images Courtesy of The Q

Next weekend will see the 2013 *Elvis Presley Expo* coming to the Pipa Event Center at the Quechan Casino♦Resort.

The "Tribute Weekend to the King" will take place over three evenings, Thursday through Saturday, January 17, 18 and 19.

The Expo runs from 7:00 PM to midnight each of the three nights, and will feature 30 Elvis impersonators as well as Guest Celebrities such as Cynthia Pepper (Elvis' co-star in *Kissin' Cousins*) and Jimmie Velvet (a

rock'n'roll singer known for his Elvis Era hits like *Blue Velvet* and *Teen Angel*).

Tickets for one show during the Expo start at \$19 and go to \$39, with special packages for two nights or all three nights ranging from \$35 to \$99. With vendors on-site, special showcases and "meet & greets" every night, you might want to head over to StarTickets.com or the Pipa Box Office and get in line right now!

Next month, two nights after

the fourth Anniversary of the opening of "The Q", *The Temptations* will be appearing live in concert at the Pipa for one show only, Friday, February 15th at 8:00 PM. For more than forty years, *The Temptations* have propelled popular music forward with a series of smash hits and sold-out performances throughout the world.

Their avalanche of hits include "The Way You Do the things You Do," "It's Growing," "Since I Lost My Baby,"

"Get Ready" and many more.

Vicky Lawrence will bring her "Two Woman Show" featuring the character "Mama" to the Pipa on Friday evening, March 1st. Tickets for that 8 o'clock show will go on sale Monday, January 18, 2013.

Two weeks later, the Pipa Event Center will host Celebrity Chef Robert Irvine on Saturday, March 16th.

Tickets for The Food Network host's high energy show will go on sale Saturday, Feb-

ruary 2, 2013. A ratings record breaker with *Restaurant: Impossible*, Chef Irvine has previously appeared on *Worst Cooks in America* and *The Next Iron Chef*. More than just a cooking demo, his interactive show provides multiple opportunities for audience participation while witnessing the challenging nature of the TV show come to life right before your eyes.

And remember: you must be at least 21 years of age to attend any of these shows at the Pipa.





Baseball Camp



All Photos by William Isbell, Quechan News



AWC's catching coach Bryan Casey spent 6 years with the Kansas City Royals before returning to Arizona to coach both high school and college baseball. He joined San Pasqual's head coach Faron Owl to lead an all day winter baseball camp on December 22nd at the high school's athletic field. On the center, Coach Owl and AWC 3rd baseman Hector Valenzuela observe younger members of the camp during their morning practice drills. In the afternoon, Yuma Diablos coach Ron Arviso spent some time popping short flies to watch Ritchie Preciado, Ron Flores, Tim Frost and Danny Flores scramble to catch each ball. Altogether, nearly 50 local players came out to attend the camp.

San Pasqual's head baseball coach, Quechan Tribal member Faron Owl, brought together an all-star group of current AWC players and their catching coach to once again bring a college-level winter baseball camp to the Quechan reservation in December.

The first day of the winter break saw dozens of local students from Winterhaven and Yuma gathering at the San Pasqual High athletic fields to gather around the visitors from Arizona Western College and soak up every nugget of wisdom they could pass along in one day. While Tribal members were able to sign up for free, other players from Little League through high school paid only \$25 to attend the camp.

Younger players gathered in the north field to practice pitching, catching, fielding and snap throws (to catch players trying to steal bases) under the watchful eyes of Coach Owl and the AWC players.

Meanwhile, *Yuma Diablos* Coach Ron Arviso joined AWC catching coach Bryan Casey on

the varsity baseball field to do the same with the high school aged participants.

A Kofa grad who spent six years with the Kansas City Royals organization, Coach Casey returned to Arizona to serve two years as the Head Softball Coach at Scottsdale's Horizon High before coming back to Yuma to join the staff at AWC.

He was joined at the Camp by sophomore Hector Valenzuela, a former shortstop and 3rd baseman at Kofa High who

now covers third for the *Matadors*. Also helping out were two of Hector's team mates, Omar Celaya and Angel Sanchez.

Omar graduated from Cibola High, where he was both a pitcher and third baseman. Now a freshman at AWC, Omar is a member of their pitching stable. Angel meanwhile, covers second base for the *Matadors*. He had been a shortstop for the *Kofa Kings* up until his graduation in May of 2012.

All members of the *Matadors*

athletic program shared their additional years of experience to help the kids who came out learn a few tips to improve both their games and their leadership skills on the field. The college players were able to move their students through fast-paced drills to gain the vital "muscle memory" so necessary to success in the game. Once an athlete gains the ability to instantly respond to everyday situations in the game, they can clear their minds to be ready to instantly

come up with the tactics they will use when faced with more unusual developments.

Many of the students who showed up to take advantage of the opportunity were members of Coach Owl's *Yuma Diablos*.

After spending the morning on drills, everyone stopped to line up for pizza, drinks and cookies, passed out by local girls who had volunteered to help out. Some of the *Diablos* took advantage of a little free time at the end of their lunch break to get Coach Arviso to bat a few short balls to them, to practice their skills at anticipating where the ball will go and getting out in front of it quickly.

Players from all age groups then gathered to play a couple of quick games in the afternoon, and put together all they'd learned into a single, seamless flow under the watchful eyes of their coaches.

The most improved players even received baseball bats to take home with them, while everyone involved received their own special AWC Instructional Baseball Camp T-shirt!



The players, coaches and support staff all sat down at the end of the camp to have a souvenir group photo shot, to add to their sports trophies and remember all the fun they had here on the rez!

Traffic to be Detoured for Power Line Reroute

The Imperial Irrigation District (IID) will be re-routing electrical power lines later this month, as the first step in the installation of a new water storage tank on Indian Hill.

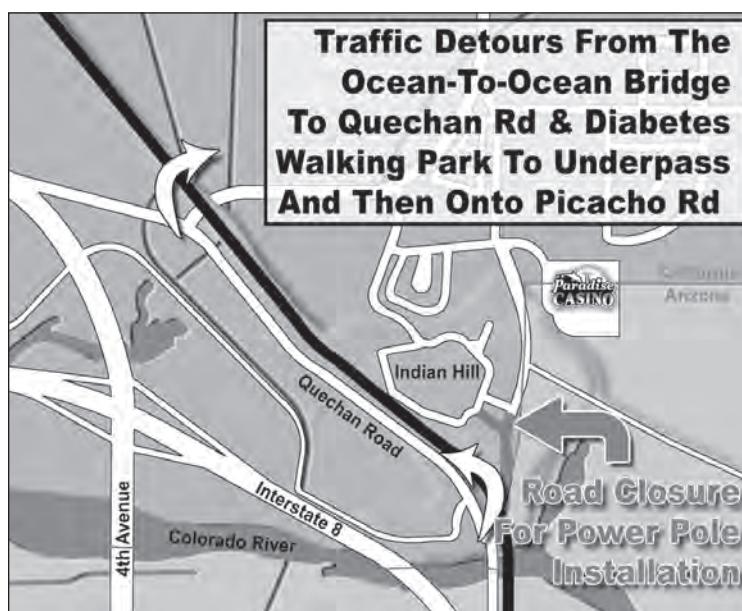
A power pole just north of the current water tower sits right where the new water storage tank will be, so the existing power lines will be moved.

The work is currently scheduled to begin the week of January 14, 2013. It is anticipated the project can be completed in five workdays, each lasting from 6:00AM until 3:00PM. During those hours, traffic will be rerouted around the Indian

Hill worksite in two phases.

Phase One will close Quechan Drive for up to two days, from the Saint Thomas Mission parking lot to the IHS Clinic entrance. Phase One will involve drilling holes and installing three new power poles on Indian Hill. Traffic coming north across the Ocean-To-Ocean Bridge will detour to the west along Quechan Road, past the Diabetes Walking Park, heading through the railway underpass onto the reservation.

Traffic bound for the Paradise Casino and Indian Hill Administrative area will then be directed south on Indian Road

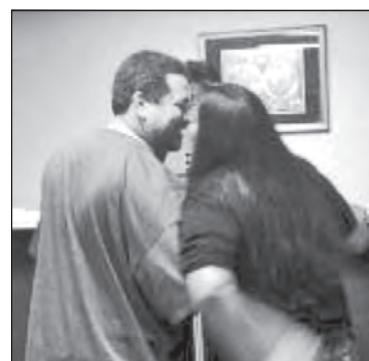


Traffic will detour along Quechan Drive during the power line project.

101. Those heading to the Old Sub and other points north will continue on Picacho Road.

Meanwhile, for traffic coming from the housing areas, Quechan Drive south up Indian Hill to the IHS Clinic's front drive will remain open.

Phase Two will be much the same, with Indian Hill Drive (in front of the Quechan Police Department building) closed for up to five days, from the west side of the QPD office to Quechan Drive. Phase Two will see IID crews removing the original power pole that is in the way and rerouting the power line to the new power poles.



Married on a Special Date

Abraham A. Velarde and Nichole Vazquez were wed in a civil ceremony at the Quechan Tribal Court on December 12, 2012... or 12/12/12, this century's last repeating date.

An email announcement from the Tribal Court doesn't say if they also scheduled their first kiss as a married couple (seen here) for 12:12 PM, but wouldn't that have been amazing!

Many couples all over the world chose the date for their ceremony, to ensure good fortune in their marriage.

NEW YEAR - NEW YOU AT SDPI!

The Quechan Diabetes Program has reinstated their *New Year—New You Body Fat Challenge*, to help you kick start your New Year's weight-loss resolution.

Their kick off event on the *New Year—New You* calendar for 2013 was held last Saturday, January 5th 2013, at the Diabetes Walking Park.

Sandy Palone, Director of the Quechan Diabetes Program says "This is the starting point for our 10 week body-fat challenge. Participants have the option to compete individually, or

as part of a 3-person team."

The Challenge began with Diabetes Program staff recording the measurements and weight of each participant before they set off on the first 5k walk/run of the challenge. The Diabetes Program also provided a light snack for those who came out on January 5th.

The challenge is open to all tribal members as well as all employees of the Tribe, the Paradise Casino, the Quechan Casino♦Resort, the San Pasqual Unified School District, and the Indian Health Service.

Sandy also says they still have room for anyone else who'd like to sign up and get their measurements recorded, so they can get started on improving their health for the New Year. The absolute deadline to sign up for the 2013 *New Year—New You Body Fat Challenge* is this Friday, January 11th. Call the Wellness Center at (760) 572-4057 to enroll.

Final weigh-ins will be held on Wednesday, March 20th, with the winners announced at an end of challenge event on Saturday, March 23rd, 2013.

newgold
Western Mesquite Mines, Inc.

Our Commitment to Health and Safety, Environment and Corporate Social Responsibility

At New Gold, we make it a priority to act as a responsible mining company, from our management practices to our health and safety standards to our stewardship of the environment. We understand that our business activities have an effect on the people who work in our operations, their environment, and on their communities. Our growth and success as a company depends on the long-term economic, social and environmental sustainability of each of the communities in which we work and live.

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New Gold - Western Mesquite Mines, Inc. welcomes your comments, suggestions, and questions. You can reach us by calling (760) 336-0720 X3228 or (928) 341-4653 X3228, or by e-mail at: mesquite.sustainability@newgold.com

Two New Faculty Members at San Pasqual

The teaching staff at the San Pasqual schools has increased by two, as Larry Cornellison and David Hofland joined the faculty in late December.

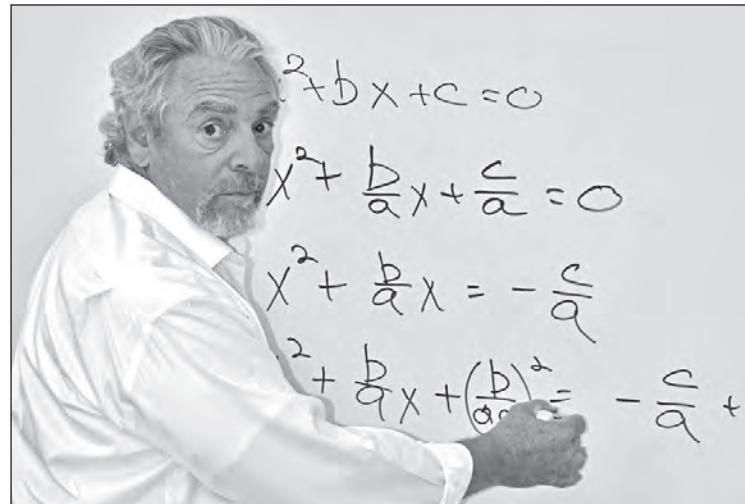
Dr. Cornellison will serve as the new math teacher at San Pasqual High. A self-described "lifelong learner", Mr. Cornellison earned an undergraduate degree in Math at Long Beach State after separate stints at both Santa Monica and Orange Coast junior colleges.

Later in life, he went on to earn a Masters in history, an MBA, and a teaching certificate. He has since completed his Ph.D. in education and is currently conducting the field work needed for an administration certificate . . . at 65!

"I grew up in Glendora, California, where I went to Glendora High School," he tells the *Quechan News*, "Where I was a member of both the swim team and the football team."

He met his wife, Susan, in Santa Monica when he stopped to help her with a little car trouble, and they dated four years before getting married in 1968.

"It was important that she finish her education, he explains, "as she was still in school to be-



Larry Cornellison and David Hofland join the faculty at the San Pasqual Schools this week, as local students return from their Christmas Break. Mr. Cornellison will be the math teacher at the high school, while Mr. Hofland will teach music to students at all grade levels.



QUECHAN NEWS Photo by William Isbell

come a Registered Nurse."

He worked in three very different occupations before his first "retirement" a few years ago. He started out as a computer operator, moved into programming, and then became a systems analyst. After working in the computer field, Dr. Cornellison owned an electronic assembly business that started with about 6 people and grew to more than 110 employees within four years.

"At 40 I sold the company and retired to Julian. We built a big house, had horses, tractors, fast cars and I got bored. So I

went back to school and earned my teaching certificate, to begin my third career as a teacher."

Larry and his wife have four grandchildren: two grandsons (from their son) and two granddaughters (from their daughter). Their oldest grandchild is in the 10th grade, and the other three are currently in middle school.

Davis Hofland also joins the faculty this week, as the new Music Director for all grade levels at the San Pasqual Valley Unified School District.

A native of Torrance, California, Mr. Hofland attended the Academy of Math and Science,

a public magnet school on the campus of the California State University of Dominguez Hills in Carson. While at CAMS, he played guitar in a rock band.

After graduation, he moved to Providence, Rhode Island to attend Brown University, studying cultural anthropology, neuroscience, and Chinese religion and language, among other subjects. Shortly after graduating, he picked up the electric bass, "Which led to the musical love of my life," he says, "the double bass."

Explaining how he ended up where he is today, he contin-

ues. "Although I had thoughts of teaching elementary school, fate steered me to the field of mental health for six years. Meanwhile, I was playing jazz bass at the local community college, while I studied singing, music history, and music theory. One day, I realized I should be *teaching* music, to combine the two passions which best awaken my spirit."

He returned to California to complete his Music Education degree at CSU Northridge, with a focus on both instrumental and vocal strategies, and then earned a kindergarten to 12th grade music teaching credential this past spring.

As a performer, he has played rock, blues, jazz, Latin jazz, and African drums and marimba. As a hobby, he designs and builds pan pipes, didgeridoos, drums, and stringed instruments.

Once he had earned that all important teaching certificate, Mr. Hofland says he was "ready and eager to make the move to the Yuma area, to throw my full energy into growing the music program at all grade levels. And as I begin this new project, I thank you for the opportunity to serve your community."

Holiday Greetings!



May the miracle of Christmas fill your heart with warmth and love. Christmas is the time of giving and sharing. It is the time of loving and forgiving.

Merry Christmas to the Quechan Community

From: Paula, Becki, Mike, Yvonne & Ruth

**Fort Yuma Indian Health Center
Patient Business Office**

QUECHAN ENROLLMENT DEADLINE

Quechan Tribal Members are encouraged to enroll their child(ren) for membership with the Quechan Tribe.

The Quechan Enrollment Application deadline for the 1st quarter of 2013 is Friday, March 1, 2013 at 5:00PM(MST). Completed applications must include the following support documents:

- State Certified Birth Certificate (Copy)
- Social Security Card (Copy)
- If either parent is an enrolled member of another tribe, submit an updated Certified Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB) and a letter of non-enrollment for the applicant.

Applications will not be processed until all the support documents have been received. Completed applications are processed quarterly.

The Quarterly Meeting for the Enrollment Committee will be scheduled for Mid-March, 2013, to review those applications and forward them to the Tribal Council for approval.

Contact the Quechan Enrollment Office at (760) 572-0752 if you have any questions regarding the enrollment application process.

SDPI Hosts Flag Football for Fitness



Deshane Taylor, Luther Emerson and Jason Lomaintewa, Sr. (all facing to the left in the rear) prepare to defend against the "The Rocks", fielded by players from Yuma Catholic High.

Photo Provided by SDPI

The Quechan Diabetes Program hosted their second 5-man Flag Football Tournament on Friday, December 14, 2012.

"The Tournament was put together to get members in the community to come enjoy a game of football and get the chance to burn a massive amount of calories while having fun at the same time," said Sandy Palone, Director of the Quechan Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI).

A total of 52 people came out to the event. Six teams of adults signed up for this fast paced double-elimination tournament, held at San Pasqual's Warrior Football Field beginning at sundown.

Unfortunately, the youth division only had one team signed up, so with no opposing team to go up against, the "Toxic Grenades" were unable to compete that night.

"We still want to thank the "Grenades" for putting in a team," said Mrs. Palone, "and we hope to see them back when

we try again in the spring."

The Tournament was organized for teams to include players ranging from age 12 years old and up.

Each game was held on an eighty-yard field allowing only twenty minutes and three downs to convert a "first down" or a touchdown.

"All of the teams were very exciting to watch," according to Sandy, who also said the Diabetes Program would like to thank each team and its players for participating in the event:

"First place at the Tournament went to *The Whatevers*, second to *The Rocks*, third to *Team Pen*, fourth to *Go Hard*, with fifth place going to the *Yuma Delinquents*, and sixth to *The Doggie Doggs*. We also want to give a special thank you to the San Pasqual Valley Unified School District for the use of their facilities, to Quechan Parks and Rec. for the use of their equipment, and to all the spectators who came to watch these exciting match-ups!"

Looking For Lunch? Try Pepper's Café At the McCoy Mobile Home/RV Park!

When you head over to Winterhaven on Arnold Road to pick up groceries or visit the Post Office, you pass by the McCoy Mobile Home and RV Park just before the railway crossing on the east side of town. If you look closely, there is a sandwich board sign at the main gate of the Park, advertising daily specials at Peppers Café inside.

Who knew there was another option for lunch, so close by?

The Park and the Café are both owned and operated by Quechan Tribal member Patrick A. McCoy and his wife, Jonnie.

"My parents, Robert and Alyce Mae (Black) McCoy began developing her 10-acre allotment in 1975," explains Patrick. "The allotment belonged to my grandmother Rosalie Black, which was handed down to my mother Alyce Black McCoy and now it's come down to me. Back in the early '70s, three acres of my grandmother's allotted land was primarily covered with slew water, wild cottonwood, mesquite and arrow weed, some of it 20 feet high!" With the water and overgrowth, the entire ten acres was deemed inappropriate for farming by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Patrick continues the story. "But the beautiful part was that large birds and giant wild plants grew in here alongside the water," he says, "and during the summer this would revert back to the typical desert landscape. My mother claimed the frogs and turtles were here as part of our ancestral clan."

They came up with a plan to develop the property after the occasional boondocker and other squatters had begun to store



Pepper's Café is located in the main office trailer, right next to the swimming pool in the center of the McCoy Trailer and RV Park on 1st Avenue in Winterhaven.

QUECHAN NEWS Photo by William Isbell

farm equipment, travel trailers on it. And without the McCoy family's approval, they were receiving no rent or benefit! So they hired the squatters who were living in his grandmother's old wooden home (which sat on stilts to keep it dry) to act as "managers", to watch over their land and collect rents.

"Within a few months they had sent my mother two hundred dollars, so a month later I drove down here from Costa Mesa with her to see the new developments." They ended up buying their "managers" \$200 worth of groceries at Safeway, since they hadn't had much to eat in the meanwhile. "My mother always wanted her income to be spent to, 'help those who have less'", he says, "and she had rented out her property to people who really needed a place to stay."

Patrick's dad soon set up a small trailer to use on weekends and whenever he had time, and began clearing the land.

"I remember meeting him here with a small loader/tractor I borrowed from a friend in Redlands. I could not imagine why, but the summer heat kept me away from here until 1987

when my wife and I brought down an old two-bedroom trailer to live in part time." They returned to Palm Spring until 1991 when, their son Patrick A McCoy II was born, and then chose to move here and assist their parents as the park grew. By 1995 the park had 120 spaces. It stayed more than half full during the summer, awaiting the busier months when the winter visitors returned.

Patrick's wife Jonnie has been the park's manager since 1993, while Patrick works primarily as their "grounds keeper". He also worked for a while at the Paradise Casino in 1995, and later moved over to the Quechan Casino♦Resort when it opened. He returned to the Park full time in 2008.

"We're now assisted by our office manager, author Pinkie Paranya" he relates. "She has been a fantastic find, coming from the closing of Fort Yuma Trailer Village. We also now have a real maintenance and grounds keeper in our friend Mario Vera."

With the extra help, they've been able to open and operate a seasonal "Pepper's Café" in the

Continued on next page

Great Show As Last Comic Standing Comes to The Q



Jon Reep, the *Last Comic Standing* from the 2007 season finale joined the only female winner of the series, Iliza Shlesinger (from 2008) and John Heffron, the top comic from the second season of the popular NBC television show, to bring their well developed and hilarious acts to a one-night only show at the Q's Pipa Event Center on Friday, December 7th. Once the comics had finished their acts, they all headed to the hallway near the Casino floor to meet with fans, sign autographs and pose for photos!

Quechan News Photo by William Isbell

The Quechan Casino♦Resort's final concert for the year was a rollicking success, as three of the winners from NBC's popular *Last Comic Standing* came to Yuma to entertain and mingle with fans.

The three comedians showed up on "Pearl Harbor Day" to lend a little levity to the Christmas shopping season. Local celebrity disc jockey Jay Walker introduced the group, which opened with fifth season winner, Jon Reep.

Born and raised in Hickory,

North Carolina, Reep introduced himself as a "Metro Jethro". Jon's style would make him a good fit for the "Blue Collar Comedy Tour", as he shifts from one cornball character to the next, mugging and posing as a somewhat addled redneck as he describes life growing up in an extended family that gave him a lifetime's worth of bits without even trying.

One of his best routines described the time his father fell asleep in church, only to snore so loud the congregation

thought the ceiling might collapse. The racket even caused his dad to snap awake and instantly snap to in a smooth, un-ruffled glance around the room, seeming, in all innocence, to wonder who might have been making all that noise?

The only female winner of *Last Comic Standing* was up next, as Iliza Shlesinger bounded on stage to begin her rapid-fire delivery on everything from the rudeness of airline employees to squeaky little women to late night commercials push-

ing animal adoptions. Iliza even brought her dog Blanche on stage to recreate the Sarah McLoughlin commercial that made her feel guilty enough to visit the pound and adopt Blanche . . . but with such over

the top emphasis on the pathos

that she had the audience rolling on the floor in recognition of how charities pull at your heartstrings to get you to do what they want you to do!

Then, John Heffron, one of the biggest names to come out of NBC's comedy competition,

closed the show with a series of sketches about entering middle age. He observes how no one seems to appreciate a man's growing maturity, experience and wisdom—least of all their wives and younger men!

One bit that brought about spasms of laughter from the audience covered the "joy" of family trips with teenagers.

Once the show ended, all three stars then moved out to the hallway, to mingle with their fans, sign autographs, and generally enjoy themselves!

Pepper's Café

Continued from Page 10

Park. Patrick says "the food is very reasonably priced and extra delicious."

Open from October through April each year, Pepper's Café serves a Breakfast Buffet with eggs, bacon, sausage, and potatoes sautéed with onions and red and green bell peppers. You even get free coffee with the breakfast buffet! The buttered toast selection includes sour-

dough, whole grain and Russian Rye . . . all for only \$2.99 a single serving or \$3.99 for all you can eat!

Pepper's breakfast buffet line is set up from 9:00 AM until noon, when they switch over to lunch specials that last until 3:00 PM.

The typical lunch choices include Hamburgers and Cheeseburgers with lettuce, vine rip-

ened tomatoes, red onions and mayo. Their BLTs have bacon, lettuce, tomato, mayo on your choice of breads. All lunches include chips and a dessert (!) and you can also get extras like pickles, pineapple, jalapenos, and peppers upon request. All for the lunch special price of only \$4.99!

Sodas, water iced tea and juice are only a dollar, while the coffee at lunch is also FREE!

"We may even have free vegetables or fruit, depending on what we have in the kitchen," according to Patrick.

They've even stayed open a little later on Fridays a few times over the past few years, to have dinner specials and fish fries. If business allows, they hope to do the same kinds of things this coming spring.

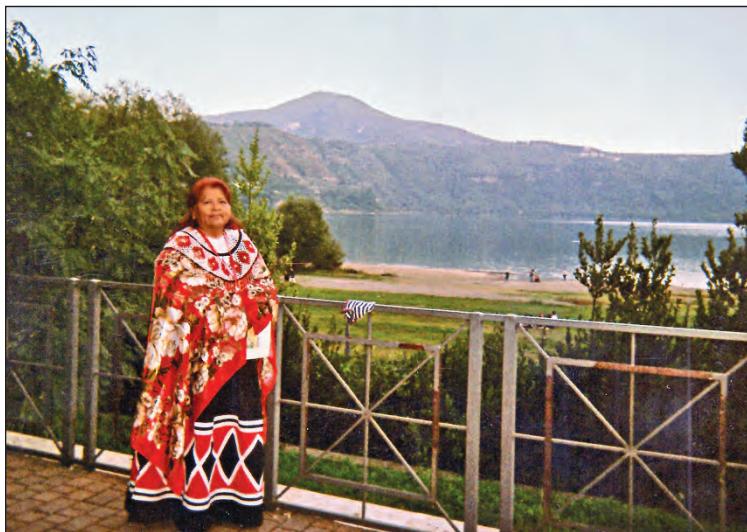
Both Patrick and Jonnie say that the most important achievement of their lives has to be that their son Patrick McCoy II has stayed with them, learning and studying all the aspects of owning and securely operating their "family park".

"He's nearing 22 years of age," says Jonnie McCoy, "and

he's joined forces with us as an owner/manager as well." Their rents are affordably priced, and they even accept children.

Jonnie continues plugging their operation: "We also have a library with movie rentals, an exercise gym and you will find our pool is cool, the Jacuzzi is hot and everyone living here are the finest and friendliest neighbors you will find."

So, the next time you find yourself heading into Winter-haven on a weekday errand, keep Peppers Café in mind, and stop in for a bite to eat!



Norinna Escalanti photographed near Volcano Lake, while on her trip to Italy to witness the canonization of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha.

Hello, my name is Norrina Escalanti. I am an enrolled member of the Quechan Tribe. Kateri, the First Native American Woman to become a Saint.

I would like to share with everyone that I was blessed to be selected to go and view the Canonization of the Blessed

I would also like to give a very big THANK YOU to my family for all the support and hard work that was put into the fund raising for me to be able

COMMUNITY EXPRESSIONS

Tribal Member Offers Thanks For Support on Trip to Rome

to enjoy my trip to Rome. I am truly humbled by their care and thoughts.

I would like to say a special thanks to my sister Jeanie Yazzie. Even though she has health problems, she put them aside and organized the fund raising.

Assisting Jeanie in all this was my niece Yvette Ramirez. I am so proud of you niece, with all the hard work you did to bless me also.

I would also like to acknowledge my sisters Judith Osborne

and Tina Livas, my daughter Delila and her husband Steve Laurenzana and my nephews Martin De Prietta and Eric Livas: I just cannot thank all of you enough! I am so grateful to have such a close family who always proves we can come together when called upon.

THANK YOU ONCE AGAIN FAMILY!

Plus, My Gratitude Of Thanks For Donations Goes To:
Latoya Escalanti (Niece)
Lorey Cachora Jr. (Cousin)
Avis J. Black (Friend)

Athena Emerson (Friend)
Faye Miguel (Friend)
Stephanie Escalanti (Daughter)
Gabriel Jim (Friend)

May your thoughtfulness bring you many blessings.

My trip to Rome and the experience I had in seeing all of the churches together was so beautiful. Learning the history behind it all was truly a time I will not forget.

Many blessings to all of you,

Norinna Escalanti

Quechan News Photos by William Isbell

1ST First Place
Lou Jean Vega

2ND Second Place
Alonzo Lopez

3RD Third Place
Chaz Rea

The Quechan Tribe's Annual Christmas Lighting Contest was held on a dark and stormy night this year, with a cold rain moving in from the east right about the time the judges departed from the Community Center to begin their rounds. They did their best to get around to all nine entrants before the December 13 cloudburst began shorting out decorative lights all over the area! Despite the problems with the weather, all three judges were able to get a good look at each home on their list, and come to a decision.

This year's first place prize went to Lou Jena Vega (on Arnold Road), right here on the reservation. Alonzo Lopez, at 313 South 24th Avenue in Yuma took second this year, while the home of Chaz Rea in the Ironwood subdivision came in at third place.

All three winners were announced at the Quechan Tribe's Christmas Dinner at the Paradise Event Center the following evening.