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After Judge Dismisses Quechan Tribe’s Lawsuit:

Tribe Considering Appeal on Ocotillo

On February 27, 2013, Judge Gonzalo Paul Curiel of the United States District Court for the Southern District of California in San Diego entered an order dismissing the Quechan Tribe’s lawsuit challenging the Department of the Interior’s approval of the Ocotillo Wind Energy Facility (OWEF), which is located on federally owned lands in western Imperial County.

The Tribal Council is reviewing the ruling, and evaluating whether to appeal the decision to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, in consultation with the Tribe’s attorneys.

The deadline for appeal is April 26, 2013.

The OWEF project, as proposed by Pattern Energy, the project applicant, would consist of 112 large wind turbines built on 10,151 acres of public lands that are managed by the United States Department of the Interior.

Each turbine is approximately 450 feet tall. A total of

94 turbines have already been constructed and are currently operational. However, the federal courts have authority to stop further operations and to order removal of the turbines if the project is ultimately found unlawful on appeal.

The OWEF is located within the California Desert Conservation Area and Interior’s own studies confirm the existence of hundreds of cultural resources located within the project area.

The project area is known to contain traditional cremation and burial sites. The location of large wind turbines on these lands also disrupts the viewshed between Coyote Mountain, Mount Signal, and Indian Hills.

During Interior’s administrative review process, the Tribe repeatedly objected in opposition to the project and informed Interior that approval of the OWEF in this location would be a desecration to Quechan culture and traditional beliefs.

Interior approved the project

over the Tribe’s objections on May 11, 2012.

The Tribe filed suit in an effort to stop construction of the project on May 14, 2012. The Tribe’s request for a preliminary injunction to halt construction during the lawsuit was denied on May 22, 2012.

The Tribe’s suit argues that the OWEF project was unlawfully approved on the specific lands at issue, which are designated for heightened protection and preservation of resources under the governing land use plan for the California Desert Conservation Area.

The suit further alleges that Interior failed to properly consult with the Tribe regarding impacts to the Tribe’s cultural resources under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).

The Tribe also argues that Interior failed to properly analyze the impacts to environmental and cultural resources, as required by the National Environ-

mental Policy Act (NEPA).

The Tribe successfully raised these same arguments, and prevailed before a different judge in the same federal court, when challenging Interior’s approval of the Imperial Valley Solar Project in 2010.

However, Judge Curiel’s ruling rejected all of the Tribe’s arguments this time.

Since the Tribe filed its suit in May 2012, four other lawsuits have been filed by environmental groups, community organizations, and residents of Ocotillo.

A suit brought by Community Advocates for Renewable Energy Stewardship (CARES) was dismissed on September 25, 2012.

A suit brought by Desert Protective Council was dismissed by Judge Curiel on February 27, 2013.

Lawsuits filed by the Protect Our Communities Foundation remain pending before Judge Curiel.



Frankie Robert Montoya of the Ft. Yuma ADAPP team leaps to return a shot, while Chano Escalanti of "Old School" looks on.

Old School, Cocopah Are ADAPP Volleyball Champs

The ADAPP Co-Ed Volleyball Tournament at the Quechan Community Center had six teams sign up to go at it on March 23rd, with three teams each vying for the title in two Divisions: A and B. Division A teams included "Old School" (led by Willie Emerson), the Quechan Special Diabetes Project Team and a team from the Living Center of Yuma. Division B teams were composed of players representing Fort Yuma ADAPP, the Cocopah ADAPP program, and a group of visiting players known as "Turtle Bay".

The games got under way at 9:30AM with all 6 teams battling it out in quick succession, as everyone sized up their competition.

In the end, "Old School" topped Division A, followed by Quechan SDPI and the Living Center. The Cocopah ADAPP team took Division B, followed by Ft. Yuma ADAPP and "Turtle Bay."

Local Boys Win Tournament Gold

The San Pasqual Middle School's 5th and 6th Grade Boys Basketball team wrapped up the season with a record of 6-2, taking their division title in the Yuma Lutheran Tournament on Saturday, March 2nd

"We went undefeated in the tournament," says Coach Sandy Palone, who led the team along with her husband, Tony. "This was the first year San Pasqual had a Boys' 5th and 6th grade team and to finish the season with such a great record was awesome. The boys even won the final game against Yuma Lutheran by a score of 48-29!"

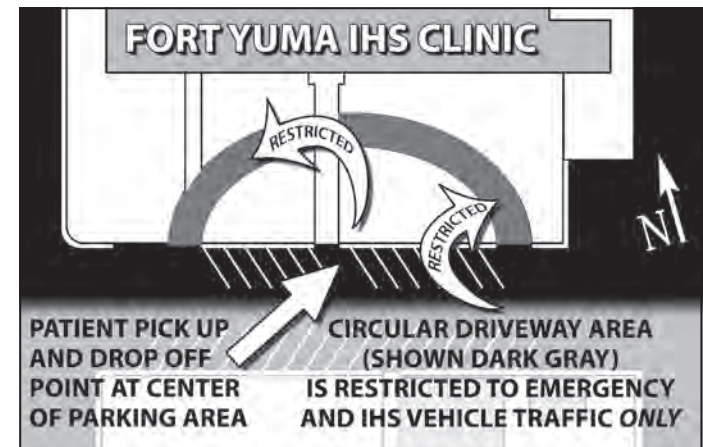
"Tony and I would like to thank the team for coming out and always being willing to put in the time to practice and learn the game of basketball. Their hard work paid off in the end with the Championship trophy!"



Yuma Lutheran Tournament winners pose with their championship trophy. In the front (L to R) are Jaylin Brown, Andres Ramirez and DeShane Taylor. Standing in the center are Coach Sandy Palone, Angelo Palone, Benji Acosta and David Aragon, while in the back are Owen Barley, DeMarcus Mills, Michael Phillips, and Coach Tony Palone. Not seen is James Robles who didn't make it to the Tournament.

"We would also like to thank the parents and Mrs. Shaw, the Principal of San Pasqual Middle School for their support, as well as Patricia Malvido the Athletic Director at San Pasqual for giving us the opportunity to coach these boys; and of course, Ms. Salli Jones, the fifth grade teacher who took time out of her busy schedule to chaperone over the tournament weekend."

Driveway Change at Fort Yuma IHS Clinic



The circular driveway located on the front lawn of the clinic was initially intended to provide pick up and drop off points for emergencies and for patient convenience.

Frequent blocking for extended lengths of time and excessive use of the driveway has caused it to become hazardous to pedestrian patient traffic and emergency egress. The Clinic administration has approved a recommendation from the Safety Committee to balance pedestrian safety and patient convenience.

Therefore, *beginning April 4, 2013*, access to the circular driveway will be limited to Indian Health Service vehicles and emergency services traffic *only*.

The "No Parking Zone" located at the end of the walkway will continue to be used as patient pick up and drop off points. The diagram above shows the changes being implemented.

We apologize for any inconvenience; however this change will help to maximize safety to both patients and staff with minimal impact to convenience.

Questions? Contact: Ric Pollard, PIO
Phone: (760) 572-4103

OOPS! CORRECTIONS!

In the March Issue, a couple of items went unnoticed during the proofreading process, and made it to print. First, the people that are sponsoring the weekend events on Indian Hill refer to their group as "*Preservation of the Quechan Way*" (not "People for the Quechan Way", as it said in the article on page 3. Next, the entertainer at the Senior Center's Valentine's Day party has a unique way of spelling her name. It's DJ D*Va F*ERCE! And finally, Remegius Baxter, AA Facilitator at the Quechan Church of the Nazarene has a new phone number. His new number is (928) 246-0886. — Ed.

ETSKA NAV AH PAI THE NEWS CARRIER
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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

Senior Nutrition Center Hosts Birthdays for Senior Tribal Elders



Members of Edith White's extended family gather around her for a family portrait on her 100th (for real!) birthday on March 18, 2013. Standing in the rear are her youngest son, Charles White; granddaughter Angela Maynahonah; great-grandsons Alex Brown and Austin Amador; great-granddaughter Annalise White; great-grandson Charleston White; great-granddaughters Cherish Mendez and Serenity Mendoza; grandson Andrew White; great-grandson Jacob Mendez; daughter-in-law Audrey White and grandson Charlton White. Seated in front are granddaughter Larissa Ponce; Guest of Honor Edith White; and granddaughters Cheralee White and Alana Brown holding great-granddaughters Audrey Soliz and Amiya White. All Photos by William Isbell

Three of the Quechan Tribe's eldest Elders were celebrated at a special birthday bash at the Quechan Senior Nutrition Center on March 18, 2013. That same date marked 100 years since the guest of honor—Edith White—set out upon her life's journey here on the Earth.

Although a number of Tribal members got together to take Edith out for a special day marking her first century in early 2011, a check of her records later revealed that she was actually born in 1913, giving her a whole new opportunity to be honored once again this year!

Sharing the spotlight at the

Senior Center soiree was the Tribe's oldest male member, George Bryant, who celebrated his 92nd birthday on March 30th. The final "birthday girl" at the party was the relatively youthful Myra Andrews, who at *only* 80 still puts in hours for the Tribe as the front desk receptionist for the EDA! (Ms. Andrews reached that milestone a day before Mr. Bryant.)

A number of Edith White's children made it to the party, and with their kids and their kids' kids, there was a pretty large group gathered around for a family portrait while the birthday cake was being passed out!

Tribal Council members Juliana Comet, Clivia Cyndee Miller, Virgil Smith, Michael Jack and Emilio Escalanti were able to make it to the party. President Ecalanti, Sr. and Vice President Aguerro also attended, with the President dropping off a special gift for each of the celebrants.

The Strong Hearts Singers from the San Pasqual schools sat near the head table, singing traditional honor songs for the assembled guests as the noon meal was served.

The Senior Center throws a party for all seniors sharing birthdays each month, but the March, 2013 party was special!



Myra Andrews (at left), celebrating her 80th birthday, was also honored at the March Elders Birthday Party. She stood to offer her thanks to everyone at the Senior Center for remembering to include her in the day's arrangements.

Singing for the Elders (below) were the San Pasqual High School Strong Hearts Singers, made up of Deion Twist, Anthony Montague, Faron Owl, Brandon Marks Barley, Leo Alvarez, Andrew Limones and Owen Barley.



Annalise White hugged her Great Grandma (above) while George Bryant just sat back and watched everyone wish them well (at right).



Chris Menta Dedicated to Quality Work

Chris Menta grew up here on the Fort Yuma reservation, graduating from the San Pasqual adult education program in the late 1980s.

The son of Donald and Angelita Menta, he followed his parents' lead in seeking employment with the Tribe as soon as he became an adult, joining Quechan Tribal Security at the age of 18, where he learned the ins and outs of the trade. (His dad still works for the Tribe. Right now, Donald Menta is the Acting Director of the Senior Nutrition Building.)

After gaining experience in Tribal Security, Chris was soon recruited by Mitchell's Merchant Patrol of Yuma, where he spent a few more years.

He returned to "the rez" when the Paradise Casino opened, joining their security staff and rising to the rank of Sergeant.

Chris and his family moved to Oklahoma in 2002. There, he went to a school for the construction trades, specializ-



Chris Menta is employed as a heating, ventilation and air conditioning technician at the Paradise Casino during the week.

QUECHAN NEWS Photo by William Isbell

ing in heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC). He started work as an HVAC Tech for the Muskogee Creek Nation Division of Health the day before graduating at the top of his class. His instructors told him he was the first to score 100% on his Oklahoma state certifica-

tion test.

After 10 years with the Muskogee Creek Nation, Chris tried his hand as a business owner, running a convenience store in Liberty Mounds, Oklahoma.

"That was the hardest thing I ever tried," he says, "Here I was trying to grow my business, fighting hard to keep things going. But when the economy in that area collapsed, it took my whole business down with it."

Late last year, he returned to Fort Yuma to work in the Engineering Department at the Paradise under Aaron Pacheco. There, he and Matt Laurenzana are tasked with the maintenance on all the air conditioning systems at the Casino, the Paradise Event Center, and the many office trailers and the maintenance warehouse behind the Casino.

Since he worked as a handyman for extra cash in Oklahoma, Chris has amassed a sizeable collection of tools. And, as a person who's always worked with his hands, idle time kind

of makes him crazy. So, he's decided to continue offering his services as a handyman here on the Fort Yuma reservation.

With a work schedule that shifts according to the Casino's needs, Chris often has time for morning or evening "fix-it" calls. And, with a Monday to Friday work schedule, he also has time on the weekends for more involved handyman chores.

"Since I've learned electrical and plumbing to stay current in HVAC, I can install water heaters and ceiling fans," he says. "While I can't put in whole house circuits, I can install new ceiling fans or other circuits that would be tied into an existing circuit panel."

Chris says he's also put in washers and dryers (and also installed wiring needed for them in existing homes), and he enjoys framing carpentry . . . things like putting in walkways and decks, to expand a home's floor space outdoors.

But with years of experi-

ence in air conditioning, his main concern right now is letting people know that simple maintenance can extend the useful life of your home's cooling system. "Now is the time to get your A/C checked," he says, "before it gets hot this summer, and burns out, making a service call into an emergency."

He's offering an A/C tuneup special right now, which includes cleaning the coils, and a full check of the motor, fan, capacitor and freon levels. If it's low on freon, he has the equipment to take care of that, too.

He'll also respond to Tribal entities needing quick service in an emergency

"Tribal members and elders get a discount, of course," he tells the *Quechan News*. "Just let me know who you are when you call to set up an appointment."

So, if you need a little help around the house, keep Chris Menta in mind. He has two cell numbers. One is (928)817-2512 and the other is (310)500-9305.

Incentives Offered to Get in Shape!



Rosie Herrera checks and measures her son, Joseph, providing a baseline to follow his progress in the SDPI Evening Run/Walk Club.

With the cool spring weather, Rosie Herrera at the Quechan Special Diabetes Project for Indians (SDPI) has brought back their Evening Run/Walk Club, to help area residents get back in shape after the holidays.

The informal "Club" meets at the Diabetes Walking Park from 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM every Monday through Thursday.

Participants have their weight recorded at the beginning of the program, along with measurements of their chest, waist, hips, thigh and calf, to help them see tangible results of their progress as they shape up over the next

few weeks. It doesn't matter if you walk or run, just as long as you *keep moving!*


Those who join this spring will receive special incentives for every 25 miles logged. Returning members who reach 100 miles will also receive an incentive. Those items include visors, salad-to-go containers, carry bags and thermos bottles. Rosie even has "healthier" cookbooks, if you're interested!

The SDPI Evening Walk/Run Club is scheduled to meet for the first 8 weeks of spring, so it should end about May 9th, before the weather gets too hot.

CONGRATULATIONS

~LUCY~

We are so Proud of You!



You are a simply beautiful and amazing young girl with positive goals when it comes to your education. You stop at nothing as you strive to always do better.

Your determination has led San Pasqual to choose YOU to attend the California Girls State College in Claremont.

No one deserves this opportunity more than you!

You have a dream to be successful in your future. Your dedication to learning and your outstanding performance in all your studies indicates a dynamic future lies ahead for you!

We wish you the best as you prepare to attend college.

Love You So Much! Mom, Dad and Grandmother Nancy Kasee

Daughter Bill & Judy Allsup

STRONG HEARTS POW WOW WINNERS

Here are the names of the dance contest winners from the 33rd Annual Strong Hearts Spring Pow Wow, as provided by the judges taking part in the March 8th to the 10th event.

All winners are listed from first place to fourth place. Those contests having fewer contestants will show all winning entries as listed by the judges.

GOLDEN AGE DANCES

Women

- 1st:** Carmen Clairmont
2nd: Virgie Tsosie
3rd: Priscilla Schrock
4th: Claudia Lorentz

Men

- 1st:** Allenroy Paykwim
2nd: Damon Polk
3rd: Mark Roanhorse
4th: John Lorentz

JUNIOR GIRLS' BUCKSKIN/CLOTH

- 1st:** Victory Randall

JUNIOR GIRLS' FANCY SHAWL/JINGLE

- 1st:** Telehima Robbins
2nd: Christina Mendez
3rd: Noralene Scalplock
4th: Madeline Adams

JUNIOR BOYS' TRAD./STRAIGHT

- 1st:** Myles Bull Bear
2nd: Colby Donaghey
3rd: Julian Polk
4th: Jon Moreno

JUNIOR BOYS' FANCY/GRASS

- 1st:** Chaske Pacheco
2nd: Beltram Burson
3rd: Keaven Brown
4th: Kaimare Eagle Star

MEN'S NORTHERN/SOUTHERN FANCY

- 1st:** Spike Draper
2nd: Quannah Henry
3rd: Lydall Yazzie

MEN'S NORTHERN TRADITIONAL

- 1st:** M.J. Bull Bear
2nd: Kenny Donaghey
3rd: Wendall Powless
4th: Luke Schrock

MEN'S GRASS DANCE

- 1st:** Julius Not Afraid
2nd: Taite Honadick
3rd: Randy James
4th: Mason McGurk

MEN'S SOUTHERN STRAIGHT

- 1st:** Kelly Grant
2nd: Matthew Saekar
3rd: Alarick Jackson
4th: Snude Victors

WOMEN'S BUCKSKIN DRESS

- 1st:** Jacinta Tsosie
2nd: Raetava Yazzie
3rd: Wanda Nelson
4th: Melonie Mathews

WOMEN'S JINGLE DRESS

- 1st:** Bria Lonetree Gray
2nd: Melissa Fisher
3rd: Orena Monahan
4th: Amoreena L. Bean

WOMEN'S FANCY SHAWL

- 1st:** Desiree Redhouse
2nd: Helene Gaddie
3rd: Lela Lopez
4th: Jennilee Joe

WOMEN'S CLOTH DRESS

- 1st:** Leah McGurk-Brown
2nd: J'shen Tsosie
3rd: K. Dempsey
4th: Constance Lehi

TEEN GIRLS' BUCKSKIN/CLOTH

- 1st:** Kendra Eagle Star
2nd: Wheylaya Becenti
3rd: Bailee Piper
4th: LaLani Bull Bear

TEEN GIRLS' FANCY SHAWL/JINGLE

- 1st:** Raven Sanchez
2nd: Shandin Horton
3rd: Nikita Bichity
4th: Tia Gray

TEEN BOYS' TRAD./STRAIGHT

- 1st:** Matthew Sheka, Jr.
2nd: Dylan Ashley
3rd: Kaneya Zhuck House
4th: Beltram Burson

TEEN BOYS' FANCY/GRASS

- 1st:** Kenneth Shirley
2nd: Brandon Begay
3rd: Maximus Sheka
4th: Nicklas Tom

You can also see color photos from the Friday night Traditional Dances for local Tribal members as well as general images of the Pow Wow on page 6.

Friday Night Contests Women's Bird Dance Winners

GOLDEN AGE

- 1 Jolita Ameelyenah
 2 Sylvia Armstrong
 3 Alva Emerson
 4 Gail Johns

ADULT WOMEN

- 1 Nicole Hammond
 2 Angeline Levy
 3 Angel Townsend
 4 Brandi Ameelyenah

JUNIOR GIRLS

- 1 Joanna Herrera
 2 Reagan Goforth
 3 Alicia Mendez
 4 Kaya Wilson
 5 Keiona Mason

TEEN GIRLS

- 1 Bailey Martin
 2 Tawnee Barraching
 3 Nevaeh Montague
 4 Chynna Cachora

Traditional Songs Contest Winners JUNIOR & TEEN BOYS SINGERS

Zion White & Goforth Brothers



**Quechan Higher Education
2013 Fall Semester
Grant Application Deadline:**

JUNE 01, 2013

**If the date shown falls on a Holiday
or a weekend, the next working
day will become the deadline date.**

**Phone:
(760) 572-5268**

**Application
Requirements are
Listed On The
Grant
Application**

**Applications can be picked up at the
Higher Education Office located at:
628 Picacho Road
Winterhaven, CA 92283**



Darwin Titus Welsh IV showed he has what it takes, singing and dancing along with the grownups!



The Roadrunner Singers led Friday night's grand entry procession into the arena. Just before the traditional dance contests began, Lyman Golding thanked everyone for all their support, especially over the last few weeks.



Little Tabytha Ameelyenah really got into the spirit of things, bouncing along with the gourds on Friday.

All Photos by William Isbell, QUECHAN NEWS

Some of The People and Things We Saw at The:

STRONG HEARTS
NATIVE SOCIETY

POW WOW

Eagle staff bearers Tate Hendrick and Mark Roanhorse arrive at the center of the arena, followed by the Quechan Post 802 color guard and dozens of colorful dancers, to complete the first grand entry procession on Saturday afternoon.



A hoop dance was performed by 3 visitors, fresh from the Heard Museum competition in early February.



Tony Duncan, of Apache/Arikara/Hidatsa and Mandan descent, took 2nd place at the Heard this year.



Well known traditional dancer Dr. Lita Mathews of Albuquerque, New Mexico was the Honored Elder at the 33rd Annual Strong Hearts Pow Wow.



LaLani Eagletail proved her abilities against 10 others, to win the Honored Elder Dance Contest.



Head Woman Dancer Patricia Bennally came to do her duty with only four days notice!

California Recognizes First Tribal Court Advocates

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) are a recent development in legal history, with the position only dating back to the late 1970s. More than 68,000 volunteer advocates serve over 1,000 state and local program offices nationwide. These independent and neutral CASAs are appointed to protect the best interests of often abused and neglected children. Their sole focus is to make sure those children don't get lost in an overburdened legal and social service system or languish in an inappropriate foster home. And with the recent appointment of four very special

volunteers from CASA of Imperial County, the Quechan Tribal Court System has a new resource to draw upon whenever young Tribal members find themselves caught up in cases involving abuse, abandonment or custodial and family issues. Quechan Tribal Court Judge Claudette White administered an oath to all four volunteers in front of a packed conference room at a recent Cross Cultural Exchange with the Imperial County courts system. That oath binds Norma Ruiz Alex Cardenas, Mary Hendon and Michelle Betancourt

Continued on Page 8



Quechan Tribal Court Judge Claudette White administers the oath of office to the first group of Court Appointed Special Advocates to serve the clients of a Tribal Court system in the state of California. As CASA volunteers already sworn to serve in the California courts, they will be able to cross jurisdictional boundaries and represent the best interests of minor Tribal members in both court systems. Taking the oath are Norma Ruiz, Michelle Betancourt, Mary Hendon and Alex Cardenas. The volunteers were sworn in during a break in a Cultural Exchange Program between officers of the Imperial County Courts and the Quechan Tribal Court on February 27th. See the related story on page 8. QUECHAN NEWS Photo by William Isbell

Lightning Singers Share a Little Culture with Superior Court Visitors

QUECHAN NEWS Photos by William Isbell



Officers of the Courts of Imperial County, including Superior Court Judge Juan Ulloa took the time to learn a little Quechan history and culture during their February 27th meeting here. When the "official" meeting ended at 4:45 PM, many of the participants visited the Elder Village to listen to a short lecture on Lightning Songs by Preston J. Arrowweed and participate in a traditional meal.

Local youths studying with Mr. Arrowweed sang along with the elder. Tribal Councilman Emilio Escalanti and Judge Claudette White prepared dinner as the visitors listened. Just before the meal was served, everyone there joined hands to dance in a circle under the shade arbor.



At left are the singers, Zion White, Mark Escalanti, Kenrick Escalanti, Preston J. Arrowweed, Christian Lopez and William White. In the photo at the top right, Tribal Court Judge Claudette White and Joseph Cachora stand behind Imperial County Judge Juan Ulloa, Attorney Ann Gilmore and Appeals Court Justice James R. Lambden as they all listen to Preston's history lesson.

Two Legal Systems Take Part in Cross Cultural Exchange

The Quechan Tribal Court hosted a “Cross Cultural/Educational Exchange” here on the Quechan Reservation on February 27th. The exchange was part of a collaborative effort which included the California Superior Court of Imperial County and the Administrative Office of the Courts for the state of California. The day-long project was also assisted by the California Emergency Management Agency (CalEMA).

“The exchange was an opportunity to discuss issues that affect both Tribal and state jurisdictions,” explained Quechan Tribal Court Judge Claudette White, who served as co-host along with Superior Court Judge Juan Ulloa, of El Centro. “It was designed to help participants explore solutions to the problems identified and to make a commitment to work together for the betterment of our communities.”

The unique twist to this exchange was to add a component of tribal culture. Ms. Barbara Levy, Tribal Elder and historian, shared Quechan tribal history and culture with the group.

The historical and cultural component was included as a primary feature for the exchange, so the agencies that work with the tribe could gain better insight to who they are working with, learn some of the beliefs and traditions of the Quechan people, and perhaps learn how to adapt their methods and approach as they work with the Quechan membership.

It is hoped that gaining such knowledge through cultural exchanges will enable officers of the court from outside the Tribe in providing better service that is respectful, spirited and fostered in recognition of the dif-



Participants filled the Quechan Senior Center conference room on February 27th, as the Quechan Tribal Court hosted representatives from the Imperial County legal system for a cross cultural exchange. Those in attendance included Imperial County Superior Court Judge Juan Ulloa, Lt. Johnson of the ICSO Winterhaven substation, QPD Acting Chief James Jackson, Tribal Councilman Michael Jack and a visiting documentary filmmaker from Connecticut.

QUECHAN NEWS Photo by William Isbell

ferences as well as the similarities between approaches.

Many agencies from both Imperial County and the Tribe participated. In addition to the Courts, agencies taking part included the Imperial County Sheriff’s Office, Imperial County Probation, Imperial County Children and Family Services, Quechan Police Department, Quechan Elder Services, Quechan Fish and Game, Sure Helpline Crisis Center, California Indian Legal Services, and the CHP’s SMART Program for

young drivers. Even Dr. David Bealer, the Superintendent of the San Pasqual schools sat in on the meetings.

The exchange had been in the planning stages for the last year with the California Tribal Court/State Court Forum. The Quechan Tribal Court was one of four tribal courts through out the state that was asked to host an exchange.

“Although our Tribal Court was only one of four,” Judge White explains, “we were the first to actually host the ex-

change, so this was a historic meeting in itself.”

The model and development used at the Quechan/Imperial Cross Cultural/Educational Exchange will now serve as an example for the rest of the state.

Topics under discussion ranged from domestic violence and orders of protection, to probation issues and the number of tribal youth on probation, to Public Law 280 and Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) cases, as examples.

A presentation on Public

Law 280 led by Dorothy Alther made up most of the afternoon session. Judge White says the presentation was well received and appreciated as many were unfamiliar with the specifics of Public Law 280, which can be quite complex and somewhat difficult to get a handle on.

After the meeting, a traditional dinner was served at the Quechan Elder Village where Mr. Preston Arrowweed (and his helpers) gave a short lecture on the lightning songs and sang for the visitors until sunset.

Judge White of the Quechan Tribal Court and Judge Juan Ulloa of the California Superior Court for Imperial County would like to thank CalEMA, the Administrative Office of the Courts for California, California Indian Legal Services and their grant sponsors, California Tribal Court/State Forum for their leadership, time and commitment to help make this exchange possible.

“Last but not least,” they say, “we would like to thank the participants! Without your input and valuable participation this exchange would not have been the huge success that it was!”

Tribal Court Advocates

Continued from Page 7

to research the cases they are assigned and learn everything about the child’s special situation, to present their findings to Judge White on what course of action would best fulfill the child’s best interest.

Alex Cardenas has been the Executive Director of CASA of Imperial County for the past five years. He told the *Quechan News* he grew up in Imperial

County, attending local schools and colleges.

“Being recognized as an advocate party with the Quechan Tribal Court is one of my greatest accomplishments,” he said. “The Quechan Tribe is a loving and compassionate community and we are honored to now be a part of this community.”

Norma Ruiz has been a Case Manager with CASA for the

past 12 years. She grew up in Brawley, where she was born. “In 1999 I was placed at CASA as an AmeriCorps community service worker,” she explains. “When I completed my year’s commitment, I was hired as a case manager. My experience has been wonderful! I have seen children successfully reunited with their parents and seen other children find new homes.”

Mary Hendon grew up in St. Augustine, Florida, but moved to California after four years in the US Navy. “When I moved to the Imperial Valley last sum-

mer,” she said, “a fellow CASA advocate and friend told me about the program and suggested I volunteer. I applied immediately and began volunteering that same summer. Becoming involved with CASA has been a rewarding and incredible experience.”

Norma further expanded on her thoughts, telling the *Quechan News* that “When the opportunity to work with the Quechan Tribal Court arose, I jumped at the opportunity to expand the population of chil-

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Tribal Court Advocates

Continued from Page 8

dren that I will be able to help. I am eager to learn the Quechan culture and believe that having CASA volunteers who are sensitive to your unique culture will help to bring harmony to what can sometimes be a difficult time for any child.”

Finally, Michelle Betancourt was also born and raised in the Imperial Valley. She says she has always enjoyed working

with children while living here.

Doing this work is one of her greatest passions. “Having been with CASA for over six years, I have had the privilege of seeing many families reunified and other children being placed in loving and nurturing families” she says. “I am extremely grateful to be a part of this organization and I look forward to working with the Quechan Tribe.”

2 Tribe Members Take 1st At Mid Winter Fair

Stacy Blackmer-Blomquist, the art teacher at San Pasqual High has informed the *Quechan News* that two of her students took first place prizes at the 2013 California Mid Winter Fair.

Both students had entered the Fair’s Poster Design Contest.

With more than 1,000 entries from schools around Imperial County, Quechan Tribal members Darlene Teton won 1st Place in the 10th Grade Division and Mia Escalanti won 1st

Place in the 9th Grade Division.

“I just want to congratulate both of them for their accomplishments,” says Mrs. Blackmer-Blomquist. “I am so proud of Mia! She won 1st place with a poster she made in my Basic Art class! Mia and Darlene both put a lot of effort into the design and execution of their posters, examining carefully what to include in their compositions. It makes me happy to know that their efforts were recognized.”



The Veterans Crisis Line is a toll-free, confidential resource that connects Veterans in crisis and their families and friends with qualified, caring Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) responders.

Veterans and their loved ones can call 1-800-273-8255 and Press 1, chat online at www.VeteransCrisisLine.net, or send a text message to 838255 to receive free, confidential support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, even if they are not registered with the Department of Veterans Affairs or enrolled in VA health care.

1-800-273-8255 PRESS 1

Fort Mojave Braves Take Tops in All Indian Basketball Tourney



The Fort Mojave Braves took on all comers, to win the Quechan Parks and Recreation \$1000 All Indian Winner Take All Basketball Tournament in an undefeated string of victories. They are: Aaron Burns, Jesse Ochoa, Craig Castillo, John Ochoa, Marty Rodriguez and Derrick Courtwright. QUECHAN NEWS Photos by William Isbell

The Quechan Parks and Recreation Department sponsored an All Indian Basketball Tournament over the weekend of March 8th to 10th, giving sports minded Native visitors another chance to both have fun and try for a little extra cash while they were in the area travelling the

Pow Wow Trail.

Local teams such as Top Flavor, Redstorm and the Fort Yuma Bucks signed up to face groups from Fort Mojave, the T’ohono O’odham Nation and Soboba. Eight teams in all took part over two days, with the Friday night preliminaries getting underway at 7:00 PM.

By Saturday at noon, it was clear that local favorites Redstorm and Top Flavor were going to be facing off against out-of-town challengers in a gruelling series for the top (and only) prize of \$1000 cash. T-O Nation and the Fort Mojave Braves soon climbed to the top of the heap, as Redstorm fought their way to the next to the last game to come away in third.

The final game came down to two teams, up until that point undefeated: T-O Nation against the Fort Mojave Braves.

The final game ended 24 hours after the Tournament began, with the Braves out run-

ning, out passing and out scoring every team that challenged their supremacy on the court, to take the final 84 to 72!



Aaron Burns leaps to score during the first period of the championship game, as T-O Nation team members try to block.



There were some crazy pileups in the final game, as their opponents tried hard to keep the Braves from making a clean sweep.

LELAND JAEGER FILMING “COWBOY ZOMBIES” ON LOCATION IN ARIZONA



Paul Winters and Quechan Tribal member Lee Jaeger take a break in filming “Cowboy Zombies” to pose for photos in full costume. Set in the fictional town of Crumpit in the Arizona Territory of 1873, Mr. Winters plays Marshal Frank Wilcox, while Mr. Jaeger is cast as Datanta, Chief of the Chiracahua Apaches.

Photo Courtesy of Leland Jaeger

Quechan tribal member Leland Jaeger, known as “Lee Whitestar” in the film world, has returned to Arizona to play a Chiracahua Apache Chief from 1873, in the independent film “Cowboy Zombies.”

Set for theatrical release this coming September, the film takes place in the fictional town of Crumpit, Arizona. “Cowboy Zombies” is billed as the thrilling account of how a handful of disparate people banded together to fight an unimaginable foe . . . the walking dead!

Lee will be working once again with an old friend, Paul Winters, who co-wrote the film with Gahan Wilson, a famous panel cartoonist known as “The Master of the Macabre”.

Mr. Wilson has been a regular contributor to magazines such as *Playboy*, *The New Yorker* and *National Lampoon*.

“We worked a few days in December,” Mr. Jaeger tells the *Quechan News*, “and we

will return to Phoenix (in early April) to finish filming the rest of the movie. We’re shooting in the mountain areas around Phoenix, with some scenes being shot in the Tuscon area.”

Other cast members include Sam Bearpaw, a Warm Springs and White Mountain Apache. Sam is an actor with many credits and a Northern Traditional Dancer who has also been a producer on other independent films. Sandy Penny has been cast as Rose Ann, while MMA fighter and UFC Ultimate Fighter Season 8 Winner Efrain Escudero has been cast as gunfighter Hector Ruiz. Co-writer Paul Winters will step before the cameras to play Marshal Frank Wilcox.

Planned as a straight ahead western where the dead come alive, it is not a comedy or a camp zombie film. During all scenes featuring Apaches, the Apache language is spoken with English subtitles.

MARINES APPRECIATE TRIBE’S CONTRIBUTIONS TO AIRSHOW



Quechan Casino Resort team members Roy Alvarez and Joyce Maldonado are featured in this official image from the 2013 Marine Corps Air Station Airshow, taken at the March 9th event. Both Quechan Casinos were major sponsors once again, holding an Instagram Scavenger Hunt to increase public awareness of the Tribe’s entertainment and leisure options for local residents and winter visitors alike. Participants started at the casinos’ booth, using their cell phones to take photos of themselves and items with the “Q” logo. The “Q” logo was hidden throughout the airshow in 10 different locations. Participants searched for the hidden logos, which they photographed and uploaded to Instagram using their smartphones, adding a new level of fun to the event. The first place winner received an iPad with retina display. Other prizes included Beats by Dr. Dre headphones, Sea World tickets, San Diego Safari Park tickets, and San Diego Zoo tickets.

QCR Marketing Photo by Gabriel Massey



GREENLIGHT FILM FESTIVAL

Opportunity for Novice Filmmakers

Join Quechan Tribal Member Daniel Golding and the Yuma County Main Library Teen Services Staff as they present five new student films by Quechan Tribal members and others at the

The Yuma Art Center and the Historic Yuma Theater at 254 Main Street, in downtown Yuma, Arizona

Saturday, April 20th, starting at 1:00PM!

Come Laugh, Cry, and Be Amazed
at what our students have to say in their first forays into film!

YPG Remembers Vietnam Vets at A 50th Anniversary Ceremony

The US Army Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) held a commemoration ceremony marking their recognition of the nation's veterans who served in the war in Vietnam, 50 years after the United States officially entered the conflict on May 28, 1962.

With local government representatives, members of the media, invited veterans and three specially selected Native Americans from the Yuma area, the ceremony began at 1:00 PM in the lobby of YPG's Research Operation Center on March 27, 2013.

The highlight of the ceremony was the unveiling of a giant photo collage honoring the memory of Sgt. Bravie Soto, the first resident of the Yuma area to be felled by enemy fire in Vietnam.

Sergeant Soto was killed in the Bien Hoa Province on September 5th, 1967, as the result of an ambush while leading the 2nd Squad of Romeo Platoon, E Company, 2nd Battalion of the 39th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division.



Representatives of local Tribes display the framed photo collages presented to them by YPG Base Commander Colonel Reed Young. From left to right are Cocopah Tribe Chairwoman Sherry Cordova, Quechan Tribal member (and YPG Visual Information Tech) Kenrick Escalanti, and Mr. Dale Howard, a Vietnam Vet from the Colorado River Indian Tribes.

QUECHAN NEWS Photos by William Isbell

Base Commander Col. Reed Young had to catch himself as he choked up in describing the exploits of Sgt. Soto, a Cocopah Tribal member who had already had a building at YPG's Kofa Firing Range named in his memory.

He said that honoring an area Native was the best way that YPG could commemorate this

important, historical anniversary year, since the Proving Ground often consults with local Tribes on a variety of issues.

The photo collage honoring Sergeant Soto was placed in one of the highest trafficked areas of the entire Test Center: right next to the front entry of the Research Operations Center's cafeteria.

FORT YUMA INDIAN HEALTH CLINIC

Dr. Tamra Barker Joins Fort Yuma IHS Medical Staff



Dr. Tamra Barker

Dr. Barker is now on staff to provide clinical care in Family Medicine at the Fort Yuma Health Center.

Photo Courtesy of Fort Yuma IHS

of Medicine and Health Sciences.

Dr. Barker has also completed a fellowship in Clinical Pharmacology

The Fort Yuma Health Center welcomed a new physician to their medical staff earlier this year, Dr. Tamra Barker

“Dr. Barker brings extensive medical experience in the areas of clinical, prevention, and academic medicine,” says Daryl Melvin, CEO of the Fort Yuma IHS Clinic. “As a military veteran, physician, and global traveler, her work and varied interests have taken her to countries in Asia, Africa, South America, and Western Europe.”

Dr. Barker received her undergraduate degree in Chemical Engineering from the University of California, Davis.

She then went on to complete her graduate degree in Public Health and received her Medical degree from the George Washington University School

at the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences, Bethesda, Maryland. Dr. Barker is Board certified in preventive medicine and public health.

Most recently, she worked as a physician at the Army Health Center at the Yuma Proving Ground and at the Sonora Regional Medical Center in Sonora, California.

Dr. Barker enjoys the Yuma area. “I’m happy to be part of an energetic clinical team at Fort Yuma,” she says, “and I look forward to seeing my patients and to providing them with greater access to health care services.”

Dr. Barker has joined the IHS staff as a part-time physician, seeing patients five days a week and providing clinical care in Family Medicine at the Fort Yuma Health Center.



MEN'S OPEN \$2500 WINNER TAKE-ALL BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

Friday & Saturday
APRIL 26 & 27, 2013

AT THE QUECHAN COMMUNITY CENTER
FORT YUMA, CALIFORNIA

\$300 Entry Fee - T-Shirts Awarded To 1st, 2nd & 3rd Place Teams, M.V.P. and All-Tourney Players

To Enter Call DeShane Taylor @ 928.446.0615
Email = ndnrock@yahoo.com

It may be a little late, but ...



Happy Birthday

Mom!

I Love You!

Crystal





The 2013 Quechan Easter Egg Hunt!



QUECHAN NEWS Photos by William Isbell



Phillie Emerson warmed up the crowd (above) by handing a few special gifts over the fence at the Diabetes Walking Park, as everyone waited for the 10:00AM start signal. Once inside, kids and adults both spread out, looking for the best position. At the the signal (right), they all sprinted across the park, wanting to collect the most eggs!



Despite her speed, Lisa Marie Delcid lost out on eggs to the bigger kids with longer legs.



Older sister Lisa Madrigal held her little sister Bell's hand, searching for Easter Eggs together.



Egg collecting competitors Sierra Laurenzana and Azrael Martinez check the park benches.



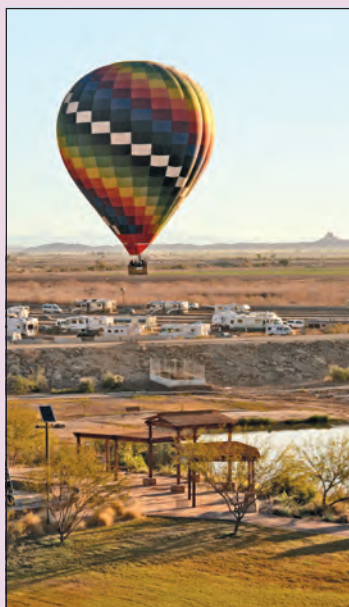
Little Mary Ann Taylor couldn't wait to sit down in the grass and check her booty!



And Rain Lopez held tight to his Easter egg basket, getting in line for a burger after the hunt!

THE WEATHER'S FINE FOR A MORNING DIP!

QUECHAN NEWS Photos by William Isbell



Commercial balloonists often visit the Quechan Reservation to use the rear RV parking area at Paradise to launch their early morning flights over Yuma.

Prevailing winds often take their craft slowly over the Colorado River and the Yuma East Wetlands, allowing their paying passengers a bird's eye view of Yuma's historic downtown district as they gain altitude on the way towards Somerton.

A recent group got a special treat when their pilot realized they would pass directly over the *Anya Nitz Pak* boat pond. He quickly descended to show off his mastery of altitude control, just skimming the surface before rising to clear the trees on the river bank and the Yuma Territorial Prison beyond!