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

Kwatsan Media Crushes NFL Grant Funding Offer

Over the past few months, the effort to gather support, increase public outreach, and promote the possibility of getting a community skate park built here at Fort Yuma has been in the forefront as a topic of discussion, not only on the reservation, but among local media outlets as well. One local group, headed up by the President of Kwatsan Media, Inc. has recently come together to take up that cause with widely publicized monthly meetings to move the project forward.

In March of this year, the group held a meeting at the Ironwood Community Center to explain their hope of capturing any available grants for such a project, explain their local fundraising efforts toward that goal, and introduce Greg Mize, a skate park designer and owner of Native Skateparks of Oklahoma, to the community.

Mr. Mize agreed to donate his time to produce renderings of the proposed Quechan Memorial Skate Park, which were delivered to Kwatsan Media in May, and revealed to the community at a public meeting on June 18th.

A few weeks prior to that June meeting, Cliff O'Neill,



Kenrick Escalanti (as Amay Tadits) creates art as his personal protest against the objectification of Native Americans. To get the point across, he will often overlay the head of a "Wahoo" onto historic images of Tribal members, or create his own cartoonish representations of business men profiting from native stereotypes. These examples of his work in that genre were displayed at the Yuma Art Center's "People of the Colorado" show in May.

Q NEWS Photos by William Isbell

the Quechan Tribe's Grants and Contracts Coordinator, answered a five-minute telephone "needs" survey from a group which identified themselves only as "a national sports franchise." "This was just a generic survey," O'Neill says, "asking me to identify the needs of the community . . . I get these kinds of calls all the time."

He says he gave the caller "the usual list: iPads for the library, playground equipment for housing, the skate park that people have been talking about

. . . those sorts of things." Mr. O'Neill says the caller thanked him for his time, and hung up. He didn't think much more about it, since at that time, it was "just another phone survey."

Then the same individual called back on July 11th to tell Mr. O'Neill they had finished their nationwide survey of Indian Tribes. "Your Tribe has been selected for a follow-up visit, and we are going to be in the area next week," he explained. "If you are interested, we would like to know if it

would be possible to set up a meeting to discuss your needs."

So Mr. O'Neill informed Tribal Administrator Vernon Smith about the second call, and Mr. Smith said "We should at least see what they have to say."

In taking the latest phone call, the Tribal Administration learned that the outside group was the Washington Redskins Original Americans Foundation (WROAF). In light of the recent controversy which has erupted over the Redskins name, Mr. Smith emailed Vice President Ronda Aguerro, to tell her these people were coming, and to see if the Tribal Council felt the controversy might mean he shouldn't meet with them, in case the Council had an objection. "I didn't want to cause them any problems," he says.

Mrs. Aguerro replied that the Council hasn't even discussed the issue, so they have formed no opinion, nor issued any official statement on the subject. "But I'll inform the Council about the meeting," she said.

Mr. Smith then contacted the caller, identified as Dewey Webb, and they agreed to meet in Mr. Smith's office when they

(Continued on Page 2)

Funding Offer Crushed

Continued from Page 1

would be in Yuma on July 16.

Knowing that the skate park is a high priority project among many Tribal members, Mr. Smith also contacted the organizers to ask if they would be interested in coming to see what the Washington NFL franchise wanted to offer in the way of support. "But it seems like they'd already been in contact with Kenrick Escalanti," according to Mr. Smith's recollection of events, "because (Kenrick) already knew about their wanting to help him with the skate park, so he must have already been communicating with them, somehow."

In any case, the President of Kwatsan Media, Inc. accepted the Tribal Administrator's offer to take part in the Wednesday morning meeting, showing up beforehand with Mr. Mize's renderings under his arm.

Mr. Smith recalls that when Kenrick arrived ahead of the other parties, "He told me right off the bat, 'We're not going to accept anything, we're totally against it, we're against the name and we're fighting it . . . Whatever they offer us, we're gonna say 'No!'."

His curiosity piqued, Mr. Smith then asked, "If you're going to say no, why are you even meeting with them?"

He recalls that Mr. Escalanti then laid out his motivation: "He said 'We want to use this as a PR for us: As soon as the meeting is over, I'm going to have a press release to all the newspapers out there, and then use that to say

we're still accepting donations for the project.'"

Mr. Smith continues, "I said that's okay, that's your thing, but they still have to meet with the Council at some time to see what they have to say, and they've formed no opinion as yet on what this is all about, and Kenrick said, 'OK'."

When Gary Edwards and Karl Schreiber of the Washington Redskins Original Americans Foundation (OAF) arrived with two other men a few minutes later, Mr. Smith also invited Mr. O'Neill into his office to hear the presentation, since he had been the original point-of-contact, and is involved in all grant funding for the Tribe.

"As they came in," says Mr. Smith, "I noticed that the Cultural Committee was going out." (The Cultural Committee had been presenting a report to the Tribal Council that morning.)

"So I went next door into the Council Chamber and told them 'I have these representatives here, would you like to have them come in here so you can get acquainted with them?' and they said, 'Sure'. So we all went in there."

With only three members of the Tribal Council present, everyone introduced themselves, and according to both Mr. Smith and Mr. O'Neill, it was all pretty friendly, and they just got to know each other. "There was no offer of any kind made. The Council didn't say 'Our needs are here' or anything," Mr. Smith

explains. "all they said was, 'Okay, we'll get back with you' more or less."

Mr. Smith noted that both Mr. Edwards and Mr. Schreiber were disappointed. "I could see that." But since the Council was not in session (and did not constitute a quorum), there was nothing they could do, officially, other than tell them they would be in touch.

So, the group left the Tribal Council chamber to continue their meeting in Mr. Smith's office. Kenrick Escalanti still had his drawings, and one of the men had brought WROAF renderings of some of their current playground projects, so they sat down together with Kenrick to compare their respective renderings. Mr. Smith says those drawings are an additional indication to him that they already knew about the skate park project, and they were focusing on that as a particular need they wanted to meet. "They didn't really mention any other projects," he says.

At that point, it was nearly noon, and Mr. Smith was ready to go to lunch. "Kenrick wanted to talk to the group and I offered them the use of my office, and I left for lunch," he told the *Quechan News* in an email. "I understand they met for an hour and I am not privy to what took place. I did inform the group that Kwatsan Media, Inc. is not a part of the Tribal Administration and they do not speak for the tribe. Only the [Tribal] Council has the authority to do that."

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COMMUNITY EXPRESSIONS



Quechan Tribal member Anthony Comet-Manchado and Woodrow Phillips Jr. of the Cocopah Tribe picked up their 2014 Greenlight Film Festival award for their short film "Vision or Memory" at the Yuma Main Library. Photo Courtesy of Kerri Comet

Congratulations to Mr. Anthony Comet-Manchado of the Quechan Tribe and Mr. Woodrow Phillips Jr. of the Cocopah Tribe on their stellar short film "Vision or Memory" which earned the "Judges Choice – Teen Category" award at the Greenlight Film Festival on April 4, 2014.

Anthony was also member of the group that earned an "Honorable Mention – Overall" at last year's 2013 Greenlight Film Festival, sponsored by the Yuma County Library District and Dan Golding of Hokan Media Productions.

A BIG *Thank You* to Mr. Bryan Summers, Teen Services Manager of The Yuma County Library and Mr. Daniel Golding for providing this opportunity for our area youth. This would not have been possible without Mr. Summers receiving the grant and for Mr. Golding's wisdom on guiding these students through the film making process. This opportunity has lead both of these young men to explore educational degrees in the field of motion pictures.

Great Job Boys!

Ms. Kerri Comet

You can bring your Community Expressions letters to the QUECHAN NEWS office trailer just north of the Senior Center entrance on Quechan Drive, or email them to the email address (w.isbell@quechantribe.com) printed in the box at the bottom of page 2 in every issue.

ETSKA NAV AH PAI THE NEWS CARRIER
QUECHAN NEWS
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Have a story idea, or an event you want covered?

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

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



Culture & Heritage

Runners Invited To Paiute Tribe Spirit Run In September

In early July, the Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah sent out an open invitation for all male runners to join them in their 6th Annual Spirit Run.

The fasting run will take place from Cedar Band land near the Hamilton Fort exit on Interstate 15, about five miles south of Cedar City, Utah. The route will be east on Old Highway 91 to South Main Street, turning right on Center Street, followed by a left on 200 E to the baseball park. The runners will stop there briefly before concluding at the Paiute Indian Tribe Children's Park on the east side of Cedar City. The run covers 10.2 miles.

Originally, the Paiute Indian people inhabited vast regions of southern and central Utah, northwestern Arizona, and southeastern Nevada. Prior to the appearance of other modes of transportation, the people traveled by foot to deliver messages to their relatives in these areas. Their runners were strong, able bodied, and enduring.

Damon Polk (a Quechan/Apache), who works as a Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor for the Paiute Tribe, tells the *Quechan News* that "The Paiute recognize the last Friday in September as National Indian Day, a time of seasonal changes in their homelands. It is also a time when the children are

settling into their school year." He says that this event has become their time of celebration.

"At the first event we had four runners. The run has grown every year, and by the time of the 5th run last year, 55 runners carried the traditional staffs. We conclude our run with a runner's ceremony, followed by a feast," Mr. Polk explains. "We then continue with special events such as contests in young men's bird singing, youth and adult women's bird dancing, Paiute circle dance singing, and round dance singing."

The Spirit Run has evolved into a healthy Rite of Passage for boys whose lives are changing as they develop a proper understanding of adolescence, and what will be expected of them as men. This passage is under the guidance and direction of healthy adult male role models.

The fast is an appeal to the Creator for individual, family, and community peace, health, and prosperity in this life.

Over the years, the organizers have given each run a special theme, to remind the participants why they are running. Those themes have included "Celebrating Native Life", "Gathering Our Spiritual Strength", "Celebrating The Spirit", "Paiute Spirit Is Forever" and "Protecting the Spirit."

This year, the theme for the



Over fifty runners gathered for the "Protecting the Spirit" Run at the 2013 National Indian Day Celebration on Paiute Tribal lands near Cedar City, Utah. Here, Damon Polk addresses runners and their families in the Paiute Tribal Gym.

Paiute Behavioral Care Photo Courtesy of Damon Polk

run is "My Spirit, My Strength."

Due to the spiritual nature of this event, *all* runners *MUST* contact Damon Polk prior to taking part in it. He is especially interested in explaining the run's purpose to Native Youth.

All participants will report to the back conference room at the Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah Behavioral Care building at 6:00AM on Saturday, September 27th. There, the purpose of the run will be reiterated for all participants.

"We will then travel to the starting point together," says

Mr. Polk. "And we will be on the road by 08:00AM."

As one of the organizers of this annual event, Damon extends a special invitation to runners in Fort Yuma, having grown up here right across the road from the San Pasqual Valley Schools campus.

He says: "There are many strong Quechan runners back home and they are held in high regard." Last year Vernon Smith and Vincent Tiger travelled to Cedar City for the event, and they shared tribal songs during the celebration.

Damon adds there is plenty of lodging available in the Cedar City area, and that all lodging and travel expenses are the responsibility of the traveling participants.

For more information on what's available, the rates and locations, you can go to: Cedar City UT Lodging on the web.

If you would like more information on the 6th Annual Spirit Run, you should contact: Damon Polk, Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor II at the Paiute Indian Tribe Office, 1(435)586-1112, Ext. 306.

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over \$45,000 in
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**18
YEARS
in Paradise**

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Every two hours 1pm - 9pm

Three winners receive \$180 Cash
and \$180 Rewards Play

**FINAL DRAWING
SATURDAY
AUGUST 30**

Every two hours 1pm - 9pm

Three winners receive \$180 Cash
and \$180 Rewards Play

10 PM DRAWING

Ten (10) winners receive \$1,800 Cash

Swipe your Players Reward Card to enter or play
your favorite slot machine. Earn an additional entry
for every 18 Players Reward Club points earned.

See the Players Rewards Club Booth for complete details.
Management reserves all rights. All times listed are AZ time.



**Paradise
CASINO**

Funding Offer Crushed

Continued from Page 2

Both Mr. Smith and Mr. O'Neill returned from lunch to find the visitors had gone, and they went on to other matters.

The following day, as he said he would, Kenrick Escalanti issued a "Media Alert" to national news media outlets such as USA Today, an unknown number of native news sites and blogs, and others.

(The *Quechan News* wasn't included in the July 17 Media Alert, even though Kwatsan Media has been in touch with the *News* every few weeks since March to push the *People of the Colorado* art show and their fundraising efforts for the Quechan Memorial Skate Park. When the *Quechan News* emailed Kwatsan Media on Monday, July 21st, asking for an explanation of events — after the story had already appeared in the *Yuma Sun* over the weekend — Kenrick Escalanti called back to say, "The meeting where this was discussed was 'need to know, and you didn't need to know.'" It was only after a very

heated discussion reminding Mr. Escalanti that if *anyone* needs to know these things, it is the members of the *Quechan Tribe* who read their Tribal Newsletter, that a copy of the Media Alert was then emailed to the *Quechan News* office.)

The release included Kenrick Escalanti's contact information, address and phone number, and it is evident that some of the news outlets called him back for additional information.

Mr. Escalanti took the opportunity to conduct further interviews, giving his opinions on the inappropriate use of native caricatures as sports mascots, and referring to the offer as "a bribe". In a skype interview with the NBC-TV affiliate in Phoenix (posted on AZCentral.com), he even characterized the offer as "insulting, it's shameful," even though his Media Alert quoted the WROAF delgation as telling him, "You don't even need to say we gave you anything."

"I was angered," he said, presenting himself as a victim. The

report says Kenrick was "in the room with the Quechan Tribal Council while [the WROAF] was giving a presentation" as Gary Edwards, described in the story as "a Cherokee and head of the charity," started talking.

In that skype interview, Kenrick goes on to say that Mr. Edwards' message was, "I'm a redskin, I'm proud to be a redskin, I'm proud of my color, I've been a proud redskin ever since I was a child."

His version of the meeting in the Council chamber is that: "We all pretty much we're sitting there, being as polite as we could, with our poker faces, just taking it in, y'know."

"Just that statement alone is ridiculous to people within Indian Country," Escalanti told Channel 12. "We know that the fact is, he hasn't cared, nor has the organization in its whole history, about the welfare of Indian Country." As a rebuttal, the news report also states that the Washington Redskins issued a statement of their own, saying in part that "At no time during our on-site discussion did the (Quechan) Tribe object to working with our foundation. We are very proud of the more than 145 projects in partnership with 40 Tribes that we have worked on."

Since then, representatives of Kwatsan Media have met with members of the Quechan Tribal Council, to provide their explanation of why they issued a Media Release which was taken as a statement on behalf of the entire Tribe. Kenrick Escalanti says he was misquoted and misunderstood, and that he didn't intend to make it sound like a Tribal decision. Still, many outside organizations may now decide that some people are too easily offended to work with.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

**The Quechan Utility Company
Billing System has been down recently,
and we are currently unable to send
out Billing Statements.**

***However, all customers are still
incurring monthly charges.
Please visit the Utilities office or call
Utilities for your current balance.***

**Quechan Utility Company
1890 C San Pasqual School Road
Winterhaven, Ca. 92283 (760) 572-0667**

Quechan Parents & Students are all Invited to the Quechan Back To **SCHOOL FAIR** For 2014!

**Saturday, August 9
From 10 Am to 1 PM at the
Quechan Community Center!**

**Come Early and Line Up For FREE Back To School
Back Packs!**

**Available for registered Tribal students,
on a First-Come-First-Served Basis!**



**WITH A ROOM FULL OF EXHIBITORS
PRESENT TO ANSWER YOUR
QUESTIONS, INCLUDING:**

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San Pasqual Schools
Winterhaven Fire Dept.
Quechan ADAPP
Imperial Valley Health
Imperial County Sheriff
Quechan Special
Diabetes Project
Quechan Parks & Rec

Quechan Community
Health Representatives
Fort Yuma Indian Health
California Highway Patrol
Quechan Tribal Police
Yuma County
Area Transit (YCAT)
Quechan Economic
Development Administration

Quechan Head Start
Quechan Casino Resort
Paradise Casino
Quechan Higher Education
Quechan Housing
Quechan Language
Preservation
Quechan Enrollment



Parents!

Be sure to visit the table for the
school your child will be attending and
pick up the 2014/15 School Calendar
and a copy of the latest
San Pasqual Schools Bus Schedule!

**San Pasqual Schools Start
Monday, August 18th, 2014!**

Early Dismissal Monday and Tuesday, August 18 and 19 at 1:15 PM!

Local Girls Team Fielded for 2014 NABI Basketball Tourney



The Fort Yuma team travelled all over the Phoenix area to play other teams during the Native American Basketball Invitational in early July. Here they are arriving at the Virginia G. Piper Sports & Fitness Center for one of the six games they played.
Photo Courtesy of Tina Welsh

Ten local Tribal members worked throughout the spring and early summer of 2014 to raise the money and get in shape to attend the 2014 Native American Basketball Invitational Tournament in Phoenix.

This year, a local team of high school aged girls was put together to bring the fighting spirit of Fort Yuma to compete against a roster of 63 other native teams from as far away as New Zealand. Led by Coaches Willis Hawkins and Anthony Palone, the team was made up of Malacah Jackson, Ny-lyn Duncan, Melissa Dosela, Antonia Palone, Alicia Menta, Allyssa Shepard, Miranda Tiger, Addisyn Chambers, and Elizabeth and Samantha Twist.

When the girls weren't spending time on the practice court over the past four months, they were heavily involved in the fund raising activities necessary to cover their expenses. Ny-lyn's mom, Tina Welsh joined up with Valerie Welsh-Tahbo, Spencer White, Tim O'Brien and Vivian Jackson to

help the girls in those efforts.

With additional support of Top Flavor Farms, J.V. Farms, the Strong Hearts Committee, Quechan Post 802 and both the Quechan Tribe and the Cocopah Tribe and the entire community, it all came together. (The girls and coaches offer a heartfelt thanks to everybody involved!)

The group travelled to Tempe, Arizona to stay at the Pointe Hilton at Tapatio Cliffs, where the first day was taken up by check-in, followed by a "Preparation for College" seminar. All of the athletes spent time with representatives from several colleges and universities to gather information, and help them plan for the future. That same evening, there was a "Pool Party" for all the girls and boys teams at the tournament.

And though the Fort Yuma Girls Team didn't make it to the top of the heap, they did advance through the brackets far enough to compete against six other native teams this year, even playing against those girls from New Zealand!

FORT YUMA GIRLS PARTICIPATE IN THE

JULY 2ND THROUGH JULY 5TH, 2014

Quechan Parks and Rec Photos
Courtesy of Tina Welsh



NATIVE AMERICAN BASKETBALL INVITATIONAL

Over a dozen local community members spent the first week of July in the Phoenix/Mesa/Tempe area, competing in the 13th Annual NABI Basketball Tournament. The Fort Yuma girls basketball team (overseen by their chaperone, Tina Welsh) was accompanied to their base of operations, The Pointe Hilton at Tapatio Cliffs in Tempe, by coaches Willis Hawkins and Anthony Palone. For the story which accompanies these photos, see page 5.



SDPI Demonstrates Good Nutrition, Staying Active Are Keys To Weight Management



QUECHAN NEWS Photos by William Isbell



Warming up before the group meets, Taryn Villacaña and Emilio Escalanti get their blood pumping on the stationary bikes.



Everyone gathers at the end of the workday on Wednesdays, to push each other through an hour of floor exercises in the aerobics room at the Diabetes Wellness Center. The peer support helps everyone “stick with the program”.



Diabetes Wellness Instructional Aide Rick Juan leads the entire group as they use free weights to add a little extra to their routines.

The mission of the Quechan Special Diabetes Project for Indians (SDPI) is to provide instruction and practical solutions to help Tribal members take control of their diabetes. To help fulfill that mission, the Staff at SDPI has been hosting a weight management peer support group since the beginning of the year, and over the past few months the group has been slowly gaining members.

The group meets every Wednesday at 5:30 PM at

the Diabetes Wellness Center, shortly after the gym has closed to the general public.

This allows the weight management group members who haven’t been in a gym lately to slowly get back into the rigors of a gym environment. Diabetes staff instructors help them with proper technique and the functions of the machines.

While at the gym, the group often relies on each other to push forward with that little extra bit of encouragement

when fatigue starts to set in.

Once they’ve had their workout, they head next door to the SDPI office to engage in discussion. Topics range from the benefits of exercising with a partner to the long term damaging effects of living with an illness such as diabetes or chronic kidney disease. Every other Wednesday, the group also sits down together to enjoy a healthy meal prepared by in-house Chef Randall Moody.

Some of the dishes that the

group has shared together have included almond crusted eggplant, tofu stir fry, open faced grilled fish sandwiches with coleslaw, and even a grilled watermelon salad served with pickled radishes and quinoa!

Group facilitator Randall Moody says that with hard work and a belief in each other, anything can be accomplished. He says it’s always great to hear positive feedback from group members when they accomplish their goals.

Randall also says the group is really optimistic about learning and understanding that changes (which must be made over time) will help them create a new, healthy lifestyle that can be shared with family and friends alike.

If you or a family member might benefit from being in the weight management support group call anyone on the SDPI staff at (760)572-1286 with your questions . . . or just show up at 5:30 PM on Wednesday!



Pete Escalanti helps out in the Wellness Center exercise equipment room, showing Teddy Villacaña and her daughter Janessa Gonzalez how to safely use one of the machines.



Diabetes Aide Randall Moody, Jr. practices what he preaches in the kitchen.



When the exercise has ended, the entire group sits down together to enjoy a healthy meal, prepared by the staff. This meal was a combination of lean chicken, and fresh, stir fried vegetables over brown rice, flavored with low sodium soy sauce.

New Assistant Planner at the EDA

The Quechan Tribe's Economic Development Administration struck gold when they hired Frank Venegas as their new EDA Assistant Planner.

His background in team athletics, the military and construction, combined with his continuing education indicates that Frank could build upon his current position and become a real asset to the Tribe.

Frank is a tribal member who was born in Los Angeles, California, but moved to the Reservation when he was in the second grade. Once on the reservation he grew up hunting, fishing, hiking and riding dirt bikes; he also burned off some of his youthful energy participating with local sports teams.

While in grade school, he was a member of the Fort Yuma Eagles basketball team and played for the Crane Country boys little league all-star team.

As he matured, Frank kept up his love for organized sports, playing basketball and wrestling at the San Pasqual Middle School. He even made the City Championship Team while at San Pasqual, becoming a Yuma City Champion at 105 lbs.

Once in high school, Frank stayed with wrestling and also played football for San Pasqual.

As a high school athlete, he build up an enviable record of achievements in wrestling.

He captured First Place at the Indio Invitational, had three first place finishes in the Arizona AA West Regionals and managed both a third and a second place finish in the Arizona AA State Tournament.

In describing those days, he says "the best part of wrestling was winning the AA State Title and bringing it home to the reservation!"



Tribal member Frank Venegas has been with the Quechan Economic Development Administration since January. Photo by William Isbell

After graduating from high school he worked in construction for two years before serving in the U.S. Army from 1996 to 1999.

Frank enlisted as a carpentry and masonry specialist and later changed his MOS to work as a heavy equipment operator.

He did his basic training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri and Advanced Individual Training in Gulfport, Mississippi.

He was later stationed at Fort Stewart, Georgia, where he was a member of the 92nd Engineers attached to the Third Infantry Division.

Once his three years enlistment in the Army was over, Frank took advantage of his G.I. Bill benefits to attend Haskell Indian Nations University from 2000 to 2002, where he received an Associates of Science degree in Natural Science.

He then returned to Yuma and began working in construction as a mason, concrete finisher and a framer.

He decided to go back to college about four years ago, enrolling in a science-based curriculum at Arizona Western

College, where he was on the dean's list. Frank graduated in 2012 with an Associate's Degree in Environmental Science having an emphasis in Biology.

That background helped him capture his current position as an Assistant Planner at the EDA. "I like working for the tribe and the community," he says. "I hope to use my degree doing restoration along the Lower Colorado River basin to one day return it to its natural pristine condition."

He is also the current Commander of Post 802, a position he received in early July.

Frank is also taking classes at the Northern Arizona University campus in Yuma, enrolled in their Environmental Science program where he plans to graduate next spring with a Bachelor's Degree in E.S., again emphasizing Biology.

"But in the meantime, I handle business permits, making sure that any person, firm, or organization engaging in business activity within the boundaries of the Fort Yuma Indian Reservation obtains a Business Permit first."

SPECIAL THANKS

This message is for all of the friends, relatives, runners, kitchen helpers, facilitators and people we love from the Fort Yuma Reservation, and those who traveled to be with us:

We express a Big Thank You for being with us in our very unexpected loss and the suffering it brings. Everyone in the Pretty Bird and Amador families have been so touched by the many who stood in grief with us.

Bless you all in all that you may be doing, and all that you pray for. Prayer is Strong!

Our families are so happy to know you came out of respect for our beloved.

*The Amador Family and the Prettybird Family
Two-ly, Conan, Pascha and Rain Nierenhausen*

Kwat'san liya Correction!

Last month's "Kwat'san liya" on page 4 carried a list of "Delicious, Traditional Foods". When the original list was too long to fit, it was edited down. In the process, the Kwat'san word for *one* vegetable ended up under the English word for *another*! The CORRECT word for *Wild Spinach* is 'Akwaav, while the word *Kaamoot* means *Sweet Potato*. Sorry about the mix up! — Ed.

Kwat'san li'ya!

Quechan Sentence Structure

Main Subject: Vavaa-k = *to Fish*

In Quechan You Would Say:

Xuumar xatsing naay xavik actsii vavaa awetsk.

Which would translate word-for-word as:

Child/girl / father / two / went-fishing / they / went.

For the English sentence of:

The little girl went fishing with her father.

Submitted by Quechan Language Preservation
To enroll in a Language Course, call (760)572-4412

Next Year's Tax Returns Require Proof of Health Coverage: Tribal Members May Need an Exemption Form

Starting in 2014, the Affordable Care Act (also known as “Obamacare”) requires each and every person living in the United States to have qualifying health insurance coverage for each month of the year, have an health insurance exemption, or to make a shared responsibility payment when filing a federal income tax return.

Most citizens will also have to pay for all of their own health care. If they can't prove they have health insurance, either through their employer or through the “Health Insurance Marketplace” they might have to pay an additional fee when they file their Income Tax return beginning next year. This “fee” is sometimes called the “penalty,” “fine,” “individual responsibility payment,” or “individual mandate” and it goes up each year a person doesn't have coverage.

This coming spring, as people prepare their 1040's, a lot of people might be in for a rude awakening if they don't have the paperwork necessary to either prove they are covered, or that they have an exemption from the requirement to be enrolled in “Obamacare”.

Every person who can't prove to the IRS that they have health coverage will find out they are expected to add that “shared responsibility payment” onto their federal income tax return.

However, some people are exempt from making this payment. Enrolled members of a federally recognized tribe who are eligible to receive services from an Indian health care provider, such as the Fort Yuma Indian health Clinic, are exempt from the Affordable Care Act

and its attendant penalties.

But—as with everything involving the federal government—the IRS wants to see your paperwork that proves you're exempt. And it's up to you to provide it: no one else can do it for you!

Fortunately, the federal Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has developed a form (No. 0938-1190) that anyone can download from the internet in .pdf format and fill out, to attach to their taxes next spring and prove their exemption.

It is especially important that anyone who may have gone 3 or more months without medical coverage in 2014 download this form and fills it out, because they are going to need it, if they want to avoid the tax penalties (and other headaches).

The form can also be found—**WITH OTHER TYPES OF EXEMPTION APPLICATIONS**—on <https://www.healthcare.gov/exemptions/>. You will also find additional information at that web address.

Please be aware that there are a number of nearly identical versions of OMB Form No. 0938-1190, for every type of exemption. As a Tribal member, you will want to click on and download the version entitled: “Application for Exemption for American Indians and Alaska Natives and Other Individuals who are Eligible to Receive Services from an Indian Health Care Provider.”

Use this version of the *application for exemption form* if you and/or anyone in your taxable household is:

- A member of an Indian tribe.
- Another individual who is eligible for health services

through the Indian Health Service, tribes and tribal organizations, or any urban Indian organizations.

- If you are successful in getting this exemption, you can keep it for future years without submitting another application, as long as your membership or eligibility for services from an Indian health care provider remains unchanged.

- You can use one application to apply for this exemption for more than one person in your tax household.

There are other applications for other categories of exemptions. You may also be able to apply for certain other categories of exemptions when you file your federal income tax return. You don't need to ask for an exemption if you're not going to file a federal income tax return because your income is below the filing threshold. But if you're not sure, you may want to ask for an exemption, just to be safe.

In any case, the OMB Form No. 0938-1190 application is for those who:

- A) Haven't had any medical coverage for 3 months or more during 2014 (and future years),
- B) Will be filing a tax return, and,
- C) Would prefer not to pay the income tax penalty.

Here are some important facts to consider, according to Paula Veneski at the Fort Yuma IHS Clinic:

1. For the enrolled members of a federally recognized tribe, they need to include copies, front and back, of their tribal ID.
2. Non-Indian pregnant women/descendants, etc., will need to see Yvonne Galvan, Patient

Business Office Supervisor and Acting Administrative Officer. She will be able to provide them with the IHS letter verifying that they are patients, which the application asks for.

3. Patients should then mail these exemptions to the address listed on the application.

4. Processing takes approximately 6-8 weeks

5. Patients should submit an application for each family member who is an IHS patient.

6. Paula says you should “Do the application right away. Waiting until the end of the year may result in a lengthy processing delay.”

7. Once your application has been processed, you will be sent a “certificate.” The certificate number in the upper right corner is specific to that individual, and is for use on the tax form, to identify a person as being exempt from having to pay the tax penalty.

8. The certificate will be in effect *indefinitely*, so it should be stored with other important documents.

9. IHS headquarters recommends that even patients who haven't had a 3-month lapse in medical coverage should complete the application.

10. Non-Indian family members *are not eligible for this exemption unless they qualify to be an IHS patient.*

11. IHS staff, including Benefits Coordinators, are not to permitted to assist anyone in the completing—or mailing—of this form.

It is in your own best interest to get a copy of this form and fill it out and mail it in as soon as possible. Beginning next year, these are the tax pen-

alties you would have to pay if you can't prove you are exempt from the Affordable Care Act:

2014: \$95 per adult or 1% of annual household income.

2015: \$325 per adult or 2% of annual household income

2016: \$695 per adult or 2.5% of annual household income.

And after 2016: It's \$695 per adult PLUS an increase based on the cost of living or 2.5% of annual household income.

You would also have to pay a cost per each minor (under 18) that equals 50% of the adult penalty, for every child in your household who is also without health insurance.

Most tax experts also say that where you have to apply for an exemption depends upon the type of exemption you qualify for. Some exemptions can only be obtained from the Marketplace in the area where you live, others only from the IRS when you file, and yet others from either the Marketplace or the IRS.

Additional information about exemptions is available on the Individual Shared Responsibility Provision web page on IRS.gov. This page includes a link to a chart that shows the types of exemptions available and whether they must be granted by the Marketplace, claimed on an income tax return filed with the IRS, or granted by either the Marketplace or the IRS.

Even though the “experts” are still trying to determine who might be exempt under what circumstances, they all agree that it is very important that you apply early, because each exemption requires that you fill out a specific form, and you will need all that information on the right form before you can file.

Route Survey Conducted for Internet Project

Local telephone service provider TDS Telecom is proposing to construct a broadband telecommunications network within the boundaries of the Fort Yuma Quechan Reservation, under a grant from the state of California. The project would involve the installation of almost 16 miles of new fiber-optic and ethernet-over-copper lines along the edges of various roads on the Reservation.

The new network would provide broadband telecommunications services to an estimated 961 households in the area capable of speeds up to 24 Mbps/5 Mbps. All four San Pasqual Valley Schools and the San Pasqual Vocational Academy would also be served by the new network.

But before anything can be built, or even a single shovel of



Quechan Tribal Monitor Henri Koteen accompanied Tierra Land Services field techs Joe Howell (seen here) and Benjamin Wright as they surveyed the entire proposed cable route in mid-July. Tierra's Tim Jordan also conducted a biological survey. QUECHAN NEWS Photo by William Isbell

earth is turned here on the reservation, TDS needs to be sure there are no cultural artifacts or environmental impediments along the proposed route. They must also keep the local community informed of their plans, and seek the permission of all

land owners along the route, to compensate those individuals for the use of the right-of-way.

Two public meetings were held at the Paradise Event Center on July 17, one in the morning, and a second in the evening, where representatives

of both TDS and their subcontractor, Tierra Right of Way Services, explained the project for the first time.

That same week, a number of Tierra employees arrived to work with the Quechan Historic Preservation Department and TERO in conducting the preliminary survey of the area that such a project requires.

Two men, Field Director Joe Howell and Archeological Field Tech Benjamin Wright were joined by Quechan Tribal Monitor Henri Koteen, as they went out and covered the entire area of the proposed project on foot, taking three days to walk every bit of the internet cable route looking for any indications of undisturbed soil along the farm roads where the cable would be laid. Their purpose was to in-

sure that all of the work would take place only along areas that have already been subjected to heavy construction over the past 70 to 80 years, so that there is only a very small possibility of disturbing previously unknown cultural artifacts where TDS hopes to do their work.

At the same time, Tierra's Senior Biologist, Tim Jordan came out to conduct a biological evaluation as he carefully examined and recorded the canal crossings that local animals often use as watering holes.

Tierra will prepare reports of their survey findings and submit them to the Bureau of Indian Affairs for review and approval. They will also later prepare an Environmental Assessment that must be approved before the BIA can approve the project.

SAN PASQUAL VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Ice Cream Social
Friday, August 15, 2014
2:45 PM

School Cafeteria

Everyone is invited!
Elementary – Middle School – High School



Free Ice Cream for the Family
Meet Your Classroom Teacher
Pick Up Your Class Schedule

THE QHA CORNER: Tips On Home Maintenance From The Quechan Housing Authority

Change your air filter regularly



CLEAN



DIRTY

During the summer, set your thermostat to the warmest temperature you can be comfortable at. It is best to set the temperature on your thermostat between 78 to 80 degrees for summer cooling.

For each degree you set your thermostat above 75 degrees, you can save 5 to 8 percent on your home's cooling bill. But be careful, setting the temperature too high can increase short cycling and that could drive your bill higher!

Check your filter every month, especially during the heavy use months of summer. If the filter looks dirty after a month, change it. At a minimum, you should change the filter every 3 months.

A dirty filter will slow down air flow and make the system work harder to keep you cool — wasting energy AND \$\$\$\$. A clean filter will also prevent dust and dirt from building up in the system — leading to expensive maintenance and/or early system failure.



TRIBAL COUNCIL BUSINESS

Official Resolutions Passed During the Month of July, 2014



The Quechan Tribal Council passed 14 Official Resolutions at three meetings in July, before this issue of Quechan News went to press. The Resolutions are listed below in numerical order, as they were passed and adopted by the Council. The effect of each Resolution is covered by its Title. For further information on these Resolutions, please contact the Tribal Council Secretary, Alexis Summerfield, or Executive Secretary Marsha Emerson at the Tribal Administration Office: (760)572-0213, Ext. 204 or 206.

Resolution R-116-14: A Resolution to approve the Quechan Housing Authority’s 2015 Indian Housing Plan for Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2015. *Approved by a vote of: 5 for, 0 against, 0 abstained, 1 absent at a Regular Council Meeting held on July 1, 2014.*

Resolution R-117-14: A Resolution to approve the temporary commercial space plan and authorizing its implementation by the Quechan Economic Development Administration. *Approved by a vote of: 5 for, 0 against, 0 abstained, 1 absent at a Regular Council Meeting held on July 1, 2014.*

Resolution R-118-14: A Resolution to approve Revision #1 for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program for Federal Fiscal Year October 1, 2013 through September 30, 2014. *Approved by a vote of: 5 for, 0 against, 0 abstained, 1 absent at a Regular Council Meeting held on July 1, 2014.*

Resolution R-119-14: A Resolution to approve the tentative budget for the Higher Education/Employment Assistance Program, Tribal Priority Allocation, for Calendar Year 2014. *Approved by a vote of: 5 for, 0 against, 0 abstained, 1 absent at a Regular Council Meeting held on July 1, 2014.*

Resolution R-120-14: A Resolution to expend funds for financial aid to Applicant #1 attending higher education for the Fall 2014 Academic Year. *Approved by a vote of: 4 for, 0 against, 1 abstained, 1 absent at a Regular Council Meeting held on*

July 1, 2014.

Resolution R-121-14: A Resolution to expend funds for financial aid to Applicant #2 attending higher education for the Fall 2014 Academic Year. *Approved by a vote of: 5 for, 0 against, 0 abstained, 1 absent at a Regular Council Meeting held on July 1, 2014.*

Resolution R-122-14: A Resolution to expend funds for financial aid to Applicant #3 attending higher education for the Fall 2014 Academic Year. *Approved by a vote of: 5 for, 0 against, 0 abstained, 1 absent at a Regular Council Meeting held on July 1, 2014.*

Resolution R-123-14: A Resolution to expend funds for financial aid to Applicant #4 attending higher education for the Fall 2014 Academic Year. *Approved by a vote of: 5 for, 0 against, 0 abstained, 1 absent at a Regular Council Meeting held on July 1, 2014.*

Resolution R-124-14: A Resolution to expend funds for financial aid to Applicant #5 attending higher education for the Fall 2014 Academic Year. *Approved by a vote of: 5 for, 0 against, 0 abstained, 1 absent at a Regular Council Meeting held on July 1, 2014.*

Resolution R-125-14: A Resolution to expend funds for financial aid to Applicant #6 attending higher education for the Fall 2014 Academic Year. *Approved by a vote of: 5 for, 0 against, 0 abstained, 1 absent at a Regular Council Meeting held on July 1, 2014.*

Resolution R-126-14: A Resolu-

tion for termination of employment of the Quechan Police Department’s Chief of Police. *Approved by a vote of: 4 for, 1 against, 0 abstained, 1 absent at a Special Council Meeting held on July 9, 2014.*

Resolution R-127-14: A Resolution to delegate and grant authority to the Quechan Housing Authority to apply for the 2014 Indian Community Development Block Grant. *Approved by a vote of: 5 for, 0 against, 0 abstained, 1 absent at a Special Council Meeting held on July 17, 2014.*

Resolution R-128-14: A Resolution to certify the citizen’s participation for the 2014 Indian Community Development Block Grant. *Approved by a vote of: 5 for, 0 against, 0 abstained, 1 absent at a Special Council Meeting held on July 17, 2014.*

Resolution R-129-14: A Resolution to approve an exclusive authorization and right to sell between A.T. Pancrazi Real Estate Services, Inc. and the Quechan Indian Tribe. *Approved by a vote of: 5 for, 0 against, 0 abstained, 1 absent at a Special Council Meeting held on July 17, 2014.*



Back to School 2014

Orientation: Meet your teachers and receive a class schedule. We look forward to seeing you!!!!

• **Freshman – High School Library,**
Thursday August 14, from 4:30 – 6:00 PM
High School freshman orientation is mandatory for all incoming 9th grade students and their parents/guardians.

• **6th Grade – Cafeteria,**
Thursday, August 14, from 6:00 – 7:30 PM
Middle School 6th grade orientation is mandatory for all incoming 6th grade students and their parents/guardians.

First Day: Monday, August 18, 2014 – Student Minimum Day

8:00 - 1:15	Minimum Day for students
1:15 - 3:15	Site Staff Meetings

Tuesday, August 19, 2014 – Student Minimum Day

8:00 - 1:15	Minimum Day for students
1:15 - 3:15	Site Staff Meetings

Wednesday & Thursday, August 20-21, 2014 – Regular Schedule

8:00 - 1:15	Regular Schedule for students
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Friday, August 22, 2014 – Student Minimum Day

8:00 - 1:15	Minimum Day for students
1:15 - 3:15	Staff Meetings/Site Collaboration

Block Schedule

This year the High School and the Middle School will have a block schedule, which means class periods will be two periods every other day, rather than one period every single day. For High School and Middle School, the schedule also includes an 8th period on Tuesday and Thursday which will be used for intervention, sports and ASB.

Elementary School Schedule

Our Elementary School schedule will change with the start of the 2014 – 2015 school year. Students will receive an additional twenty minutes of instruction Monday through Thursday, with their school day starting at 8:05 AM and ending at 2:40 PM. The additional time four days a week will provide a richer school day for your child.



In Special Recognition of

Your 28 years of Dedicated Service With the Quechan Tribe

On August 14th, 2014



Eileen Menta

A very special women in our lives. Your long hours & hard work are truly appreciated!

And Happy Birthday On August 29th!

May your days continue to be blessed.

From the Quechan Enrollment Staff





New Employee Provides Lifeguard Instruction

QUECHAN NEWS Photos by William Isbell



Over a dozen Quechan community members signed up for Lifeguard Certification Training from the Tribe's newest employee at Parks and Rec, Mindy Cordova. She is seen at left, timing participants as they performed the two minute treading water skills test on Saturday, July 12. The class, which included Brenda Acosta and Donald Cachora (above), also had to pass a 100 meter endurance swim and retrieve a brick from the bottom of the pool.

The Rainbow Pool has returned to its regular summer schedule now that the Quechan Tribe has a full compliment of certified lifeguards on staff.

Mindy Cordova, the assistant swim coach for Cibola high school, has taken a summer job as the lead lifeguard at the Tribe's pool, and she spent her third weekend on the job passing on her knowledge to other community members, to also help them achieve certified lifeguard status.

Mindy says the Pastor at her church's summer youth camp approached her in the summer

of 2008 and asked if she would like to become a lifeguard. She accepted the challenge, and she's been a lifeguard (and water safety instructor) ever since.

Over the past few years, she's not only taught 25 classes in the area, she's also worked as a lifeguard for the City of Yuma, the Yuma Golf and Country Club, Yuma School District One and Waylon's Water World. She says she received a call from Phil Emerson in early May to help get the pool reopened here at Fort Yuma, so after she learned more about the position, she started work in late June.

"With the help of Phil Emerson and Willis Hawkins, I would like to start many aquatic programs here at the Rainbow Pool," she tells the Quechan News. "Those programs might include water aerobics, Aqua Zumba, and swim lessons for the youth. I would also like to teach CPR, First Aid, and how to use and Automated External Defibrillator (AED) to anyone interested in becoming CPR certified through the American Red Cross."

Mindy used the Red Cross Lifeguard course as the basis for the program she led in early

July. All students had to pass a three part skills test before they could complete the training. Those skills were treading water using only their feet for two minutes, swimming 100 meters, and diving into the deep end of the pool to locate and retrieve a ten pound brick from the bottom of the pool within a set time. The end result of the two-day course was twelve new Lifeguard graduates.

The class wasn't all hard work: part of the classtime passed fairly casually. At right, Mindy Cordova shares a light moment answering questions from Stephen Ramirez.



Herrera's Winning Streak Continues

Photo Courtesy of Rosie Herrera

Quechan Tribal member Joseph Herrera travelled to the San Carlos Indian Reservation over the 4th of July weekend to compete in the annual Native American Boxing Tournament.

Now competing in the 14 to 15 year old 146-154 pound weight class, Joseph was matched up against Angel Ortiz from Coolidge, Arizona. He was able to his unbroken string of victories, winning the bout by TKO in the second round!

This is Joe's second year attending the event, returning to Fort Yuma both times with a championship win! Congratulations, Joe!

The coordinator of the Native American Boxing Tournament event (John Parsons) was so impressed, he took Joseph with him to compete in the Ringside World Championship in Independence, Missouri from July 28th to August 2nd.



Water Aerobics for Seniors



Meets 3 Times A Week
Mon-Wed-Fri

At 10 AM At The Rainbow Pool

First time participants receive a FREE beach towel!

For more information, contact Lisa Aguerro at
Quechan Injury Prevention: (760) 572-0437

To participate - come to the Rainbow Pool and take part!