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Community Votes To Vacate Election

Three statements were filed by Tribal members contesting the procedures followed by the Quechan Election Board in tallying the votes for last December's general election, all within the 5 day time limit set forth in the election ordinance [QT-3-74, §V (D)].

In due course, Cody Hartt, acting in his capacity as Election Marshal, posted a notice calling for an open meeting of the Quechan Tribal membership at the Quechan Community Center on the evening of December 29, 2014 at 5:00 PM.

However, the time set for the meeting was exactly the same time that Tribal members with full time jobs were getting off work, so only a few members of the public were on hand at the time the meeting was supposed to begin. Shortly after five, Election Marshal Hartt used the P.A. system to announce that the meeting would be delayed an additional half hour, while Anthony Palone from Tribal Security continued to count off everyone who arrived.

Others at a table just inside the entryway double checked the names of registered voters,

announcing they had reached a total of 67 qualified electors on hand (out of at Mr. Palone's count of least 135 adults passing through the doors). That number met the requirement of at least 10% of the voting public being present (out of the 674 ballots used in December), which got the meeting off to a start right around 5:30 PM.

Someone spoke up to nominate Willie White to act as Chairman for the meeting, and after that motion was seconded, a vote was taken and the majority of those present agreed that Mr. White would take charge.

Mr. White then asked for the three Tribal members who had filed election contests to read their allegations, one by one.

Dolores Polk (who was not present for the open community meeting) alleged that she had received no voting instructions by mail, nor had she received her absentee ballot in time to get her ballot returned before the election was over.

Vernon Smith had a detailed statement containing five points against the procedures witnessed in the most recent election, one of which also alleged

that the Election Board failed to provide clear instruction to first time voters on how to mark their ballots, which resulted in many spoiled ballots. He also said that the Election Board did not send out a list of candidates names with the absentee ballots, resulting in many Tribal members having no idea who was running for office.

"The Election Board failed to mail out absentee ballots in a timely manner," says Smith, "and I know that because people were calling me (at the Tribal administration office) and emailing me (beginning on election day) . . . some said they usually get those way ahead of the election and they can fill them out and mail them back in time, so there was no problem with the way it's set up. But for some reason, with this election year, they didn't get those ballots until the day of the election, or the day before, or even *after* the election."

Mr. Smith and George DeCorse, who filed the third validated contest statement, both further alleged that there were times when the Election Board Judge opened ballots,

considered their contents, and declared the ballot rejected without placing that ballot onto the overhead projector for all of the witnesses present to see why the ballot was "spoiled".

Mr. DeCorse also said that he was present on the morning of December 2nd, during the public vote count. He says that between the hours of 2 AM and 6 AM he witnessed the Board display at least four ballots on the overhead projector which contained more than the permitted maximum of 7 votes; those ballots were not rejected.

Notes DeCorse in his contest statement, "It's a reasonable deduction after seeing this Election Board's method of counting that there were probably other erroneous votes prior to 2 AM and after 6 AM," while he was present as a witness.

Mr. Smith also stated that Election Judge Starla Cachora abandoned her position during the vote tally, attempting to transfer her authority as Judge to one of the Clerks.

"By her actions the process was tainted," Smith says, "The Election Board is appointed by

(Continued on Page 2)

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Send It In Via Email!**

Election Vacated

Continued from Page 1

the Tribal Council, and they are the only ones with the authority to appoint. They also appoint alternates for the Clerks, so in the event something happens, they can step in. But [the Council] didn't appoint an alternate for the judge, so once she leaves . . . the Judge has no authority to appoint an "Acting Judge", it has to be the Council."

"Various Tribal Member participants at the meeting also vocalized their thoughts on the findings," according to meeting Chairman, Willie White. "After each contest statement was heard, the sitting Election Board was given ample opportunity to exhaust their defense (in answer to) the statements against them."

Once everyone had made their statements, asked their questions, and heard the responses from the Election Board, Chairman White signaled it was time to begin voting on the validity of each contest statement.

The Chairman began with a vote on whether George DeCorse's contest statement showed that the Election Board had engaged in misconduct. He then reminded the assembled Tribal members that only those who had verified that they had voted in the December general Election would be allowed to vote at the meeting. Those Tribal members had all received a green wrist band on the way into the meeting certifying their status as electors, so he asked them to be sure to raise the arm with the wrist band when they

voted, so he could verify the count visually.

A little over an hour and a quarter after the meeting had begun, Mr. White asked for a show of hands on those who said, "No — the charges against the Election Board are not proven." His report to the Council states that a single Quechan member present voted No.

He then says that "When I called for the "Yes" votes, 64 Quechan members present voted to confirm the contest as showing Election Board misconduct, nullifying the election."

"These voters present, having found misconduct and nullifying the election, resolved the election contest, according to the Contest Procedures, specifically, Article G." With that declaration of the vote total following the election contest meeting, he declared the results to be final. "I didn't take a vote on the other two contest statements," he tells the *Quechan News*, "because the first statement by George Decorse was sufficient per the vote of the people."

Willie White concluded his report on the Election Contest meeting by thanking the Tribal Council for accepting his information and for their subsequent actions in nullifying the December 2014 election. He also states that the Council will be appointing a new election board to conduct a new election sometime later this year. Look for additional details in the *Quechan News* as they become available.

THE QHA CORNER: Recertification for Rental Participants

Re-certifications will be taking place for all QHA Rental Participants. It is MANDATORY that Participants attend in order to continue their eligibility in the Low Rent Program. Failure to appear will result in Non-Compliance of HUD Regulations, which is grounds for termination of occupancy.

The Schedule is as follows:

Tuesday, February 17, 2015 & Wednesday, February 18, 2015
At the Ironwood Community Center from 10:00 AM to 7:00 PM

- ➡ For Tenants of Ironwood (New Subdivision)
- ➡ And in Rental Units Along Foster Road

Thursday, February 19, 2015 & Friday, February 20, 2015
At the Elderly Community Center from 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM

- ➡ For Rental Tenants in the Old Subdivision
- ➡ The Mesquite Subdivision
- ➡ And in Rental Units Along Picacho Road

And again on Saturday, February 21, 2015 at the Elderly Community Center from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM for any one who missed their designated scheduled date.

On Thursday, February 26, 2015
at the Elderly Community Center from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

- ➡ For Tenants Living in the Elderly Units

The following information is needed for every member of the household composition:

- Verification Letter for Per-Capita
- Verification of Income (ex: W2's, pay stubs, unemployment benefits, welfare notice of action letter, social security benefits, child support, alimony, veterans benefits)
- Birth Certificate • Social Security Card • Tribal I.D.

All adults 18 years or over must be present and will need to sign all re-certification documents. Please be advised that we will not recertify a household without all necessary documents. Re-certifications will be done on a "walk-in" basis.

QHA appreciates your full cooperation in this matter. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Veronica Neblina @ (760) 572-0243.

Quechan Housing Authority

1860 W Sapphire Lane Winterhaven, CA 92283
Phone: (760)572-0243 FAX: (760)572-0245

ETSKA NAV AH PAI THE NEWS CARRIER

QUECHAN NEWS

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

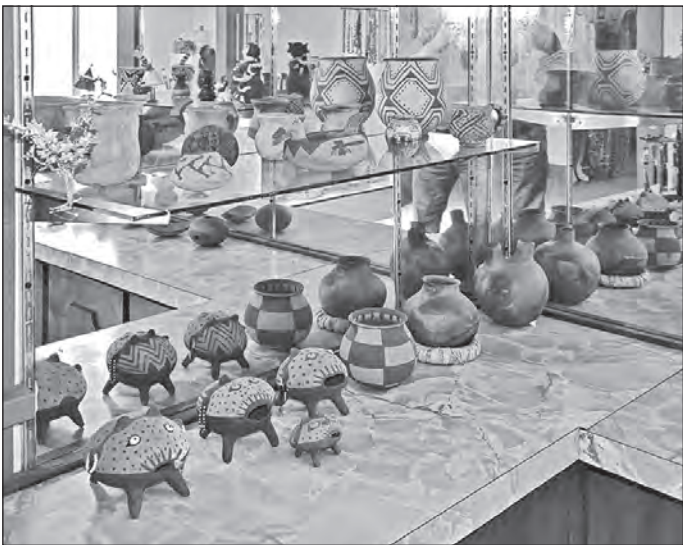
Quechan News is here to cover the special events and everyday lives of Quechan Tribe Members, and the issues that affect you in the world today. This newsletter is here to keep the lines of communication open, to expand opportunities, and uplift the Native Spirit of the *Kwat'san Pipá*. Your ideas and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

Preservation Of The Quechan Way Working To Raise Funds



Diane Mocassin shows customer Monica Alvarez some of the wonderfully detailed handmade beadwork available for sale in the display area at the Preservation of the Quechan Way building on Maiden Lane. In the center, Linda Cachora and Tessie Escalanti show off one of the carved wood decorations found in the room to the right of the entryway. There are all kinds of wonderful things in this room, from handmade baskets and gourd dolls to decorated traditional gourd rattles and palm trunk baskets. The main display area in the lobby also holds all kinds of interesting and one-of-a-kind pottery creations. You should go over and check it all out sometime!

QUECHAN NEWS Photos by William Isbell

Kwatsáan liyáa!

Quechan Sentence Structure

If you wanted to wish someone a "Happy New Year," in Quechan, one way you might say that is:

Mattáam kwanyamé aváamk.

*This sentence literally means:
"Another year arrives."*

Mattáam kwanyamé aváam+k
Year another.one it.arrives+END

Sentence Structure Samples From
Kwatsáan liyáa Mattkuu'éeyk!
(Learn the Quechan Language!)

To enroll in a Language Course, call (760)572-4412

The Preservation of the Quechan Way group is continuing their efforts to raise funds to support their program, with weekend sales at their office at 472 Maiden Lane in historic downtown Yuma.

Their first announced sale got underway on Saturday, December 13, while the far north end of Yuma was occupied with one of Yuma's frequent winter season "Snowbird" festivals.

Preservation Group members such as Lorey and Linda Cachora, Vivian Menta, Phyllis Jones, Tessie Escalanti, and Barbara Levy showed up bright and early, to make sure everything was in place and ready for visitors. While two of the ladies scurried about making sure ev-

erything for sale had a clearly marked price, others checked the inventory and packaging on hand to be sure their customers would be pleased that whatever they bought would be in perfect order.

The group has amassed a fairly complete collection of wonderful handmade items from local artisans, which are on display in the lobby and front room of their headquarters every day. Some items are contemporary interpretations of traditional crafts, while others are authentic recreations of historic pots, basketry, gourd items and dolls. They even have all sorts of beaded earrings and capes available.

Some items for sale through

Preservation of the Quechan Way were left over from the Artists' Marketplace, which many people might have thought would never again see the light of day after that Tribal enterprise closed a few years ago.

If there was something at the Marketplace you always wanted, but thought was no longer available, drop by and ask about it . . . they might have it!

The non-profit Preservation of the Quechan Way has a mission of reviving and passing on all kinds of arts, songs and traditions of the past. If you are interested in volunteering, or just curious to see what it's all about, they hold weekly meetings every Monday evening at 6:00 PM. Stop in and visit!

Seniors Receive Tips, Assistance at Health Resource Fair



Gail Johns and Donald Menta stopped by the Silver Care booth to check out the health maintenance service program offered by the Yuma Regional Medical Center. Randall Moody, Jr. of the Quechan Special Diabetes Project for Indians was on hand to provide free blood glucose checks for anyone who wanted one, and Lt. J.G. Robert Morones (seen at right) from the IHS Phoenix Area Injury Prevention Office was at the Fair to promote physical activity as a good way to keep diabetes under control. QUECHAN NEWS Photos by William Isbell

Lisa Aguerro, of the Quechan Tribe's Injury Prevention Program hosted the 2014 Elder Health Resource Fair at the Quechan Senior Center on December 4th, an annual event which has taken place since 2007. As head of the Injury Prevention Program, one of Lisa's primary responsibilities is to coordinate input from Tribal members' primary care physicians and various other programs here on the reservation, to assist in a good outcome at a lower cost for the patient.

It is that constant one-on-one interaction Lisa must engage in with all kinds of health care providers that allows her to invite a variety of local agencies and tribal departments touching upon elder care to put this event together every year. This year, Lisa counted at least 21 different entities and individuals who responded to her invitation to set up a table at the senior Center and answer questions, provide services, and talk over any personal health concerns with the older members of the Tribe.

"We had a little over 70 Elders attend," Lisa says. "And we had everyone there from the Special Diabetes Program to

Imperial County Health Department to the IHS Clinic and even YRMC handing out all kinds of information."

With general health care being the focus of the event, the Quechan Special Diabetes Project for Indians (SDPI) was there to do blood glucose levels with almost no waiting. Staff members from the Indian Health Clinic on the hill were also on hand to answer questions and help the elders sign up for additional Tribal health services they may either hadn't heard

about, or perhaps didn't realize might be available.

For instance, there are a number of programs available to help seniors keep active and help maintain fitness, from the exercise room and walking programs at the Diabetes Wellness Center, to a program Lisa herself runs, known as "Fit for Life". Robert Morones of the IHS Phoenix Area Injury Prevention Program was on hand to encourage such activities.

Lisa and Robert both agree that if a patient undergoes a

procedure such as a hip replacement they should keep up with an exercise program to strengthen their body and increase their range of motion, even after the physical therapy they would receive after such surgery. That's why the Wellness Center and "Fit for Life" are such valuable community resources: they are provided free of charge to all Tribal members.

The "Fit for Life" Elder club meets three times a week at the Diabetes Walking Park while the weather is nice, and switch-

es to a three times a week aerobics swimming program during the heat of the summer.

If you want more information on the days and times the "Fit for Life" club meets, call Lisa Aguerro at (760) 572-0437.

Lisa says the Fair was a great success, and thanks everyone who came out to help, including: Rose Bouts from "Fit for Life"; the Quechan Senior Center staff; the Quechan Special Diabetes Program (SDPI); the Kwatsáan Language Program; Quechan ADAPP; Elder Services; the Family Resource Center and the San Pasqual Schools; the California Highway Patrol; the local office of the American Red Cross; the Burn Institute; Imperial County Behavioral Health; the Imperial Valley Health Department; the Imperial County Food Bank, and all of the people at the Indian Health Service who showed up to help out, including Cynthia Long, Aaron Ross from the Pharmacy, IHS Social Services, Behavioral Health, Kendra Vieira from Environmental Health and Robert Morones of IHS Injury Prevention; and of course the kitchen staff from the Quechan Casino Resort, who fed everyone a great lunch!



The lobby and dining room of the Quechan Senior Center was set up as a one-stop informational bazaar for the Health Resources Fair, where elders could personally meet with health care professionals and service providers from the local area to get the answer to almost any health related question answered.

District Health & Safety Update on TDS Internet Project Fair Set For February 19

The San Pasqual Valley Unified School District's Health and Wellness Committee began preparations for their annual health and safety fair before Thanksgiving, sending out invitations to a variety of public safety organizations, Tribal departments and the general community, asking everyone to take part. Rigel Garibay, the District's point-of-contact for the event, says the Committee holds this annual springtime Fair in order to:

- ❖ Increase awareness of local, state, and national health services and resources.
- ❖ Increase safety and health awareness, and assist in disease prevention for community members by providing health screenings, educational information, and related activities.
- ❖ Motivate participants to make positive health behavior changes.
- ❖ Teach self-care practices.

Individual participants will include students, their family members and members of the local community. The school district has also invited various agencies, companies and Tribal departments to showcase their services by providing awareness, educational and lifestyle

information as well as screenings, and health and safety activities and demonstrations.

"We would like the fair to be as interactive as possible," says District Therapist Rigel Garibay. "We are also looking for agencies interested in donating an item for the raffle. It would be greatly appreciated."

If you are interested in participating, you can request a registration form at the schools or email your information directly to her at rgaribay@spvusd.org.

Mrs. Garibay also says, "If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at (760) 572-0222 ext. 2612."

"We would like the fair to be as interactive as possible," she explains, "so everyone's participation will make it a success."

The Health and Safety Fair will take place this year on the San Pasqual Middle School Campus on Thursday, February 19. If you need to set up a booth, they suggest you do that between 3:30 and 4:30 PM. The actual event will begin at 4:30 PM and should last about 3 hours, until around 7:30 PM.

A meal, tables and chairs will be provided for participants. There is no fee to participate.

Since early this summer, the local phone service in Winterhaven, TDS Telecom, has been working to bring high-speed Internet service to the Fort Yuma Indian Reservation.

The proposed project consists of 16 miles of buried fiber-optic and Ethernet over Copper (EoC) lines to be installed alongside existing roads within the Reservation.

Once fully approved and completed, the project will bring high-speed Internet access to homes, schools, and businesses throughout the community.

Utilizing matching grant funding awarded to TDS Telecom through the California Advanced Services Fund (CASF), TDS Telecom has been working with its land services consultant, Tierra Right of Way Services, Ltd. (Tierra) to conduct the necessary studies and surveys and trying to obtain the necessary permissions and permits for the project.

As of December 2014, Tierra had completed the Class I and Class III biological and cultural resource surveys. The company also mailed Right of Entry packets to tribal and non-tribal property owners, put up flyers, mailed out post-cards, and contributed to a story about the project in the July 2014 issue of *Quechan News*.

Tierra staffers also conducted two public meetings in July of 2014, where several questions were posed by the public. Susie Rogers at Tierra has emailed the *Quechan News* to say those questions have been answered and posted on Tierra's website at: <http://tierra-row.com/index.php/component/content/article/2-uncategorised/106-winterhaven-broadband>.



Nate Stanislawski from TDS Telecom was here last July to answer questions about the project.

QUECHAN NEWS Photo By William Isbell

She also says that if you click on the Tierra logo at the top of the page on this link, you will also be able to view their main website and see information on all of their current projects.

Based upon the right of entry information received to date from allottees within the Reservation, TDS Telecom has tentatively identified which side of the road the project will be built. They propose to install the new infrastructure on the north side of Arnold Road, and along the west side of 1st Street and Picacho Road.

In addition, TDS Telecom has made a formal request to the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Fort Yuma Agency for right of entry on those allotments for which allottees were unresponsive or for which 51% of responses on an allotment were not obtained.

The BIA has granted TDS Telecom's request for right of entry based upon the due diligence performed to date.

At a minimum, land surveys and appraisals will need to be completed in order for TDS Telecom and Tierra to present formal offers of compensation

and requests for consent of Grant of Right of Way to allottees.

Once TDS Telecom and Tierra have obtained at least 51% of consents on allotments for each allotment along the proposed route, TDS Telecom will make its formal request to the BIA for a Grant of Right of Way for the overall project.

To clarify, Right of Entry only allows for temporary, non-invasive access to property in order to conduct project studies and surveys. *The Right of Entry does not authorize construction.*

The Grant of Right of Way, when issued, is the final document that will allow for construction of the project to proceed. The BIA will not authorize a Grant of Right of Way unless at least 51% of the allottees on an allotment for all the allotments along the project route agree to the project.

Both tribal and non-tribal property owners will be contacted by TDS Telecom's selected appraiser and surveyor within the next few months in the event access to property is required. Once all studies, surveys, and appraisals have been completed, they will be submitted to the BIA for review and approval. Once BIA approvals are received, TDS Telecom and Tierra will prepare compensation and consent packets for property owners' review and consideration.

If you have any additional questions about this project, please call Susie Rogers, Right of Way Manager for Tierra at (505) 433-3748 or Nate Stanislawski, the Route Acquisition Manager for TDS Telecom at (608) 644-5642. Additional information about this project can be found on Tierra's website at www.tierra-row.com.

save the date: FEB 19, 2015
4:30PM-7:30PM (AZ TIME)

San Pasqual Valley Unified School District's
Annual Health and Safety Fair
Winterhaven, California

For information, contact Rigel Garibay:
(760) 572-0222, Ext. 2612
rgaribay@spvusd.org



Canals Surveyed to Improve Delivery Efficiency

For the past few weeks, a survey crew from the Yuma office of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) has been in the area, evaluating the efficiency and viability of irrigation deliveries through the layout of the existing canal system in the Reservation Division Irrigation Project.

Recent modifications and changes to the irrigation delivery system have occurred which may affect water deliveries to the farm lands within the Reservation Division. As a result, a three man crew has been assigned to make a detailed survey of the entire above ground canal system of the Reservation Division located within the boundaries of the Fort Yuma Quechan Reservation.

The lead surveyor for the Lower Colorado Region at the Yuma office, Frank Rodriguez, is working with Orson Bevins at the Quechan Economic Development Administration (EDA), to keep the Tribe informed on the progress of the survey, which may continue into the



John Rodriguez, Lead Surveyor for the Bureau of Reclamation Yuma area office discusses the process and objectives of the project with Ron Derma, Manager of the Bard Water District as Orson Bevins, a Planner with the Quechan EDA looks over one of the canals being surveyed. QUECHAN NEWS Photos by William Isbell

first quarter of 2015.

Mr. Rodriguez is assisted by three additional BOR surveyors, Mark Harris, Pat Colon and Roy Smith, who have been performing the majority of the measurements in the field.

The Reservation Division contains approximately 14,700 acres of irrigable land located between the All-American Canal and the Colorado River in Imperial County, California.

The Reservation Division is

made up of two irrigation units; the Bard Unit which contains approximately 7,100 acres; and the slightly larger Indian Unit, which measures approximately 7,600 acres. The canals, drains, and associated infrastructure are operated and maintained for the BOR by the Bard Water District.

In addition to evaluating the efficiency of the Reservation Division irrigation deliveries, the Bureau of Reclamation is assessing other changes to the

irrigation system including the delivery of water to a number of laterals that were previously supplied through the Cocopah Canal. Those deliveries are now being supplied directly from the Yuma Main Canal.

Overall, Reclamation hopes to conduct a field evaluation on the operational characteristics of the major irrigation supply canals and the turnout locations shared by both the Indian Unit and the Bard Unit within the Division.

They will also conduct a determination of which facilities are still utilized [or needed(?)] to provide irrigation water.

As part of the system evaluation, the BOR will develop a computer generated hydraulic model to examine efficiency of the delivery system and to verify that all water deliveries in the Reservation Division are occurring as expected according to their contracts with area landowners and farm operators.

The current survey is capturing the data needed to create that computer model, which will be able to predict which areas may be operating at reduced flows, due to being silted up or choked by weeds. It may also be valuable for estimating losses on unlined sections as opposed to lined canals.

The resulting computer model will allow the Lower Colorado Region of the BOR to make recommendations for the development of a future capital improvement plan for the Division by the Yuma area office and the Bard Water District.



Ron Derma checks the flow of water as BOR Surveyor Roy Smith prepares his GPS equipped measuring stick to gauge the depth of a canal at the Mohave gates.



Pat Collon receives data from the GPS receiver on Roy's measuring stick to determine the exact bottom contour of an unlined canal. The survey crew performs measurements at regular intervals from edge of the roadway, at the point where the inclined bank becomes level and at the center of each canal, in order to determine a canal's actual volume.



Every feature of the gates, canals and support structures are measured in order to develop a 3-D computer model of how the water flows within the Bard Water District.



While the use of GPS equipped data collection tools has simplified the process, the person taking the measurements still has to get "down and dirty" to maintain accuracy.



QUECHAN NEWS Photos by William Isbell



Reggie and Ruben Antone were at the head of the line, so they picked up the first gifts!



The line in front of the Paradise Event Center began forming over an hour before Santa was scheduled to arrive. By the time the doors opened and everyone streamed in, kids (and parents) of all ages extended down the north driveway almost out to the parking lot exits!



Sabian Jackson was one of the first kids to sit on Santa's lap and have his picture taken!



Samara Palone, who is 5, shows off her new Cinderella Doll!



Zane Hill received a new buddy who is almost as big as he is!



Brothers Jara, Nicholas and Cole Amador joined their friends, brothers Jeremiah and Jerious Brenner in showing off their gifts!



Abby and Isaiah Herrera pose with their dad, Jimmy Morales.



Jasmine Chavoya spent her evening taking a nap with Minnie!



Mia Quintero joined **Honey and Trinity Mendoza** for a family portrait with Santa, Miss Quechan and the Strong Hearts Princesses.



Giselle and Angelina Medina shared Santa's lap for a picture!



Five year old Abel Fierro was given a radio controlled truck!

Quechan Tribe Has Some of the Cutest Babies in the Yuma Area!

The Quechan Tribe took two of the top three spots in the *Yuma Sun*'s annual "Cutest Baby Contest" last month with Gabriella Marie Antone capturing first place and Michael Amador Mendez taking third.

Gabriella's mother, Lorie Antone wasn't aware of the contest until Pastor Bob Klein at the Indian Hill United Methodist Church told her he thought Gabriella might be a candidate for such a prize. After Lorie and her husband Reggie Antone entered little Gabriella in the photo contest, hundreds of local residents, Tribal members and their fellow parishioners got behind her, and she wound up with 400 votes when the voting ended on November 28th.

The contest is a fund raiser for the *Sun*'s "Newspapers in Education" program, so every vote requires a one dollar donation in order to be registered.

"I got the surprise of my life when my four month old granddaughter was selected out of all the entries in the photo contest," says proud grandma, Barbara Levy.



Gabriella Marie Antone, daughter of Lorie and Reggie Antone, took first place in the *Yuma Sun*'s annual "Cutest Baby Contest" over the past month, receiving 400 votes! Bill Butler Photos Courtesy of the Yuma Sun

bara Levy. "When I first heard about it, I made some flyers to ask for votes in her favor. Hundreds of votes came in from the tribal community and the United Methodist Church and other Yuma church groups, as well as relatives and friends. Even the tribal elders responded to the fund raising event." Many of those elders grew up with Gabriella's ancestor, Lawrence Levy, who owned the original Quechan Grocery Store.

Filling in more details, she adds, "The *Yuma Sun* gives free newspapers to schools for their educational programs. It helps the students keep up with what's happening on a daily basis in the city and the world. I fully have supported them with such fundraisers in the past." But now, Barbara is even more convinced of the value of the "Newspapers in Education" program with her granddaughter winning their cutest baby contest!

And speaking of cute babies, one of the top competitors was

Michael Amador Mendez, who is also a Quechan Tribal member! He was only 25 votes behind Gabriela, which made him the number three vote getter!

Michael's parents are Alberto and Alicia Mendez, who works at Quechan Day Care. "He enjoys his jumper and bouncer!" according to his mom. "He has two brothers, Angel and Alberto, and two sisters, Alicia and Kristina Mendez." The extended family includes maternal grandparents Michael and Kristina Amador and Pedro Mendez and Florentina Marquart on his daddy's side of the family.

The top 12 babies in the contest received a free visit to the studio of Yuma photographer Bill Butler, where they all had Christmas themed portraits taken. The photos then go into a 2015 Calendar which will be available at news racks and in-store locations throughout the year. The families also get 10 free calendars and 3 free rack cards, as well as an invitation to the annual winners' party!



Little Michael Mendez made his mom Alicia proud, taking third place with 375 votes!

Quechan Special Diabetes



Healthy Families Support Group

Giving Your Family
The Building Blocks
To A Healthier Lifestyle!

A 3-Month Family Incentive Challenge With:

- Food Demos
- Group Exercise
- Peer Support



**OPEN TO ALL
COMMUNITY
MEMBERS
AND THEIR
FAMILIES!**

**Begins Next Wednesday,
January 14 at 5:30 PM**
(and every Wednesday @ 5:30 PM)
**At The Quechan Special
Diabetes Program Office**

**For More Information or to
Sign Your Family Up, Please Call:
The Quechan Diabetes Program
(760) 572-1286 or (760) 572-4057**

Tribal Court Hosts Mock Trial for ADAPP Students



Judge Eddie Thundercloud consults his script to begin the trial, which was an auto theft case, as fellow students Joanna Herrera, Gilman Amador, Elijah Jefferson and Jara Amador prepare for their part in the mock trial on December 12. In the center, Alora Dugan outlines the case in her role as Narrator/Guide for the proceedings. When the lesson was over and the jury had reached their verdict, all of the students taking part in the ADAPP Tribal Youth Program convened at the bench for a group portrait.

QUECHAN NEWS Photos by William Isbell

Students taking part in the Quechan Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Program's (ADAPP) after school program were able to get a feel for the responsibilities and consequences of the adult world, during a December visit to the Quechan Tribal Court where they took part in a mock trial.

Acting ADAPP Director Claudia Reyes thought it would be a good idea to expose her teen-aged charges to this sort of scenario, since she had visited the Tribal Court for a previous mock trial during the summer program in June of 2012. "We are always looking for experiences that can teach a message to our students, things they can take an active part in," Miss Reyes explained.

"Something like this helps to show the students the consequences of bad decisions, bringing a person into contact with the authorities, without making it seem like a lecture. The kids are able to take part and have fun with it by playing a part, but they also remember the experience and learn from

that without it seeming so much like a classroom."

When the group first arrived, they were introduced to the staff, shown the Court facilities, and then led into the Court Room where Judge Claudette White explained a few facts about the Quechan Tribal Court. She passed on general information about the Court's jurisdiction, as well as the types of cases the Court considers. Judicial hearings here on the reservation range from civil cases, to dependency and criminal cases, to probate matters and divorce.

"The students had a lot of questions," Judge White recalls. "They wanted to know how long a judge has to go to school, what kind of cases the Tribal Court hears, and they also wanted to know how to determine when someone is guilty." She finally had to cut off the question and answer period so the students could get on with the mock trial!

Judge White borrowed December's script from a state court, which she modified a

little, substituting local geography and personalities to help the students follow the narrative and identify with the case.

Everyone was able to play a part, with some students assigned actual roles in the trial (including both the judge and the defendant), while those who weren't ready to read a part and play a role in front of their peers still made a contribution as members of the jury. Those students would actually decide who had made the better argument during the presentation, and decide if the defendant was guilty or not guilty.

Jara Amador was selected to play the accused, while Eddie Thundercloud was cast as the person in charge of the entire session, the Judge.

The other speaking parts were "divvied up" this way: The Tribal Prosecutor was Joe Herrera, with Malaya Emerson as his Assistant Tribal Prosecutor. Jara's Tribal Court Advocate (what would be the Defense Attorney in a State Court) was played by Ahlaynah Robles.

Gilman Amador acted as

Bailiff, while Joanna Herrera was the Clerk and Elijah Jefferson took everything down as the Court Reporter. Jacobian Slaughter testified as a Quechan Police Officer, with Ida Jose playing the part of the car's owner. Finally, Alora Dugan appeared in the "Joe Friday, just the facts" role as the case's Guide/Narrator.

All of the adults present were there to just sit back and observe, while the teens followed the script, played their parts and hopefully learned a few things.

It took a few minutes for the initial embarrassment and self-consciousness of reading in front of their peers to wear off, but once they got rolling, the students did rather well.

"This group of students were all well-spoken," as Judge White recalls the proceedings. "They were excited about their roles, and several had the makings of a Judge!"

"I can definitely see future prosecutors, public defenders and maybe a judge in the group . . . and maybe a few defendants," she adds, joking.

Judge White praised the performance of Joe Herrera in particular, saying he handled his part of the Tribal Prosecutor very well. As she observed the mock trial, she was pretty sure he was going to get a conviction. But the Tribal Court Advocate made a few good points, and Jara was able to come across very sympathetically to the members of the jury.

As it turned out, the Judge's assessment of who was making the better case was overturned when the defendant was found "Not Guilty". That outcome just reinforced her belief that you never know what a jury is going to decide!

"I think Jara did a really good job of getting everyone there behind him," she says, "and being probably the youngest one in the room might have also helped everyone see him and his story in a better light, as well."

Judge White says that several of the students asked to come back and do it again, so she's already working on another script for the next mock trial!

Fort Yuma IHS Clinic Receives Nationally Recognized Accreditation

Earlier this year, the staff and facilities at Fort Yuma Indian Health Center successfully completed a survey by the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care (AAAHC), which found them to be in compliance with AAAHC Standards.

At this point, the Fort Yuma Service Unit earned its accreditation from AAAHC for the second time since 2011. The AAAHC accreditation demonstrates that the Fort Yuma Service Unit performs on going self-evaluation, peer review and education to continuously improve its care and services.

In order to maintain that status, the Fort Yuma Indian Health Center has committed to a thorough, on-site survey at least once every three years by health care professionals who visit the facility in their capacity as AAAHC surveyors. A private, nonprofit organization founded in 1979, AAAHC is a leader in developing standards to advance and promote patient safety, quality care, and value for ambulatory health care through peer-based accreditation processes, education, and research, according to their website.

"This accreditation process gives the public a quality benchmark that we've achieved higher levels of services," said Daryl Melvin, who serves as CEO of the IHS Clinic on Indian Hill.

As a facility operated by the Indian Health Services, the Fort Yuma Clinic provides direct patient care to Native American beneficiaries. The staff provides numerous services ranging from dental care to x-rays, including lab work, mental health counseling, fulfilling prescription medications and nursing care management.

An estimated 3,000 "patient encounters" are recorded each month at the Clinic, reflecting the services provided to Native Americans through the Fort Yuma Service Unit.

A combined total of approximately 4,000 Cocopah and Quechan Tribal members depend on the IHS Clinic for their health care services.

"Each patient is actively engaged in taking care of their health care and we help empower patients to make decisions regarding their health," said Dr. Geniel Harrison, Fort Yuma's Clinical Director. She

also said the 2014 accreditation shows "we're being recognized for our multi-disciplinary approach to treating patients."

In an email to his staff, Fort Yuma's CEO Daryl Melvin said, "I am pleased to report that Fort Yuma was reaccredited [in September of 2014]. Congratulations to all on our combined efforts in our preparation for the survey and throughout the survey process."

Mr. Melvin went on to thank everyone involved for their hard work and dedication, and said management has already begun reviewing the comments of the surveyors with an eye toward meeting the standards and embracing continuous best-practices readiness in preparation for the next survey.

The current tri-annual accreditation of the Clinic as an ambulatory center and medical home will be in effect through 2017.

Just last month, Dr. David Civic, Quality Director from the Phoenix IHS headquarters paid a three-day visit to Fort Yuma to participate in staff instruction as part of an accreditation training program as well as the ongoing efforts by the clinic to constantly improve safety and quality.

NEW YEAR, NEW YOU CHALLENGE RETURNS

The Quechan Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI) is ready to help kick start your New Year's resolutions once again with their New Year, New You Weight Loss Challenge.

The annual winter challenge will be getting underway at the Diabetes Walking Park on Saturday, January 17th, 2015. Final sign ups (at the SDPI office or the Wellness Center) must be completed no later than Wednesday, January 21st.

This will be an individual "personal best" weight loss program, not a team event!

The Diabetes Program will provide a light snack, a 5k walk/

run, and SDPI will be recording everyone's weight on the opening day of the challenge. Sign-ups begin at 8:30 AM.

The New Year, New You Weight Loss Challenge is open to all employees of the Tribe, Paradise Casino, the Quechan Casino ♠ Resort, the San Pasqual Valley Unified School District, the Indian Health service and, of course, all Quechan Tribal members.

Final weigh-ins to determine the winners will take place on Wednesday, March 18th, and the winners will be announced at an end of challenge event on Saturday, March 21st, 2015.

Golding, Collins Receive IHS Award



Brian Golding, Sr., Director of the Quechan Economic Development Administration, and Economic Development Specialist Allyson Collins were presented with the Fort Yuma Indian Health Service's Chief Executive Award at a special awards ceremony held at the Fort Yuma Health Center on Thursday, December 11th. Seen above presenting the award (on the left) is Daryl Melvin, Chief Executive Officer of the Fort Yuma Service Unit. The Quechan Tribe employees were given both a large plaque to hang in the EDA office and their own individual miniature versions mounted on crystal. Said Mr. Melvin at the ceremony, "These individuals demonstrate our core values of caring, commitment, courtesy and compassion in providing services to the Quechan people." Golding and Collins received their award for writing the grant that made YCAT bus service available to both the Quechan Indian Reservation and the Fort Yuma Indian Health Center.

QUECHAN NEWS Photo by William Isbell

QUECHAN ENROLLMENT DEADLINE

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

The Quechan Enrollment Application deadline for the First Quarter of 2015 is Friday, March 6, 2015, at 5:00 PM (Arizona Time). Completed applications must include the following support documents:

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

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

The next Quarterly Meeting for the Enrollment Committee is scheduled for Mid-March, 2015.

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



FREE CHRISTMAS DINNERS AWARDED TO 5K JOLLY FUN RUN PARTICIPANTS!



The Quechan Special Diabetes Project for Indians (SDPI) hosted another 5K fun run right before Christmas, to encourage fitness and proper nutrition as important considerations in keeping your blood sugar levels under control. Billed as the "Jolly Run", the event took place in the cool Saturday morning of December 20th. The good nutrition came in the form of raffle prizes of two complete Christmas Dinners for the participants. The Turkey Dinner was taken home by Yolanda Polk (on the right) while Michelle Montague's lucky number came up for the Christmas Ham!

QUECHAN NEWS Photo by William Isbell

Park Model For Sale

1860 W. Sapphire Lane | Winterhaven | CA | 92283



- Beautiful One Bedroom
- Custom Wood Cabinets
- Laminate Countertops
- Exterior Thermo Coat Paint
- Dual Pane Windows
- VCT Tile Flooring
- Walk-In Shower
- Asphalt Shingles
- Exterior Lighting With Motion Detector



Quechan
Housing Authority

1860 W. Sapphire Lane
Winterhaven, CA 92283
(760) 572-0243

- * Payment in Full
- * No Financing Available

\$35,000

Exterior (energy efficient) thermo coat paint, with dual pane low-energy efficient windows. Equipped with 2 mini-split A/C units. Custom wood cabinets and laminate counter tops, 1/2" sheet rock on the walls and ceiling, 6 panel hollow core interior doors, 6 panel metal exterior door with walk in shower and VCT tile flooring.

Funds of successful sales will be used to jumpstart a construction trade program for Tribal members.

No Hud Construction Code Label nor Hud Approved
Set-Up, Transportation and Installation
are not included

Brand New Park Model for sale. 2x4 exterior wall construction, R-19 insulation in exterior walls and flooring, R-39 insulation in ceiling and spray foam underneath roof.

Registration is OPEN

For The Co-Ed K-2nd Grades
Pee-Wee Basketball League

And The

Co-Ed 6th thru 8th Grades
Flag Football League

BEGINNING JANUARY 5TH



Registration deadline for both is February 6th, 2015.
Please Sign Up at the Quechan Parks & Recreation Office.
All PARENTS must stay while their child is participating!

QUECHAN PARKS & REC PRESENTS THE 2015 MEN'S ALL INDIAN BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT



\$1,000 Winner Take All!

March 6th & 7th, 2015, during the Annual
San Pasqual Strong Hearts Pow-Wow

Entry Fee is \$250.00 – Deadline is Feb. 27 th, 2015
Sign Up NOW at Quechan Parks & Rec!

Happy 2nd Anniversary

To:
Frank
and Connie
Perez



December 31st!

Love you!

It's Time To Be Creative! It's Time Once Again To Build . . . Gingerbread Houses!



QUECHAN NEWS Photos by William Isbell



The Quechan Community Center filled with kids of all ages on the evening of December 10, as hundreds of community members swarmed in to take part in this fun, annual tradition. Parents, little ones and teens alike enjoyed the experience of “playing with their food”, applying frosting, candies, licorice and fruit loops to their graham cracker constructions. Moms and dads were just as eager as the smallest child to try their hand at building a perfect little palace, and everyone walked out with frosting in their hair by the time it was over!



Some people had to find room on the bleachers, like Francisca Samudio and Syanne Golding!



Jacob Herrera was on the “quick build” track. He was just about the first person to complete his house!



Sticking with the theme of the season, Gilbert Figueroa build himself a gingerbread church!



The Perez girls were into detail, adding pretzel porches to their houses: Here is Aayzah with hers!



Some added decorations to their “yards”, like Summer Thundercloud’s marshmallow snowman.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTING CONTEST

1st PLACE

Alonzo Lopez - 2014 Winner

The Annual Quechan Christmas Lighting Contest was judged (as always) on the Friday evening before the Tribe’s Christmas dinner, where the winners were announced by Phil Emerson from Parks & Rec. The judges had their work cut out for them, despite the fact that only about a half dozen Tribal members signed up to compete this year. It was obvious that only the most “hard core” lighting specialists got involved, however, when you look at photos of the top three homes! This year’s Grand Prize Winner was Alonzo Lopez, who is lighting up the whole block around 313 South 24th Avenue in Yuma!

QUECHAN NEWS Photos by William Isbell

2nd PLACE

Lou Jean Vega : 2nd Place 2014

Home of Lou Jean Vega at 1888 Arnold Road, Winterhaven, CA.

3rd PLACE

Anna Hemmer : 3rd Place 2014

Home of Anna Hemmer at 4003 West 14th Place in Yuma, Arizona.