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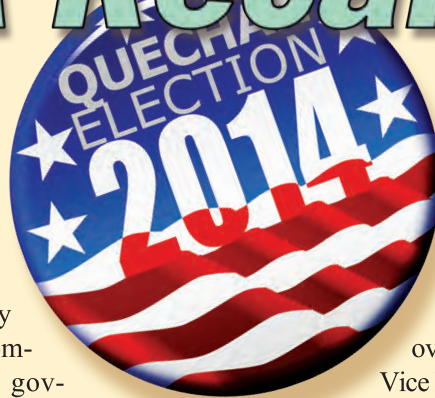
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General Election And A Recall Scheduled



Quechan Tribal members eagerly anticipate their next opportunity to seat a complete Tribal government, in a mid-year general election scheduled to take place next Monday, June 15. The June election was arranged to seat a new Tribal administration after the results of the December 2, 2014 election were contested. The results of that election were subsequently rejected in a public meeting of the Tribal membership on December 29, 2015.

However, when the current Council was held over in office after the election was declared void, Vice President Ronda Aguerro, who had not run for re-election, turned in a letter resigning her seat effective Monday, February 2nd, 2015. The Tribal Council then met to fulfill their obligations under the Tribal Constitution (Article VI Section 5; VACANCIES).

After reviewing the list of candidates from the election which seated Ms. Aguerro,

the Tribal Council appointed Council member Emilio Escalanti to take over as Tribal Vice President, and then appointed James A. Montague to fill the Council seat which Emilio Escalanti had resigned to accept the appointment as Vice President.

A new Election Board was sworn in three weeks later, on February 23, 2015. The current board includes Rosaline Chaipos and Cristoble Emerson as clerks, Olivia Jose in the position of primary alternate clerk, and Merdine Dunsweiler as the secondary alternate clerk. Tribal member Ramona Rodriguez is the Election Board's judge, while Malissa Chaipos was sworn in as marshal.

In the weeks since their appointment, the Quechan Election Board has posted a Notice setting the date for the election, along with a timeline of events leading up to the general election. They have also posted invitations for qualified Tribal members to attend election

training on the last Wednesday in April and again on May 6 and May 9. The Board conducted three "mock elections" at their office as part of that training. From all outside appearances, everything was proceeding smoothly to the June 15th election, which would install a new Council and decide also who would be elected to the offices of President and Vice President of the Quechan Tribe.

However, Emilio Escalanti has had at least two petitions filed against him by Tribal members since his appointment to office on February 3rd, challenging his acceptance of the position Vice President.

At the Council meetings called to discuss the allegations against Mr. Escalanti continuing in office, the petitioner(s) stated that when he was elected, it was to be seated as a member of the Tribal Council, not Vice President. They also took issue with his resigning from the Council prior to being sworn in to the new position. They also accused the Vice President of violating the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, as well as the gaming compacts for both Arizona and California by tak-

ing part in a vote to delay the May per capita distribution. (Last month's issue of *Quechan News* shows that Resolution R-92-15 was "Disapproved by a vote of: 3 for, 0 against, 0 abstained, 3 absent at Special Council Meeting held on April 27, 2015" according to the official list provided by the Tribal Council Secretary).

It was further alleged in the petition that Emilio Escalanti violated 25CFR Sec 700-515, making Emilio guilty of a conflict of interest whenever his relatives voted the same way he did (!).

(The petitioners alleging violations of 25 CFR Part 700 have apparently not noticed that the law deals with *The Navajo and Hopi Indian Relocation Commission*. It has no application to any Quechan Council actions.)

Whatever happened at the meetings held to discuss the allegations, the petitioners also took their accusations to the Election Board and demanded Mr. Escalanti be recalled from the office of Vice President. (The Quechan Newsletter Coordinator was not permitted to attend any of those meetings, since he is only a Tribal em-

(Continued on Page 4)

Nicholas D.T. Sena Graduates from TCU

Nicholas Don Theodore Sena has graduated from Texas Christian University (TCU), of Fort Worth, Texas.

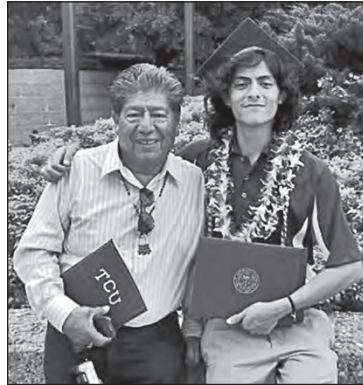
Nicholas is the great-grandson of Edmond Jackson Jr. and grandson of Edmond Jackson III. His mother, Lorraine Dean-na Sena, is an enrolled member of the Fort Yuma Quechan tribe. The entire immediate family attended Nicholas' graduation along with his grandfather and many other family members.

Nicholas was awarded a Bachelor of Science degree on Saturday, May 9th, 2015, becoming a distinguished member of the first graduating class of the new School of Strategic Communication, based at the Bob Schieffer College of Communication at TCU.

Nick earned credits for a double major, completing a Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies as well. During his time at Texas Christian, Nicholas stayed very involved in campus life, made life-long friends and had a very busy four years while pursuing his degree.

After graduating from an all-male Catholic High School, Mount Saint Joseph, in Maryland, he received numerous scholarships which allowed him continue his education at TCU.

While at TCU, Nick worked at "Roxo", TCU's student-driven strategic communication agency, and interned at an independent trilingual school located on the



Nicholas joins his proud grandfather Edmond Jackson III on graduation day at Texas Christian University (TCU) in Fort Worth, TX.
Photo courtesy of Theresa S. J. Jackson

Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico. There, he was hired as the Na'atik Language and Cultural Institute's online marketing intern, to help grow their social media and web presence.

During Nick's senior year at Texas Christian, he was named the American Advertising Federation's Most Promising Multicultural Student of 2015.

Nicholas plans to make a career in advertising, which will include media planning, new media, and branding.

He relocated from Fort Worth, Texas to Seattle, Washington directly out of college to accept an internship at the RAZORFISH digital agency. At RAZORFISH, he will be able to explore his love of creativity, media, and technology.

Nick is very excited to start his career at a company that is one of the pioneers of marketing in this digital age.

RAINBOW POOL

Open Swim Hours
1:00 PM - 5:00 PM Daily
From June 6 to August 16
Sat & Sun Only - Aug 22 'til Sep 27

Elder Swim: Tuesday Nights From 6:00 to 8:00 PM

FAMILY SWIM: WEDNESDAY NIGHTS FROM 6:00 TO 8:00 PM

TEEN SWIM: THURSDAY NIGHTS FROM 6:00 TO 8:00 PM

**And the Toddler Morning Swim for Kids 4 and Under
Is Every Saturday Morning From 9 to 10 AM!**



Quechan Parks and Recreation

SUMMER SPORTS CAMP

ATTENTION ALL BOYS & GIRLS 3rd - 12th GRADE:
Sign up NOW for Summer Sports Camp
which begins on Monday, July 20th!

Applications are available at the
Quechan Tribal Office, Pipa Market
and at the Parks & Recreation Office!

Camp will take place in late July into August,
Monday-Friday from 8:00AM to 12:30PM
Last day to sign up is Friday, July 10, 2015
For More Info, call Parks & Rec: (760) 572-1242

ETSKA NAV AH PAI THE NEWS CARRIER
QUECHAN NEWS
William Isbell

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

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

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



Culture & Heritage

Preservation of the Kwatsáan Way Offers Traditional Pottery Class



Using natural clay dug straight from the ground from both here on the Quechan reservation and near Laveen, Arizona, the class meets on the back porch at 472 Maiden Lane to mold the prepared clay into objects of both utility and beauty. Instructor Mattias "Matah" Howard teaches the traditional methods he has learned from five older potters on the Gila River Reservation. He is seen in the third photo (above) paddling in a new coil of clay as he builds up the top edge of a vessel. One of his students, Daniel Luna, can be seen using a wet, rounded river rock to smooth away finger marks from the inside of a bowl, giving it a sweeping, parabolic surface.

QUECHAN NEWS Photos by William Isbell



Matah Howard made this miniature double spout water pitcher to show the class what is possible when using the clay right here.

Area Tribal members and local art students have the opportunity right now to learn pottery skills from a master. Mattias "Matah" Howard has moved to

Fort Yuma from Laveen, Arizona, and he is offering a weekly Wednesday morning class on traditional techniques at the Preservation of the Kwatsáan Way building on Maiden Lane.

Mattias grew up in Laveen, Arizona, where as a teen, he began to make the rounds to visit the five remaining Maricopa potters he knew about, to learn everything he could from them. He was a quick study, and was even able to parlay his skills into a trip to Europe, along the boot of Italy, into Switzerland, and on to France and England one summer, as part of a cultural group that exposes Tribal youth to otherwise unattainable educational opportunities worldwide.

He says he soon realized that

his skills in pottery were his ticket to an easier life; after he traded his handmade objects for extra credit in school he realized that something he found to be simple and relaxing could support him as an adult. "I had raised funds to cover my costs for the trip to Europe by selling some of my pieces," he told his students during class in early May, "and that's when I knew I could make a living at this."

Matah has been making a living at traditional pottery for 15 years now, and at age 32 he already has some of his works as part of the permanent collection in Arizona's Heard Museum.

So he definitely knows what he's talking about as he guides his students through the en-

tire process. Though he favors the use of simple aids, such as plaster pottery molds to help his students get the bowls started with a pleasing curvature to the bottom edge, he uses only the simplest, "homegrown" materials, to pass on the basics and show them what can be done, if you only apply yourself fully to the task at hand.

Those simple materials include clay he brought with him, in huge, sealed, five gallon buckets, dug from the earth on the Gila River reservation. Matah has also visited a favored natural clay dig site here on the Quechan reservation, to gather the necessary materials. He has been processing that clay, grinding it fine, filtering it through a

sieve, and adding the moisture it needs to return it to a pliable state and become new objects in the hands of his students.

Right now, some of those students include a group from the Quechan ADAPP Program. Those potential artisans include Roxanne Smith, Daniel Luna, Dylan Emerson, Travis Manchado, Chato Harvier, Barry Comet, Alex Herrera and Maureen Miller, all of whom seemed to enjoy the opportunity to express their creativity through a traditional outlet.

Though Matah enjoys passing on the craft, it's not known how much longer these classes will be available. If you want to get involved, contact Phyllis Jones at (928) 304-4758.

General Election And Recall in June

Continued from Page 1

ployee, not a Tribal member.)

At least one Tribal elder has told the Newsletter Coordinator that the Council rejected the first recall petition submitted for not having the required number of valid signatures. However, at a May 16th meeting on a similar petition, the same demands were made that the Vice President step down, with some continuing to insist that he had been appointed in an illegal manner.

Emilio Escalanti responded by stating that his appointment was legal and in accordance with the procedure set forth in Article VI Section 5 of the Tribal Constitution, and he therefore refused to step down.

After the second Recall Petition was submitted, the Tribal Council apparently relented. Others who have come to the Newsletter office to discuss the situation have said they recall the same sequence of events.

Soon after, the Election Board posted a "Notice To Recall Vice President Emilio Escalanti" at the Tribal administration building on May 21st. That Notice also contained a summary of the petitioners' allegations. About 24 hours later, the Board removed that Notice and posted a replacement notifying all Quechan eligible tribal voters that a recall election will be held from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM on Monday, June 22, 2015.

Tribal Administrator Vernon Smith states that the entire Council were on extended terms until the June 15th election, which could have made them all subject to recall, but by resigning to accept appointment as Vice President on February 3rd, Mr. Escalanti ended his term as a Council member.

Since Emilio Escalanti was no longer a member of the Tribal Council at that point, the petitioners are demanding he be recalled from an office which began on February 3rd. Therefore, a petition requesting his recall as Vice President could not be brought before the Council on any date prior to August 2, 2015.

As things have developed, the Election Board posted the first Notice of Recall against Emilio Escalanti on the 106th day of his term in office. The Board then posted another Notice of Recall on May 22, which does not name any of the offices or office holders being recalled. That was still 73 days before a petition of recall could be submitted, according to Article VI Section 4.

"Vice President Escalanti has not been in office long enough to be recalled," said Mr. Smith, in a written statement to the *Quechan News*. "And if Mr. Escalanti is officially elected on June 15th, he cannot be subject to recall until he has been in office for six (6) months; December 16, 2015."

The Tribal Administrator also says that the Council's decision to move forward with the Recall Election was in error, and the Election Board should have stepped in to point out the prescribed procedures which they are mandated to follow.

"The integrity of all Tribal Elections must be held to the highest standards, and if the Council or the Election Board are not sure, they should seek advice from their legal counsel," according to Smith. "We should prevent a precedent from being set in deviating from the established procedures as prescribed in our Tribal Constitution."

13th Annual All Indian Senior Games - May 5, 6, and 7, 2015 A Special Thank You from The Quechan Senior Center

The Quechan Senior Games has grown into the event of the year for Indian seniors throughout the states of Arizona and Southern California. The games have evolved into an event requiring assistance from a great number of departments and individuals. We are thankful to all those departments and individuals who stepped forward to help make the senior games a success. (Please forgive us if we omitted anyone.)

Louis Robles

Master of Ceremonies – Game Day

Faron Owl

Master of Ceremonies – Culture Night

Yvonne Vance, Gloria McGee, Sherrie Talaswaima, Carrie Talaswaima, Carlos Silva, Janyse Collins, Gloria Bryant McGee, Deborah Drumel

American Legion Post 802

Color Guard: Rudy Allen, Andrew Denard, Milson Jose, and Colin Soto

Community Health Representatives:

Sosa Diaz, James Barton, Bernadine Cachora, Kerri Comet, Rosemarie Garcia, Latalia Gilmore, Yvette Ramirez, Virginia Yazzie

Quechan Economic Development:

Allyson Collins

Quechan Housing Authority:

Agustin Tumbaga, Pilar Guerrero, Chis Ellingsworth, Andreana Jackson, Jennifer Johnson, Liz Johnson, Lionel Montague,

Imperial County Behavioral Health:

Terri Gonzales

Inter Tribal Council of Arizona:

Stephanie Barehand, Public Benefits Outreach Specialist

Quechan Parks and Recreation:

Jennifer Black, Tina Welsh, Willis Hawkins, Vernon Jose, Claudio Palone, Patrick Two Hearts

Quechan Casino and Resort Staff:

Corie Montague, Frances Navarro, Sherrie Navarro

QPD: Angeline Levy

San Pasqual Strong Hearts Society:

For Your Participation in Culture Night and with the Senior Games

San Pasqual Unified School District Staff:

Lidia Inchaustegia, Maria E. Hurtado

Senior Center Project Council:

Patricia Lumas, Charlene Emerson, Annette Cachora, Lou Jean Vega

Quechan Social Services:

Rod Nelson, Maricela Barley, Angela Maynahonah, Rod Nelson, Jolene Vasques

Quechan Special Diabetes Program:

Sandy Palone, Ricardo Juan, Michael Throssell, Brian Warner

Winterhaven Fire Department:

Emergency Medical Techs: Mason Herring, Donald Vickers, Hector Valenzuela, Francisco Baccar

Fort Yuma Indian Health Service

Sarah Schmasow, Health Educator



VOTE MICHAEL J.V. JACK FOR QUECHAN TRIBAL VICE PRESIDENT

- ⇒ Proven leadership.
- ⇒ Hard work ethic.
- ⇒ Never give up attitude.
- ⇒ Dedicated to progress for the tribe as a whole.
- ⇒ Dedicated to prosperity for all.
- ⇒ Dedicated advocate of the Quechan people.

Ad Copy Provided and Approved By Candidate Michael J.V. Jack

Sample Ballot for June Election

As Released by the Quechan Election Board on June 8, 2015:

OFFICIAL BALLOT
GENERAL ELECTION
JUNE 15, 2015

Office of President Vote for One (1) only:

☐ MICHAEL J. JACKSON, SR.

WRITE IN PRESIDENT

☐ KEENY ESCALANTI, SR.

1. _____

Office of Vice President Vote for One (1) only:

☐ SALLY ANN DECORSE

WRITE IN PRESIDENT

☐ MICHAEL J.V. JACK

2. _____

☐ EMILIO ESCALANTI

Office of Council Member Vote for up to a total of Five (5) only:

☐ EZEQUIEL I. AGUILAR

☐ JAMES A. MONTAGUE

☐ AARON W. BROWN

☐ SHAWN N. PORTER

☐ WAYNE W. CHAIPOS, JR

☐ VIRGIL S. SMITH

☐ JULIANA M. COMET

☐ DESHANE D. TAYLOR

☐ PEGGY L. DUGAN

☐ DEBORAH L. TOURTILLOT

☐ ALBERT R. GOLDING

☐ CHRYSSELLE L. MONTAGUE URIBE

☐ ROSEMARY J. JACKOVICH

WRITE IN COUNCIL MEMBER(S):

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

The image above is a reproduction of the sample ballot posted at the Tribal Administration Office on the afternoon of Monday, June 8. The election is scheduled for next Monday, one week after the ballot was posted. The Election Board spent all day last Friday (and a good portion of the weekend) going over the list of declared candidates preparing the ballot, after the the final candidate's nominating petition was submitted to the Tribal Council Secretary on the deadline date of June 5th. The final tally shows 4 candidates for the office of President, three who have submitted their nominations as Vice President, and a total of seventeen Tribal members wanting to represent the Quechan people as a member of the Tribal Council. The actual ballots may differ, however, since background checks may still be pending for some of those names shown on the sample ballot. Absentee ballots will be mailed out this week.

WIA/DOL Program Hosts Job Fair



People from all over the local area visited the Quechan Job Fair on May 22nd, to see what was available and fill out applications from at least 16 different employers. QUECHAN NEWS Photos by William Isbell

Local area job seekers had the chance to meet and arrange for interviews with area employers in one convenient location on May 22nd, when the Quechan Workforce Initiative Act (WIA/DOL) department teamed up with the Yuma Private Industry Council (YPIC) to host the first ever Quechan Job Fair at the Paradise Event Center. Earl Daniel, Director of the Quechan WIA/DOL office, says it was such a success, he hopes to hold semi-annual job fairs here on the reservation, with another coming sometime this fall, if things work out. "I'd like to see one every year in the spring, before the summer hiring season gets started, and again in the fall," he explained to the Quechan News. "I really have to give credit to my staff, particularly Louann Levy and Angela Sandoval. They were instrumental in getting such great employer participation for this event."

The Job Fair began at 9:00 AM, with the doors opening to reveal 16 tables set up around the outside edge of the event center, with more tables in the center. This allowed job seekers to circle the room and meet with various employers and then return to the open seating in the center and fill out applications on the spot. The arrangement helped everyone be sure all of their applications had the same information before returning to revisit the employers with their finished paperwork. Employers and service agencies on hand looking to put people to work included: the Union Pacific Railroad, Imperial County Fire Department, Goodwill of Arizona, Securitas, the Imperial County Sheriff, Imperial County Corrections, the Quechan TERO office, Quechan Human Resources, the Quechan Casinos, the College of Health Careers, Imperial County One Stop, the Yuma Private Industry Council, Yuma County, and the Yuma DES Job Service.

To: Lillie and son ~
This family is so thankful for you two and your
Extra-Mile Help when our family needed it!
God Bless you both and your family!
Also; to the potential next Vice President,
Michael Jack . . . for his presence and knowledge!
You Guys Are All Awesome!! ~ P. Prettybird

WILDCATS BECOME WARRIORS AT SAN PASQUAL'S 2015 8TH GRADE PROMOTION CEREMONY

QUECHAN NEWS Photos By William Isbell



Tribal member Tylor Porter received the Daughters of the American Revolution 2015 Citizenship Award.



Strong Hearts Awards went to Co-Valedictorians Andres Ramirez and Benji Acosta, as well as Miss Native Middle School Keija Koteen.



William Hernandez received the 2015 Kathy Gunkel Award for his science, math and computer skills.



Paris Montague was presented with the American Legion Post 802 Constitution Award, given this year by Mr. Colin Soto.



All of the girls being promoted to high school lined up at the west end of the stadium seats for one last photo as a group, before they were escorted down the center aisle by the boys, to say goodbye to middle school!



Students were met by family and friends for photos as they left the stage at the end. That's Owen Barley stopping for shot, above!

SAN PASQUAL MIDDLE SCHOOL PROMOTION LIST FOR 2015

‡ 2 Class Valedictorians ‡ - Both highlighted with double club symbol
Tribal Members Names in Italics

‡ Acosta, Benjamin R. ‡
Aquino-Valdez, Araceli
Aragon, David G.
Arana, Mireya
Arriaga, Brianna F.
Barley, Owen M.
Barragan, Julio C.
Belback, Robert C.
Bravo, Ricardo
Castillo Montiel, Samantha

Castro, Esequiel J.
Cerdeira Franco, Cesar O.
Contreras, Liliana D.
Contreras, Veronica S.
Dugan, Alora I.
Elizarraras, Concepcion
Gasca Martinez, Alexis
Gilmore, Sarah P.
Gonzalez, Eric

Gonzalez, Quavina R.
Hernandez, William R.
John, Xavier B.
Koteen, Keija R.
Lukee, Amber M.
Madrigal, Ariel M.
Martinez Zazueta, Adrian
Montague, Paris H.
Pelayo Ramos, Jose J.

Phillips, Michael S. III
Porter, Tylor
‡ Ramirez, Andres ‡
Rea, Calista P.
Robles, Ahlaynah M.
Rosales Lopez, Alejandro
Torres, Anthony
Velasquez, Layla R.
Velasquez, Margarita L.

SAN PASQUAL GRADUATION 2015

QUECHAN NEWS Photos By William Isbell



Tribal member **Brandon Frank**, a 2013 graduate of San Pasqual, awarded three \$100 scholarships for 2015 grads, paid for out of his own pocket. Seen above are Paul Stauffer, Damien Lopez, Brandon and Silver Perez during the presentation of those checks on June 3rd.



Graduates entered the stadium to march down both sides before joining up in the center aisle (like Keeny III and Kristen Escalanti).



Francisco Estrada of Quechan Post 802 presented the 2015 American Legion Constitution Awards to graduating seniors Silver Perez and Janet Aquino-Valdez, while Kristopher Avila and Yuliana Quintana were presented with Post 802's 2015 Citizenship Awards.



Strong Hearts Shiiyii Nancy Montague, Sr. was accompanied to the ceremony by her assistant, grandson River Montague.

Strong Hearts Scholarships are awarded by the organization's officers to college-bound graduates every year. This year, those scholarships were awarded to Samantha Aguerro, Darlene Teton, Paul Stauffer, McKayla Cota, Kristen Escalanti and Anna Lucero (all seen below).



Tribal member **Vemocka Scott** was presented with an award by Gina Hannah for being the outstanding senior on the 2015 student council.

The San Pasqual High Class Of 2015

‡ Valedictorian ‡ • † Salutatorian † • Tribal Members in Bold Black

Samantha Jean Aguerro
Janet Aquino-Valdez
† Kristopher A. Avila †
Lenwood J. Bohanon III
Alexander Camacho Esparza
Madonna Lydia Castañeda
McKayla Alexandra Cota
Kristen Marcia Escalanti

Keeny Escalanti III
Damian Gutierrez Lopez
Israel Isidro Santamaria
Ennis A. Jaime
Maila Lerma Gonzalez
‡ Anna D. Lucero ‡
Brandon H. Marks
Christopher Jordan McNeely

Angela Chanell Morrissey
Fernando R. Nuñez
Silver Perez
Yuliana Quintana
Victor A. Ruiz Felix
Vemoka Etsepoiquarque Scott
Paul Dean Stauffer
Darlene R. Teton

QUECHAN ELECTION 2014

A Debate on the Issues:

Ex-President Mike Jackson And Tribal Administrator Vernon Smith Discuss Budget Concerns

A Statement to the Tribal Membership from Mike Jackson, Sr.:

This is a response to the letter by Mr. Vernon Smith printed in the Community Expressions section in the Quechan Newsletter on May 13, 2015. There are a number of accusations that were made in his letter to the tribal membership. He believes the tribal members do not know the financial situation of the tribe at the present time. They in fact are well aware of the current state of the tribe and the council's inability to lead the tribe. That is why the tribal membership is upset with the present council and wants to make a change in the leadership in the upcoming election.

I am referred to as the former president who authorized large per capita pay outs to tribal members. Yes, I accepted the council's approval to disperse per capita monies to our members because it's their money and I believe they deserve it! The first accusation made stated, "The casino did not generate enough revenue to give out large per capita." The truth is the casinos were in fact generating revenue for these per capita pay outs during my presidency. Per capita is always given depending on the Revenue Allocation Plan (RAP). All gaming tribes have this plan in place and all have to abide by it.

The second accusation stated, "Giving large per capita to tribal members is the reason why the tribe is in debt today." We built the casinos like other tribes did across the country to have a financial future for our tribal nation and for our people. The Revenue Allocation Plan (RAP) was written, reviewed and approved by federal officials in Washington D.C. This is to ensure money will come back to the grassroots for our people where it is needed. To say the previous council made us "broke" is a false statement. The people are more than upset about the per capita and how the tribe has been functioning. Mr. Smith, don't you know some of our members especially the elders depend on per capita? The amount of per capita has been very low because of the poor operation of the casinos. The current council has not taken into consideration the importance of the casinos and what it means for the welfare of the Quechan people.

The third accusation states the previous council transferred all tribal enterprise money for per capita. As I recall, the council and I met with the casinos every week to ensure the casinos were running properly and that revenue was meeting the demands of the tribe and fulfilling projected goals. The bills were paid in a timely manner, reserves in the bank, and monies were set aside for per capita distributions. He failed to inform the membership that all the tribal enterprises are in the red which means that, except for the parking lot, they are losing money. This is another example where the present council has failed in their leadership. This information came out in the same financial meeting he's referring to that enlightened him so much about the tribe's finances that he had to write about it in the Community Expressions. Mr. Smith says the financial meeting helped him understand the status of the tribe. As the administrator of the tribe, he holds an important position for the tribe and should therefore be well aware of the current status of the tribe at all times. It is no wonder our tribal nation has slipped years backwards instead of moving forward.

The fourth accusation stated the previous council spent the BIA Docket 319 Trust Funds. If the membership doesn't recall the current council spent the tribe's money foolishly investigating the docket money. He is slandering my name, trying to destroy my integrity with lies and deceit and no facts. Nothing was found because there is nothing to investigate. He also states the current council inherited the debt. As a new council, they inherited the responsibility which they have not proven to the Quechan people. They do not possess the leadership qualifications and business mind to move the tribe forward. Threatening language was used to inform the membership saying the creditors could foreclose if the tribe defaults on their loans. This is the only statement that is true! The current council's inability to properly manage both casinos is the main factor in why our casinos' revenues are at an all time low. Their lack of involvement in day-to-day operations has put the tribe's biggest enterprises in autopilot for the past four years.

To the individual who wrote the letter: It is hard to look to the future of tomorrow when you cannot look past today. You can't condemn an honest person or ruin their integrity with false accusations and no factual information. We don't want to hear negative talk anymore. There is a positive movement for this election happening in our tribe right now. We are turning our nation around in the right direction to be a strong proud nation once again. There are tribal members that hold high regard for our tribal nation and are ready to make a change.

The Response of Vernon Smith, Tribal Administrator:

Mr. Jackson's statement that Tribal members are aware of the financial status of the Tribe and that the Council has failed to lead the Tribe is once again, simply not true. He has not attended the meetings where the people indicated their disbelief in the financial reports; meetings where they demonstrated that they actually believe there is more money than is being reported which the Council is holding back, which would allow for a larger per cap.

When Mr. Jackson left office, the Quechan Tribe was in debt over \$400 Million. The new Council curtailed excessive expenditures and came up with a new plan on how to pay off that huge debt. They reduced the interest rate by half and have been doing all that they can to stabilize this financial fiasco while still managing to address the other matters of the Tribe. The statement that the Council failed to lead the Tribe is unfounded.

His second contention that the casinos were generating enough revenues for per capita payouts during his presidency is not entirely true. What he fails to mention is the fact that the casinos were not generating enough revenues so per capita payouts were supplemented by tribal funds. The Tribe was in dire need of funds and two loans were obtained from two Indian Tribes, eventually depleting all of the assets of the Tribe. Other Tribes have established casinos to provide for their futures: some have been successful, while others have not done well. Those who have recognized their mistakes and corrected them have gone on to be successful.

A quick look at what happened here: The new Casino was built over sacred sites. Clay had to be removed from the Casino site at a cost of over a million dollars. Mr. Jackson got into a dispute with IID which led the Casino to operating gas generators for nine months to provide power, at a cost of hundreds of thousands, if not millions of more dollars. The Tribal government under Mr. Jackson then tried to get electric power from Arizona, paying a farmer \$100,000 to put a powerline across his land. The Cocopah Tribe then stepped in and stopped that plan because they owned the land adjacent to the farmer's and they did not want a powerline across it. The state compact agreement also promises that a turning lane to the casino will be constructed by the Tribe. This has still not been done to date.

My comment that his administration is responsible for the Quechan Tribe being broke is supported by financial documents that are available for review during business hours by any adult Tribal member. I did say that some people are in denial; Mr. Jackson appears to be one of them. I am very aware of the importance of per capita for our people, and I voiced my concern when the proposal for the new casino was being discussed. My concerns have proven to be correct.

Poor performance of the new casino also occurred under Mr. Jackson's presidency and he blamed it on the economy at that time. The casinos depend on their clientele to generate income; to now say the Council is responsible is not true. The daily operations of the casino are under the supervision of the CEO, not the Council.

Mr. Jackson's statement that the Tribal enterprises are not doing
(Mr. Smith's Statement is continued on Page 9)

SDPI Teaches Healthy Meals Preparation to Seniors

QUECHAN NEWS Photos by William Isbell



Randall Moody of the Quechan Special Diabetes Project for Indians (SDPI) leads a lesson for a group of seniors on how to modify favorite recipes to prepare healthier meals. At left, Randall holds up a bowl of zucchinis which will be used in place of corn tortillas, to create a less starchy version of chicken enchiladas. As Randall speaks, his partner, Pete Escalanti IV joins volunteer Yvonne Vance to sauté diced red and green bell peppers with finely chopped chicken in olive oil. Patricia Lumas scooped the seeds out of the zucchinis to hold the enchilada filling. Once the meal was baked to perfection, Pete took three trays of chicken/zucchini enchiladas out of the oven and showed the steaming results to the class. Everyone then lined up to try them out, with Pete ladling out the enchiladas and Randall pouring fresh hot enchilada sauce and a handful of grated lowfat cheese over them all. Yum!

Quechan seniors are being treated to a new series of educational lectures, which combine science, a little bit of exercise, and a dollop of culinary experimentation, to help them prepare healthier meals at home.

Randall Moody and Pete Escalanti IV, who work as Diabetes Prevention Aides at the Quechan Special Diabetes Project for Indians (SDPI) are in charge of the class, which meets from time-to-time in the dining hall of the Senior Nutrition Center. Working together,

Randall and Pete create a sort of Penn & Teller vibe. Randall keeps the patter going in the foreground as Pete assists without comment in the actual food preparation off to the side.

In fact, the only time Pete speaks is when he steps up after the introductions to lead the class in some simple, seated, limbering up exercises. The exercise is included to remind everyone to avoid being sedentary whenever the opportunity presents itself, as a tactic to fight diabetes. Once the exercises have

been completed, Pete steps to the side once more, to prepare the meal and make his observations on the lesson through head nods, chortles and raised eyebrows.

On the day the *Quechan News* visited their “dinner show”, Randall and Pete were making chicken enchilada stuffed zucchini boats. This is a variation on regular chicken enchiladas, using zucchinis in place of corn tortillas to hold chicken enchilada stuffing, for those who prefer low-carb and gluten-free diets.

The recipe was chosen, as most of them are, to show what’s possible using items commonly available through the Tribe’s commodities program. Randall began the demonstration by holding up a can of shredded chicken he’d received from commodities. The commodities program also hands out blocks of American cheese, which can be grated and used as one more ingredient of this recipe.

Audience volunteers are encouraged to take part in the proceedings, so Yvonne Vance

stepped up to sauté the chicken and vegetables that made up the stuffing, while a couple of ladies took melon ballers in hand to scoop out the seeds of a platter full of green zucchinis for the “boats”.

Like all master chefs with their own cooking shows on TV, the SDPI aides had already filled the Senior Center’s oven with three trays of the finished product. Those were removed from the oven, piping hot, and served to the appreciative students at the end of the lesson.

A Debate on the Issues: A Continuation of the Response of Vernon Smith, Tribal Administrator:

very well *is true*, and they haven’t been successful since before he was elected, nor were they during his entire presidency, so this is not something that happened after he left office. Mr. Jackson is also well aware that when the Tribal Council meets with Casino Management, no one else is invited to participate, a system that is still being practiced.

The Tribe suffered these setbacks because of poor leadership and bad decisions. But we have continued to move forward and we are now making progress. Mr. Jackson was in office for a long time, but now his statements indicate he was not aware of what was happening within his own administration. Docket 19 was withdrawn *long before* the present Council was elected. Mr. Jackson has still not responded to questions about where those funds were used. He only states that the present Council spent funds to investigate Docket 19. The on-going FBI investigation pertains not only to the Trust Funds, it is also looking into all the financial transactions which occurred during Mr. Jackson’s administration. That investigation has still not been finalized.

I do not find it hard to look into the future, but it is hard to know what happened in the past. We should not let these things happen again. There is no condemnation of any one person in what I say. I am only stating the facts based on the documents I have seen. Mr. Jackson’s honesty and integrity are not in question; however, he must know what the phrase, “The Buck Stops Here” means.

There is an election in progress and whether it turns out to be positive is questionable at this time. All Quechan Tribal members want a strong government to be proud of. To obtain it, we must elect those who will accept the responsibilities that go with the offices of Council Member, Vice President and President. We must elect people who will not blame others if something goes wrong. I do agree with the statement that negative views and attitudes should cease and that positive ideas should be the focus of discussions for the common good of the people.

TRIBAL COUNCIL BUSINESS

Official Resolutions Considered During The Month of May, 2015

The Quechan Tribal Council took action on 22 Official Resolutions during May, before this issue of the Estka Nav Ah Pai went to press. The Resolutions are listed below in numerical order, as they were approved or disapproved by the Council. The purpose of each Resolution is covered by its Title. For further information on Council business, please contact the Tribal Council Secretary, Alexis Summerfield, or the Executive Secretary, Marsha Emerson, at the Tribal Administration Office: (760)572-0213, Ext. 204 or 206.

Resolution R-93-15: A Resolution to approve the Higher Education/Job Placement and Training Program supplemental budget Revision #1 for the Calendar Year 2015. Approved by a vote of: 6 for, 0 against, 0 abstained, 0 absent at a Regular Council Meeting held on May 5, 2015.

Resolution R-94-15: A Resolution to approve the Johnson O'Malley Program supplemental budget for the Calendar Year 2015. Approved by a vote of: 6 for, 0 against, 0 abstained, 0 absent at a Regular Council Meeting held on May 5, 2015.

Resolution R-95-15: A Resolution to approve the Nutrition Services Incentive Program budget for the Program Year 2015/2016. Approved by a vote of: 6 for, 0 against, 0 abstained, 0 absent at a Regular Council Meeting held on May 5, 2015.

Resolution R-96-15: A Resolution to approve the Elderly Family Services Program budget for the Program Year 2015/2016. Approved by a vote of: 6 for, 0 against, 0 abstained, 0 absent at a Regular Council Meeting held on May 5, 2015.

Resolution R-97-15: A Resolution to approve the Quechan Head Start Program budget Revision #1 for the Fiscal Year 2013/2014. Approved by a vote of: 6 for, 0 against, 0 abstained, 0 absent at a Regular Council Meeting held on May 5, 2015.

Resolution R-98-15: A Resolution to approve the Economic Development Administration budget for the Calendar Year 2015. Approved by a vote of: 6 for, 0 against, 0 abstained, 0 absent at a Regular Council Meeting held on May 5, 2015.

Resolution R-99-15: A Resolution to approve the BIA Tribal Transportation Program budget for the Calendar Year 2015. Approved by a vote of: 6 for, 0 against, 0 abstained, 0 absent at a Regular Council Meeting held on May 5, 2015.

Resolution R-100-15: A Resolution to accept federal assistance from IHS for the new well and water treatment facility project. Approved by a vote of: 6 for, 0 against, 0 abstained, 0 absent at a Regular Council Meeting held on May 5, 2015.

Resolution R-101-15: A Resolution to approve a lease with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Customs and Border Protection for the Andrade remote video surveillance system tower site. Approved by a vote of: 6 for, 0 against, 0 abstained, 0 absent at a Regular Council Meeting held on May 5, 2015.

Resolution R-102-15: A Resolution to approve a revocable permit to UPRR for the Winterhaven Derailment Site Remediation Project. Approved by a vote of: 6 for, 0 against, 0 abstained, 0 absent at a Regular Council Meeting held on May 5, 2015.

Resolution R-103-15: A Resolution to approve the Quechan Indian Tribe Fixed Assets Policy & Procedures. Approved by a vote of: 6 for, 0 against, 0 abstained, 0 absent at a Regular Council Meeting held on May 5, 2015.

Resolution R-104-15: A Resolution to authorized Tribal Officials to conduct business with the office of Special Trustee for American Indians. Approved by a vote of: 5 for, 0 against, 1 abstained, 0 absent at a Regular Council Meeting held on May 5, 2015.

Resolution R-105-15: A Resolution to approve a professional services agreement with Dennis R. Gathard. Approved by a vote of: 5 for, 0 against, 1 abstained, 0 absent at a Regular Council Meeting held on May 5, 2015.

Resolution R-106-15: A Resolution to expend funds to the Quechan Tribal member attending vocational education for the Spring/Summer 2015 Program Year. Approved by a vote of: 4 for, 0 against, 1 abstained, 1 absent at a Special Council Meeting held on May 18, 2015.

Resolution R-107-15: A Resolution to expend funds to the Quechan Tribal member attending vocational education for the Summer 2015 Program Year. Approved by a vote of: 4 for, 0 against, 1 abstained, 1 absent at a Special Council Meeting held on May 18, 2015.

Resolution R-108-15: A Resolution to expend funds to the Quechan Tribal member attending vocational education for the Fall 2015 Program Year. Approved by a vote of: 3 for, 0 against, 2 abstained, 1 absent at a Special Council Meeting held on May 18, 2015.

Resolution R-109-15: A Resolution to expend funds to the Quechan Tribal member attending vocational education for the Summer 2015 Program Year. Approved by a vote of: 3 for, 0 against, 2 abstained, 1 absent at a Special Council Meeting held on May 18, 2015.

Resolution R-110-15: A Resolution to expend funds to the Quechan Tribal member attending vocational education for the Summer/Fall 2015 Program Year. Approved by a vote of: 4 for, 0 against, 1 abstained, 1 absent at

a Special Council Meeting held on May 18, 2015.

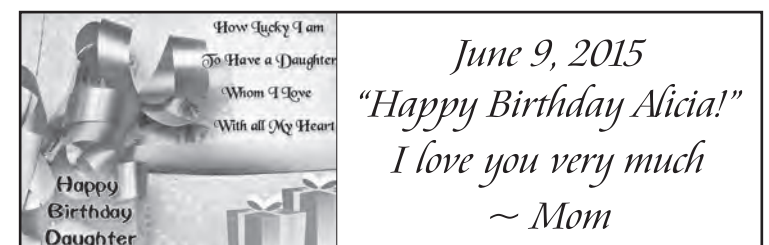
Resolution R-111-15: A Resolution to expend funds to the Quechan Tribal member attending vocational education for the Summer/Fall 2015 Program Year. Approved by a vote of: 4 for, 0 against, 1 abstained, 1 absent at a Special Council Meeting held on May 18, 2015.

Resolution R-112-15: A Resolution to expend funds to the Quechan Tribal member attending vocational education for the Spring/Summer 2015 Program Year. Approved by a vote of: 4 for, 0 against, 1 abstained, 1 absent at

a Special Council Meeting held on May 18, 2015.

Resolution R-113-15: A Resolution to approve an agricultural lease with Nunes Vegetables, Inc. for tribally-owned interest within Farm 148. Approved by a vote of: 5 for, 0 against, 0 abstained, 1 absent at a Special Council Meeting held on May 18, 2015.

Resolution R-114-15: A Resolution to approve an agricultural lease with Top Flavor Farms for tribal land located on Ranch 4. Approved by a vote of: 4 for, 1 against, 0 abstained, 1 absent at a Special Council Meeting held on May 18, 2015.



PUBLIC NOTICE

The Fort Yuma Quechan Tribe
Is Seeking Letters of Interest
From Enrolled Tribal Members
For 2 Board Members to serve on
**THE QUECHAN
HIGHER EDUCATION BOARD**

Please Submit Letters of Interest to:
Tribal Council Secretary Alexis Summerfield
At the Tribal Administration Office
Monday - Friday During the Hours of
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM and 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Water Tower Passes Its One Year Inspection

It has been just about a year since the new 780,000 gallon water storage tower on Indian Hill was placed in service, so, a crew from Southwest Tank and Steel (STS) returned to Fort Yuma in May to perform a contractually required one-year inspection on it. The entire inspection was paid for through the office of engineer Ken Fitzgerald of the Indian Health Service.

The four man crew was here to check the integrity of the waterproof paint coating they'd applied to the interior during construction last spring, to ensure that that it remained intact. The only way to do that was to drain all of the water from the tank and go inside to visually



Quechan Utilities opened the valves to drain the water out, a four hour process. Once inside, a crew from STS pumped out the last foot and a half of water at the bottom and squeegeed off the muddy floor to get a good look at the condition of all of the tank's interior welds.

QUECHAN NEWS Photos by William Isbell

inspect every inch of the vessel.

To aid in that process, Quechan Utilities came in early on May 13th to shut off the water on Indian Hill and open the



drain valve at the bottom of the tank. Drivers arriving via the Ocean-To-Ocean Bridge that Wednesday got a free car wash as they headed down the hill to-

wards the Paradise Casino, rolling through a temporary five inch deep creek making its way to the levee and the catchment basins at the bottom.

Once the water was below the inspection hatches at the bottom of the tank, the STS crew removed the bolts sealing the hatches and dropped in submersible pumps to fully drain the remaining contents.

Since the water within came directly from the Colorado River, they found a thin, muddy slurry at the bottom, with a nice tan coating over the bright white inner surfaces, all the way to the top! Nevertheless, by carefully suctioning out the last few inches and using a squeegee to force the muddy water towards the pumps, they were able to go over the entire interior and verify that the paint inside is still flawless and intact.

Kwatsáan Iiyáa!

Here are a couple of new sentences in Kwatsáan: Each sentence is first shown in Kwatsáan, with the English translation below. Each sentence is then diagrammed to show its individual parts and how they go together to express the thought.

'Avály 'aakxávu, ayúushm.

"Let's go in the house; it's cool."

'avá+ly

house+in

'+aakxáv+u

we+go.in.plural+let's!

ayúush+m

it.is.cool+different.subject

Matxáts aspértank.

"The wind is very strong."

Matxá+ts

wind+subject

aspér+tan+k

it.is.strong+very+end

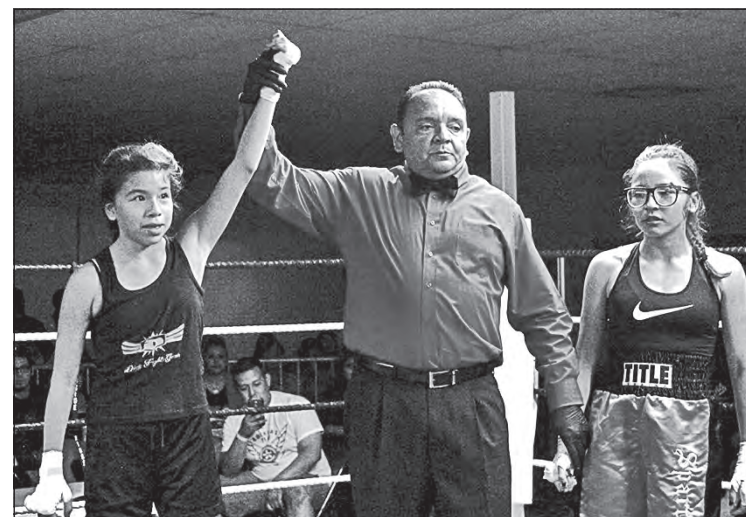
Sentence Structure Samples From

Kwatsáan Iiyáa Mattkuu'éeyk!

(Learn the Quechan Language!)

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

APRIL MONTOYA ADVANCES IN THE RING



Quechan Tribal member April Montoya administers some punishment to her opponent, Rochelle Polacio in a February, 2014 bout. (April has her back to the camera in the photo at left.) April went on to defeat her opponent that night, to take the girls' title in her weight class. The daughter of Sonny Duran and Hector Montoya of the Quechan Tribe, April was born and raised in Yuma. Her parents are involved with a community youth boxing center, and at the age of 10 she was inspired to begin training for the sport while watching boxing on TV. She began her training at the Yuma Boxing Academy with coach Gary Diaz in December of 2014 at the age of 11. After 17 sparring sessions, hundreds of hours hitting the mitts, and conditioning herself for a fight, April showed her family and her coach the natural drive and determination of a boxer. She made her first amateur boxing debut at the Queens of Fury held in El Centro, California. In that first contest, April defeated her opponent and received a trophy for the 13 year old, 98 lb. division.

Photos Courtesy of Sonny Duran

A MEMORIAL DAY TRADITION!

QUECHAN NEWS Photo by William Isbell

The Quechan Post 802 Women's Auxiliary came forward once again to provide refreshments, poppy flowers, programs and general assistance, serving the community during the Quechan Tribe's 2015 Memorial Day program. They not only set up tables offering snacks for the crowd, they also filled a giant ice chest with plenty of fruit juices and tea to keep everyone hydrated.

One of the most important tasks they fulfill each year is leading their flower girl volunteers, who are an important part of the ceremony. The group this year included (from left to right, in front): Vicky Daniels, Dora Orta, Chloe Short, Rubi Cornejo, Faye Short, Paisley Montague, Patti Ehlers and Denise Rueda. Backing them up were Alora Dugan, Angel Emerson, Anaya Numkena, Jaece Marquez, Brina Iron Cloud, Deborah Tourtillot (who organized the volunteers) and Hannah Morrow. *Thank You, Ladies!*



A NEW EXHIBIT OF SPECIAL INTEREST OPENS AT

theNAT:
SAN DIEGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

MAYA

HIDDEN WORLDS REVEALED®



Visitors to Maya: Hidden Worlds Revealed can walk inside a life-sized re-creation of a mural room at a temple in Bonampak, a Maya site in Chiapas, Mexico, and see vibrantly-colored scenes of court rituals and human sacrifice (as seen at left). Photos Courtesy of the Science Museum of Minnesota

est exhibition of its kind to be presented in the United States.

The ruined cities of the ancient Maya have captured our imaginations since news of their discovery in the jungles of Central America was published in the 1840s. Extensive research has uncovered a culture with a sophisticated worldview that, during its Classic period (250-900 AD), rivaled any civilization in Europe. *Maya* sheds light on this mysterious and majestic ancient culture.

"We are committed to bringing new content-rich traveling exhibitions to San Diego for locals and visitors to enjoy," said Dr. Michael Hager, president

and CEO of the Museum.

"*Maya: Hidden Worlds Revealed* is the largest exhibition about the ancient Maya ever to be displayed in the United States. We are delighted to be able to offer this exhibition to our guests and hope they walk away feeling as if they've learned something new about this important and multifaceted culture."

Visitors will experience jaw-dropping architecture and distinctive art through a series of exhibits and artifacts. The exhibition investigates questions surrounding the Maya and offers a glimpse into the daily life of the Maya people.

Exhibition highlights include

more than 200 authentic artifacts; bilingual text panels in English and Spanish; dozens of interactive components; immersive recreated environments; life-size replicas of awe-inspiring temples; the iconic sculpted monuments known as stelae that were erected in the great plazas of Maya cities; and spectacular examples of Maya artistry, such as a recreated portion of a famous frieze from the El Castillo pyramid in Xunantunich. Throughout *Maya*, interactive elements offer visitors the opportunity to decipher ancient

symbols, explore tombs, and investigate the Maya approach to math and astronomy.

Maya will be on view through January 3, 2016. Tickets are available at sdnat.org/maya or by calling 1(877) 946-7797. Tickets are \$29 adults; \$27 seniors (62+), students, and military (with ID); \$19 youth (7-17); and \$11 child (3-6). Children 2 and under are free. Advance purchase is recommended.

Admission includes access to *Maya*, all other exhibitions within the Museum, and unlimited 2D and 3D films in the giant screen theater.



The Maya Name Glyph Generator allows visitors to deconstruct a king's name, seeing all the different sounds signs contained in a single glyph. Visitors can then hear the name pronounced and learn what it means before creating their own Maya names to print out and take home.